

A Study of English Literature Translation Based on Cultural Differences

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Abstract: Translation is an important means of spreading culture, and in this process, the original intention of the creator cannot be changed. It is also necessary to determine the function of cultural exchange from an aesthetic perspective and carry out accurate translation that is full of emotions. However, cultural differences have many influences on English literary translation, including the differences between Chinese and foreign values, customs and cultures, and language and culture. Therefore, it is easy for translators to have some problems due to these differences in the process of translation. Based on cultural differences, this paper discusses strategies for dealing with common translation problems such as "lack of meaning" in English literary translation.

1. Introduction

Economic globalization has promoted the exchange of national economy and culture around the world, and English, as the universally used language, also plays an important role in cultural dissemination. In the context of globalization, many English literary works have been translated into the languages of many countries. In particular, in the process of translating English literary works into Chinese, translators should not only retain the cultural connotation of foreign works, but also accurately translate them in combination with local culture. They need to effectively deal with the differences between Chinese and foreign cultures, and actively eliminate cultural analysis in English literary translation. In fact, the cultural differences between China and foreign countries have a great impact on English literary translation, and how translators deal with these differences is particularly important, which is discussed in this paper.

2. The main differences between Chinese and foreign cultures

2.1 Differences in values

Values are the overall evaluation made by individuals on objective things and their impact on their own behavioral outcomes. They are also the orientation of people to identify things and distinguish right from wrong. People in different living environments have different values. In China, collectivism has always been the mainstream value of society, especially in China a hundred years ago, a group of advanced young people set off the New Culture Movement and other political and Cultural movement for the development of national groups and people, and ushered in New China. The mainstream values in Western society are individualism and liberalism. They can give up work for freedom, and even infringe on the legitimate rights and interests of others for personal freedom. The differences in values between Chinese and foreign cultures require translators to properly deal with relevant content in the process of translating English literature, especially in the aspects of values that are not accepted by the mainstream of China. For example, in the process of translating some English literature, the elderly may fall down when crossing the road. In literary works, the elderly will generally refuse the request of young people to help them up, because in the values of western countries, this behavior is easy to make the elderly feel old and the supported people feel offended. Among the values of our country, respecting the old and loving the young is one of the traditional moral values of our country for thousands of years. Therefore, young people usually directly lift up the elderly when they see the elderly fall down on the road. Therefore, translators should translate these contents in English literary works in a way that is more easily

accepted by the mainstream values of our country.

2.2 Differences in customs and cultures

In many literary works, the customs and cultures of different regions or ethnic groups are described, especially in some classic Chinese texts that have been selected into Chinese language textbooks, which also involve the customs and cultures of many regions, such as Mr. Lu Xun's "Social Drama" and Mr. Shen Congwen's "Border Town", and these regions also have significant differences in customs and cultures. Customs and culture reflect the historical changes and forms of life and communication among different regions and ethnic groups. There are obvious differences in customs and culture among different ethnic groups and regions in China, let alone Western countries that are thousands of miles away from us. For example, when greeting friends, Chinese people mainly wave their hands or nod their heads to greet each other, while in Western countries in France, the greeting method is face-to-face or kissing each other's cheeks. In addition, influenced by thousands of years of Confucian cultural thought, China's cultural etiquette emphasizes more on "self restraint" and "politeness". Many Chinese people emphasize respect and equality in interpersonal communication, especially when adults have a clear sense of distance, while Western culture is more open, and the concept of seniority in interpersonal communication is less. If the translator does not understand the differences between Chinese and foreign customs and cultures in the process of translating English literature, pragmatic failures may occur in the process of translation.

2.3 Differences in language and culture

Language is an important form of cultural exchange between China and foreign countries, as well as a carrier for spreading culture. There are significant differences in language and culture among different countries and regions. For example, younger generations in our country generally do not directly call their elders by their names. Familiar elders often use titles such as "Grandma Li" or "Grandpa Wang". Unfamiliar elders usually use "you" as their surname, or add their profession such as "Dr. Li" after their surname. But younger generations in Western countries can directly address their elders by name, usually by adding gender after their surnames, such as "Ms. Taylor" or "Mr. Jackson". In addition, in China, both married and unmarried women can generally be referred to as women, while in Western countries, there are significant differences in the terms used for married and unmarried women. Married women are generally referred to as husband's surname, while unmarried women are generally referred to directly as "Miss Kate". Once the translator is translating English literary works, if he cannot interpret the content of Chinese and foreign languages and cultures involved well, and cannot objectively view the differences between Chinese and foreign languages and cultures, it is likely that the original language will be translated with different emotions in the process of translation. In addition, differences in cultural cognition in different cultural backgrounds are also issues that need to be addressed in translation, requiring precise translation of the characteristics of different languages.

3. Translation strategies of English literature based on cultural differences

3.1 Translators need to improve their cultural cultivation

English literary translation under cultural differences is prone to pragmatic failures and other problems. These problems are closely related to the translator's lack of understanding of Chinese and foreign cultural differences. Therefore, if the translator wants to solve these problems, he needs to constantly improve his literary accomplishments, especially to improve his literary skills and understanding of Chinese and foreign literary works and cultural differences. In the process of translating English literary works, once a translator finds that he or she has a culture that he or she does not understand or controversial content, he or she should immediately look for materials for in-depth study. He or she should not take it for granted to copy mechanically. In order to translate English literary works according to time, he or she should avoid moving his or her own culture to

an inappropriate place for camouflage, Such translation can easily mislead the learning and cognition of readers in the target language country.

In the process of improving the translator's literary skills and strengthening the learning of the culture they do not understand, translators should also be very familiar with the subject matter or creative background of the translated English literary works. Otherwise, it is easy to have no way to start in the process of translation, and it is also easy to have no understanding of the creative background of the works, In the process of translation, it is very likely to modify the original meaning expressed by the author in English literary works due to cultural differences. Therefore, before formally translating English literary works, translators must understand the cultural background of the creation of English literary works through various channels, understand the author's life experience, as well as the social and cultural background of the creation of this literary work, and comprehensively judge the mood, emotional orientation and the views that the creator wants to express when creating this English literary work through horizontal and vertical comparison, Properly handle these contents based on cultural differences. In this way, the translator can focus on some content for accurate translation in the process of translating English literary works, and can also think that properly handling the differences between Chinese and foreign cultures can enable Chinese readers to clearly understand the ideas or feelings expressed by the author in the original English literary works.

3.2 Combining Domestication and Foreignization Translation

Domestication refers to the incorporation of foreign language and internal cultural elements into the cultural background of the reader, and the use of the language logic of the reader's mother tongue for translation. Foreignization refers to a translation approach that preserves the unique expressions and grammatical logic of foreign languages in the translation. Domestication is more inclined to free translation, which needs to translate English literary works into texts that readers can accurately understand and have aesthetic feelings, while foreignization is more inclined to literal translation. In the process of translating English literary works, translators should flexibly apply the methods of domestication and foreignization in combination with the purpose of translation, text types and other information. For example, journalists should focus on accurate expression when they want to clearly use some English text content representing the original intention of the creator as the purpose of translation, so they should focus more on foreignization or both. For example, in the process of translating English theatrical literature works with winged angels, the most vivid image can be linked to the image of the Dunhuang Flying Dancer in traditional Chinese culture. When translating the word "like Mushroom", a similar expression can also be found in Chinese - "bamboo shoots spring up after rain. When translating some English literary works involving policy related texts, in order to enable readers to effectively understand the meaning of the text, domestication translation is generally the main approach.

Although the cultures of different countries and nations have obvious differences, they also have cultural commonalities in some aspects, which makes it possible to adopt the method of foreignization in English literary translation. Cultural differences are also the premise for translators to adopt the foreignization translation method in translating English literary works. The purpose is to broaden readers' cultural vision, help readers to view the differences between Chinese and foreign cultures more comprehensively and objectively, and better realize cultural exchanges. In fact, some Chinese in China are also influenced by the culture of western countries. For example, "Flea market" is a saying that was accepted and spread by the people after the English expression entered China. The same Chinese expression has also become slang in some regions after it entered English speaking countries, such as "Gentleman's Agreement". Therefore, in the process of translating English literary works, translators can try to use more domestication translation methods for the content that has significant cultural differences and does not need to accurately convey the meaning of English words. See Table 1.

Table 1 Common Foreignization Translation

Original language	post-translational
Heike	hacker
Zhilaohu	Paper tiger
Hongcha	Black tea

3.3 Reasonable selection of translation style

The translation of English literary works is also a process of the translator's creation, which requires the translator to combine his own understanding and translation purpose with the purpose, background, views and feelings expressed by the author of the English literary works. In order to ensure the original cultural connotation of English literary works and the feasibility of Chinese readers, translators should avoid excessive personal feelings and respect the author in the process of translation. However, from the actual situation, different translators have obviously different translation styles. For example, some translators prefer literal translation in the process of translation, while others prefer free translation in the process of translation. Therefore, translators should also constantly adjust their own translation styles in the process of translation in combination with the genre of literary works, the purpose and background of creation, and the purpose of translation, so as to better adapt to the style of English literary works, Maximize the subtleties of the original text for Chinese readers, and if necessary, make bold creations to make the translation more vivid and vivid, making it easier for readers to accept.

4. Conclusion

Cultural differences in values and other aspects have a greater impact on English literary translation, which requires translators to constantly improve their literary accomplishments in the process of translation. At the same time, the theory of planning and foreignization also provides more ideas for English Chinese cross-cultural translation, which requires translators to choose appropriate translation methods in the process of English literary translation in combination with cultural differences, the connotation and creative background of English literary works, and the purpose of translation, so as to continuously improve the quality of translation.

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