

The Influence of Cultural Differences between China and Western Countries on Translation

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Abstract: Language and Culture Are Closely Related, and There Are Great Cultural Differences between Different Nationalities. This Article Will Analyze the Cultural Origin, Religious Beliefs, Living Customs, Historical Allusions and Other Aspects, Pointing out the Influence of Cultural Differences between China and the West on Translation.

1. Introduction

Translation is the transformation of language, and language is the carrier of culture. Due to the differences in cultural life, customs and religious beliefs between China and the West, this has caused obstacles to English-Chinese translation. Therefore, in the process of translation, we must naturally combine translation with culture, understand more about Chinese and western cultures, use additional annotations, add or delete corresponding words in the translation, free translation and other methods to overcome these differences, so as to achieve real communication between Chinese and western cultures.

2. The Relationship between Culture and Translation

Language is the key factor of culture, and many cultures are spread through language. In the process of translation, the relationship between culture and translation should be accurately grasped, and translation should be carried out scientifically on the premise of fully understanding and recognizing the cultural background. English translation is highly professional and academic, which contains a large number of professional nouns and special nouns. If the traditional literal translation method is adopted, it is obviously difficult to ensure the accuracy of the translation work. Therefore, the translation process should be based on cultural differences, should understand the cultural background, and then carry out scientific translation work to improve the accuracy of the translation work as a whole. In translation work, it is difficult to improve the overall quality of English translation and to optimize the accuracy of translation if one fails to fully understand the cultural background and understand the differences between western cultures. In the process of translation, one should understand their language structure from the perspective of other countries' cultures, and at the same time comprehensively analyze the rhetoric, the use of words and expressions, the slang of two-part allegorical sayings and so on contained in the language. It can be seen that in the process of translation, the first issues and links to be considered are cultural attributes and cultural differences. As the main body of English translation, translators should not only understand the cultural background, but also combine our country's cultural cognition in the process of translation to accurately find the common points between the two, and then carry out the translation work accurately. Therefore, culture plays a very important role in translation. Culture is the support of translation and translation is the reproduction and reflection of culture. Scientific handling of the relationship between culture and translation can optimize translation work as a whole.

3. The Main Causes of Intercultural Communication Differences

The reasons for the cultural differences and conflicts between China and the West are numerous

and complicated. The fundamental reason is that China and the West have different cultures and customs, which will inevitably affect people's thoughts, behaviors and other communication differences, even conflicts. The main reasons for these differences and conflicts are:

3.1 Different Ways of Thinking

The Chinese way of thinking is characterized by intuition, integrity and roundness. The western way of thinking is characterized by logic, analysis and linearity. Comparing the western way of thinking with the Chinese way of thinking, the Chinese way of thinking has obvious generality and fuzziness. Over time, it forms a kind of thinking pattern. Tracing back to the source, we find that thinking patterns tend to ignore the differences of specific individual things, exaggerate the cognitive attitudes related to another social group, often accompanied by emotional colors and fixed views with tendentiousness, which will directly cause communication barriers and affect the smooth progress of cross-cultural communication.

3.2 Different Values

According to the theory of American anthropologist Barnett Pearce and others, people's behavior rules, ways of thinking, moral standards and philosophy of life are all influenced and influenced by the values of their group. In the actual process of interpersonal communication, people unconsciously acquire the cultural concepts inherent in their own group, and become the philosophy, code of conduct and moral standards of the people in this group. However, every country and every society has its own unique value system and judgment standard. Take Chinese and Western cultures as an example. In our culture, the Chinese respect modesty and comity. They pursue to be content with the situation and go with the flow. They don't like to show off and compete for power. While western culture advocates individualism, personal heroism and individual-centered thinking are rooted in their minds. Westerners advocate independent thinking and judgment, and like to realize their own interests with their own personal abilities.

3.3 Social Behavior Norms Are Different from Philosophy of Life

The specific meaning of social code of conduct refers to the moral standards and codes of conduct that are commonly accepted by society. People from different countries, different regions and different cultural backgrounds often use their own social codes of conduct and philosophy of life to judge the correctness and rationality of each other's behavior when communicating with each other. Due to the differences in social codes of conduct between the two sides, misunderstanding, unhappiness and even worse consequences often occur in the same social behavior. For example, in China, people pat children on the head, which means friendship and love, but in western countries, it is an act of extremely disrespect for children.

4. The Influence of Cultural Differences on Translation

4.1 Cultural Origin

Britain is surrounded by the sea. English people cannot live without the sea. It is precisely because of this special culture that English language has produced a large number of idioms related to navigation. For example: get into deep water, raise the wind. In addition, fish is often used to express people in English, such as: queer fish, cold fish. However, the ancestors of the Chinese people lived in the temperate northern temperate zone of eastern Asia and were deeply influenced by farming culture. Their lives could not be separated from land. For example, money is like running water, English is spend money like water. Chinese is "spending money like dirt". A big fish in a small pool. This idiom is not that there is no room for big fish in a small pond, but that a big fish in a small pond is equivalent to a monkey without a tiger in a Chinese forest being called a king. drink like a fish. It is equivalent to "bull drink" in Chinese.

4.2 Religious Belief

Religious beliefs have an important impact on people's lives, and specific beliefs produce

specific words. The differences in religious beliefs between China and the West also affect the translation of English and Chinese. In the West, people believe in Christianity. When Christianity came into being, the European continent was in a state of fragmentation. Christianity came into being. People's language was also deeply marked with religious colors, such as:

Man proposes, God disposes, Go to hell. China is a multi-religious country. Buddhism has a history of 1,000 years. People believe that Buddha controls everything. Therefore, many words in the Chinese language come from Buddhism. Such as “offering Buddha with flowers”, “taking pleasure in suffering”, “mud bodhisattva cannot help crossing the river”, “looking at Buddha's face without looking at monk's face”, etc. It can be seen that religious culture is an important aspect that constitutes the differences between English and Chinese languages. Therefore, in the process of translation, attention should be paid to the differences in religious culture in order to accurately grasp the cultural significance of the translation.

4.3 Life Customs

Language used for communication originates from life, and life customs can restrict the expression of language to a certain extent. People in Britain and America like to talk about the weather when they meet, such as “Lovely weather, isn't it”. When translated into Chinese, it can be translated into hello. In China, people often say “have you eaten” and “what have you eaten” as a way to greet each other. In this case, “how do you do” can't be translated into “have you hand your meal.” The difference between English and Chinese is also reflected in the cultural connotation of animals. Many derogatory terms in China are related to dogs, such as “running dogs”, “dog legs” and “friends with dogs”. Obviously, in Chinese culture, dogs are undoubtedly derogatory, but in English dogs have positive meanings, such as: a lucky dog, a top dog. From this, we know that dog is regarded as a loyal friend by foreigners.

From this, we can see that their cultural connotations are quite different. Therefore, in the process of translation, cultural differences should be emphasized in order to express the original meaning more accurately.

4.4 Historical Allusion

Different nations have different historical or cultural allusions. There are many words with national characteristics in Chinese that are closely related to Chinese culture, such as: speaking of Cao Cao, saying that deer is horse, beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, repairing the plank road, sneaking around, and three cobblers are better than Zhuge Liang. There are also many words with historical and cultural backgrounds in English, such as: uncle Tom, meet one's waterloo, Pandora's book, Trojan horse, a Judas kiss, Sphinx's riddle, in the seventh heaven.

5. Conclusion

Culture and translation are inextricably linked. The process of translation is not only the transformation at the language level, but also the communication between the two cultures. The difficulty in translation lies not in the analysis of grammar and sentence structure, but in the negative transfer of language activities caused by different cultural backgrounds. Translation is a process of overcoming cultural barriers. As the main carrier of culture, language often contains a series of social categories, including social phenomena and historical phenomena. Due to the inseparable characteristics between language and culture, understanding the social and cultural background of each country before translation will help translators easily surmount the obstacles between languages, thus translating more appropriate ideological connotations.

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