English Translation Studies under the System of Functional Linguistics

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Abstract: The essence of translation belongs to the conversion of language and words, that is, the use of another language as a carrier of the same meaning. Systemic functional linguistics is a theoretical study of language use. At this stage, the English translation staff is more inclined to theoretical discussion, and it is difficult to replicate and reuse the experience in practical work. Based on this, this paper briefly expounds the concept of systemic functional linguistics, analyzes the problems and shortcomings of English translation research under the current systemic functional linguistics framework, and proposes an effective way to use English functional linguistics for English translation. It is intended to provide practical value for the exploration of language theory in English translation.

1. Research background

1.1 Literature review

Wu Xiaoyan analyzed the evaluation method of register analysis constructed by J.House, and proposed to apply the translation evaluation model in the Chinese translation of news English to broaden the application scope of traditional translation mode and change the analysis method of news translation (Wu, 2013). Combining the specific characteristics of tea discourse English discourse, Cui Hongmei analyzes the English translation method from the perspective of functional linguistic theory, and proposes that the language environment and cultural connotation of translation activities need to be reflected in text translation (Cui, 2018).). Zhang Tianhua believes that the application of systemic functional linguistics theory in the teaching of English reading and translation can effectively improve the quality of teaching and transform the current backward teaching status (Zhang, 2016). Yang Yi, guided by systemic functional linguistics, analyzes the pun title in Chinese and English magazines and books, and proposes that translators should translate on the basis of accurately understanding the original cultural background and contextual context, and keep the original communication concept as much as possible. Thought, the translation and the original text correspond to the cultural context (Yang, 2018). Yan Jianbo believes that with the increase of foreign exchanges, China's requirements for English proficiency have changed from reading ability to comprehensive application ability. It is proposed that translators should summarize relevant translation experiences, analyze the connotation of English reading translation, and improve themselves on this basis. Translation skills (She, 2016).

1.2 Purposes of research

With the continuous development of English translation work, it is of great significance for researchers to explore English translation from different angles. In the process of English translation research, there are many theoretical materials and advanced experience for translators to refer to and learn. However, at this stage, Chinese English translators tend to study theoretically. In specific translation practice, it is difficult to solve the problems found in the translation process. At the same time, the experience that translators have formed in the translation process is too Abstract.and cannot be taught to others. This study analyzes the relationship between systemic functional linguistics and English translation, and proposes solutions to the problems of English translation in the framework of systemic functional linguistics, such as narrow translation scope, similar exploration angles, and tedious research.

2. The relationship between systemic functional linguistics and english translation

Systemic functional linguistics sees language as a symbolic system of social communication, which divides the functional system of language into three parts (Zhang and He, 2017). The first is the conceptual function, the second is the interpersonal function, and finally the textual function. These three functions are different in terms of language meaning, but they can play a role in practice (Xue and Zhou, 2016). On this basis, the systemic functional linguistics subdivides the functions of each part into several, each of which has a unique role in the meaning system. Therefore, through the analysis of the language system, the language meaning is fully interpreted, which provides a valuable theoretical basis for translation studies. The way the theoretical basis is formed is on the one hand a full interpretation of the original text, and on the other hand, a detailed comparison between the original text and the translation. The premise of translation is to understand the original text (Rong, 2017). The role of systemic functional linguistics in translation studies is to provide a tool for decomposing the original text into several parts, namely the meaning carrier of language, which provides an operational path for translators (Zhu, 2015). Translation studies can be based on the cultural background of the translators, taking the subjective ideas and work background of the translator into consideration in the research content, and judging the practical significance of the translated content. It is also possible to focus on the meaning expressed in the original text, and basically ignore the individual differences of the translators. At this stage, most of the translation studies in China belong to the latter. The original text content is the subject of research, and it is limited to whether the translation has a one-to-one correspondence with the original text, and ignores the influence of the translator's subjective thought on translation accuracy (Wu, 2017). At present, "loyalty to the original intention" is a recognized translation requirement in the history of Chinese translation, and "equivalence" is the final requirement of Western countries for translation.

In general, both pursue the ideal translation results, but in the actual translation process, the translation of China and Western countries will always be biased. Both have certain objectivity and feasibility, but how to achieve the goal of "loyalty to the original intention" and "equivalence" is still inconclusive. The reason why there is no implementation path is that the meanings of "loyalty to the original intention" and "equivalent" are too broad, and there is no clear definition of the translation result and the lack of a specific information carrier as a reference. The linguistic functional science just has such an information carrier, and proposes a feasible and feasible translation target from the perspective of purely functional function, which provides a feasible implementation path for translation research.

3. Problems and shortcomings in english translation research under the framework of systemic functional linguistics

At present, although the use of systemic functional linguistics for English translation research has a good development prospect, and translation studies in this area have achieved certain outstanding results, there are still many shortcomings and obvious problems, the main performance has three aspects. First, the content is limited, the scope is narrow, and there is not enough complete research results. At this stage, China is still in the initial stage of English translation research. So far, it has not proposed a systematic and standardized translation method theoretical framework, and lacks the research results of using systemic functional linguistics to comprehensively explore translation problems. At present, English translation researchers are more concerned with some principles and concepts in the theory of systemic functional linguistics. They explain and explain some of the problems in translation studies. The application is relatively fragmented and has not yet formed a system. Researchers have used conceptual, interpersonal, and textual functions to analyze the concept of "equivalent" in translation, but have not yet established a perfect translation research framework. Second, at this stage, the perspective of English translation exploration in the framework of systemic functional linguistics is very similar to the traditional translation research perspective, and the research results are also overlapping and lack new discoveries. For example,

the evaluation of poetry translation quality is based on the perspective of systemic functional linguistics. Researchers believe that the translation of literary works pays more attention to "interpersonal function." In traditional translation studies, literary translation proposed by English translation scholars not only needs accuracy but also has aesthetic significance. The two viewpoints are essentially identical. Third, the study of English translation under the framework of systemic functional linguistics is cumbersome and lacks in operability. The research requires that the relationship between the sentence structure and the meaning of the text be clearly defined in the translation process, but the specific application of which areas to solve the translation problem does not propose a clear plan. In the context of systemic functional linguistics, the language behavior in English translation involves three variables: form, function and situation. These variables have an impact on the accuracy of translation results.

4. English translation research approach under the framework of systemic functional linguistics

The three pure functions are inseparable from the primary and secondary in the language system and are an important part of system linguistics. In theory, the three functions are in a similar position, and in a specific context, there is always a phenomenon with more prominent functions, and the other two functions are accompanied by implicit meaning. Scholars who study English translation based on systemic functional linguistics believe that purely functional equivalence translation is currently the most complete translation method. Because there is a certain gap between theory and practice, it does not mean that all outstanding works need to meet the requirements of purely functional functions. In fact, subtle differences between the two languages can lead to deviations in translation results, resulting in an unbalanced distribution of purely functional functions of a certain paragraph of text. Translation is due to the difference in language, which needs to be transformed, but new differences will be generated in the process of language conversion. This difference is mainly reflected in the concept, interpersonal and discourse deviation between the original text and the translation, that is, the deviation of pure function. This phenomenon is inevitable and objective. Strictly speaking, the original text and the translation result are difficult to achieve true equivalence in purely functional functions. Therefore, this paper proposes a practical way to achieve English translation research under the framework of systemic functional linguistics. First, if the equivalence of the three pure functions cannot be achieved at the same time, then first, according to the original context and translation requirements, a purely rational function should be selected for translation, and then the other two pure functions can be matched to optimize the translation. Second, in order to achieve the goal of "equivalent" translation, translators should start from the meaning of the original text, and then gradually optimize the translation content until the original text and the translation cultural background and true meaning are completely equal. In the specific English translation, the translators are in the pursuit of complete equivalence between the original text and the purely functional function of the translation. They often give priority to the formal equivalence of participants and environmental components. This kind of equivalence is often through specific language forms. appeared. Practice has proved that the equivalence of functional components often leads to the equivalence of concepts, but the equivalence of concepts cannot lead to the equivalence of functional components. In most cases, if the textual function is accurately interpreted, other functions will be reflected in the translation process. English translation researchers can make full use of system linguistics by constructing a comprehensive systemic functional linguistic translation framework.

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