Influential Factors on Translation

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Abstract: The paper defines translation and analyses several factors affecting translation, text factors, context factors, emotional factors, the translator, and comes to a conclusion that the translator is the key factor.

1. Introduction

The definition of and factors affecting translation is concerned by many scholars nowadays. The practice of translation is in the course of dynamic change and development. This paper is about the definition of translation and factors affecting translation, which always exert great influence on translation. In order to produce a better translation, we'd better pay more attention to the affected factors.

2. What is translation?

Translation is extremely complex,I.A Richard has claimed that it is probably the most complex type of event in the history .

Translation has been defined in various ways by different scholars. According to NewMark, It is "often , though not by any means always, it is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text".

By definition given in the dictionary, " Translation is a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message and/or statement in one language by the same message and /or statement in another language."

In my opinion, translation is an exchange between source language and target language and its behavior, process, text or actor of exchange.

3. The main factors influencing translation

Professor Yang Zijian generally divides these factors involved in translation events or activities into such kinds as the objective world (nature , society, thinking), the pristine translator, the pristine reader and the pristine text, the translation procedure, the translated version and the target reader.

Translation is a process during which many factors must be taken into consideration. One kind of factors are objective ones, and they include such things as types of source text, purposes of translation, target text readers, positions of source language culture and target language culture, Emotional factors and context. And all these factors always exert great influence on translation.

3.1 Types of source text

Text is the combined communicating code between the sender and the receptor. Newmark classified texts into three main categories: (1) Expressive text : including serious literary works, such as poetry, long stories, novel and drama etc.; authoritative speech , including political speech of politician or document , various rules and law document and science, philosophy works, autobiography, prose and personal letter. (2) Informational text: including science, technology, business, industry and economy, teaching material technical report, articles, newspaper and magazine, essays, memo or conference record, etc. (3) Appellative text: such as notification,

specification publicized manual. Etc.

According to Newmark, when translating the expressive text, usually foreignization translation strategy is adopted because the expressive text mainly focuses on expressing the author's feeling, and the foreignization is the best way to maintain the author's writing and language feature; when the appellative text is translated, the domesticating strategy is usually adopted because its purpose is to appeal to the reader's response according to the author's purpose; As for the informational text, both foreignization and domestication might be adopted because sometimes it can be expressive text.(Xianyun Xin, 2001: 74-76)

3.2 Purpose of translation

Skopos theory believes that the criteria for judging translation errors cannot only be based on whether the translation is correct or faithful to the original language. The coherence principle of Skopos theory requires that the text of the translation should be readable and acceptable to the reader of the target language. It is important to see if it is consistent with the purpose of translation. With different readers and different purpose of translation, different translation strategies should be adopted, which also results in different functions in the target language. Success or failure in translation of the text depends in great part on whether purpose of translation is achieved or not. From this point, having a right purpose of translation is an indispensable quality to a translator.

3.3 Target readers

Peter Newmark believes that readers can be fallen into three levels: uniformed people, educated laymen, and experts. The target language readers of different ages are able to accept the source language and its culture differently, resulting in different interpretations of the same work in the same historical period. In fact, the same works can bear different senses at different times, so the reader's knowledge, experience and emotional items have many influencing factors: age, gender, ethnicity, knowledge background and occupation and so on. Therefore, readers with different levels need different translation works, so that translators can propose different translation versions to meet the need of different readers.

3.4 Positions of cultures

Since translation composes of a cross-cultural communication between diverse languages, the location of source language and target language culture may plays an essential impact on the translator's choice of translation strategies. The geographical location, natural profiles and history of each country. The development of this process reflects the unique social customs, religious beliefs and living habits. Background. Literary works are shaped by cultural background factors and influences of other countries. Literary works will have a certain degree of cultural differences as well as historical allusions. I, It will be influenced by various regional cultures. So in the translation process of English and American literature. The translator need to be familiar with the cultural background involved in literary works, and at the same time should combine Chinese cultural traditions (Li Wang, Guihua Deng,2014). And the characteristics of living habits, passing the allusions and common idioms in English and American literature close to Chinese. The expression of words is conducive to the perfect combination of literary art and social reality.

3.5 The translator

The translator's way of thinking, value orientation and aesthetic orientation influence translation as well. Insufficient translator's professional level or lack of understanding of background knowledge can lead to wrong translation (Shuming Zheng, Hongyan Zhou, 2016). The translator's own educational level, practical experience, cognition ability, knowledge structure and even his or her physical state can influence translation. Under the influence of these factors, it is comprehensible that different translators have different ways of thinking. Different nations, different history periods, different cultures, different geographical situations, customs and different social systems lead to the differences in the ways of thinking.

Value orientation is a very important factor which influences the translator's choice of translation

strategies because value orientation is a subjective reflection of people's understanding of objective existence.

The translator's aesthetic orientation is another factor influencing translation. Since many scholars agree that translation is a science and an art as well, a kind of aesthetical activity, translation activity will inevitably be influenced by the translator's aesthetic orientation.

3.6 Culture and translation

The translation process incorporate not only the conversion from one language to another, but also the conversion from one culture to another. More precisely, the latter shows the necessary activity in the translation process. That is to say, the essence of translation is a cultural activity. In translation, there are two different message senders－author, first message sender (the author) and translator, and second message sender (the reader). Although these two message senders may live in different places, different environments, and perhaps in different times, they should send the same message to readers of the original work and readers of the translated version. The first message sender, the author, has only one responsibility, which is to deliver his idea to the reader through language, while the second message sender, the translator, has two responsibilities, one is to accurately obtain the information sent by the author and the other is to correctly send it to the reader of the translated version.

Bassnett proposed functional equivalence in cultural translation. In his opinion, "culture" is considered as a translation unit in cultural translation, and functional equivalence at the cultural level is a means to achieve the goal of "cultural transmission". Cultural equivalence means rearranging the structure of the target text without changing the basic meaning or content of the original text. Therefore, translators should attach more importance to cultural equivalence rather than any other aspect. However, absolute equivalence can never be achieved, although relative equivalence can be achieved at different levels according to cultural ability, aesthetic ability and translation skills.It must be pointed out that equivalence is something that can get closer and closer to our scope, but never really come into reality.

3.7 Emotional factors and translation

3.7.1 Emotional factors and source text selecting

As we all know, translation is a highly purposeful activity of cross-cultural communication since the translator does not work in a vacuum. In this aspect, as one of translator's affective factors, motivation plays a decisive and direct role in the selection of source texts.

The choice of the source text to be translated depends on the translator's motivation. The choice of the translator as the subject of translation. The choice of translation runs through the whole process of translation. "What to translate" and "how to translate" are related to the choice of the translator. However, this choice is not just a personal decision of the translator. It is conditioned by external and internal factors such as history, society, culture, politics and aesthetics. Every translator must engage in translation work for his own reasons, such as personal interests, serving the motherland or realizing himself. The choice of source text for translation is also closely related to these factors. In translation, the translator cannot be very interested in all the materials, because on the one hand, different authors will produce different translation materials. On the other hand, due to the influence of social, education, cultural background, historical and the emotional world, different translator has different emotions. Translators cannot be expected to adapt to all the translated materials. Therefore, translators always choose the translated materials that can arouse their own emotions. Of course, translators do not always choose the source text, especially after cultivating emotion in the source text, translators often translate first and then.

From a narrow point of view, translation is a personal act and therefore closely related to the individual situation. Once an attempt is made to transplant one language into another, the translator's education background, political preference, life experience, artistic taste and to what extent he understands the author's time will be the key factors determining the depth and accuracy of his translation practice. Personal preference caused by personal experience is a subjective factor

and plays a key role in the selection of ST. The choice of ST according to personal preference can give full play to the translator's subjectivity, because it reflects the individual's spiritual and material requirements, and shows the translator's personal feelings, interests, learning, aesthetics, practical ability, values and world outlook. Therefore, it is connected with the mental state of translators closely.

Among the many motivational factors that influence the translator's choice of ST, social needs are the biggest driving force that makes translation crucial, despite personal requirements or preferences. The same is true of translation. Translation is not only a personal instinct, but also a requirement of social development. A monolingual community promotes social development by communicating and learning through translation with another monolingual community. Translation is of much importance only when it turns into a kind of social demand which facilitates not only the social development but also survives itself.

3.7.2 Emotional factors and understanding

In translation, this is the first step for the translator to select the source text. From then on, the translator started to play the role of the reader, carefully interpreting the pristine version. In the first step, he functions as the reader, but clearly he is different from the average reader. The general reader reads and appreciates works of interest or plot. A translator should do more than that. As a translator of literary works, he or she should be both an ideal reader and an informed reader. He is a privileged reader of ST text. He reads to understand and produce. In other words, what the translator utilize as input, the mental concept in the translation process is usually the output of the general reader. His reception, therefore, may be more thorough and measured than that of the general reader. Understanding the spirit is the highest achievement of understanding. Imagination and thinking are the core of the understanding process, and translators need thinking and imagination to correctly understand the original text.

3.8 Context and Translation

With regard to the nature of translation, it means communication. Context function a decisive role in the two main translation processes. Situation analysis is proved to be an effective method in order to meet the criteria of dynamic equivalence.

Nida(1993:116)states very distinctly, " Translating means communicating". The process relies on what is accepted by the person listening or reading the translation. The validity of translation can be judged by comparing the corresponding grammatical category, lexical meaning and rhetorical devices. What matters is how well the receptor understands and appreciates the translated text. There has been a growing awareness that translation is not just a matter of item-to-item equivalence, or indeed of group of items to group of items, or structure to structure; rather it is a matter of text-to-text equivalence which involves variety and register considerations. Source language and target language should be depicted in terms of text, and not just sentence, to ensure semantic equivalence. Two items with the same meaning in two languages are said to be translation equivalence.

Dynamic equivalence is defined as 'translation quality" in which the information of the original text is transmitted to the language of the receptor, and the response of the receptor is basically the same as that of the original receptor. Typically, the form of the original text changes, but as long as the changes follow the rules of reverse transformation in the source language, context consistency in transfer and transformation in the recipient language, the message is preserved and translated. It's faithful.

Translation is a process in which the translator understands the correct meaning of the text in the source language and then finds the equivalent expression in the target language. Context is the basic frame of reference of meaning. Dynamic equivalence in translation largely relies on the context of linguistic units.

It is admitted that the translation should first have a comprehensive and complete understanding of the pristine text in order to be faithful to the original text. Only with the aid of certain language environment or background can the pristine text be understood correctly.

4. Conclusion

Since the main task of translation is to understand what the author says and express it accurately in another language, I personally hold that the translator is the key factor influencing translation. Then translator should take different cultural factors, different types of source text factors, different purposes of translation, emotional factors, context factors, target reader into consideration when translation. As we know, there are four difficult things in translation: first, to understand the original words and meaning; second, to grasp the spirit of the source text; third, to add the notes; forth, to translate the style of the source text. A good translation does not misdirect the reader or contort the pristine text. There lies the quality of translator and translation.

Acknowledgement

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