

# Re-Elucidation of “Intersubjectivity” in the Context of Translation Studies

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**Abstract:** In the context of translation studies, some scholars may lack of cognition of intersubjectivity. In most studies, they are almost centered on “people”, ignoring the interaction between non-living elements such as social environment and translation in literary translation. This paper mainly analyzes the intersubjectivity in literary translation, studies the social performance and individual performance of intersubjectivity in translation, and probes into the intersubjectivity between vital elements such as author, translator and reader and non-living elements such as environmental texts in the process of literary translation in a broad sense, which can provide some support for defining various elements in translation studies and establish a good interaction relationship. This paper mainly expounds the connotation of intersubjectivity in literary translation, probes into the social performance and individual performance of intersubjectivity in translation studies, and analyzes the interactive relations among various elements in translation studies, with a view to providing some reference for related research.

## 1. Introduction

In the expression of intersubjectivity, the basic meaning of interpreting subjectivity emphasizes the characteristics of interaction. It was first proposed by German philosophers and introduced to China in the early 20th century. This concept has exerted a certain influence on the ideological cognition of translation studies in China. They are increasingly aware that in the whole translation process, they should not only stay on the translator's subject, but should focus more on the process of subject interaction, such as the social environment of the translators and readers, so as to carry out the study of intersubjectivity of translation studies. In the context of translation studies, translators are an effective link for interaction. Translators need to choose appropriate literary works for translation according to their own temperament, convey the original author's thoughts, feelings and writing intentions, and realize the interaction between the original author, readers and translators with texts and social environment, so as to complete the communication between different languages and cultures.

## 2. Intersubjectivity in Literary Translation

### 2.1 The Interaction between Living Subject and Inanimate Text

Some scholars believe that the subject interaction in the context of translation studies is the interaction between people and people and between people and their shared world, or that the translator, reader, reviser, source text, translation and retranslation are six factors, i.e. the subject of urban literature works and so on. In the context of translation, subject interaction refers to the interaction between multiple subjects, which can be a living subject such as the translator and the author, or an inanimate text such as the original text[1]. Each subject recognizes each other and interacts equally, thus realizing the interaction between living subject and inanimate text.

### 2.2 The Interaction of People Who Participate in Translation Activities as the Main Body

Some scholars have emphasized the relationship among the translator, the original author and the reader in their research. On the premise of affirming the interaction among the three subjects, they have carried out the two-way interaction between the translator and the sponsor, and between the translator and the critic. It can be seen that in most studies, the dominant position of “human” in

translation interaction has been determined, and this study only stays at the level of human interaction. With the continuous development of research, some researchers have defined the subject of subject interaction as a dynamic factor and force, and the research object is no longer limited to people. Exploring the subject interaction in the context of translation studies, we should pay more attention to the text and social environment involved in the whole translation activity.

### **3. Social Performance of Subject Interaction in Translation**

#### **3.1 Thinking Cognition**

Language is one of the forms of social consciousness, which can reflect the image of self-subject, as well as other subject images of the same language group. Language communication and interaction reflect thinking cognition, and language system is the reaction of people's thinking cognition. When exploring the subject interaction in translation studies, we can make it clear from the perspective of language thinking that the subject interaction in translation is the transformation and blending of different language subjects' cognitive modes, and also the transformation and blending of thinking cognition. Different languages also show great differences in their subject thinking systems, such as Chinese and Japanese, which belong to different cultural circles and language systems, and show their own personality and characteristics in language expression. Translation activities are the exchange of two languages, two cultures and two ideas. Therefore, in the context of translation studies, subject interaction can be regarded as the interaction of different language subjects in thinking cognition[2]. According to the cognition of time structure, space structure, objective and subjective aspects, vision transformation and integration are carried out, which makes the translation more suitable for readers and realizes the transmission of ideas.

#### **3.2 Cultural Cognition**

Exploring from the cultural level makes the scope of translation studies transition from language communication to cultural communication. Subject interaction in translation studies can be recognized as cultural interaction, and the cultural cognition of translators, original authors and readers has certain differences. In this process of translation, it is actually a process of cultural exchange, which needs to take into account the specific differences between subjects in history, tradition, social culture and customs. These differences transform and integrate through the perspective of cultural cognition, and also need equal treatment in information transmission. Therefore, in translation studies, subject interaction is also reflected in the blending of cultural cognition, which needs to be fully aware of the cultural background and the reaction of national psychological stereotype in speech acts. Translators need to interact with different cultures, translate appropriately according to readers' needs, and convey different cultural characteristics, thus satisfying the sociality in intersubjectivity.

### **4. Individual Performance of Subject Interaction in Translation**

#### **4.1 Translator's Subjective Style Consciousness**

In the process of translation, the original author, translator and reader are indispensable. Text translation is creative, rebellious and restrictive. From this aspect, taking the translator as the link, we should study the interaction between the translator and the original author in the social environment of the text, and fully reflect the translator's subjective style consciousness. Before translation, translators need to choose literary works that corresponds with their character and temperament and deeply analyze literary works, so as to understand the original author's writing intention, realize the interaction with the original author, and feel the thoughts and feelings conveyed by literary works. Translator, as a social actor, the social environment in which the translator is located in has an impact on the translator's thinking and emotion, shaping his thinking model and emotional tendency. In the process of translation, the role of the social environment as the subject is brought into full play, which makes the translation show the unique style of the

translator. In the process of translation, the translator will create certain contents according to his own subjective consciousness, give full play to the value of the original text, and realize the interaction between the translator and the text subject.

Influenced by the original author and the original text, the translator needs to have certain regularity in the process of translation, and take the translator as a link to realize the interaction between the translator and the reader, and between the translation and the reader. In the process of translation, the translator needs to fully consider the interaction between the translation readers and the acceptance environment, and make certain deletions and deviations from the original text. For example, if there are some contents in literature that do not conform to China's national conditions, the translator should consider the acceptance of Chinese readers and delete them appropriately, so as to realize the interaction between the translator and readers and the acceptance environment[3].

#### **4.2 Subject Emotion in Specific Context**

In the process of translation, context is dynamic, it is a psychological framework itself, and the condensation of individual ideological language. However, due to the interaction between multiple subjects, translation context presents its unique personality, while the translator and the original author exist independently as individuals. They have established spiritual interaction through literary works, and they are in the same context. In the process of interaction with the text, psychological and emotional characteristics show convergence, which is convenient for the translator to effectively convey the emotions of the original text, add their own emotional understanding, and realize the interaction with the readers. As a result, in the specific context, the subject emotion has the characteristics of convergence. Therefore, the interaction between the translator and the reader, the original author and the reader, and the original text can be strengthened by taking the translation as a link[4]. Through the specific context, readers can strengthen the interaction with the main idea of the text, and then realize the interaction with the original author. In the process of translation, the translator could delete the text according to his own ideological and emotional understanding, showing a different context, thus realizing the communication and interaction between the translator and the reader, and realizing the effective communication of the whole meaning of the translation.

#### **5. Conclusion**

To sum up, subject interaction in the context of translation studies should recognize the concept of subject, which involves not only “human” subject of translator's original author and reader, but also the inanimate subject of text and social environment. To explore the interaction of subjects, we can recognize the mutual penetration and interdependence of subject interaction from two dimensions of social performance and individual performance, and analyze the interaction between translators, original authors, readers, original text, translation and other subjects, so as to provide an important basis for defining the relationship between various elements in translation. Translation subjects build a bridge of communication through texts, form a good relationship, complete the important task of communication, and achieve the purpose of translation.

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