

A Study of the Impact of Cultural Differences on English Literary Translation

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Abstract: Literary translation is a translation activity based on literary works. Language is the central component of culture and an important form of conveying cultural connotations. There are great differences in people's language communication, life beliefs, ways of thinking, customs and habits between different nationalities and countries. Therefore, different understandings of the same things and phenomena may arise. When translating English literary works, we must fully consider the cultural differences between different languages and adopt a more operational translation method. Solve the language differences in the original English text, so as to improve the quality of the original English translation, so that readers can understand the original text more deeply.

1. An Analysis of the Differences between Chinese and Western Cultures

In the process of translating English literary works, we should fully consider the influencing factors of cultural differences between China and the West so as to accurately convey the cultural connotation and literary significance of the original works. The cultural differences between China and Western English-speaking countries are mainly manifested in the following aspects:

1.1 Differences in Religious Cultural Background

Religious beliefs play an important role in the development of human beings, and their influence on literary works is far-reaching, such as Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Christianity and Catholicism in Western countries [1]. In translation practice, we should accurately understand the connotations of different religious beliefs in literary works. For example, there is an old saying in China, which is called "Man is the one who works, and God is the one who works". If the influence of religious culture is not taken into account, it can be translated directly into Chinese "Man proposes, God disposes" [2]. The "God" will give people a feeling of Christianity, which is inconsistent with the Chinese people's religious belief in Buddhism. Can not reflect the cultural connotation of this proverb. The translator, Mr. Yang Xianyi, translated it as "Man proposes, Heaven disposes" It is clear that "Heaven" is more in line with China's cultural background and more respects the main theme of this proverb [3].

1.2 Differences in Values

In the process of interpersonal communication, a kind of subjective understanding will be formed, and the communication environment is different [4]. This kind of subjective understanding will also change, that is, values, different cultural concepts will inevitably produce different values. There are great differences in values between China and Western English-speaking countries, which should be fully recognized in translation practice. The differences between Chinese and Western values are mainly manifested in the following aspects: first, collectivism and individualism. China is an ancient country with a long history and civilization. The long-term development of farming has resulted in the formation of a unified moral code and values, namely collectivism. Western countries advocate individualistic values, which advocate democracy, equality and freedom. Therefore, they are quite different from Chinese values which focus on dealing with interpersonal relationships. Secondly, implicit and direct. Chinese people pay attention to face when they speak and express their wishes implicitly and tactfully so as to avoid damaging the emotions of both sides of the discourse [5]. Westerners are relatively direct in speaking. They think that harmless embarrassment will not cause great humiliation to each other, so they prefer to talk straight to the

point. Finally, the attitude towards privacy. Chinese people are influenced by the concept of collectivism, and they regard personal matters as collective things. Therefore, in interpersonal communication, it is considered that the private affairs of others are concerned about others. It is not considered to be infringing on the privacy of others; in the West, on the contrary, they are very concerned about the protection of personal privacy, and daily communication often avoids problems such as age, marriage, and income.

2. Differences in appellations

In Chinese society, people are influenced by the collective concept. The idea of orderly, modest and prudent elders and children is deeply rooted in the hearts of the people [6]. As a result, many customary appellations have been formed between the master and servant, between the elder and the younger, and between men and women. For example, there will be some degrading self-humble words, my humble opinion, my humble wife [7]. Or have some respectful words for others, such as your surname (your family name) The relationship between relatives in Western countries is somewhat loose. Relatives can even be directly referred to each other, so the title between relatives is relatively simple. For example, the "uncle" in English corresponds to Chinese uncles, uncles, uncles, uncles, and so on.

3. Principles for Handling Cultural Differences in English Literary Translation

There are great cultural differences between English-speaking countries and China. When translating English literary works, we should fully consider these factors and follow the following principles:

Firstly, the principle of faithfulness to the original works. The translation of English literary works should have a deep understanding and understanding of the original author's intention, understand the author's emotion, characteristic style and ideological connotation, and try to be faithful to the original. It is necessary to ensure the free and fluent expression of the translated language, and not to add or delete at will. It is also necessary to ensure the readability of the work. It is also necessary to reflect the author's real creative intentions and avoid changing the original author's ideas. For example, in Translation "It was quite natural that no one had told me about Marguerite's death" ("La Traviata" Xiao Zhongma). Mr. Wang Zhensun translated it as: "No one has told me about the death of Margaret as a big thing. It is also very natural." The whole sentence is faithful to the original, "this is also very Nature has vividly conveyed the feeling of alienation expressed in the original work.

Secondly, the principle of moderate change. Due to the obvious cultural differences between China and the West, we should pay attention to flexible changes in the process of translation and adopt individualized language to distinguish the style of literature and art from other arts. Still take Lady Camellia as an example. "for in Paris the lovers of any celebrated courtesan see each other every day". Mr. Wang Zhensun translated it as: "In Paris, all the lovers of a famous family are almost close friends." Here "see each other every day" If it is obviously inappropriate to translate it literally, "translating it into a "close friend" is more literary.

Finally, the principle of literal translation and free translation. The translation of English literary works is mainly based on literal translation, and then combined with the similarity of English and Chinese language to translate, so that the content and essence of the original text can be truly reflected, and the author's thoughts, emotions and social experiences can be accurately expressed. As a help, free translation can remove the external expression of the original sentence and retain the meaning of the original text. The free translation is relatively free. For example, when translating "the sorrow of the horse, knowing that it is not a blessing", the literal translation is to translate it directly into "When the old man on the frontier lost his horse, who could have guessed it was a blessing in disguise?" This is the case. This kind of translation is tedious and tedious, and the true meaning of the language can not be accurately expressed. It is difficult for readers to understand the idea of "getting lucky through misfortune". The free translation principle translates it into

"Misfortune may be a blessing in disguise." Not only is the language concise and precise, but also the meaning and meaning of the idiom can be expressed accurately, and the reader can understand it more easily.

4. Translation Strategies of Cultural Differences in English Literary Translation

4.1 Translation Strategies of Religious and Cultural Differences

In view of the religious culture in English literary works, in translation practice, on the one hand, the understanding ability of the target readers should be the main basis. For some religious content, if the reader can understand the original author's intention well through the translator's interpretation, literal translation and annotation can be used to help the reader understand the text. If the religious content is too obscure and has little influence on the overall thought of the original work, the religious color of the text can be diluted appropriately and the deep meaning of the text can be discussed directly. However, it is forbidden to directly replace the national and religious elements of the target readers. Even if the deep meanings are similar, they cannot be replaced simply, otherwise the readers will be confused. On the other hand, the translation of religious content can also focus on promoting cultural exchanges, faithful to the religious culture of the original, and strive to restore the elements of religious culture. For example, the Christian vocabulary such as "nun, church" that the target readers are familiar with can be translated literally.

4.2 Translation Strategies for Differences in Values

Values in English literary works are often embodied through material culture and social culture. In the process of translation, we should deal with these differences reasonably. In view of the differences in material culture, literal translation or literal translation with annotations can be used to restore the foreign cultural characteristics of the original and popularize the cultural background and history of the original country. For example, in *Gone with the Wind* "Dueling pistol" The word "duel pistol" can be directly translated into "duel pistol". There is no "duel" in Chinese customs and customs. Therefore, there is no "duel pistol", which can be translated directly to restore the original cultural temperament to the greatest extent, and readers will also have a sense of novelty in the process of reading. Of course, for some words related to professional fields, it is necessary to make good annotations when translating, so that readers can better understand the scene created by the works. Social and cultural differences mostly belong to the category of cultural gap. When translating social and cultural differences in English literary works, we should try to avoid misunderstandings caused by such differences. The method of literal translation and annotation is adopted for translation. It not only reflects the social and cultural background of the original text, but also ensures that the reader will not be unable to understand the original author's intention because of the social and cultural differences he has not touched. Still take *Gone with the Wind* as an example "wall flower" The term does not exist in the social environment of China, if it is literally translated as "wallflower." The reader does not understand the meaning very well, so it is necessary to add a comment, "a single woman sitting on the wall without a partner in the dance." The notes are accurate and vivid, and the reader can understand the social background created by the original.

4.3 Appellation and Differences in Language and Culture

Literary works are the artistic expression of language. In the translation of literary works, the readers can understand the text more accurately only by accurately expressing the emotions and relationships contained in the characters' daily language. For example, names are not only an important element of daily communication, but also a reflection of the original cultural information, such as customs, morality, religion and so on. Therefore, proper translation should be carried out according to the relationship between the characters. For example, the word "mammy" in *Gone with the Wind* is literally "black nanny" to help whites care for children, but "mammy" in *Gone with the Wind* is both loyal and serious. Literal translation can't express the author's attitude towards "mammy", so he can translate it into "black mother", accurately convey the connotation of

literary works, and reasonably deal with social and cultural differences.

5. Conclusion

In short, the main task of translation is to enable readers of different countries to understand the culture of other countries through the translation, and to produce similar experiences and feelings across countries. In the translation of English literary works, translators should have a certain degree of understanding of the creative environment of the works, the author's personal information, and in-depth understanding of Western cultural knowledge. It is possible to accurately grasp the emotions and thoughts that the original work is to convey, and then convey this understanding to the reader through the translation.

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