

# On the Study of Translator's Position From an Eco-Translatological Perspective

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**Abstract.** Translators are the most active and easily overlooked subjects in translation activities. As the "cultural turn" in the 1970s, translators and their subjectivity are gradually emphasized. This thesis will elaborate the translator's position based on the concept of eco-translation theory.

## Introduction

The traditional translation theory is based on the original text and requires that the translation must objectively reproduce the original text. The translator must block his own personality and hide himself in the translation work. With the development of translation theories, the focus of translation studies has shifted. However, until the cultural turn of the study of translation studies in the 1990s, the subjectivity of translators and translators really entered the research field of scholars. Post-structuralism, deconstructionism, feminism, teleology, and other translation schools are all translated and rewritten, translation is conqueror, translation is rebellious, translation is manipulated, and other kinds of flags have appeared. "It broke the text-centered theory and disintegrated. The authority of the original author", the translator's subjective status has received unprecedented attention, the translator is no longer a stealth slave, and "turning the body and making a revolution" has become the owner of personality and publicity, from the humble edge to the brilliant center. Translation studies have also shifted from text-centeredism to translator-centeredism. In the 1960s and 1970s, modern philosophy emerged from the epistemology to the existentialism, and from the human center to the ecological whole. Under the influence of this global ecological trend of thought, due to the enlightenment of ancient ecological wisdom, the incentives for the development of related disciplines, the promotion of translation studies in ecological orientation, and the limitations and deficiencies of existing translation theories Needed, eco-translatology came into being. According to the principles of ecological translation, translators' multi-dimensional adaptation and selection of translation ecological environment in the process of translation activities can better reflect the translator's subjectivity.

## Main Concept of Ecological Translation

In general, ecological translation is a discipline that interacts with the surrounding ecological environment. It is based on ecological principles, especially the principles and mechanisms of ecological systems, ecological balance and similar evolution. Eco-translation studies the causes of various translation phenomena and the formation of translation phenomena, so as to grasp the general laws of translation development and then reveal the development trend and direction of translation. Since "ecological translation" involves "translatology" and "ecology," it is also a cross-disciplinary scientific study. "Ecology" is defined as "the branch of biology that studies the relationship between biology and environment, health and biology". As the ecological environment gets more and more attention, the human understanding of the logical relationship between biology and the environment is increasingly close, and modern ecology has gradually expanded to study humans and the natural world's logical relationship.

The large-scale environmental movement in the 1960s and 1970s further promoted the ecology to gradually move out of the biological field and rise to the study of the basic relationship between humans and the natural world. In recent years, in the fields of humanities and social sciences, the word “ecology” has been translated to refer to the collection of natural health, balance, and “harmonious symbiosis”. Ecology is based on the science of holism, and its research methods emphasize the interconnectedness and mutuality of integrity.

Translatology is a discipline that studies the laws of translation and art. As part of translation studies, translation theory is a rational understanding and a series of translation processes, principles, standards and methods, and translations are highly abstract.

Based on the above-mentioned ecology and translation studies, especially the translation theory, from the perspective of translation ecology, we take the essence of ecology and metaphorize translation as a whole, based on the reality of translation, forming a “translation ecological environment” in related research. Some of the terms and concepts such as “Translation Ecosystem”, “Translator's Adaptation”, “Translator Selection”, “Interactive Interaction”, and continuous theoretical research, applied research and accumulation of achievements have made “Eco-Translatology” ready to come.

Throughout this, the study of eco-translatology is not only a metaphor but also a real finger. The so-called metaphor refers to the holistic study of metaphorical analogy between translation ecology and natural ecology. The so-called "realist signifier" refers to the study of translators and the ecological translation environment. The most important of these is translation. It is a study of the living environment and the translator's potential development based on the translation ecology. In other words, ecological translation paid more attention to the integrity of the translation ecosystem. We can see from the ecological translation, it more clearly reveals the nature of translation, the new description and interpretation of the translation process, standards, principles, methods and translation phenomena.

### **Translator's Subjective Adaptation and Selection**

Professor Hu Gensheng's translation adaptation theory is a comprehensive study of translation from the perspective of ecology. The theory is put forward by Darwin's "adaptation/choice" theory and guided by evolution theory. Based on ecological translation, Professor Hu believes that translation is "translator is the right choice for the translation in the ecological environment." The translation ecological environment means "the whole world is in the source language and the target language, including culture, society, language, readers, authors and communication. According to this theory, the translation process can be seen as a continuous selection process. Through the translator's choice, this means that the translation strategy adopted and the vocabulary and sentence used in the translation involve the translator's choice at each stage of translation. In this process, the translator is the core of all activities: on the one hand, he has to accept the choices and constraints of the translation ecological environment; on the other hand, he implements the choice of translation by the constituent elements of the translation ecological environment. Translation adaptation theory has opened up a new perspective for translation studies. Traditional translation theory treats translation activities as the process of formal transformation between two different language systems. However, with the development of eco-translatology, people gradually realized that translation is not only a code-switching activity from one language to another, but more importantly, a process in which translators adapt and select in a complex ecological environment to survive.

According to the ecological theory of translation, translation is the essence of "translators choose to adapt the translation of the ecological environment." The translation ecological environment is the sum of many factors that restrict the translator's optimal choice and optimal adaptation. It refers to the interaction between language, society, culture, communication, readers, author etc, and the relationship and interaction between man and the environment. Translation ecology holds the point that the translation process is a cyclical process in which the translator has to constantly adapt and

chooses. For translators, it is necessary to adapt and choose; There are adaptive choices, that is, adaptive choices; there is adaptation in selection, that is, selective adaptation. What restricts this cycle is the "survival of the fittest" and the "evidence of survival" mechanism.

The cyclic process, that is, the process of translation production, includes the two stages of the translator's adaptation to the translation ecological environment with the original elements as the main elements and the translation ecological environment with the translator as the main elements. In the first stage, the translator's adaptation to the translation ecological environment based on the original text can also be interpreted as the translator's choice of the translation ecological environment on the basis of the original text; at the same time, this stage can also be regarded as translation. Adapting to the translation ecological environment is the translator's adaptation. Further, according to the basic principle of "natural selection", translation is selected in the second phase of "translating ecological environment", and the focus is to select translation from the perspective of the typical translation context of translation. In other words, at this stage, the translator chooses to translate the "identity" of the ecological environment and the result of the selection produces translation.

The ecological translation study believes that in the process of translation, translators must adapt and choose according to the translation. That is, there are choices in adaptation and adaptation in selection. This adaptability and choice adaptability is multi-level, multi-faceted, multi-dimensional choice, adaptation and conversion. Mainly in three aspects: First, it refers to the adaptive choice of language, that is, the language chosen by the translator in the process of translation. Followed by the adaptive choice of cultural level. The translators are required to pay attention to the differences between the two cultural connotations during the translation process. While translating the original language, pay attention to the cultural system to which the language belongs and explain and spread the culture. Third, eco-translation theory also requires translators to pay attention to the adaptive choice of communication at the communicative level. In other words, the translator must pay attention to whether the problem reflects the original intention of communication. Therefore, we can summarize the principle of translation in ecological translation as "multidimensional at least has three-dimensional adaptability and adaptive choice". Whether translation has multi-dimensional adaptability has gradually become the criterion for translation judgment. Ecotranslatology puts forward the concept of "comprehensive adaptability and selectivity" and three reference indicators: multi-dimensional transformation degree, reader feedback, and translator's quality as reference for translation evaluation. It points out that translation activities should be conducted in language dimension, culture dimension, and communication dimension. "Multi-dimensional adaptation and adaptive selection", the best translation is the translation with the highest degree of "integration adaptive selection".

## Summary

Through careful study of previous studies of translator's subjectivity, we can easily see that the translator's subjectivity is still attached to the original text or translation. Translation thought does not really return to the "translator" itself, and it does not construct a home belonging to the "translator". Professor Hu Genshen, a domestic translator, bypassed the ambiguity and controversy of the "translator subject" and defined it as a "translator center" with a central position and leading role. He has great significance in the translation field and is a study of the translator's subjectivity. It points out an important way out of the dilemma of translator's subject research. Hu Gengshen believes that the concept of "translator subject" does not mean that the translator must be in a "central" position and play a "dominant" role in the process of translation. When discussing the translator's subjectivity, it is necessary to return to the translation itself.

When the theoretical issue of "intersubjectivity" arises, such as when highlighting the original author or when emphasizing the target audience, the translator may be placed on the "periphery" position and cannot play a "dominant" role. In this regard, Hu Gengshen clearly stated that the "Translator Center" is neither the "pre-translation" translation preparation stage nor the "translation

after-effects” translation effect stage, but the “translation event” translation behavior stage. Therefore, its orientation is "translation process" and "translation operation", which refers to "translator's selective adaptation and adaptive selection." Based on this, Hu Genshen puts the translator in a broad perspective of the ecological environment of translation, and strives to break the dominance of the “original center” and the “translation center” in the process of translation studies, and strongly encourages the establishment of a way to see both "Text" can also see the dynamic "Translator", which causes the translator to interact with and interact with the ecological environment, source text, target text and other factors, and thus discusses translation from the perspective of the translator's central position and leading role. It transcends the tradition of the “original center” and the “translation center”, and finally builds a balanced, systematic translation view centered on the translator.

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