

Translation of British and American Literary Works in the Context of Cultural Differences

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Abstract: British and American literature is a bright pearl in the history of world literature, having the characteristics of critical realism, humanism and heroism. Many British and American literature works are highly recognized and sought after in the world. Therefore, the appreciation and translation of British and American literary works can make more people understand the social conditions in different regions and countries, and it is also an important way to broaden their literary and artistic horizons. This paper mainly analyzes the cultural differences in the translation of British and American literary works and the translation principles that should be followed, as well as the translation strategies.

1. Introduction

Regional differences, social environment differences and value differences make people's aesthetic perspectives differ to a certain extent. Similarly, the appreciation and translation of literary works will produce different views and understanding because of cultural differences. Countries all over the world have their own cultural concepts and corresponding literary works. Through the translation of foreign literary works, more people can understand the social environment and literary characteristics of other countries and absorb literary nutrition. British and American literature itself has high literary value. Through the literary works, readers can better understand the social form, values, literary and artistic trends behind the works. However, due to the cultural differences between China and the West, the translation work has been affected by many factors, failing to more accurately transmit the true connotation of British and American literature. Therefore, it is of great practical significance to analyze the translation strategies of British and American literary works from the perspective of cultural differences.

2. Cultural Differences in the Translation of British and American Literary Works

2.1. Differences in the History of National Development

China has a long history of thousands of years. With the change of dynasties and the reform of society in the long history, Chinese literary works show the characteristics of diversity. And the literary works of different periods have distinct characteristics of the times and different ideals and pursuits, and the ideas behind the works are not the same. The development history of British and American countries is quite different from that of China. Britain is a country which was merged after a long war of conquest. Its historical prototype belongs to a colonial power and an advanced country in the period of industrial revolution. The first indigenous population in the United States were Indians. With the prevalence of British colonialism, a large number of immigrants came into being. The US was founded in the war of independence and gradually developed into an advanced country with strong economic and military strength in the world. Therefore, influenced by the historical differences of national development, Chinese and Western literature have great differences in social background.

2.2. Differences in Values

China adheres to the idea of benevolence, supports world peace, and takes people as the core of development. The Chinese nation has strong cohesion and dedication, and upholds national interests above all else. Western countries value the realization of their own interests and have strong spirit of personal heroism. Influenced by the differences of social values, their respective literary works show different core ideas. Therefore, in the process of literary translation, it is necessary to pay attention to the influence of the differences in values.

2.3. Differences in Language Expression

China's literary works pay attention to the integrity and smoothness of the structure of language organization, and the form of language expression is relatively peaceful, without too many bifurcation features. In the West, influenced by the social environment, its literary language tends to be more bifurcated, and the subject and predicate are primary and secondary. Therefore, due to the differences between Chinese and Western expressions, it is necessary to pay attention to the rationality of words in the process of translation to improve the quality of translation.

3. Principles in Translating British and American Literary Works

In order to improve the quality and level of translation, the relevant principles should be followed when translating British and American literature, which are mainly reflected in the following two aspects.

3.1. Strengthen Comprehensiveness in Literary Translation

Translating British and American literature should fully grasp its integrity and comprehensiveness, such as paying attention to the objectivity in terms of social background, literary scene, lexical meaning and symbolic meaning. For the words and sentences that have great differences or are easy to cause misunderstanding, translators should do a good job of annotation and make necessary explanations to promote the readers to grasp the true and objective meaning more accurately while reading. Based on the thinking and understanding of Chinese readers, the translated works can more truly and comprehensively reflect the author's real intention and emotional expression.

3.2. Strengthen the Transmission of Cultural Connotation in Literary Works

From a professional point of view, translation is mainly divided into literal translation and free translation. From the perspective of literature, art and cultural connotation, translating British and American literary works should apply free translation more to promote the embodiment of literary value. Free translation focuses on translating the connotation of the relevant words and sentences in the works, so it is more conducive for the readers to accurately grasp the literary connotation. However, in the actual translation work, it is necessary to grasp the proportion of free translation and literal translation in combination with the characteristics of the work and the purpose of translation, so as to avoid too much free translation to cause over understanding of the author's original meaning.

4. Effective Translation Strategies of British and American Literary Works in the Context of Cultural Differences

4.1. Enhance the Quality of Translation

In order to improve the quality of British and American literature translation in the context of cultural differences, firstly, it is necessary to grasp the target audience. In literary translation, the audience are the readers of literary works. Therefore, when translating British and American literary works, it is necessary to fully grasp the readers' cultural level and social role, so as to carry out the corresponding translation services. For example, if the readers are social literary workers, who have a high appreciation ability of British and American literary works, translators need to keep the literary language habits of the original author as much as possible in the translation work, that is,

making the proportion of literal translation larger. If the readers are ordinary people, translators need to add more relevant notes in the translation process, so as to reduce the obstacles in the reading process and promote readers' better understanding of British and American literary works. That is to say, free translation can be appropriately increased, and the connotation of literary works can be translated and displayed in a language way that is acceptable and easy to understand by Chinese people. Secondly, the key content should be extracted according to the types of works to be translated. Translators need to extract the corresponding core content according to the actual types of British and American literary works and the emphasis they want to express, and pay attention to the expression of the core ideas in the process of translation. For example, when translating *Pride and Prejudice*, translators need to take the protagonist's feelings as the main line of translation, and deeply combine the differences of expression ways, thoughts and cognition, psychological state and behavior among people of different classes under the social background, so as to make the translation work more comprehensive.

4.2. Strengthen the Use of Translation Methods

Translation is a difficult task, which is closely related to the cultural accumulation of translators and the long-term experience of translation in China. To improve the quality of translation by strengthening the use of translation methods, translators can explore and study the translation ideas and the application of specific methods. For example, when translating British and American literary works, translators can learn from the methods in the process of translating ancient literary works in China to improve the translation effect. In order to make a sharp contrast between the translation of British and American literary works and Chinese translation, translators can refer to the language expressions and translation methods in ancient Chinese literature to find its application value in the translation of British and American literary works. There are some words similar to Chinese idioms and allusions in British and American literature, so literal translation is not suitable. For example, the idiom "stand by a tree stump waiting for a hare to dash itself again" is not suitable to directly use literal translation method in the process of translation, but needs free translation method to translate and explain the deep meaning of words. Therefore, when translating mythology in British and American literature into Chinese, synonyms should be used as corresponding alternative translation to achieve more accurate connotation expression. The application of translation methods requires the translators to have enough knowledge of British and American literature, accurately grasp the true meaning of metaphor and symbolic content in the works, so as to improve the accuracy of translation.

4.3. Strengthen the Use of Translation Tools

With the development and progress of information technology in our country, many translation tools are constantly being promoted, so that they can be applied to the translation of British and American literature to reduce the dependence of translation on the translators' own ability. Effective use of advanced translation technology and related tools can also improve the quality of translation, reduce the burden of staff, and improve the effect of translation. At the same time, the Internet has the characteristics of information disclosure and sharing, from which more translation ideas and methods can be obtained, so as to improve the efficiency of translation. In the process of practical translation, translators can analyze the types of British and American literary works, and then choose the corresponding translation methods, and get the corresponding help from the translation tools. With the continuous application of information technology in the field of translation, many British and American literary works have various forms of communication carriers, such as film and television works, audio books and so on. Therefore, using advanced translation tools can also realize the diversified transmission of literary works and a wider range of information transmission, and promote the innovation and development of the translation of British and American literary works.

5. Conclusion

This paper mainly analyzes the cultural differences existing in the process of translating British and American literary works from the aspects of national development history, values and language expressions, analyzes the principles to be followed in the process of translation of British and American literary works from the aspects of strengthening the comprehensiveness in the process of literary translation and transmission of cultural connotation, and studies the effective translation strategies of British and American literary works under cultural differences from the aspects of enhancing the quality of translation, the use of translation methods and the use of translation tools. Through the analysis of this paper, it can be seen that in the process of translating British and American literary works, it is necessary to pay full attention to the influence of the cultural differences between China and the West on the translation work, consider the service objects of the translation work, select reasonable translation methods, and use advanced information technology, so as to effectively improve the quality and level of the translation of British and American literary works, and at the same time realize the innovation and development of translation work.

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