

Research on Treatment of Cultural Differences in English Literary Translation

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Abstract: Along with China's continuous integration with the world and the acceleration of internationalization pace, English literary works are constantly entering into our daily life and study. Because of their educational level, many people can't read the original English works, so there are many translated English works. However, due to the cultural differences, many translated English works cannot be not understood well by readers, which leads to the readers' understanding for the content. Therefore, it is imperative to find out the causes of the problems in the translation of English literature. Based on the author's learning and practical experience, this paper first analyzed the significance of dealing with cultural differences in English literary translation, and then concluded the types of cultural differences in English literary translation. Finally, the author proposed some strategies to deal with cultural differences in English literary translation.

1. Introduction

Cultural difference refers to the differences in language exchange, belief in life, way of thinking, customs and morality formed by people of specific groups in the different social development mode and ecological environment. The most intuitionistic manifestation is the different understanding and exposition of the same thing or phenomenon, which leads to the obstacle of communication. Literary translation belongs to language form transformation and there are many factors to be taken into account in converting excellent English literature into a popular Chinese book. Due to historical and space-time matters, there are great differences in language expression, social background, customs and habits between Chinese and Western cultures, therefore, in the process of English literature translation, we should be loyal to the original author's writing intention as much as possible and conform to the readers' understanding habits to achieve the organic integration of the two cultures.

2. The Significance of Handling Cultural Differences in English Literary Translation

In the information age, cultural exchanges between countries are becoming more and more frequent. In the process of cultural exchange, readers can appreciate the characteristics of western culture and feel the conflict between Chinese and western cultures while appreciating English literature. This requires translators to correctly handle the cultural differences between China and the West, not only to promote the spread of Western literature in the world, to promote cultural exchanges between different regions, but also to help readers understand the intention expressed by the original author. There are differences in the forms of expression between China and the West. Just changing the language is not the ideal way of translation. The translator also needs to show the cultural connotation contained in the literary works. Only when the translator has excellent skills and experience in handling cultural differences, can he achieve a perfect translation effect.

3. Cultural Differences in English Literary Translation

3.1 Cultural differences caused by lexical ambiguity.

Vocabulary is the basic element of language, and its production is deeply influenced by cultural background, so the ambiguity caused by vocabulary is very prominent. Many English words and Chinese words are not one-to-one equivalents, therefore, literal translation often cause errors in

understanding. For example, black tea in English is not dark tea, but red tea in Chinese. When we study a word, we need to know the different meaning of the word in different contexts and its meaning. For example, we often translate "air" to "air" simply, but it has other meanings: "look" and "dry" in Chinese. When we translate, it is difficult to relate the "look" and "dry" in Chinese. In Chinese, there is a connection between the original meaning and the semantic meaning, but the combination of English words is abstract, and the connection between the commonly used meaning and the obscure meaning is low. Therefore, we need to understand the cultural background of English and translate accurately.

3.2 Cultural differences caused by national cultural knowledge differences.

Both Chinese and English are languages have a long history in the world and they have formed their own characteristics under the influence of different national cultures. These two languages have created languages with national characteristics, and even some languages simply cannot find the appropriate corresponding words between English and Chinese. The Chinese pay attention to the collective strength, so the language expression pays attention to the link between the past and the next, and embodies the integrity and unity. Westerners, however, like to pursue personal struggle, so it is usually more arbitrary the expression, which reflects personality publicity. For example, the Chinese take a certain animal as zodiac animal in terms of age, while the Western countries divide people into 12 constellations by date of birth. In language expression, the word "uncle" in English has five kinds of meaning: "shufu", "bofu", "gufu", "jiufu" and "yifu" in Chinese, so the translation should be considered according to the meaning of the context. The cultural connotation of the west is more abstract and internal, so the understanding of the "cold joke" of the western nation needs to understand its cultural background, not to translate English directly from our own thinking pattern.

3.3 Cultural differences caused by thinking patterns.

Different historical backgrounds and different living habits can make people form different ways of thinking. The difference of way of thinking also makes people form the deviation in understanding of things, resulting in cultural differences. In the Chinese cultural system, people advocate quiet, unity, harmony, humanity, so ethics and morality have great influence on people's words and deeds. In the western cultural system, people advocate exploration, adventure, rationality, and the consequences of behavior have a great influence on people's words and deeds. Different thinking patterns will affect the differences in how to look at problems and how to express them, thus affecting the translation of both Chinese and English. For example, "dog" is a good word in the West, so "lucky dog" is translated as "the favorite of the emperor". In the East, it is used as a derogatory term, such as "gou yan kan ren di", "gou tui zi", "gou zhang ren shi" and so on. Of course, with the constant penetration of Internet culture in people's lives, "dog" is now regarded as a neutral word in some Chinese sentences, such as "dan shen gou", "sa gou liang", "dong cheng gou" and so on. Thus, we should consider the expression skills of different thinking patterns in translation.

4. Strategies to Deal with Cultural Differences in English Literary Translation

4.1 To handle the cultural differences flexibly according to the characteristics of literary genre.

Different English literary genres have their own unique forms of expression, which will have great differences in translation. In the translation of English literary works, effective translation methods should be chosen in combination with specific genres. There are significant differences in the writing techniques of Chinese and English literary works. Translators should understand the cultural differences between China and the West countries. It is necessary to improve the quality of translation according to the author's thinking of writing on the premise of respecting the original work. Novels, prose, poetry and other subjects usually contain the author's strong personal feelings, so the translation of English literary works should be based on the writing background, the author's

life, personal beliefs and so on so we can better understand the author's writing intention and improve the readability of literary works. Scientific and technical practical writing is more an objective reflection of scientific facts, involving less cultural background. In translation, the original text should be analyzed and understood, and the meaning of the original text should be accurately grasped, so it is necessary to choose the effective Chinese expression to report the works. The difficulty of the translation of scientific and technical practical writing lies in the investigation and to grasp the professional vocabulary and the improvement of the translation quality of English works.

4.2 To deal with cultural differences effectively through the combination of domestication translation and alienation translation.

In the process of translation of English literary works, different translators form different translation concepts according to different translation purposes. Alienation and domestication are two different translation concepts. For the alienation translation, the content and expression of the original text should be kept as far as possible, so that the translation remains rich in foreign culture. Alienation is often used in the translation of Chinese classical masterpieces, which can reflect the color of Chinese culture. For example, "tian you bu ce feng yun, ren you dan xi huo fu" is translated as "The weather is unpredictable, people have good and bad fortune." However, domesticated translation is different from that. In translation, readers' cultural background is taken as the main consideration, and the readers' understanding for the target text is emphasized. In the specific translation, the two ways can be combined, which not only accord with the original writing background, do not change the author's writing intention, but also modify the translation to improve the readability. For example, in the translation of *Shaking* written by Maodun, adopting the method of alienation translation can better preserve the oriental cultural connotation in the original text, and create a reading environment with Chinese traditional culture atmosphere for the readers. At the same time, domestication can be adopted in places where it is difficult to understand by westerners, and the cultural differences between China and the West can be properly handled so that readers can understand the works more accurately and appreciate the charm of the works.

4.3 To handle cultural differences skillfully by dynamic expressions.

English translation is to let Chinese readers understand English works. However, there are differences in the grammatical structure of English and Chinese. Therefore, we should choose the translation method flexibly in order to make both Chinese and English achieve the state of equivalence in terms of dynamic expression to realize the mutual exchange of Chinese and western cultures. In English translation, free translation should be adopted as far as possible, so that the content of the text can be expressed in the cultural environment of the reader. For example, in *Legend of Zhen Huan*, there is a line from Princess Hua: "jian ren jiu shi jiao qing." The literal translation of this sentence is "A bitch is a bitch." But such a translation does not seem clear, and if it is translated as "Bitches always seem to be affected." it will be easy to understand, and can reflect the manner and character of Princess Hua. Dynamic expression is a comprehensive consideration of lexical, syntactic, stylistic and background factors in translation, rather than seeking one-to-one correspondence of vocabulary. To guarantee the invariance of sentence meaning and style, the translation should conform to the cultural background of the reader as far as possible.

5. Summary

Language is the outer shell of culture. We should take into account the cultural factors and deal with the cultural differences between the East and the West when doing English literature translation works. English literature translation can not be carried out without a deep understanding of the eastern and western cultures, social backgrounds, and ways of thinking. The correct handling of the cultural differences in the works can not only achieve the good dissemination of the original cultural details of English literary works, but also cater to the reading habits of our readers to the maximum extent, so it has become a problem to be solved urgently in the quality translation of

English literary works.

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