

The Reflection on Chinese Translation of Contemporary Tibetan Literature

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Abstract: This paper has briefly illustrated the current situation and operation mode of Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature, and introduced the relationship between translators' identity shift and teamwork as well. The expansion of the text reading space of contemporary Tibetan literature is restricted by the development of Chinese translation level. The Chinese translation of Tibetan literature is helpful to promote the development of multi-ethnic and multi-lingual literature system in China, and it plays an important role in the establishment of cultural exchange and cultural diversity among different ethnic groups. What is more, this paper also studies and analyzes the contemporary Tibetan literature creation, translation quality, translation literature communication and some possible scenarios at Chinese translation studies.

1. Introduction

In recent years, China has made significant achievements in the researches of Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature. According to different interpretation contexts, contemporary Tibetan literature could be suitably translated and transmitted, which contributes to a closer interaction among the cultures of various ethnic groups and contributes to a better establishment of the literary ecology of various ethnic groups and languages. At the same time, due to the differences with authoring language, accepted contexts, dissemination and promotion, the Chinese sphere hasn't paid much attention to contemporary Tibetan literature, posing an obstacle to the establishment of multi-ethnic and multi-lingual coexistence in the Chinese literary circle.

2. Development Status

Currently, in the development system of minority literature in China, contemporary Tibetan literature occupies an important position. Under the current context of globalization, the literary creation supported by national languages plays a significant role in reflecting national characters and differences, which positively contributes to the coexistence of multi-culture. Communication is the foundation of multi-culture. Removing the misunderstanding among different national languages and promoting the transmission of literary works in minority languages have a profound effect on the diversified development of national languages. The rapid development of contemporary Tibetan literature has contributed to the generation of Chinese translation of Contemporary Tibetan Literature. Up to now, a large number of excellent translators have appeared and accomplished lots of excellent translation works to the Chinese literature world. Affected by the development of bilingual education, a lot of writers start to translate contemporary Tibetan literature into Chinese, helping contemporary Tibetan literature gain more attention and discourse power in the Chinese literary circle.

So far, the Chinese translated novels of contemporary Tibetan literature have published in outstandingly high volume. Some scholars of Han nationality, such as Geng yufang and Zhou jiwen, have made significant contributions to the Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature. Since the end of 20th century, they translated more than 20 novels, poems, essays and dramas. Later, with the participation of some Chinese-Tibetan translators, several Tibetan novels were translated into Chinese. "The selected translation works of Tibetan stories", edited by Da lu and Hema Lengzhi, selected a large part of translation works in this period. To some degree, these selected works could be considered as the epitome of the Chinese translated novels of Tibetan language in

the late 20th century. In the 1980s, many important Tibetan novels were translated into Chinese and were published successively, providing an important reference for Chinese readers to understand the general developmental situation of Tibetan literature. Later on, the Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan novels has entered its peak stage and achieved fruitful results. In order to further improve the literary influence of Qinghai-Tibetan, National Literature Translators Association was founded by the writer in Qinghai Province in 2011 and it then established a translation series of books called “Wild Yak” in the same year, which was dedicated to the translation of Tibetan works created by contemporary Qinghai writers. Since 2013, this translation series has published several collections. With the development of contemporary Tibetan novels, since the 1980s, several individual Chinese translated works such as “Invisible Rope” and “soul on the strings” have been published on some Chinese literary journals. What is more, the Chinese-Tibetan translation works improved orderly. Many Chinese translated works of Tibetan novels were published on Chinese literary journals, such as “National Literature”, “Tibetan Literature” and “Qinghai Lake”, and on some network, receiving consistent high praise from readers. However, compared with novels, the achievements of Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan poetries and proses in the late 20th century were not obvious. For this reason, “Wild Yak” specially launched several collections of poetry works, contributing to the critical development of Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan poetry.

3. The Chinese Translation Mode of Contemporary Tibetan Literature

When contemporary Tibetan literature enters into a prosperous stage, its Chinese translation has emerged correspondingly. Translators such as Geng yufang and Long Renqing have been devoted to the Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature and made gratifying achievements. In addition, some translators also hold several posts simultaneously as literary creators and bilingual writers, becoming a major feature of Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature. Literary translation could promote the communication between multilingual literatures and play an important role in the understanding and communication of different cultures. The main factors that affect translation quality could be divided into internal factors and external factors. The internal factors include translators’ language ability, literary quality and artistic tastes, while the external factors include various social elements such as educational background, moral concept, ideology and value orientation. Due to the differences in social and cultural contexts, the contemporary Tibetan literary translation and general literary translation show their differences correspondingly.

First of all, most translators who are engaged in the Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature are Tibetans, so they have unique advantages in understanding the language, culture and historical elements in the works. Moreover, their bilingual educational background and growing experience enable them to fully master and skillfully use the target language, avoiding most possible conflicts happened during the translation process in the file of language and cultural background. Secondly, a large number of Tibetan writers have personally translated their works into Chinese, so they have an opportunity to re-create their works to produce two independent and interdependent literary works, providing much interpretation space for the readers of different languages. The phenomenon of self-translation in the Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature has become a main feature now, which contributes to eliminate the distance between the translator and the author, providing readers in different languages with different reading experience. Compared with the works translated by other people, the self-translation works can better reflect authors’ standpoint, perception and psychological factors, which further shortens the distance between the translated works and the original works, making the translated works enjoy the same textual status as the original works. Most writers of contemporary Tibetan literature have received bilingual education, which has a profound influence on their literary understanding, ideology, writing methods, knowledge sources and other aspects. Hence, some Tibetan writers have a strong desire for cultural communication, cross-cultural awareness and Chinese translated versions. Due to the differences in the authors’ mastery of two languages and their understanding of different cultures, many problems may be happened in the process of self-translation. However, self-

translation, as a special translation method, has an outstanding performance in expressing and mastering authors' emotion. The works translated by their authors and by other translators have certain features in common, which creates the possibility of re-extension for literary works.

In addition, the translation of contemporary Tibetan literature has entered the stage of teamwork, which has been fully reflected by the establishment of the National Literature Translators Association and the successive publication of "Wild Yak". The development of translation teams has deepened the systematic study of contemporary Tibetan literature in China. Translating minority languages into Chinese, Chinese into minority languages, Chinese into foreign languages and foreign languages into Chinese, has played a positive role in promoting the interaction among Chinese multi-ethnic literatures and the communication between Chinese literature and foreign literature. Thus, various forms of team translation activities play an important part in the Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature. In addition, various social factors generated from this process are helpful to spread Chinese translation works. As a result, Chinese team translation should be well organized and operated in the future. Moreover, the retranslation of some works provides different perspectives for the comparative reading of the Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature.

4. Problems and Countermeasures in Work

In recent years, the efforts of translators in all parties have promoted the development of Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature and achieved satisfied results. The development of contemporary Tibetan literature plays an important role in improving the quality of Chinese translation and widening the translation pavement. Although contemporary Tibetan literature develops a lot within the forepassed forty years and it has formed its new literary features by inheriting and innovating the Tibetan literature, contemporary Tibetan literature is still deficient in writing technique, emotional expression and aesthetic structure compared with the literary works of other ethnic groups and languages. These shortcomings have restricted the spread of cross-languages, making it difficult to be recognized by the extensive reading groups. On the foundation of inheriting excellent creative experience and tradition in literature, contemporary Tibetan literature should learn lessons from the creative techniques of other literature, so as to create its own literary style.

In addition, the aesthetic value towards the Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature is uneven or significantly different from the original works. So, it is necessary to strengthen its ability to control the emotion and style of works. The reasons for this phenomenon not only lie in the particularity of literary translation, but also the specific operability of different types of contents during translation and other social factors. However, there is no doubt that only high-quality translation works could be widely recognized by readers. The quality of Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature still needs to be effectively strengthened especially in the field of literariness, which requires translators to improve their knowledge and ability by mastering and using the target language, translation ethics, translation process, translation strategies and translation concepts. Thus it shows that the improvement of the translation quality of contemporary Tibetan literature is inseparable from translators' literary accomplishment, translation accomplishment, the summary of translation experience and the dialogue and communication between the translator and the reader.

Moreover, because of the restriction in dissemination and promotion, the Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature fails to play its own role in the interaction and exchange of literature. In the past, the Chinese-translated works of contemporary Tibetan literature were usually published on the ethnic page of Chinese literary journals, but the proportion of which was very limited. The readers of these relevant books were also limited, mainly focusing on the practitioners of ethnic literature. However, other ethnic literature also met the same problem. It is essential for the Chinese translated literature of contemporary Tibetan to spread and promote itself by the means of modern media, so as to broaden its audiences in Chinese translated literature of contemporary Tibetan. As a result, it is helpful to further improve the literary influence of minority languages by

integrating all sorts of social and cultural resource and innovative media forms, expanding the audience ranges with multi methods and deepening the understanding and cognition of readers towards Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature. In the end, it is of great importance to strengthen the studies on the Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature and improve the confusion stage of the Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature by translation criticism. In order to balance and coordinate the meaning and aesthetic expression of the translated works of contemporary Tibetan literature, the dissemination of the Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature and the construction of Chinese-Tibetan translation theory need to be promoted through literary criticism and research.

5. Conclusion

The development of science and technology, especially the Internet and media, has created new opportunities for the development and promotion of contemporary minority literary works and their Chinese translations as well. Minority literature, including contemporary Tibetan literature, is an indispensable part of Chinese literature and it should not be eliminated in the development and research of literature. The carry out and the improvement of the Chinese translation of contemporary Tibetan literature have an outstanding performance in the development of Tibetan literature and in the interaction of other languages.

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