

Influence of Cultural Differences on Word Meaning and Semantic Comprehension in English-Chinese Translation

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Abstract: In this study, we conduct the in-depth analysis of influence of cultural differences on the word meaning and semantic comprehension in English-Chinese translation. Translation is a speech activity that re-expresses what is expressed in the first language (source language) in a second language (target language), hence, the consideration of the cultural issues will be essential. In the process of English-Chinese translation, the application of form and meaning in English and Chinese is not absolutely separated, that is, Chinese is not only expressed in terms of meaning and English is not only expressed in form. We provide the novel suggestions for the translation methods considering the culture which will guide the translation performance.

Keywords: English-Chinese Translation; Semantic Comprehension; Word Meaning; Cultural Differences

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is the carrier of culture and an important part of culture. There is a close relationship between culture and also language. Culture contains language and affects language, and language is an indispensable tool for preserving the culture, exchanging culture and reflecting the culture, specially, the translation will be the essential aspect.

People and society themselves are the crystallization of the culture, and language is the most important cultural carrier, language is an important form of social culture, language reflects the nation's thinking, beliefs, emotions and many of other aspects. For the culture perspective, we should consider the listed aspects.

(1) To translate is to have something to rely on, to have a basis, in other words, to rely on the original, and to use the original as the basis for translation. The dependence of the translation is not to make the zeer a slave to the original, but to make him a creator who reproduces the artistic reality of the original document.

(2) Artistry is the fundamental characteristic of the literary translation and the fundamental difference between it and other types of translation. Therefore, as long as it is a literary work, it must have its artistry.

(3) The way of thinking in English culture is detailed analysis, which is mainly manifested in the fact that people in English-speaking countries pay attention to the independent role of the individual components and the relationship between mutual knowledge, emphasizing formal analysis and rule constraints.

According to the above statement, we can understand that culture is the basic beliefs and value judgments formed by people in a certain society through long-term common life, as well as the resulting normative system of the thoughts and behaviors, including those generated by these thoughts and behaviors as the result of understanding. Due to the different living environments and the different paths of the historical development, different human collectives have then generated different value standards and behaviors, which constitute the

rich and the colorful world of our human beings today. The details will be discussed in the next section and in the figure 1, the English-Chinese Translation Tool (Google) is shown.



Figure. 1 The English-Chinese Translation Tool (Google)

2. THE PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

2.1 The Cultural Differences on Word Meaning and Semantic Comprehension

How to convey the meaning and show the cultural origin and cultural color of the original text in the process of translation, especially the cultural values implied in the source language, this is a problem. Different nations have different histories and social ideologies. Different historical and social heritages have created different historical cultures. People's emotions, thinking, customs, etc. are also different.

An important content of the historical culture is reflected in historical allusions. Historical allusions are treasures in the national history and culture, which have a strong national color and distinct cultural personality.

It contains rich historical and the cultural information and can best reflect the characteristics of different cultures. In the same way, the translator can use different methods and follow various principles. On the basis of fully understanding the original text, according to the context, the translator does not stick to the original text, obeys the cultural habits of the target readers, and makes them willing to accept it. It can also fully reflect the style and culture of the original work from the perspective of readers' appreciation of the foreign cultures, allowing readers to understand the customs of the foreign countries. As an important component of cultural structure, language carries a lot of information. So when one language

communicates with another, what is actually happening is an exchange between cultures. When communicating, language and language are not directly connected, and translation must be used. Therefore, the task of translation is essentially to realize the communication between the different cultures. Therefore, the investigation of the translation should also be carried out in the context of culture.

2.2 The Suggestions for English-Chinese Translation

Translation is an expressive process in which the author puts his intentions unambiguously into the work for others to read. From the perspective of the translator, translation is also a process of the reasoning. Inference means that the translator infers the implicit intention of the author's utterance from the information provided by the author of the original text by explicit means. Therefore, when doing the English-Chinese translation, especially the Chinese translation of English long sentences. Many difficulties and also problems may be encountered. In order to achieve the purpose in the English-Chinese translation, even to obtain excellent results, some specific skills are required. In the last section, the cultural skill is considered as the basis.

The logical relationship and expression in English long sentences are the same as those in Chinese, that is, the series of behaviors described in English long sentences basically occur in the chronological order. Sometimes, the content expressions in some long English sentences are connected together according to the logical relationship between the internal components of the sentence, which is consistent with the expression habits of Chinese, hence, we then have the following suggestions.

(1) The shared cognitive context between the translator and the target text reader provides a possible guarantee for the successful transmission of the source text author's intention. The form of the expression in the language chosen by the translator is based to a certain extent on his assumptions and intuitions about the readers of the target text.

(2) The translation must be very conscious to reflect the characteristics of the target language, that is, Chinese. Only by translating in this way, the translation will not make readers feel the taste of translation, and it also greatly improves the readability of the translation.

(3) English attaches great importance to hypotaxis. Hypotaxis and linking elements with real meaning can not be omitted in general. Sentence group combination emphasizes interlink and tightness. The formal structure is very clear, which can better show the logical relationship contained in the original text.

3. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we conduct the in-depth analysis of influence of cultural differences on the word meaning and the semantic comprehension in English-Chinese translation. In the specific practice of English-Chinese translation, it does not mean that English-Chinese translation must be fully expressed in a syntactic form, and Chinese-English translation must be fully expressed in a syntactic form. Instead, it should be analyzed according to the actual situation of the statement itself, and used flexibly. This paper gives the novel suggestions for the translation applications.

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