

Translation of Chinese, English and American Literary Works in College English Teaching under the Cultural Differences between China and the West

Zhongping Liu

Gannan Normal University, Ganzhou, 341000, Jiangxi, China
thoms@139.com

Abstract: In the process of college English teaching, dealing with cultural differences is an important, complex and difficult issue. With the increasingly close cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries, the continuous advancement of economic globalization and the trend of cultural diversification, translation is not only one of the ways of information exchange and expression in English, but also an indispensable tool. Due to the huge differences in language background and other factors, in order to better deal with this situation, it is necessary to effectively communicate with the Chinese and Western ethnic groups and achieve a satisfactory result for both parties. This is a very necessary task, and it is also an inevitable trend. By analyzing the English teaching under the cultural differences between China and the West, this paper effectively communicates and understands both Chinese and foreign languages, analyzes the cultural differences between China and the West, and proposes some translation strategies.

Keywords: Cultural Differences between China and the West, College English Teaching, Translation of Chinese and American English Academic Works

1. Introduction

In cross-cultural communication, different language expressions and discourse structures will have a great impact. Firstly, the influence of traditional Chinese culture. Since ancient times, Confucianism, Taoism and other thoughts have had a profound and strong restraining effect on people; secondly, there are obvious differences in the thinking patterns and values of Chinese and Westerners: on the one hand, Westerners are more inclined to rationalism, they pay attention to the ability of logical reasoning and abstract generalization; on the other hand, the Easterners are more conservative and cautious. Driven by this concept, the Chinese are accustomed to dealing with various affairs in a self-centered manner. Guided by this mode of thinking, Chinese are often accustomed to "speaking" and "listening" to cope with communicative activities from different cultural backgrounds; while Westerners are more inclined to apply the knowledge they have learned to practice, so there is a huge difference between the two languages. From the perspective of Chinese and Western cultural exchanges, this paper conducts a comparative analysis and research on China and the United Kingdom and puts forward relevant countermeasures, aiming to explore the effective skills and strategies for the translation of Chinese, British and American literary works in college English teaching under the cross-cultural communication environment.

2. An Analysis of the Differences between Chinese and Western Cultures

2.1. Differences in Values

In Chinese and Western cultures, the difference in values is a prominent issue. Chinese people pay attention to "harmony is paramount" and "equality of home and country"; Western countries emphasize more on individualism, and when they evaluate others and their behavior, they often only pay attention to their own interests and ignore the interests of others or the collective [1]. Therefore, in the translation process, they pay more attention to their own identity and rights. In addition, the difference between Chinese and Western cultures is largely due to the fact that Chinese people value Confucianism more, and are implicit and introverted towards Taoism and Mohism; Western countries place more emphasis on individualism and collective spirit. They believe that only if they have a correct value concept can

they ensure their own safety and property inviolability; Orientals pay more attention to self-realization and the meaning of life - "Tianli" is the concept of life; In the West, the pursuit of higher levels of enjoyment on the material level, the pursuit of a better living environment and a sense of happiness are all determined by the inherent way of thinking of the Chinese people.

2.2. Differences in Customs and Culture

Different nations and countries have their own cultures, these differences often lead to great differences in language expressions. For example, when Chinese communicate with foreigners, they usually only focus on using English. China is an open country with a long history and rapid development of wisdom and innovative spiritual civilization. Therefore, As one of the most distinctive and attractive cultural treasures of the Chinese nation, Chinese language is widely used in Western cultural exchanges; In addition, China's long-term implementation of the policy of emphasizing agriculture over commerce and being deeply influenced by Confucian culture has led to people's less mastery of English vocabulary, and they have not even been exposed to foreign languages, so that in English communication, it is easy to have unclear or even wrong language expressions. And this kind of cultural difference will produce a certain degree of misunderstanding of language, which will hinder college students to learn English knowledge and improve their communicative ability [2].

2.3. Differences in Way of Thinking

The way of thinking refers to the specific behavior patterns that people adopt when they carry out various activities, and the human brain reflects objective things (facts). Due to the great differences in the regions and living environments among different ethnic groups, there are significant regional, variable and open cultural differences. The traditional Chinese speculative style emphasizes "re-evaluating the dialectics of the classics", which means that when people carry out thinking activities, they only pay attention to the structural characteristics of strict logic and complete appearance; Westerners focus on careful logic and emphasize rational reasoning and argumentation. In English learning, Chinese people's way of thinking has obvious tendencies [3].

Due to the differences between Chinese and Western cultures, there are various ways of thinking. Chinese people are accustomed to expressing their own different ideas and viewpoints by using the words "neighbors first" and "preconceptions and talents later"; while Westerners pay more attention to the objective world things are analyzed in detail. In the process of translation, if the literal translation is inaccurate or there are errors, it will lead to misunderstandings by readers. For example, many words in English are adjectives, but some words that are closer to the actual situation of life and have certain meanings cannot be used, such as: "For the blessing of others", "Be honest and kind, treat others sincerely, express truthfully" and so on. The Chinese are accustomed to using literal translation to express meaning.

3. Translation strategies of British and American literary works under the cultural differences between China and the West

3.1. Division of Labor between Literal Translation and Free Translation

In university English teaching, literal translation is the basic method of translation. It refers to the expression of the original meaning by directly stating the meaning of the language, the structure of the discourse, and the rules of grammar. Paraphrasing is the conversion of the original meaning into a form or the use of a particular symbol (phrase indentation, etc.) to make it equal and understandable. Chinese as a variant of the second foreign language vocabulary can also be seen as a third foreign language vocabulary phenomenon (i.e., synonymous words with similar sounds but not exactly isometric near-word sounds). In college English teaching, literal translation is generally used in the first translation stage, and the accuracy of literal translation directly affects the translation effect [4]. Due to the large differences between Chinese and Western languages and cultures, this limits the meaning expressed in the original form and the Chinese traditional meaning to a certain extent, resulting in many similarities between the original text and the translated text: Firstly, Westerners are more inclined to understand directly; Secondly, foreign readers are relatively close to the connotation and context of Chinese, while domestic people are relatively familiar with it; finally, the translation methods used by translators often have obvious tendencies, such as free translation. To a certain extent, it will lead to the deviation of readers' understanding of the original text, thus affecting the effect of English learning.

3.2. Compare the Language Style of the Original and the Translation

Translation is a two-way process, on the one hand, to reflect the cultural connotations contained in the original text; On the other hand, it is also necessary to reflect whether the translation is in line with the original theme when expressed, and there are huge differences between the two languages. Therefore, we need to analyze these two types of languages, because they are unique and close to the actual situation of life or have a certain degree of comparability, translators must find more and better points of convergence between the two: First, the translator should learn to use English for the cultural context involved in communicative activities; The second is to match the translation with the original text in the process of understanding; The third is that the translator should make sure that the translation is consistent with the cultural background reflected in the original text in the process of understanding. This requires translators to fully understand the differences between China and the West, and carefully study the differences and commonalities between the two languages, as well as what kind of problems arise when they coexist and develop, and how to choose solutions; Finally, it should be understood that the translator himself is an indispensable role in the translation [5].

3.3. The Help of Ancient Chinese Translation Methods for Foreign Language Translation

Ancient Chinese is divided into two categories, one is ancient Chinese, and the other is modern Chinese. In the process of translation, the problem of foreign language blindness will arise due to historical reasons and cultural factors. In order to solve this situation, it is necessary to analyze ancient Chinese and find out the hidden rules and take certain measures to avoid these phenomena when errors may occur, then use correct and effective translation strategies to make the readers of the translated text understand and accept (That is, "translation"), so that English learners can better grasp what they have learned.

In college English teaching, due to the influence of traditional Chinese culture, students have a strong interest in learning Chinese characters and words, so it is easy to use Chinese as a language for their daily communication and foreign languages for communication activities. In ancient times, people used the word "people" to refer to themselves as "filial piety". This kind of thinking has been deeply ingrained and will change after a period of time; at the same time, influenced by traditional Chinese culture, students are accustomed to the feudal hierarchy concept of life and death, respecting the old and loving the young, so it is easy to produce in the process of translating into English and Chinese cultural difference [6]. English as a language, it is a communicative tool in itself, therefore, in order to achieve better results for students, the two cultural factors must be combined to achieve the best communication effect.

3.4. Utilization of Translation Tools

Translation is not only the exchange of language, but also the expression of cultural connotation and values. In cross-cultural communication, if the translator wants to better complete the communication task and achieve the expected purpose, it must use some tools to achieve it. There are many words in English textbooks that can be used for literal translation; and English words also have many expressions or grammatical meanings and other information for us to use, which is one of the reasons for unnecessary trouble or misunderstanding caused by different translation media, so we should address these issues from multiple perspectives [7]. In the English study of college students, due to the influence of cultural differences, there is a huge language barrier between the translator and the Chinese-translated object, which is also one of the reasons for the unstable English level of college students and the difficulty of English-Chinese communication.

Translation tool is an effective foreign language expression, it can not only help students master English and Chinese language better, but also enable them to obtain good results in English communication. Translation methods are needed when college students conduct cross-cultural reading. At present, Chinese colleges and universities do not offer a special course for English style. Therefore, the education department should pay more attention to the training of translators' abilities and the compilation of bilingual textbooks. The translator's foreign language level, proficient in using various Chinese vocabulary and sentence structure and context, at the same time, we should also pay attention to the improvement of students' English application awareness and language communication skills; in the process of translation, we should pay attention to cultural differences, avoid misunderstandings, and guide them effectively [8].

3.5. Improve Translation Quality

3.5.1. Reading Crowd

Different cultural backgrounds, students' reading ability will also be different. In China, college students come from rural and urban areas. Because of their location and age, they accept new things quickly and do not like the traditional English teaching model. At the same time, influenced by our country's historical factors, Confucianism is deeply rooted and has dominated for a long time. Due to the resistance to learning and the mentality of "hope to become a dragon", many people use Chinese as a tool for communication, thus ignoring the Chinese cultural background and language environment, resulting in the inability to effectively improve translation skills and technique [9].

3.5.2. Pursue the Perfect Direction

In college English teaching, teachers should focus on cultivating students' basic language ability, so that they can master the culture of the Han nationality, and can combine traditional Chinese culture with the development of Western society. Therefore, the translation task is a arduous and long process, which requires the translator not only to have good professional quality, but also to have a certain degree of understanding and infectivity of the translation content, so as to truly realize the correctness and standardization of the translation. In teaching, teachers should pay attention to the cultivation of students' language application ability and comprehensive practice level, so that college students can master basic knowledge and skills, and can effectively use the knowledge to solve problems in translation [10].

3.5.3. Handling of Contraindications

Taboo is a cultural symbol, and its important role in cross-cultural communication is a language phenomenon, but unlike any other form, any content is suitable for expression in a specific context. However, there are certain differences between different nationalities and races. Due to factors such as historical reasons and religious beliefs, there are obvious differences between Chinese and Western civilizations. For example: Chinese people pay more attention to the principle of politeness when dealing with "polite": Westerners believe that respecting personal privacy should express their love for the country, society and others in a humble and prudent manner, while Chinese people pay more attention to the individual privacy. There are also obvious differences in culture between different ethnic groups. For example, the Han people like to be bold and enthusiastic; foreigners think that prudence is the expression of their love for the country, society and others. Therefore, separating and combining the two civilizations to a certain extent in the process of translation has become one of the contents of college English teaching that is easier to understand and has a higher level of literary accomplishment, it can help students learn the similarities and differences between Chinese and Western cultures. Therefore, we need to pay attention to the following points when translating: one is to avoid directly citing a certain word; the other is to not use the word; the third is not to conflict with the original language and violate the communication habits of the original language, which requires a variety of strategies to deal with cultural differences and avoid direct and indirect translation.

4. The Application and Value of British and American Literary Works in College English Teaching

4.1. British and American Literary Works Mobilize Students' Enthusiasm for Learning English

Due to the different cultural backgrounds, British and American literary works contain a large number of national spirits and values that are completely different from those of China. In the process of English learning, students often have problems such as distraction and impetuosity. Translation is one of the important means to convey the content to the translator and achieve the purpose of translation, so teachers must guide students to understand the meaning of the original text. Thinking mentally: first, understand the author's intention; second, understand the meaning and characteristics expressed by the language; third, understand the differences in language learning through analysis and comparison, so as to better grasp the English expression method. Under the cultural differences between China and the West, the translation of English and American literary works by college students is not only language communication, but also has a certain connection with traditional Chinese Confucianism and Taoism. In this way, British and American literary works will more effectively mobilize students' enthusiasm for learning English.

4.2. British and American Literary Works Improve Students' Ability to Use English Knowledge

Language is a kind of culture as well as the level of spiritual civilization of a country. To a certain extent, it represents the history, tradition and aesthetic concept of the country. As the world's second largest economy, English teaching not only trains students to translate or read foreign literary works, but also enables them to understand the rich connotations of Chinese culture behind the translated articles. The memory is still not vented, but it is the icing on the cake, such as "in a word", which refers to the ability to express and use language; and culture is also a symbol of a nation, which represents a country or region during this period. Culture is also a national symbol, which represents the values of a country or region that have developed during this period after the integration of various parts of a historical, social and cultural context [11].

4.3. British and American Literary Works Improve Students' Personal Cultivation and Comprehensive Quality

The language characteristics and cultural background of literary works determine that it can play a link in college English teaching, linking Chinese and foreign countries, and it is also an effective way to improve students' personal accomplishment and comprehensive quality. First of all, we must realize that British and American literature has strong logic, which makes English express various unexpected phenomena; secondly, the content of the article is rich and colorful; lastly, the author himself has excellent qualities such as noble morality and sense of responsibility. In addition, humanistic environment factors such as good mental outlook can provide favorable conditions and help for English teaching, so as to achieve the purpose of improving students' English level, and improve students' personal accomplishment and comprehensive quality.

5. Conclusion

Under the cultural differences between China and the West, in English teaching, teachers should pay attention to the research and analysis of traditional Chinese literature and foreign literary works, and at the same time, they should actively explore new ways of cross-cultural communication. College students are one of the important forces for the future development of our country, they not only learn English knowledge, but also love the inland environment of the motherland and the knowledge in life; students are also eager to understand the world and discover beauty and commonality through their own unique and distinctive eyes, so as to realize themselves value. Since ancient times, the Chinese have attached great importance to the cultivation of language communicative ability and have the characteristics of strong practicality and skill-based thinking; while Westerners are more concerned about using Chinese to express their understanding of English knowledge, so they often use their native language as False words and misspellings mistranslate the same meaning or grammatical rule. This requires teachers not only to consider the differences between Chinese and foreign cultures but also not to deviate from the original style in the translation process, so as not to cause misunderstandings.

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