

The influence of context differences on English and American literary translation

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Abstract: *Literary translation has always been a difficult and important thing. This is an important measure to promote the exchange of foreign cultures. However, when translators translate literary works, the final translation result is not accurate because of the difference of semantic context. Therefore, this paper analyzes and studies the contextual culture in translation, explores the context, internal cultural relations and characteristics of English and American translated literature, in order to solve the problem of inaccurate translation of English and American literature due to the differences in context.*

Keywords: *Contextual culture; American and American literature; Translation of literature*

1. Introduction

When translating literary works, people will be affected by their own political thoughts, historical thoughts, cultural thoughts and other subjective factors, which may lead to the final translation result only according to the translator's own intention. However, it does not combine the linguistic context or non-linguistic context of literary works. Therefore, if we want to change this situation, we must start from the culture and attitude of cultural works, and combine the cultural environment of the works with the cultural conception expressed by the original author. Only in this way can the literary works be translated more accurately and be favored by readers.

2. Cultural differences between Chinese and Western contexts

Due to the different origins of development, the differences between Chinese and Western cultures are obvious. Therefore, in the process of translation, it is necessary to consider various factors such as cultural differences and living environment differences between China and the West, and have an in-depth understanding of the ideological writing structure of the author of the cultural works. Only in this way can the thoughts and connotations that the original author wants to express be perfectly displayed. The differences are mainly reflected in the following aspects.

2.1 Differences in customs and values

Cultural differences in the middle period are reflected in many aspects, but the differences in customs and values are more obvious. This often affects how people perceive things, for example, in terms of how they perceive dragons. Chinese people often take this as a totem, symbolizing noble authority and consider themselves the descendants of the dragon. In western eyes, dragon is not a symbol of good, but a symbol of evil and demons. Ah, look at the word "dog". In foreign countries, it is regarded as a symbol of loyalty, while in Chinese culture, dog is a derogatory word, representing bad and unfriendly. Through the examples of these two words, it is obvious that Chinese and Western cultures have great differences in the cognition of things. This difference is mainly caused by the difference between Chinese and western customs and values. It is said that the environment makes the man, and customs and values are part of the environment.

2.2 Differences in language structure and thinking

In addition to the above mentioned differences in customs and values, in the construction of statement, western literature pays more attention to the subject-predicate structure of sentences, while our country's sentence structure mainly adopts verb use as emphasis, the two forms lead to the difference in the statement order in translation. In addition, the structural expression form of sentences is usually tree

structure in the west, while bamboo structure in China, which is mainly due to the differences in the way of thinking between China and the west^[1]. Not only that, it is also the difference in the final language expression caused by the western individualism and the nationalistic group interest thinking mode of my country. The structural differences between Chinese and Western languages are especially evident in the expression of context. Obviously, the context of Chinese language with Chinese structure is more profound than that of Western language with English structure. The main reason is that English usually has a straightforward sentence structure, while Chinese has formed a unique cultural knowledge system after thousands of years of precipitation and inheritance. Therefore, in fact, in English-Chinese translation, the connotation, sentence pattern and expression of British and American literature can be translated more accurately. However, the lack of content in literary works does not have a great impact on the application of English language. It is possible to make effective use of English language through continuous different norms and patterns, so as to enhance the richness of content. For Chinese translators, if they want to translate English into Chinese in the future, they need to be fully familiar with and master the language structure of English. Only in this way can they conduct multi-level and in-depth dissection of literary content. Explore its deep meaning, and use the form of Chinese expression at the same time, without losing the original meaning.

2.3 Differences in living environment and religious belief

The above customs and values are caused by the small environment, and the big environment is the social environment of survival, which is the main reason for the formation of Western cultural and language differences. The social environment refers to both the objective geographical environment and the social environment formed by the national organization. These big and small differences lead to the differences between China and the West in language, ideology, religion and other aspects. Typical is that due to the large land and abundant resources, Chinese agricultural industry is relatively rich and outstanding farming culture is raised. Most western countries depend on the sea, so the Marine culture is rich. This has led to the love of the land in our country, while the West to admire the sea. It is because of this difference that Chinese people like the east wind, because it can bring harvest, while western people like the west wind, because it can bring poetry and distance. In the aspect of religion, Buddhism is the main object of our people's belief, while in the west, it is Christianity. This eventually led to the creation of the words Buddha lending and Black Friday. These are all cultural differences caused by the living environment. Therefore, in the translation of literary works, these environmental factors and religious beliefs should be fully considered in order to translate the personal feelings of the author and the deep meaning of the article.

3. The influence of contextual culture on literary translation

3.1 The influence of the original author and translator's contextual culture

When translating British and American literary works, we should not only consider the social environment of the works itself and the differences between Chinese and Western thinking, but also pay attention to the situation of the authors themselves^[2]. Although the literary works created by the author in the western environment have the shadow of Western culture, each individual has its own unique characteristics. Therefore, when writing literary works, the author is also influenced by his or her upbringing, living environment, and sentence structure habits. This means that when translating the cultural works of the original author, the translator should take comprehensive consideration according to the habits and characteristics of the original author. For example, Robert's *The Jolly Beggar*. Since the author's life background is a very poor situation of foreign conquest, the translator should also put himself into the author's life situation during the translation process, so as to realize the author's yearning for democracy and freedom as well as the pursuit of life. Thus to the original author's creation intention, writing style and so on to make a reasonable inference. Only the final result can highlight the features and connotations of the work. In addition to the personal situation of the original author and the environment, the translator's educational background, cultural customs and other factors will also affect the translation quality of British and American works. Therefore, in literary translation, translators must combine various translation methods and techniques according to their own conditions to accurately interpret the content of the original text. However, we should avoid all subjective inferences, and do not incorporate our own subjective positions and personal preferences into the translation. Translation and creation should be carried out in the cultural context of the original author. Only in this way can the cultural opinions and connotations of the original authors be accurately translated, and only in this way

can the national culture and wisdom represented by their cultural works be shown, so as to enrich and diversify the translation contents of cultural works. Therefore, only by constantly learning and broadening their horizons can translators translate the original author's works accurately.

3.2 The influence of readers' context

The translation of Western cultural works by translators is mainly intended to convey the cultural differences between China and the West and the cultural connotations of the West to readers. In this way, readers can not only understand the western cultural characteristics, but also feel the differences between Chinese and Western cultures, so as to learn diversified language and cultural knowledge and obtain a good reading experience. Therefore, when translating literary works, translators should not only accurately translate the meaning of cultural works, but also take the context and culture of readers into consideration. Only in this way can the translation of cultural works be welcomed and recognized by people. If you want to do this, you must have an in-depth understanding of the audience characteristics of readers, explore their unique vision and contextual characteristics, and combine them in your translation work. Only in this way can the translated works be presented in front of readers with high quality, become readers' cultural and spiritual food, and broaden their horizons. For example, when translating *The Swan Playing the Trumpet*, the audience of this work should be taken into account, so the cognition and habit characteristics of children should be taken into account in the translation, and the connotation of the story of the swan's struggle against fate should be conveyed to the majority of children through certain translation skills, so that they can accept it.

3.3 The influence of contextual culture

English and American literary works have obvious contextual and cultural characteristics. Only when standing in the same contextual environment can they realize zero-distance communication with the original author. Therefore, if the context and cultural characteristics of the original author are not grasped, the connotation of literary works will be difficult for people to understand and improve the difficulty for readers to grasp the value of literary works. Therefore, in the process of translation, a comprehensive consideration should be given to the way in which the original author communicates with readers in literary works. Instead of blindly translating the connotation of cultural works, we should reduce the difficulty of cultural works while translating the connotation of cultural works^[3], so that readers can build a bridge of communication with the original authors and reduce the difficulty of reading British and American literary works. This requires translators to dig deep into the context and culture of literary works when translating literary works, so as to lay a foundation for the accuracy of translation. Therefore, translators should explore the basic ideas and creation process of British and American literary works to the greatest extent, and understand the context of British and American literary works to a higher level, so as to achieve the purpose of barrier-free translation and reading.

4. Solutions to the influence of contextual culture on English and American translation

4.1 Highlight the standardization of literary translation standards

At present, there are many different standards in literary translation. These standards often determine the ultimate quality of literary translation. In the actual application process, foreignization and domestication are the two translation standards that are more commonly used. Naturalized translation takes the original author's creation background as the initial perspective of translation. Foreignization translation, on the other hand^[4], translates works from the perspective of readers in order to meet their reading intentions and needs. However, a good literary translation work can not be completely translated by using a certain standard. A variety of criteria must be adopted for comprehensive consideration in order to accurately translate different categories of literature. For example, in the translation of English works, the complex context is suitable for the method of regression translation. American English, due to its higher content depth and more straightforward expression form, adopts foreignization translation method is more appropriate. Therefore, when translating, translators should conduct in-depth analysis of the categories of literary works and regional cultures, select suitable translations based on the characteristics of various translation standards, and integrate some other translation skills on the basis of needs. Finally, make sure your work is readable.

4.2 Highlight the role of reverse thinking in translation

A lot of literary works adopt positive translation, thinking generally can not get good results, so we should use reverse thinking to translate literary works, especially for those British literary works, is the representative of the translation application of reverse thinking. When translating, the translator should not only consider and excavate the historical background and social environment of the original author and the deep meaning of the author's articles, but also combine reverse thinking to dig the hidden ideas of literary works. Under the condition of ensuring the accuracy and authenticity of the translation, the details of the article to achieve a comprehensive translation. Specifically, the application of reverse thinking has the following aspects. One is to analyze the overall content of the work as a standard. Use the time axis of the article to carry out progressive reverse reasoning on the content of the work, and then dig out the core concept and meaning of the article. The second is to use the method of translation comparison to make semantic comparison and analysis between the conventional translation and the unconventional translation, so as to determine the impact of different translation forms on the translation differences of the article, and thus avoid the difference of the translation of the greater impact on the accuracy of the translation.

4.3 To carry out lightweight processing of literary context

The so-called lightweight treatment is to simplify the content of British and American literature, to simplify the complex. Based on the main structure of English and American literary works, this paper summarizes some characteristic languages of literary works, so as to achieve the simplification of semantic context. This method, on the one hand, can ensure the integrity of the content of cultural works and make them more in line with the actual needs of readers, thus reducing the impact of contextual culture on literary translation. On the other hand, since the structure of literary works has not changed, the content structure has not been affected. Readers can directly obtain the ideas and connotations expressed by the original author from the simplified language. But at the same time, it should also be noted that the use of lightweight processing method, need to have a certain language basis, so that the degree of lightweight can be maintained at an appropriate level. If the degree of lightweight is too high, it will be inconsistent with the interpretation of the original text, and the oversimplified language cannot fully express the meaning of the original text, which causes the phenomenon of difficulty in the interpretation of literary works. In addition, in terms of simplifying the vocabulary of the language, we should try to avoid the use of inappropriate and accurate words for translation, and make appropriate corrections on the basis of not losing the original content. Finally, supplemented with diversified translation methods, so as to give full play to the role of cultural exchange of literary works, which is an effective translation.

5. Translation Strategies of British and American literary works

5.1 Expansion method

The generation of the telescopic method is mainly based on the writing habits of British and American writers. That is to say, British and American writers use words in a flexible way when writing, so as to use this flexible way to describe their own articles. This flexibility can change the meaning of the word in different contexts. This phenomenon is known as word elasticity, and it is because of this phenomenon that language flexibility results. In the process of translation, the translator can generalize the meaning of the original text by generalizing and concretizing the words. After the generalization, the connotation and denotation of the words will change in the opposite way, which is specifically manifested as the phenomenon of connotation narrowing and denotation expanding. The concrete method is to make explicit the abstract words in the original author's article, so as to make the connotation of the words more diverse. The above two methods are the specific operation steps of the telescopic method. The use of this method in translation can help the translator to coordinate and grasp the culture in different contexts, so as to improve the accuracy of translation and ensure the readability of readers.

5.2 Division is lawful

The above method does not deal with the structure of the text, while the anti-nuclear law reorganizes the original structure of the original text. This recombination usually combines and divides part of the original text according to the actual needs of translators, so as to avoid the differences between sentences

and words in different contexts. This method can not only retain the meaning of the original text, but also fully consider the reading habits of readers and give readers more reading experience. In this way, the sentence of the original text is broken down and reorganized to make the reader read more smooth and easy to understand. This is different from direct translation, which makes it difficult for readers to understand the original text.

5.3 Provide more abundant translation reference content

Because there are many abstract cultural words in English and American literature, these words exist in the British and American cultural background. Therefore, in the translation of words, it is not only necessary to accurately translate these words, but also to provide corresponding reference content to explain these words and content. To ensure that the translated content is more in line with the actual environment.

6. Conclusion

In a word, the translation of British and American literature is a communication of language and emotion, which requires the translator to understand the differences between Chinese and Western contexts and cultures on the basis of proficient use of translation methods and skills. Considering not only the historical background and growing experience of the original author, but also the feelings of the author and the readers, as long as the three contexts and cultures are combined together, a satisfactory work can be created.

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