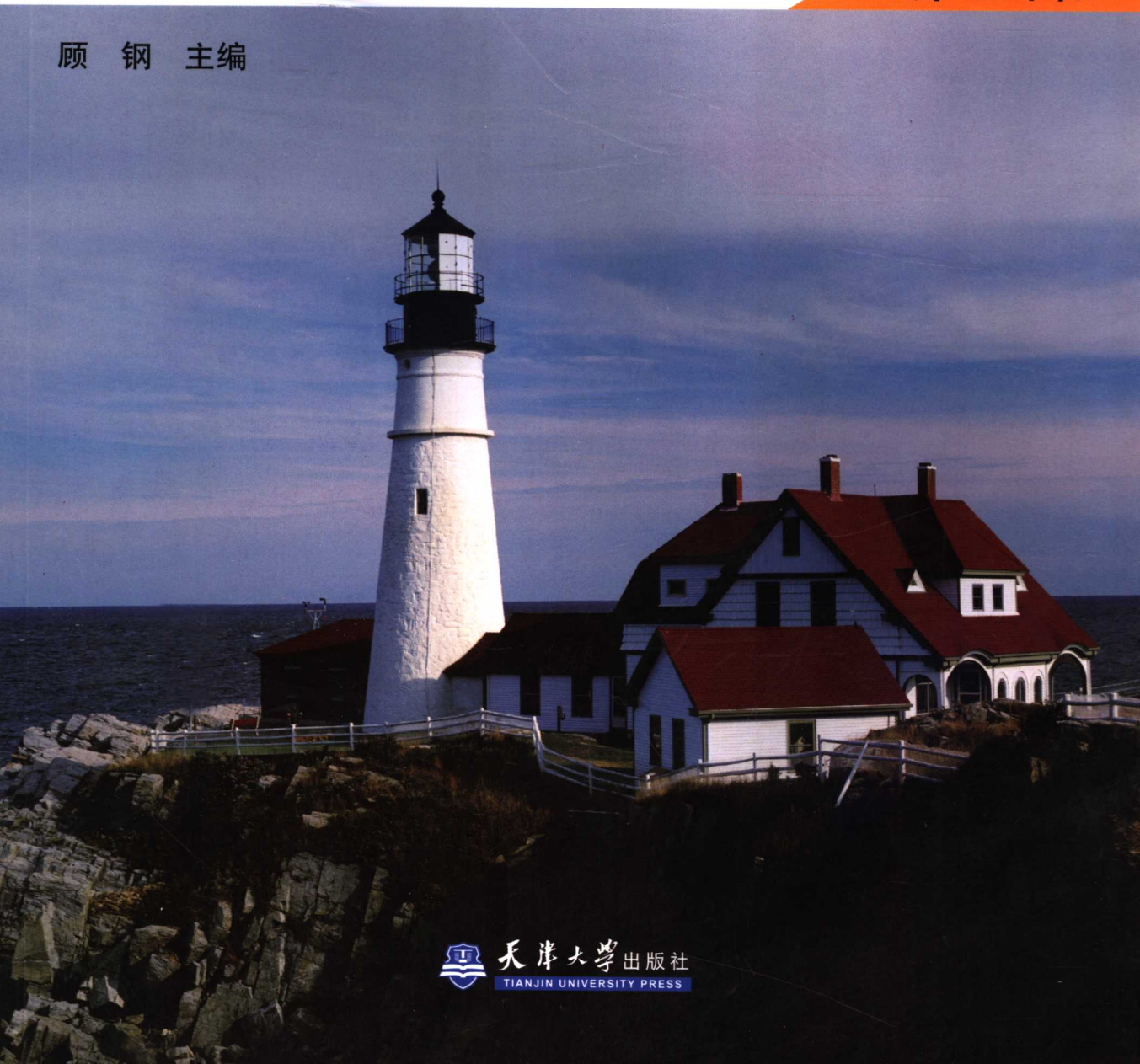


外语教学指导与学术研究系列丛书

外国语言与文化研究

(第三辑)

顾 钢 主编



 天津大学出版社
TIANJIN UNIVERSITY PRESS

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

外国语言与文化研究. 第三辑/顾钢主编. —天津:
天津大学出版社, 2006. 8

ISBN 7-5618-2366-5

I. 外... II. 顾... III. ①外语—语言学—学术会议—文集②文学研究—外国—学术会议—文集 IV.
①H3-53②1106-53

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2006) 第116237号

出版发行	天津大学出版社
出版人	杨欢
地址	天津市卫津路 92 号天津大学内(邮编:300072)
电话	发行部:022-27403647 邮购部:022-27402742
印刷	昌黎太阳红彩色印刷有限责任公司
经销	全国各地新华书店
开本	185mm×260mm
印张	13
字数	450 千
版次	2006 年 8 月第 1 版
印次	2006 年 8 月第 1 次
定价	26.00 元

序 言

2006年5月18日,天津师范大学外国语学院召开了第三届学术年会。年会上发表的论文涉及语言学、文学、翻译、文化、教学法、教学管理等领域的理论和实际问题,涉及英语、日语、俄语、朝鲜语、法语等语种,内容丰富。与前两届年会相比,本届年会还有以下特点:其一是大部分会议发言者都是40岁以下的青年教师,他们的论文反映出他们的科研能力和科研自觉性都在不断提高;其二是近年加盟学院的几位博士都在年会上宣读了论文,提升了年会论文的整体水平;其三是有多篇论文探讨多媒体和网络课教学的规律,这说明先进的教学手段正在我院逐渐取代传统的黑板粉笔的教学方式,这种改变符合新世纪外语教学的需求,它将极大地提高课堂教学的信息量和学生自主学习的强度,教学效率也将因此得到极大改善,学院“优质、高效、求新、务实”的办院宗旨将得到更好的贯彻执行;其四是本院的研究生首次参加了学院的年会,并在年会上宣读了论文,年会上出现了师生共同切磋学术问题的场面。这些特点表明,学术年会对推动学科建设起到了很好的作用。随着举办学术年会的经验不断成熟,我们将采取积极措施进一步提高年会的质量和影响力,对我国的外语教学工作做出我们应有的贡献。本论文集收录了大部分年会论文,有些论文因故未能收录,特此说明。

顾钢

2006年7月

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翻译

从翻译类型学看旅游语篇的翻译

贾青青

【摘要】本文以功能主义翻译理论创始人赖斯提出的翻译类型学理论为基础,讨论旅游语篇所属的文本类型,并据此探讨汉语旅游语篇英译的策略,指出翻译时应以译语读者为中心,努力实现译文和原文功能的充分对等。文中还着重探讨了对汉语旅游语篇中的历史文化信息和修辞性描写的处理方法。

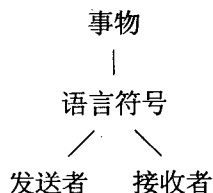
【关键词】文本功能 翻译类型学 旅游语篇

随着国际文化交流的不断深入,越来越多的人开始走出国门到别国旅游,旅游业已成为许多国家的支柱产业。我国作为一个有五千年悠久历史的大国,更是有着许多宝贵的旅游资源。我们要利用这些资源发展旅游经济,其中一个很重要的环节就是要更好地向外国友人推介这些资源,因此旅游资料的翻译也就显得尤为重要,而旅游语篇的翻译策略也就成为一个十分值得探讨的话题。本文拟从德国著名学者和翻译理论家凯瑟琳娜·赖斯提出的翻译类型学入手,讨论旅游语篇的翻译策略与方法。

一、赖斯的翻译类型学

凯瑟琳娜·赖斯是德国著名学者和翻译理论家。作为功能主义翻译理论的创始人,她对功能主义理论以及当代翻译理论的发展有着深刻的影响。赖斯认为,翻译的理论探索总要区分文本的类型,而目前不存在适用于所有文本的翻译理论,要根据不同的文本类型制定具体的翻译策略。“在这种正常的情况下,文本类型决定译者的翻译方法;文本类型是影响译者选择适当翻译方法的首要因素”(Reiss, 1971/2000: 17)。可以说“这句话是赖斯翻译类型学理论的精神核心,她对文本的分析始终与翻译策略紧密联系在一起”(朱志瑜, 2004: 5)。

赖斯理论架构的核心是文本类型学(text typology)。在对文本类型进行分类时,赖斯借鉴了德国心理学家、语言学家、符号学家布勒(Karl Bühler)对语言功能的分类。布勒将语言的功能概括为三类:“表达”(expression),“再现”(representation)和“感染”(appeal)(Bühler, 1990: 35)。请看下面的图:



从上图中我们可以清楚地看到,语言活动涉及三个因素,即信息发送者、事物本身和信

息接收者。而语言符号则是三者的中介。布勒的三种语言功能反映了语言符号与这三个因素之间的关系。

① 再现功能: 针对事物而言, 语言符号客观再现事物, 语言指示的是事物。

② 表达功能: 针对发送者而言, 语言符号主观地表达发送者的内心状态, 语言包含的是发送者的感情。

③ 感染功能: 针对接收者而言, 语言符号感动、影响接收者内心感受或外在行动。语言指示的是接受者的行动。

语言学家科塞硫(Eugenio Coseriu)认为布勒提出的三种语言功能区分出了三种语言形式, 即“信息”、“表情”和“感染”。他又进行了进一步阐述, 指出了每种功能的不同侧重点。他认为“信息”型语言的主要作用是“提供关于某一专题(topic)的信息”, “表情”型语言的主要作用是“表达说话者的心境和感情”, “感染”型语言的主要作用是要“引发听话者的某种行动”(Reiss, 1989: 108)。科塞硫的分析使我们进一步看清楚了不同文本的不同重心, 对翻译策略研究有很大的启示, 让我们在“鱼与熊掌不可兼得的情况下, 总能抓住‘重点’”(朱志瑜, 2004: 7)。

赖斯以布勒的理论为基础, 又从其他语言学家处吸取营养, 分出了四种文本类型。

① 信息文本(informative text): 这一类型的文本强调的是信息型语言提供关于某一专题信息的作用, 因此此类文本重内容(content-focused)。文本的主要功能是传递信息, 这样的文本包括新闻报道、商业信函、货物清单、使用说明、专利说明、条约、官方文件、教材、各类非虚构类书籍(non-fiction books of all sorts)、论文、报告以及人文科学、自然科学和其他技术领域的专业文献等(Reiss, 2000: 27-31)。

② 表情文本(expressive text): 此类文本强调的是表情型语言表达言者的心境和感情的作用, 重形式(form-focused)。信息的发送者即作者是中心, “专题”是作者虚构的。与信息文本不同, 表情文本强调作者是如何表达自己的心境和感情的(how), 而信息文本则侧重于作者表达了什么样的心境和感情(what)。这类文本包括随笔、传记、纯文学、轶闻、短篇小说、中篇小说、浪漫文学以及各种类型的诗歌作品(Reiss, 2000: 31-38)。

③ 感染文本(operative text): 这一类型的文本强调的是感染型语言的“引发听话者的某种行动”的作用, 因此此类文本重感染(appeal-focused)。这里, 信息接收者是中心, 这类文本不是单纯通过某种形式传递某种信息, 它的明显的特点是在传递信息时有一个非常明确的目的。这类文本包括所有感染占主导地位的文本, 如广告、宣传、布道、论战、煽动、讽刺文学等(Reiss, 2000: 38-43)。

④ 听觉媒介文本(audio-media text): 这一类型的文本是写出来让读者听的, 而不是读的。它经常伴有语言之外的媒介, 如音乐、画面等。总的说来, 任何需要使用非语言媒介与听者进行交流的文本都可被称为“听觉媒介文本”。比较典型的包括歌曲、戏剧、电视、电影、有声(像)广告等(Reiss, 2000: 43-47)。此类文本的翻译涉及较多的是字幕、配音等。

根据赖斯的翻译类型学, 不同文本类型对应不同的翻译策略。翻译信息文本时, 译者的主要任务是要不折不扣地传递原文所包含的信息, 译文需完全符合译入语该类文本的写作规范和语言表达习惯, 以使读者正确接收原文的信息; 翻译表情文本时, 译者的一个主要任务是要让译文取得与原文近似的美学效果; 翻译感染文本时, 译者的主要任务是要实现原文所

要实现的目的,通过感染而引发读者的某种行为,因此在翻译此类文本时,译者可以适度地偏离原文的内容和形式。

二、旅游语篇文本类型分析

本文所涉及的旅游语篇是指各种旅游手册和旅游指南等书面语篇,不包括现场导游词。这类旅游语篇的主要功能是对旅游资源、旅游景点进行介绍。从上文对文本类型的分析中,我们并没有发现旅游语篇的归属,这是因为旅游语篇的主要功能有二:一是传递信息,即将景点相关的自然、地理、文化、历史、风俗等方面的知识传递给读者;二是诱导行动,即通过所传递的信息吸引读者前来参观游览。因此,我们说旅游语篇兼具信息文本和感染文本的特点,而它的功能也不是单一的,而是兼具这两种文本的功能,其中信息功能是基础,感染功能是最终目的,信息功能服务于感染功能。

三、旅游语篇翻译的总原则

通过上文对旅游语篇进行的文本类型分析,我们认为在翻译策略的选择上应更多地使用“归化”的方法,也就是说译文应符合译入语读者的阅读习惯。这是因为此类语篇的翻译的最终目标就是要把读者,即潜在游客,变成现实游客。如果译文不符合译入语该类语篇的写作特点,就意味着译文会超出读者的心理预期,自然就会导致读者对文章的接受困难。在翻译过程中我们要将文章的信息功能和感染功能并重,首先要考虑如何传递事实,在此基础上要考虑如何更好地传递事实从而实现吸引游客的最终目的。

四、汉、英旅游语篇对比

让我们通过两个例子来分析汉、英旅游语篇的异同。

① 峨眉山位于中国西南部的四川省,距成都 156 公里,走高速公路需 1.5 小时。主峰金顶绝壁凌空高插云霄,巍然屹立。登临其间,可西眺皑皑雪峰,东瞰莽莽平川,气势雄而景观奇,有云海、日出、佛光、圣灯四大奇观。中部群山峰峦叠嶂,含烟凝翠,飞瀑流泉,鸟语花香,草木茂而风光秀,是我国著名的游览胜地。1996 年被联合国教科文组织列入“世界自然与文化遗产”(方梦之、毛忠明,2004:295)。

② Rough, black rocks of lava just out of the water along parts of the coastline. In some places, cliffs rise almost straight from the water's edge. Along the gentle sloping land areas to the southeast are beaches of yellow, white and black sands. The largest island, Hawaii, lies at the southeastern end of the chain and is almost twice as large as all the others combined. Five volcanoes gave the island its form: two are still alive: Kilauea and Mauna Loa. Mauna Loa, the world's largest active volcano, towers above the scenic Hawaii National Park which stretches from the 4,250-meter mountain peak across the sea to neighboring Maui, the valley island. Tropical plants, sandy desert, waterfalls, craters and caves make the 780-square-kilometer park a tourist attraction. (方梦之、毛忠明,2004:317)

第一段文字是对峨眉山的介绍,第二段是对夏威夷的介绍。不难发现,不论是汉语旅游

语篇还是英语旅游语篇都具有信息功能和感染功能,但是在具体的遣词造句上又有很大的差别。汉语对旅游景点的描述辞藻华丽,充满浓郁的文学色彩,且大量使用对偶平行结构和四字词组,行文工整、声音对仗,读起来朗朗上口,做到了“音形意皆美,诗情画意盎然”(方梦之、毛忠明,2004:278)。

而英语旅游语篇则不同。英语的景物描写强调客观性和写实性,注重语言的实用性,最忌华而不实和一味地堆砌华丽辞藻。而且,在多数情况下,英语景物描写只是简单地列出具体形象,力求忠实再现自然,而不像汉语一样使用很多的修饰语。举例来说:

③ Tiny islands are strung around the edge of the peninsula like a pearl necklace. *Hunks of coral reef, coconut palms and fine white sand.*

若将斜体部分译成中文,恐怕要译成“岛上椰树成片,沙滩如银,四周满是红色的珊瑚礁,景色如诗如画”才合乎汉语的行文习惯。

五、汉语旅游语篇的英译

前面我们通过对翻译类型学和旅游语篇特点的分析找出了翻译旅游语篇的总原则。在这一部分中,我们将主要从汉英两种旅游语篇各自的特点以及进行此类语篇翻译所要实现的功能入手,探讨汉语旅游语篇的英译。

5.1 历史文化信息的处理

汉语的景点介绍中通常都包含大量的历史文化信息,如历史掌故、诗词歌赋、宗教风俗、饮食文化、风土人情、园林艺术等等。这些文化信息的处理直接影响到译文的质量和感染功能的实现。

5.1.1 对历史年代和历史人物的处理

④ 原文:(桃花源)始建于晋,初兴于唐,鼎盛于宋,大毁于元,时兴时衰于明清,萧条于民国,渐复于解放后,大规模修复开发于1990年。

译文: Taohuayuan (the peach flower source) was first built in the Jin Dynasty (256—439 AD), began to take shape in the Tang Dynasty (618—709), flourished in the Song Dynasty (960—1279), and went to ruin in the Yuan Dynasty (1271—1368). With ups and downs through the Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368—1911), it was almost abandoned in the times of the Republic of China (1912—1949). Its restoration was made from the year 1949 and a large-scale expansion and development began in 1990. (方梦之、毛忠明,2004:300)

原文是对桃花源的简介,内容中包含了很多朝代信息。中文读者可以很轻松地从中了解桃花源的兴衰史,而如果译文中只是简单地对朝代进行音译的话,外国读者自然会是一头雾水,因为这些朝代是理解原文内容的关键信息。因此,我们认为一般情况下,当原文中的朝代和历史人物对理解原文起关键作用时,译者应对其作必要的注释性增译。如:

⑤ 原文:太平宫位于崂山东部的上苑山北麓,初名太平兴国院,是赵匡胤为华盖真人刘若拙建的道场之一……

译文: Taiping Temple is located at the northern foot of Mount Shangyuanshan, east of Laoshan Mountain. Its original name was “Garden of Taiping Xingguo”, serving as a Taoist temple. Under the grant of Zhao Kuangyin, the founder of the Song Dynasty (960—1279), it was built for Liu

Ruozhuo, a famous Taoist priest of the time. (《中国青岛指南》, 2002: 24)

译文中对赵匡胤和刘若拙进行了解释, 这样读者就可以一目了然, 同时对中国文化也有了进一步的了解。

5.1.2 对诗句的处理

汉语旅游景点介绍中常带有名人诗句或典籍中的句子, 以突出该景点的历史文化价值, 而这却给译者造成了一定的困难, 因为汉语诗词的翻译本身就是一门高深的艺术, 而要在短短的景点介绍中加上诗词的翻译, 确实不是一件易事。因此, 译者遇到这种情况时应灵活处理。

⑥ 原文: 在我国最早的典籍中, 即有有关这条河的记载。《尚书禹贡》: “漆沮既从, 沔水攸同”; 《诗经大雅》: “沔水东注, 维禹之绩”, 说明沔水在远古就是一条著名的河流。

译文: Records about this river can be found even in the earliest Chinese classics, which proves that the Fenghe River has been well-known since ancient times. (隋荣谊, 2004: 219)

原文中的引文出自古代典籍, 文字比较难懂, 对于有的中国读者来说有些费解。这样的引文即便翻译成英文, 也要加上许多注释, 而效果却不一定好。因此, 我们建议对于过于艰深的引文, 翻译时可以进行适当的删节。

⑦ 原文: ……宋代词人苏东坡用“淡妆浓抹总相宜”来赞誉西湖。

译文: ...the West Lake was compared by Su Dongpo, a celebrated poet of the Song Dynasty (960—1279), to a beauty “who is always charming in either light or heavy makeup”. (孙万彪、王恩铭, 2004: 273)

在这个例子中, 译者对诗句的处理是只译出其意味, 而并没有按照诗歌翻译的标准去翻译。这是因为这里诗句的作用只是对景点描写起一个烘托的作用, 突出景点的美丽风光, 因此对诗句进行简单意译就完全可以了。

5.2 对修辞性描写的处理

英语旅游语篇大多风格简约, 行文用词简单明了。景物描写常常采用罗列具体形象的方法, 力图在读者头脑中形成一幅具体清晰的画面。而汉语旅游语篇在描写景物时却喜欢加一些修辞性的描写, 突出景物的美感。翻译时, 对于那些无实际作用的华丽辞藻, 译者完全可以大胆删掉不译或只译其实质。千万不可被原文束缚, 字对字地进行翻译。译者要时刻铭记我们的最终目的是要让译文很好地传达原文的信息, 实现原文的功能。

⑧ 原文: 这里三千座奇峰拔地而起, 形态各异, 有的似玉柱神鞭, 立地顶天; 有的像铜墙铁壁, 巍然屹立; 有的如晃板垒卵, 摇摇欲坠; 有的若盆景古董, 玲珑剔透……神奇而又真实, 迷离而又实在, 不是艺术创造胜似艺术创造, 令人叹为观止。

译文: 3, 000 crags rise in various shapes — pillars, columns, walls, shaky egg stacks and potted landscapes ... — conjuring up unforgettably fantastic images.

此例中, 译文只是将原文中涉及的形象逐一列出, 而省略了那些修饰语, 符合英语旅游语篇的特点, 同时也准确地传达了原文的实质意思, 做到了化“虚”为“实”。

⑨ 原文: 当你步入沟中, 便可见湖沼荡漾生辉, 瀑布舒洒碧玉。一到金秋, 满山枫叶绛红; 盛夏, 湖山幽翠; 仲春, 树绿花艳……四时都呈献出它的天然原始, 宁静幽深。

译文: Mystic lakes and sparkling waterfalls captivate your eyes as you enter the ravine. The

trees are in their greenest in spring when intensified by colourful flowers. In summer, warm tints spread over the hills and lakelands. As summer merges into autumn, the maple trees turn fiery-red, splashing color through the thick forest hills ... Tranquility pervades primitive Jiuzhaigou throughout the year. (方梦之、毛忠明, 2004: 303)

原文中使用了大量修辞性的四字短语。仔细研读, 这些华丽的辞藻并无太大的实际意义, 多是出于汉语讲究诗情画意, 声音对仗, 渲染气氛的需要。翻译时大可不必全盘译出, 只译出其意义的精髓即可。

结束语

本文从赖斯的翻译类型学入手, 讨论了汉语旅游语篇英译的问题。通过分析, 我们认为从文本类型的角度讲, 汉英旅游语篇都属于信息文本和感染文本的综合体, 其主要功能是感染功能和信息功能。将汉语旅游语篇译成英文时, 应采取“归化”的策略, 考虑英语旅游语篇的文体特点, 努力使译文和原文实现基本相同或相似的功能。

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Different Roles of Source Text in Equivalence Theory and Skopos Theory

李英杰

【Abstract】 Source text is involved in any process of translation between two different written languages. But according to different translation theories, the source text plays different roles. This paper mainly examines the different roles of source text in Nida's equivalence theory and Vermeer's skopos theory.

【Key words】 source text equivalence theory skopos theory

1. Introduction

Much of translation theory before the twentieth century centered on the debate as to whether translation should be literal (word-for-word) or free (sense-for-sense). After the 1950s, translation theoreticians began to attempt more systematic analysis of translation. The most prominent of these issues were those of equivalence theory and skopos theory.

In his 1959 paper, Roman Jakobson examined the issue of equivalence. He pointed out "there is ordinarily no full equivalence between code-units". "The translator recodes and transmits a message received from another source. Thus translation involves two equivalent messages in two different codes." Over the following two decades, many further attempts were made to define the nature of equivalence. From translating and organizing the translation of the Bible, Eugene Nida developed the theory of equivalence. He moved away from the old idea that an orthographic word has a fixed meaning and towards a functional definition of meaning in which a word acquires meaning through its contexts and can produce varying responses according to culture. He distinguished between formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence in translation, and proposed that a translation should aim for equivalent effect. Nida's move towards a science of translation has proved to be especially influential in Germany. Among the most prominent German scholars were Wolfram Wilss and Werner Koller. Koller examined more closely the concept of equivalence and its linked term correspondence, and he went on to describe five different types of equivalence, which are denotative equivalence, connotative equivalence, text-normative equivalence, pragmatic equivalence, and formal equivalence in terms of their research foci (Koller, 1979). The notion of equivalence held sway as a key issue in translation throughout the 1970s and beyond. In their general books on translation, such scholars as Chesterman, Bassnett, Mona Baker all devoted some section to the issue of equivalence.

The 1970s and 1980s saw the emergence and flourishing in Germany of a functionalist and communicative approach to the analysis of translation. Skopos theory is one of the prominent translational theories within the framework of functionalism. "Skopos" is a Greek word for "aim" or

“purpose”. It was introduced into translation theory in the 1970s by Hans J. Vermeer as a technical term for the purpose of a translation and of the action of translating. Skopos theory can be considered to be part of the theory of translational action, as it deals with a translational action which is ST-based, which has to be negotiated and performed, and which has a purpose and result. Skopos theory focuses above all on the purpose of the translation, which determines the translation methods and strategies that are to be employed in order to produce a functionally adequate result.

2. Different Roles of Source Text in Equivalence Theory and Skopos Theory

The process of translation between two different written languages involves the translator changing an original written text (the source text or ST) in the original verbal language (the source language or SL) into a written text (the target text or TT) in a different verbal language (the target language or TL) (Munday, 2000). This definition tells that source text is an integral factor in the process of translation. But for different theories of translation, source text plays different roles. This paper examines the different roles of source text in Nida's equivalence theory and Vermeer's skopos theory.

2.1 The Role of Source Text in Nida's Equivalence Theory

Nida distinguished between formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence. “Formal equivalence focuses attention on the message itself, in both form and content... One is concerned that the message in the receptor language should match as closely as possible the different elements in the source language” (Nida, 1964). It is learnt that formal equivalence is thus oriented towards the source text structure, which exerts strong influence in determining accuracy and correctness, and it refers to “a faithful reproduction of source text form elements” (Nord, 2004). For the theory of formal equivalence, the source text plays the uttermost important role among the different factors, and the translation should be ST-oriented.

Dynamic equivalence is based on what Nida calls “the principle of equivalent effect”, where “the relationship between receptor and message should be substantially the same as that which existed between the original receptors and the message” (Nida, 1964). The message has to meet the receptor's linguistic needs and cultural expectations. Dynamic equivalence denotes “equivalence of extralinguistic communicative effect” (Nord, 2004). “A translation of dynamic equivalence aims at complete naturalness of expression, and tries to relate the receptor to modes of behavior relevant within the context of his own culture; it does not insist that he understand the cultural patterns of the source-language context in order to comprehend the message” (Nida, 1964). This receptor-oriented approach considers adaptations of grammar, lexicon, and cultural references to be essential in order to achieve naturalness. The target text should not be interfered by the source text, and the “foreignness” of the source text setting should be minimized (Nida, 1964). For Nida, the success of the translation depends above all on achieving equivalent response on the source text readers and the target text readers. The response of the target reader on the target text can be tested by the response of the source reader on the source text. In this sense, the source text and the target text are of equal status in the process of interlingual translation.

Nida's equivalence theory has proved to be influential in Germany. For the German scholar Wolfram Wilss, "Translation leads from a source-language text to a target-language text which is as close an equivalent as possible and presupposes an understanding of the content and style of the original" (Wilss, 1977). This equivalence-based approach places the source text in a higher status, the features of which has to be preserved in the target text. Werner Koller has the similar idea, "there exists equivalence between a given text and a given target text... the source-language content, form, style, function, etc. must be preserved, or at least that the translation must seek to preserve them as far as possible" (Koller, 1979).

2.2 The Role of Source Text in Vermeer's Skopos Theory

In Vermeer's approach, translation is a form of translational action based on a source text, and the most important principle determining any translation process is the purpose of the overall translational action. The translation brief depends on the circumstances of the target culture, not on the source culture (Nord, 2004). "What the Skopos states is that one must translate, consciously and consistently, in accordance with some principle respecting the target text" (Vermeer, 1989). Although the source text is what the translation has to base on, its role in skopos theory is radically different from earlier linguistic or equivalence-based theories. "It is adequately captured by Vermeer's idea of a 'dethronement' of the source text. The source text is no longer the first and foremost criterion for the translator's decision; it is just one of the various sources of information used by the translator" (Nord, 2004). A text used as a source in a translational action is regarded as an "offer of information" (Reiss and Vermeer, 1984). A receiver of the text chooses the items they regard as interesting, useful or adequate to the desired purpose, then transfers them to the target culture for the given purpose. In Vermeer's terminology, a translation is thus a new offer of information in the target culture about some information offered in the source culture and language (Reiss and Vermeer, 1984).

According to Reiss and Vermeer (1984), besides the skopos, the target text should conform to the standards of "intratextual coherence" and "intertextual coherence", which are postulated as the "coherence rule" and the "fidelity rule". The "intratextual coherence" specifies that a translation should be acceptable in a sense that it is coherent with the receivers' situation. It is about the relationship between the translated text and the receivers' situation. Since a translation is an offer of information about a preceding offer of information, it is expected to bear some kind of relationship with the corresponding source text, which Vermeer calls "intertextual coherence". The important point is that intertextual coherence should exist between source and target text.

The skopos rule, the coherence rule and the fidelity rule are hierarchically ordered. The fidelity rule is considered subordinate to the coherence rule, and both are subordinate to the skopos rule (Reiss and Vermeer, 1984). If the skopos rule or the intratextual coherence demands intertextual incoherence, the standard of intertextual coherence is no longer valid. That is to say the coherence between translation and its source text is the least emphasized, and the source text is of the lowest status in the process of translation.

3. Summary

In any process of translation, both the source text and the target text are involved. But according to different translation theories, the source text plays different roles. This paper mainly examines the different roles of source text in Nida's equivalence theory and Vermeer's skopos theory. The two theories go to two extremes in the aspect of the role of source text. In the equivalence theory, especially Nida's formal equivalence, the source text comes first. The translation should be ST-oriented. In his dynamic equivalence, although the translation is receptor-oriented, and the source text and the target text are of equal importance, the response of the target text receptor on the target text should be tested by the response of the source text receptor on the source text. The source text still holds a higher position. But in Vermeer's skopos theory, the source text is only considered as an offer of information; its role even can be ignored or dethroned in the process of translation.

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