TRANSLATING CULTURES

An Introduction for Translators, Interpreters and Mediators

文化翻译

DAVID KATAN



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出版说明

近年来,国内翻译研究取得了很大进展,有关翻译研究的丛书也出了多套。不过,长期以来,国内引进的原版翻译著作匮乏,不少研究都是根据二手资料;另外,学习翻译专业的研究生人数越来越多,这种状况若继续存在,将十分不利于学科的发展和翻译人才的培养。鉴于此,上海外语教育出版社约请了多名国内翻译研究著名学者分别开列出最值得引进的国外翻译研究论著的书目,并对这些书目进行整理、排序,最终确定了准备引进的正式书单。该丛书涉及的论著时间跨度大,既有经典,也有新论;内容的覆盖面也相当广泛,既有翻译本体的研究,也有跨学科的研究。这套丛书的引进将会满足翻译专业研究生教学原版参考书和翻译理论研究的需要。

上海外语教育出版社谨以此从书献给我国的翻译学界。

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秘书 孙 玉

借鉴和创造(代序)

上海外语教育出版社从成立以来一直是我国外语教育最优秀的后勤部和侦调部。因为它不但为我国各个层次(尤其本科与研究生层次)的外语教育提供了多种高水平的教材、教参和工具书,而且还出版了多学科、多语种和多系列的中文版和外文版的学术著作,比如"现代语言学丛书"、"牛津应用语言学丛书"、"美国文学史论译丛"、"外国文学史丛书"、"剑桥文学指南丛书"、"当代英语语言学丛书"以及列入国家及教育部规划的人文社科重点项目的外国语言文学、文化等方面的图书等。为了适应我国现代化建设和教育改革的需要,还出版了一批国际金融、对外贸易、涉外保险、国际经济法、国际新闻和管理科学等方面的教材与专著。这些著作在外语的学科建设与学术研究以及复合型人才培养等方面都在发挥着强有力的侦察、调研和指导作用。这是外语界有口皆碑的。

随着中外文化交流的纵深发展以及我国现代化建设对人才的需求,对比语言学和翻译学近些年来在我国有了较快的发展,最突出的证据就是①外语类硕士博士点上研究对比与翻译方向的学生在逐年迅速增多,而且我们的高校已经有了翻译学院和翻译系(当然还太少)。②外语专业的学生考中文、法律等其他人文社科专业的硕士、博士以及反方向的走向已经起步。这种跨学科的人才已成为人才资源竞争的最主要对象,因此发展趋势定会看好。上海外语教育出版社为适应这种高层次人才培养和新学科建设的需要,不但积极出版国内关于对比研究和翻译研究的专著和论文集,最近又推出了原版"国外翻译研究丛书",这套丛书时间跨度从古代到现代,所选书目皆为译学发展史上有里程碑作用的名家名著,堪称译学经典。他们计划分批出版,以满足读者的需求。

这套丛书的出版首先可以解决国内翻译教学原版参考书多年匮乏的困

难,真可以说是我国翻译教学与理论研究的及时雨。我想学习和关心这个 学科的师生和其他人士定会对这套书的引进为之欢呼,为之祝贺。

这套丛书的价值还在于能大大促进我国翻译学科建设的发展。译学学科的发展依赖于研究者在三个方面的深入研究和结合。一是对本国译学的继承性研究;二是对外国译学的借鉴性研究;三是对翻译实践和翻译教学中新问题的探索性研究。只有这三者研究深入并结合好了,才可能从经验与技巧逐步升华为具有科学性的译学理论。这三个方面的研究,改革开放以来,在我国已取得了很显著的成就,这是有日共睹的。翻译学在我国已于 20世纪 80 年代末有了独立学科的初级形态,90 年代又有了新的发展,对学科的独立性以及理论体系的结构与功能有了更多的探讨。依照学科建设的规律和研究现状,我们尚需在上述三个方面加大研究力度,而这套丛书就是借鉴性研究的主要资源。从这个角度讲,这套丛书的引进也是我国文化基本建设的重要工程之一。

在新的世纪,文化(包括各类科学技术)会多方面快速深入人类的日常生活,各国之间的交流会空前深广,因此翻译的功能会逐步扩大,实用性翻译人才的需求量定会空前增加。这就要求我们除了做好高层次研究型人才的培养以外,还应十分重视实用性人才的培养和应用译学的研究。我想出版社一定会关注和引导译学建设的理论研究与应用的发展趋势。

杨自俭 青岛海洋大学六三居室 2001年3月28日

出版前言

据学者考证,西方的翻译理论和实践研究的历史,就已挖掘的文字记载,已达两千余年,与我国翻译史基本同步。但直到1976年在比利时的卢万举行的"文学与翻译论坛"上才由勒菲弗尔(Lefevere)提出"翻译研究"(Translation Studies)这一命题。作为一门独立学科,"翻译研究"旨在关注"翻译的生成与描写提出的问题"。这一命题宣示,它的存在,不仅仅是作为传统意义上所一致认为的比较文学的一个小小分支,或语言学的一个特有区域,而是一个有众多分支的繁复领域。基于此,巴斯内特初版于1980年的同名著作《翻译研究》,便应运而生,为翻译及相关学科更深广的研究揭开了新的一页。

本书试图为这一学科勾勒其研究范围,为已完成的此项工作提供某些参照,并为本学科进一步的研究提出指南。全书分为三个部分,第一部分关注翻译的中心问题,如意义、不可译性、等值论,以及作为交往理论的一部分的翻译等;第二部分追溯翻译理论发展史,昭示对翻译概念在不同时期的不同理解,及其共通之处;第三部分探讨诗歌、小说及戏剧翻译的具体问题。全书始终侧重于文学翻译,当然,第一部分所探讨的一些问题也适用于笔译和口译的方方面面。尽管涉及面限于印欧语系,但其理论的普适性是难以否认的。

作者指出,20世纪70年代,翻译研究引起学界的特别关注,不再被视为次要的、没有科学所言的探究领域;80年代,翻译作为一个研究学科羽翼渐丰,人们对翻译理论与实践的兴趣日浓;进入90年代,翻译学终于盛行。曾一直被视为一种边缘活动的翻译,开始被认为是人类交流的一项基本活动。现在,翻译研究在全球发展迅猛,过去20年来,各地出版的翻译著作可谓汗牛充栋,新的翻译研究杂志层出不穷,成立了如"欧洲翻译协会"等各个国际翻译研究机构,至少有六七种翻译百科全书面世。从中国到巴西,从加拿大的蒙特利尔到奥地利的维也纳,各大学新开设的翻译课程进一步证实了全

世界对翻译研究的广泛关注,至今不衰。

作者对翻译研究的历史作了一个全面的回顾。80年代,在研究的多视 角方面,格特(Gutt)的关联理论(relevance theory)、赖斯(Reisse)和威密尔 (Vermeer)的功能理论(skopos theory)、图里(Toury)对伪译(pseudotranslation)的研究都提出了新的策略;此外,由佐哈尔(Even-Zohar)和图里领衔 的多元系统论(polysystem theory)研究填补了语言学和文学研究的鸿沟,为 翻译学这一新的跨学科研究奠定了基石。而 90 年代,贝克(Baker)走的语 料库(corpus-based)翻译探讨之路反响甚众。而译界普遍存在的语言与文 化的截然分野一直持续到80年代,现正在消除,其中贡献不小者有莫娜。贝 克、巴兹尔・哈蒂姆(Basil Hatim)、伊恩・梅森(Ian Mason)、凯瑟林娜・赖 斯、汉斯·威密尔、沃尔弗拉姆·威尔斯(Wolfram Wilss)等人,当然我们更 不会忘记卡特福德、韩礼德、纽马克和奈达等耳熟能详的名字。这期间,学 者(如劳伦斯·韦努蒂(Lawrence Venuti))开始肯定译者的创造性,坚持译 者在译本中的在场(visible presence),将译者视为文化变革的强力动因 (powerful agent); 莱文(Levine) 对译者主体的强调又开辟了翻译学研究的 新途径。更有德里达重读本杰明,视翻译不仅为一种交流形式,更是一种延 续(continuity),是文本赖以存活的保证,由此为重新评估翻译的重要性打开 了一扇闸门。在新千年,翻译界更关注的是贯穿翻译的一种不平等的权力 关系,此前这种不平等一直是以原作的绝对权威和译作的低级复制为特征 呈现的;今天,这一关系可以从后殖民主义这一新视角重新加以审视。作者 认为,尽管各自任务不同,原作与译作都是作者和译者平等的创造性产品。 在巴西,消化文本的食人主义论(cannibalistic theory)得到重新阐释,以其 对译者的创造性和独立性的强调为译者角色的重新定位提供了一个可变的 视角。

总览过去 20 年的翻译研究,不难看出,其共同的主线就是强调:1) 多样性,2) 排斥以对原作的重视和背叛为翻译定义的传统观念,3) 突出译者的操控权,及4) 翻译作为跨越源语与的语的桥梁观。作者站在学术的前沿,以敏锐开阔的视野,缜密的笔触,对翻译学的成因、现状与前景所作的剖析与阐述,即使在二十多年后的今天(第三次修订),仍不乏指导意义。

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Translating Cultures

An Introduction for Translators, Interpreters and Mediators

David Katan



HORATIO
O day and night, but this is wondrous strange!

Hamlet And therefore as a stranger give it welcome. There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.

Introduction

'Translating across cultures' and 'cultural proficiency' have become buzz words in translating and interpreting. Mona Baker (1996:17) warns that many scholars have now adopted a "'cultural' perspective ... a dangerously fashionable word that almost substitutes for rigour and coherence". The aim of this book is to put some rigour and coherence into this fashionable word, and in doing so unravel the 'X' factor involved in teaching culture to translators, interpreters and other mediators. It is an introduction to current understanding about culture and its importance in communication, translation and interpretation. As such, it aims to bridge the culture-gap inherent in books or courses focusing either on translation theory and practice, language or 'institutions'. More importantly, in clarifying the 'X' factor, it aims to raise awareness of the role of culture in constructing, perceiving and translating reality.

This book should serve as a framework for interpreters and translators (both actual and potential) working between English and any other language, and also for those working or living between these cultures who wish to understand more about their cross-cultural successes and frustrations.

The book is divided into three main parts:

Part 1: Framing Culture: The Culture-Bound Mental Map of the World.

Part 2: Shifting Frames: Translation and Mediation in Theory and Practice.

Part 3: The Array of Frames: Communication Orientations.

Framing Culture: The Culture Bound Mental Map of the World

Part 1 begins with a discussion of the role of the traditional translator and interpreter. With the continuing globalization of English and the use of computers, the professions will need to change from being seen as inefficient human dictionaries to facilitators for mutual understanding between people. The proposal is for a new role for the traditional translator and interpreter, that of a 'cultural mediator'. The rest of the book should serve as an introduction for what a mediator will need to know.

Part I continues by introducing the subject of culture. Culture is perceived throughout this book as a system for orienting experience. The first task is to sort the various definitions of culture, and approaches to teaching it, into one unifying framework. A basic presupposition is that the organization of experience is not 'reality', but is a simplification and distortion which changes from culture to culture. Each culture acts as a frame within which external signs or 'reality' are interpreted.

Part 1 concludes with an in-depth analysis of how individuals perceive, catalogue and construct reality, and how this perception is communicated through language. The approach

The term is taken from Bochner (1981).

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is interdisciplinary, taking ideas from anthropology, such as Gregory Bateson's Logical Typing and metamessage theories; Bandler and Grinder's Meta-Model theory; Sociolinguistics; Speech Act Theory; Sperber and Wilson's Relevance Theory, and Hallidayan Functional Grammar.

Shifting frames: Translation and Mediation in Theory and Practice

Part 2 begins with a discussion of the strategies a cultural mediator needs to adopt to make the frames explicit. It includes a short synchronic and diachronic description of culture and theory of the translation process. Practical examples of translations with commentary are given.

Translation itself, following Nida (1976:65), is here viewed as "essentially an aspect of a larger domain, namely, that of communication". Steiner (1975:47) in his aptly titled *After Babel* takes an even wider view of translation: "inside or between languages, human communication equals translation". Hence, translation is discussed within the wider context of communication, extending ideas put forward by a variety of translation scholars such as Baker, Bassnett, Bell, Hatim and Mason, Holmes, Honig, Newmark, Neubert, Snell-Hornby and Wilss.

Newmark's (1995) two statements: "translation is the most economical method of explaining one culture's way to another" and "translation mediates cultures" take us back to the main concern of this book: improving communication across cultures.

The Array of Frames

Part 3 is an outline of the major influences culture can have on communication. It begins with a development of Edward Hall's theory of contexting, which discusses the changing importance of implicit and explicit communication between cultures in the transmission of a message.

The unconsciousness of basic British, American and other cultural orientations influencing the language is investigated from the viewpoint of social anthropologists working in a business context, with practical examples taken both from the national press and from translations.

Part 1. Framing Culture

The Culture-Bound Mental Map of the World