博士论丛
BO SHI CONG LUN

基于语料库的叙事文本翻译概念识解研究

慕媛媛 著

A Corpus-based Study on Ideational Construal in the Translation of Narrative Discourse

Translation

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内 容 简 介

本书从系统功能语言学、文体学、对比修辞学、描写翻译研究及其在翻译批评领域的扩展应用等研究角度出发，在描写性研究与解释性研究相结合的研究框架下，运用基于语料库的研究方法，独创了一套对叙事文本概念识解进行标注和定量、定性分析的研究体系，对《红楼梦》及其两个英文全译本（大卫·霍克思译本和杨宪益译本）的文体特征进行分析与归纳，并对其所引起的读者反应做出解释。

本书可供高等院校及研究机构外语专业的教师、研究人员以及研究生阅读参考。

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Preface

Underpinned by Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), stylistics, contrastive rhetoric, product-oriented Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS) and its applied extension to translation criticism (reader-response criticism in particular), this book develops an integrated descriptive-explanatory framework aiming at a stylistic characterization of the textual accountability for translation criticism (readers' responses in particular) on the basis of a corpus-based study on *Hong-lou Meng* (HLM)① and its two English translations: David Hawkes's translation (H) and Yang Hsien-yi & Gladys Yang's translation (Y). In the descriptive part of this research, it involves a set of parallel corpora of the Chinese source text (C) and the two English translations of *Hong-lou Meng*, and gauges the tendencies of conformity of the two translations to either the source system norms or the target system norms based on the statistical generalizations and qualitative analyses of transitivity processes (representing experiential construal) and rhetorical structures②(representing logical construal) in view of the discoursal ideational construal③. In the explanatory part of this research, on the other hand, responses to the two translations are observed from readers

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① A Chinese novel composed by Cao Xueqin in the middle of the 18th century during the Qing Dynasty, one of China's Four Great Classical Novels. The complete version of this novel includes 120 chapters, but uncertainty remains about the final 40 chapters, which were said to be lost and later completed by Gao E or perhaps an unknown author. Being a blend of realism and romanticism, this novel, as the semiautobiographical creation of Cao Xueqin, reflects the upper-class life of the Jia family and its decline, with major focus on the tragic love story of Daiyu and Baoyu and the fate of other main female characters. This novel is generally believed to hold the highest place amongst Chinese Romances.

② Rhetorical Structure Theory (RST) (Mann and Thompson, 1987), "for which a better name might have been Logical Structure Theory" (Hasan and Fries, 1996: xxxiii), represents logical function.

③ "The word 'construe' is used to suggest an intellectual construction." (Halliday, 1999: 511). "construal", according to *Oxford Dictionary* the noun derivative of "construe", when combined with "ideational", means the intellectual construction of the ideational function. The same interpretation of "construal" applies to "experiential construal" and "logical construal".

in both the source culture community and the target culture community. The findings from the quantitative & qualitative stylistic analyses as illustrated in the descriptive part of this research, informed by Norm Theory in DTS, explain why readers from different interpretive communities have responded to the two translations in such different ways, and make their responses textually accountable.

With regard to the research methodology, for the annotation of rhetorical structures and transitivity processes in the present parallel corpora, the Rhetorical Structure Theory (RST) Tool developed by Michael O'Donnell (O'Donnell, 1997) was used in this research for Rhetorical Structure Theory annotation (RST annotation) and the Transitivity Process Annotation (TPA) Tool was developed by the author of this book in collaboration with Dr. Ma Ming from the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) for transitivity annotation in this research. To maintain the objectiveness in sampling, 342① pieces of text samples from the Chinese source text and its two English translations of *Hong-lou Meng* are randomly collected by the random sampling software Research Randomizer② for annotation. The statistical methods concerning correlation coefficient are also applied in this study to identify and analyse the tendencies of the RST features and transitivity features of each of the two translations in relation to the tendencies in the source text. Qualitative analysis, in terms of the grounding effects of transitivity in relation to rhetorical structures, is combined with quantitative analysis to provide a more rigorous investigation of the textual features.

In the descriptive part of this research, the findings from the quantitative and qualitative analyses of the transitivity processes and rhetorical structures in the parallel corpora are listed as follows and contribute to the textual accountability for readers' responses to the two translations. Hawkes's translation shows a greater tendency to conform to the western narrative norms

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① I planned to collect as many samples as possible from the novel, but this is the maximum that I can manage within the stipulated time frame for my PhD study. However, this amount of samples is already representative in a statistical sense, which will be explained later in the chapter on data analysis.

② A free software downloaded from http://www.randomizer.org/(by Geoffrey C. Urbaniak and Scott Plous, Social Psychology Network, originally released in 1997), which has received a number of honors for its innovation, such as the prize of "Science Magazine Hot Pick" and the prize of "Scout Report Science and Engineering Selection".

of emphasizing "events" (Plaks, 1977) and the expression of individual feelings (Kahler, 1987), and also conforms to the English typological norms of hypotactic structuring. On the other hand, the Yangs' translation shows a greater tendency to conform to the Chinese narrative norms of "more emphasis on non-events" (Plaks, 1977) and the "indirectness" in expressing individual feelings (Bishop, 1956), and also conforms to the Chinese typological norms of paratactic structuring. In the explanatory part of this research, the findings from textual investigation in the descriptive part, informed by Norm Theory in DTS, make the following readers' responses textually accountable. The conformity of the Yangs' translation to the source system norms indicates its "adequacy" (Toury, 1995) as compared to the source text and explains the more favorable responses from readers in the source culture community than the target culture community, while the conformity of Hawkes's translation to the target system norms indicates its "acceptability" (Toury, 1995) in the target culture and explains the more favorable responses from readers in the target culture community than the source culture community.

Abbreviations

DTS	Descriptive Translation Studies
RST	Rhetorical Structure Theory
SFL	Systemic Functional Linguistics
SL	Source Language
TL	Target Language
TPA	Transitivity Process Annotation
H	Hawkes's Translation of *Hong-lou Meng*
Y	The Yangs' Translation of *Hong-lou Meng*
C	The Chinese Source Text of *Hong-lou Meng*
HLM	*Hong-lou Meng*

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