

国外翻译研究丛书之七

A TEXTBOOK OF TRANSLATION

翻译教程

Peter Newmark



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上海外语教育出版社

SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS

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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丛书献给我国的翻译学界。

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(代序)

上海外语教育出版社自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,这是有目共睹的。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

本书是英国著名翻译理论家纽马克教授(Peter Newmark)的一部力作。全书共分两部分:理论篇(principles)和实践篇(methods)。

第一部分理论篇计 20 章,全面论述了翻译中涉及的大多数话题和问题。第一章为绪论,第二十章为结语。第二、三、五、七、八章主要探讨基本的翻译方法。文本分析即原文理解是翻译的起始,纽马克在第二章“文本分析”中着重讨论了如何对文本进行翻译分析,包括原文旨意、风格、读者层、语体、场景等;第三章“翻译过程”分析了从选择翻译方法到理解表达到的具体步骤。其中理解表达又有文本层次(textual level)、指称层次(referential level)、粘着层次(cohesive level)、自然地道层次(natural level)等四层。第五、七、八章论翻译方法,对逐字翻译、直译、忠实翻译、语义翻译、编译、自由翻译、地道翻译和交际翻译等作了简明的归纳和界定。其中,纽马克的主要贡献是对交际翻译与语义翻译作了详细论述。第十七章为“翻译批评”。作者认为全面评价一篇译文应包括:(1)简略分析原文,着重指出其旨意和语言功能特点;(2)译者对原文旨意的理解、其翻译方法及译作的读者群;(3)对译文和原文进行选择性的有代表性的详细对比分析;(4)评估译作;(5)预测译作在目的语文化中的地位。作者在第四、六、十一、十二等四章中用现代语言学成果来探讨翻译,对语言功能与翻译、翻译单位与话语分析、格语法及成分分析法在翻译中的应用等一一作了论述。第九、十、十三、十四、十五等五章分别讨论翻译与文化、隐喻翻译、新词翻译、科技翻译和文学翻译。第十六章讲述参考书的使用。第十九章是作者对应试翻译与翻译练习的一些建议。

第二部分实践篇有 13 篇英、法、德语原文的参考译文,主要练习、例证

如何从翻译的角度分析原语文本、语义翻译与交际翻译的比较以及翻译批评等。

《翻译教程》1980年曾获英国应用语言学协会奖。本书可供翻译工作者进修、提高用,也可作为英语专业本科生及研究生使用的翻译教材和学习手册。

*A Textbook of
Translation*

For my daughter Clare

Preface

This book has been five years in the writing. Sections of it have twice been stolen during travel and have been rewritten, hopefully better than the first time – the fond hope of all writers who have had their MSS lost, stolen or betrayed. Its ‘progress’ has been further interrupted by requests for papers for conferences; four of these papers have been incorporated; others, listed in the bibliography are too specialised for inclusion here. It is not a conventional textbook. Instead of offering, as originally planned, texts in various languages for you to translate, I have supplied in the appendices examples of translational text analyses, translations with commentaries and translation criticism. They are intended to be helpful illustrations of many points made in the book, and models for you to react against when you do these three stimulating types of exercise.

If the book has a unifying element, it is the desire to be useful to the translator. Its various theories are only generalisations of translation practices. The points I make are for you to endorse or to reject, or simply think about.

The special terms I use are explained in the text and in the glossary.

I hope you will read this book in conjunction with its predecessor, *Approaches to Translation*, of which it is in many respects an expansion as well as a revision; in particular, the treatment of institutional terms and of metalanguage is more extensive in the earlier than in this book.

I dislike repeating myself writing or speaking, and for this reason I have reproduced say the paper on case grammar, about which at present I haven’t much more to say, and which isn’t easily come by.

This book is not written by a scholar. I once published a controversial piece on Corneille’s *Horace* in *French Studies*, and was encouraged to work for a doctorate, but there was too much in the making that didn’t interest me, so I gave up. And a German professor refused to review *Approaches* because it had so many mistakes in the bibliography; which is regrettable (he was asked to point them out, but refused; later, he changed his mind and reviewed the book), but academic detail is not the essential of that or this book either.

I am somewhat of a ‘literalist’, because I am for truth and accuracy. I think that words as well as sentences and texts have meaning, and that you only deviate from literal translation when there are good semantic and pragmatic reasons for doing so, which is more often than not, except in grey texts. But that doesn’t mean,

as Alex Brotherton (Amsterdam) has disparagingly written without evidence, that I believe in the 'absolute primacy of the word'. There are no absolutes in translation, everything is conditional, any principle (e.g. accuracy) may be in opposition to another (e.g. economy) or at least there may be tension between them.

Much as at times I should like to get rid of the two bugbears of translation, the dear old context and the dear old readership, alas, we never can. I can only go as far as saying that some words in a text are far less context-bound than others; and that some readerships (say of a set of instructions, of which the readership is the reason for its existence) are more important than others (say a lyric, where the poet and his translator) may only be writing for himself.

Again when Halliday writes that language is entirely a social phenomenon and consequently collapses or conflates Bühler's expressive and appellative functions of language into the interpersonal function, stating that there is no distinction between the first two functions in language, I can only say that this is a matter of belief or philosophy as the expression of belief, and that I disagree. But all this is to some extent a matter of emphasis (and reaction) rather than (diametrical) opposition. The single word is getting swamped in the discourse and the individual in the mass of society – I am trying to reinstate them both, to redress the balance. If people express themselves individually in a certain type of text, translators must also express themselves individually, even if they are told they are only reacting to, and therefore conforming with, social discourse conventions of the time.

Writing a book about translation, I am aware that this is a new profession, though an old practice, and that the body of knowledge and of assumptions that exists about translation is tentative, often controversial and fluctuating.

This book is intended to be reasonably comprehensive, that is, to discuss most of the issues and problems that come up in translating. (In this aim, at least, the book is original.) In spite of the controversial nature of several of its chapters, it is therefore designed as a kind of reference book for translators. However, some of the shorter pieces in Chapter 18 are inadequate and can only offer you a few pointers. I hope to expand the book (my last one on translation) for a second edition, and I would welcome suggestions for its improvement.

Acknowledgements

I warmly thank Pauline Newmark, Elizabeth Newmark and Matthew Newmark, whom I have consulted so frequently; Vaughan James, who has helped so much at every stage; Vera North, who coped so superbly with the ins and outs of my handwriting; Mary FitzGerald; Sheila Silcock; Margaret Rogers, Louise Hurren; Mary Harrison; Simon Chau, Hans Lindquist, René Dirben, Robin Trew, Harold Leyrer, David Harvey.

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