

国外翻译研究丛书之二十七

TRANSLATION STUDIES

(Third Edition)

翻译研究 (第三版)

SUSAN BASSNETT



外教社

上海外语教育出版社

SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS

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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

翻译研究: (第三版) / (英) 巴斯内特 (Bassnett, S.) 著.

—上海: 上海外语教育出版社, 2004

(国外翻译研究丛书)

书名原文: Translation Studies (Third Edition)

ISBN 7-81095-236-6

I. 翻… II. 巴… III. 翻译—研究—英文 IV. H059

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2004) 第034602号

图字: 09-2002-552号

出版发行: 上海外语教育出版社

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编: 200083

电 话: 021-65425300 (总机), 35051812 (发行部)

电子邮箱: bookinfo@sflep.com.cn

网 址: <http://www.sflep.com.cn> <http://www.sflep.com>

责任编辑: 邵海华

印 刷: 上海古籍印刷厂
经 销: 新华书店上海发行所
开 本: 880×1230 1/32 印张 6.125 字数 133 千字
版 次: 2004 年 6 月 第 1 版 2004 年 6 月 第 1 次印刷
印 数: 3 500 册

书 号: ISBN 7-81095-236-6 / H · 070

定 价: 14.00 元

本版图书如有印装质量问题, 可向本社调换

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。

借鉴和创造

(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。依照学科建设和规律和研究现状,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,已有两千余年,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”上才由安德烈·勒菲弗尔(André 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可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丰富领域。基于此,苏珊·巴斯内特(Susan Bassnett)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)、凯瑟林娜·赖斯(Katharina Reisse)和汉斯·威密尔(Hans Vermeer)的功能理论(skopos theory)、图里(Gideon Toury)对伪译(pseudotranslation)的研究都提出了新的策略;此外,由佐哈尔(Itama 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,莫娜·贝克(Mona 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,这其中贡献不小者有贝克、巴兹尔·哈蒂姆(Basil Hatim)、伊恩·梅森(Ian Mason)、赖斯、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(Jacques Derrida)重读本杰明(Walter Benjamin),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,即使是在二十多年后的今天(第三次修订),仍是翻译研究者与爱好者的必读。

For my father, who made it all possible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author and publishers would like to thank the following individuals and companies for granting permission to reproduce material for this book:

E.J. Brill, Leiden, for the diagram taken from Eugene Nida's *Towards a Science of Translating*, 1964; MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass., for the diagram from B.L. Whorf, *Language Thought and Relativity*, 1956; Oxford University Press for Charles Kennedy's translation of *The Seafarer* taken from *An Anthology of Old English Poetry* (New York, 1960) and also for Sir William Marris's translation of Catullus Poem 13, first published in 1924; University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, for Frank Copley's translation of Catullus Poem 13, first published in 1957; Arnold Mondadori for Ungaretti's poem *Un'altra notte* and for the passage from Silone's *Fontamara*; Stand for Charles Tomlinson's translation and Penguin Books Ltd for P. Creagh's translation of Ungaretti's poem; Journeyman Press for G. David and E. Mossbacher's translation of Silone's *Fontamara*; S. Fischer-Verlag, Frankfurt-am-Main for the passage from Mann's *Der Zauberberg*; Martin Secker & Warburg Ltd and Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. for H.T. Lowe-Porter's translation of Mann's *The Magic Mountain*; Faber and Faber Ltd for Robert Lowell's translation of

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Phaedra and Ezra Pound's *The Seafarer* from *The Translations of Ezra Pound*; Tony Harrison and Rex Collings, London, for Tony Harrison's *Phaedra Britannica*.

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PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

The 1980s was a decade of consolidation for the fledgling discipline known as Translation Studies. Having emerged onto the world stage in the late 1970s, the subject began to be taken seriously, and was no longer seen as an unscientific field of enquiry of secondary importance. Throughout the 1980s interest in the theory and practice of translation grew steadily. Then, in the 1990s, Translation Studies finally came into its own, for this proved to be the decade of its global expansion. Once perceived as a marginal activity, translation began to be seen as a fundamental act of human exchange. Today, interest in the field has never been stronger and the study of translation is taking place alongside an increase in its practice all over the world.

The electronic media explosion of the 1990s and its implications for the processes of globalization highlighted issues of intercultural communication. Not only has it become important to access more of the world through the information revolution, but it has become urgently important to understand more about one's own point of departure. For globalization has its antithesis, as has been demonstrated by the worldwide renewal of interest in cultural origins and in exploring questions of identity. Translation has a crucial role to play in aiding understanding of an increasingly fragmentary world. The translator, as the Irish scholar Michael Cronin has pointed out, is also a traveller, someone engaged in a journey from one source to another. The twenty-first

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century surely promises to be the great age of travel, not only across space but also across time.¹ Significantly, a major development in translation studies since the 1970s has been research into the history of translation, for an examination of how translation has helped shape our knowledge of the world in the past better equips us to shape our own futures.

Evidence of the interest in translation is everywhere. A great many books on translation have appeared steadily throughout the past two decades, new journals of translation studies have been established, international professional bodies such as the European Society for Translation have come into being and at least half a dozen translation encyclopaedias have appeared in print, with more to follow. New courses on translation in universities from Hong Kong to Brazil, and from Montreal to Vienna offer further evidence of extensive international interest in translation studies. It shows no sign of slowing down in the twenty-first century.

With so much energy directed at further investigation of the phenomenon of translation, it is obvious that any such development will not be homogeneous and that different trends and tendencies are bound to develop. We should not be surprised, therefore, that consensus in translation studies disappeared in the 1990s. However, that has been followed by lively diversification that continues today around the world. During the 1980s, Ernst-August Gutt's relevance theory, the *skopos* theory of Katharina Reiss and Hans Vermeer, and Gideon Toury's research into pseudotranslation all offered new methods for approaching translation, while in the 1990s the enormous interest generated by corpus-based translation enquiry as articulated by Mona Baker opened distinct lines of enquiry that continue to flourish. Indeed, after a period in which research in computer translation seemed to have foundered, the importance of the relationship between translation and the new technology has risen to prominence and shows every sign of becoming even more important in the future. Nevertheless, despite the diversity of methods and approaches, one common feature of much of the research in Translation Studies is an emphasis on cultural aspects of translation, on the contexts within which translation occurs. Once seen as a sub-branch of linguistics, translation today is perceived as an interdisciplinary field of study and the indissoluble connection between

language and way of life has become a focal point of scholarly attention.

The apparent division between cultural and linguistic approaches to translation that characterized much translation research until the 1980s is disappearing, partly because of shifts in linguistics that have seen that discipline take a more overtly cultural turn, partly because those who advocated an approach to translation rooted in cultural history have become less defensive about their position. In the early years when Translation Studies was establishing itself, its advocates positioned themselves against both linguists and literary scholars, arguing that linguists failed to take into account broader contextual dimensions and that literary scholars were obsessed with making pointless evaluative judgements. It was held to be important to move the study of translation out from under the umbrella of either comparative literature or applied linguistics, and fierce polemics arguing for the autonomy of Translation Studies were common. Today, such an evangelical position seems quaintly outdated, and Translation Studies is more comfortable with itself, better able to engage in borrowing from and lending techniques and methods to other disciplines. The important work of translation scholars based in linguistics, such figures as Mona Baker, Roger Bell, Basil Hatim, Ian Mason, Kirsten Malmkjaer, Katharina Reiss, Hans Vermeer and Wolfram Wilss, to name but some of the better-known, has done a great deal to break down the boundaries between disciplines and to move translation studies on from a position of possible confrontation. Nor should we forget the enormous importance of such figures as J.C. Catford, Michael Halliday, Peter Newmark and Eugene Nida whose research into translation before Translation Studies started to evolve as a discipline in its own right laid the foundations for what was to follow.

Literary studies have also moved on from an early and more elitist view of translation. As Peter France, editor of the *Oxford Guide to Literature in English Translation* points out:

Theorists and scholars have a far more complex agenda than deciding between the good and the bad; they are concerned, for instance, to tease out the different possibilities open to the translator, and the way these change according to the historical, social, and cultural context.²