Lexicographical Approach to Translation Studies

翻译研究的词典学途径

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内容简介

本书是通过词典学途径研究翻译的专著。作者结合翻译学和词典学的特征、内容和方法,系统探讨了翻译学词典的内容来源和展现形式。本书还探讨了翻译学词典研究的理论框架,以及翻译学词典研究对整个翻译学学科发展的功能和意义。同时,作者试图通过翻译学和词典学的跨学科结合来探讨翻译研究中的描写问题、规范问题和系统问题。总之,本书丰富了翻译学研究的途径,阐述了翻译学词典研究的学术价值。

前　言

　　中外译论在发展过程和研究内容上有很多相似之处，又有不同特点。在翻译研究的初始阶段，即语文学阶段，由于中外文化交流甚少，我国的译论具有明显的中国特色，在深度和广度上与西方译论旗鼓相当。随着中外文化交流的不断深入，尤其是翻译研究的交流，我们发现，当中国的译论还在语文学阶段逗留之时，西方译论已进入了语言学和文化学阶段，这使我们的研究者眼前一亮，原来翻译研究亦可如此科学，如此丰富！于是乎，西方译论得到了大量译介，充斥了整个翻译理论界，这期间，中国译论明显缺乏个性，旗帜鲜明者寥若晨星，在国际舞台上更是难觅中国的声音。目前，翻译研究步入了多学科综合研究的时期，西方译论已呈蓬勃之势，深度和广度都胜过我们一筹。尽管如此，我们在汲取西方理论学养的同时，也展现了一些自身的特色，不再一味追随西方的话语。具体情况概述如下：

　　语文学的翻译研究。中外译论的相似之处在于：理论家对翻译的本质、原则、方法、评价标准等方面的探讨都是基于翻译家自身对语言的自我体悟，翻译家自身的文学修养、审美经验是他们对翻译认识的基石，不同的翻译理论家对翻译的诸多方面认识不尽相同。尽管如此，他们都认为翻译是一种艺术的再现过程，具有一定的创造性。比如西方的西塞罗、贺拉斯，中国的林纾、傅雷、钱钟书、许渊冲等。他们主张翻译不能拘泥于原文，应该发挥译者的创造性。中外译论的区别之处在于：在西方翻译理论家那里，不管译文是包含有多少创造性，译文永远不可能超越原文。中国的翻译理论家则认为，译文虽然来自原文，但不必局限于原文，而且完全有可能超越原文，可以这样说，中国的译论

赋予了译者更大的创作空间。

语言学的翻译研究。中外译论的相似之处在于：理论家从语言学的角度来探讨翻译的诸多问题，如翻译的本质、翻译的方法、翻译的质量等。他们认为翻译是一种科学的语言转换过程，只要能准确地把握语言的各个层次，对等地加以转换，就可以得到高质量的译文。比如雅可布森、卡特福德、威尔斯等人，他们主张翻译是一种科学，是有客观规律可循的，并发表了很有影响力的理论或专著。正是因为这类学派的不懈努力，翻译研究的地位才逐渐得到提升。这时期，中国学者主要是译介西方的理论，研究成果多以论文的形式出现，鲜有体系缜密的专著出版。中外译论的区别之处在于：中国的理论建构在时间上明显迟于西方，因为我们多是从西方理论家那里汲取营养，或受到他们的启示才有所作为。因而，中国的语言学翻译理论在深度和广度上都不及西方，理论的创新性不够。

文化学的翻译研究。中外译论的相似之处在于：翻译的问题不只是语言的问题，还涉及很多超语言的因素，纵使人们可以根据语言的不同层次对等地加以转换，译文却往往平淡无奇，甚至不堪卒读，所以人们不再把自己的译论禁锢在语言学的窠臼里，而把视野投向了更为广阔的文化世界。文化是包罗万象的，翻译所涉及的内容也是包罗万象的，因而文化学方法给翻译研究带来了无比的推动力和广阔的理论空间。正是在文化学派的大力推动之下，翻译学才得以成为一门独立的学科，如巴斯内特、勒菲弗尔等。在他们的引领之下，翻译研究进入了多彩的时代。中外译论的区别之处在于：在时间上，中国学者依据文化学角度来研究翻译相对较晚；在理论观点上，多受西方译论的影响和启发，但有自己的创新之处；此外，中国译论涉及的面很广，但深度不够，缺乏有影响力的著作和理论。

跨学科综合性的翻译研究。中外译论的相似之处在于：都十分注重翻译研究中的跨学科视角，借助相关学科来研究翻译，这是整个学科生态发展的必然趋势。在翻译研究中，人们借助信息科学、系统科学、哲学、社会学、传播学、生态学、人类学等，对翻译的本质、过程、方法等进行了深入探讨，这有助于

人们对翻译诸方面的深入认识，也有利于揭示翻译本质的多样性。如赖斯、弗米尔、胡庚申等学者通过学科综合，建构了独特的译论体系，拓宽了译学的研究视野。中外译论的区别之处在于：西方译论更为丰富，理论体系较为健全，学派特色比较明显，一展百家争鸣的学术态势；而中国的译论大多是对西方译论的译介或注解，但有些理论具有明显的中国特色，是完全的中国"制造"，如孙迎春教授的译学词典研究以及胡庚申教授的生态翻译理论。中国的翻译研究急需加大跨学科综合的力度，急需形成有影响力的学术流派，只有这样，才能提高在国际翻译理论界的竞争力与话语权。

当前，随着翻译研究的不断深入，人们发现，翻译的语文学研究、语言学研究、文化学研究远非译论的全部，对翻译诸方面的研究还可以从众多的相关学科入手。因而，翻译的跨学科综合性研究已成为主要的研究方法。张美芳曾结合 Belinda Madia 所设计的图表大致归纳了翻译研究的理论流派[①]：
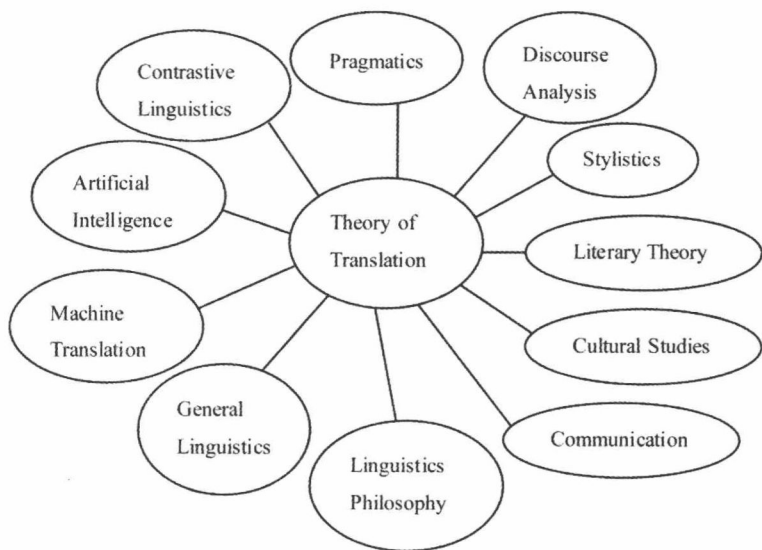
我们认为，随着翻译学科的发展，译学流派还会不断增多。流派或学派的形成关键在于其核心理论的构建，此理论在本体上具有独特性，同时，又具有很强的阐释能力、生成能力和系统性。就翻译研究而言，不同学派根据不同的

[①] 张美芳：《翻译研究的功能途径》，上海外语教育出版社 2005 年版，第 11 页。

学科背景，来探讨翻译的本体理论及其关联理论。目前，学者对翻译的跨学科研究主要涉及十四个学科，具体见下表。

依据学科	研究重点	著名学者
信息科学	源语信息的采集、分析、处理、识别、理解、判断、传送等。	Reiss, Vermeer 等
系统科学	翻译中的各种关系和属性，及其活动规律，把翻译和翻译研究作为一个整体系统来对待。	Even-Zohar, Hermans 等
人类学	译者对他者文化的兼容、对地方性知识和体验性知识的掌握，对真正的意义的传送。	Appiah、Niranjana 等
语言学	翻译的意义、单位、语篇、功能等。	Newmark, Nida 等
文艺学	翻译中译者的创造性、主体性	Tolman, 许渊冲等
社会学	翻译产生、传播、消费和接受的各种社会制约因素。	Wolf、Fukari 等
传播学	翻译行动的参与者、行为、语境、功能等。	Reiss、Nord 等
文化学	翻译中的意识形态、赞助人、诗学体系等	Lefevere, Bassnett 等
符号学	翻译中的意义系统及各种交际过程。	Jakobson, Hatim 等
哲学	翻译的意义、价值、真理、必然性、可能性、社会性等问题，形成关于翻译的一般理论。	贺麟、金岳霖等
心理学	译者在翻译活动过程中的心理特点、心理规律、心理过程、心理表征等。	李奕、刘源甫等
美学	翻译中的审美标准、审美过程、审美判断、审美再现等。	黄龙、刘宓庆等
生态学	翻译生态系统的整体性，从生态学角度审视翻译、研究翻译、力求对翻译中的种种现象进行剖析和阐释。	胡庚申、许建忠等
词典学	译学词典的性质、对象、功用、类型、编纂原则、结构、评价等	孙迎春、曾东京等

在跨学科综合性研究的大背景下，通过翻译学与词典学的结合，本书旨在探讨词典学方法对翻译研究的重要贡献、意义和价值、译学词典与翻译研究之间的互动关系，同时，探讨译学词典研究的动力机制、发展模式以及它的发展空间。

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目 录

Contents

Chapter 1   Introduction

A general review of the study of translatological dictionaries (STD) is firstly dealt with in this chapter. Then, it talks about the object, objective, methodology, significance and structure of the research, and finally presents the originality of the research.

1.1   Literature Review

Since the middle period of the 20th century, especially the 1970s, translation studies has obviously experienced the "cultural turn", which has actually freed people from the confinement of the structuralist paradigm and broadened people' academic horizon. With the emergence of different schools in translation studies, such as the relevance theory of Gutt, skopos theory of Katharina Reiss and Hans Vermeer, descriptive study of Gideon Toury, polysystem theory of Even-Zohar and Gideon Toury, corpus-based translation study of Mona Baker and so on, the interdisciplinary study of translation has been on the plateau all the time. People have come to take translation studies as an autonomous discipline, and dealt with it in an open, systematic and comprehensive way. The mountainous literature about translation studies has been unsystematically dispersed in various journals, magazines or monographs, so it is necessary to systematize these literature to promote translation studies. In terms of this respect, Wang Kefei (王克非) pointed out,

The 20th century boasted its great progress in translation studies. It is roughly reported that in the past 50 years more than 700 kinds of books and about 10,000 articles have been published on translation in China. Nevertheless, few reference books or relevant articles for translation studies appeared before 1990s. In the latest several decades, the successive emergence of many reference books for translation showed that people began to pay attention to this kind of work. Surely the progress of translation theory and practice urges people to systematically tidy the accumulated translation knowledge, literature, arguments and the like, offering convenience to literature retrieval and deepening the study of translation as well. (Wang Kefei 2003: 40)

The emergence of translatological dictionaries is an inevitable outcome with the development of translation theory and practice. Sun Yingchun (孙迎春) once said, "Translatological dictionaries can also be regarded as a maturity mark and high tide of translation studies as an autonomous discipline." (Sun Yingchun 2001b: 399)

The year of 1988 met the first domestic translatological dictionary, *Dictionary of Chinese Translators*, published by Chinese Foreign Languages Press, which was coedited by The Commercial Press, Beijing Press, Wuhan University Press and Chinese Translators Journal. Since then, according to our statistics, there have appeared about twenty translatological dictionaries, of which five, three Chinese and two foreign, are most influential. The three Chinese dictionaries are *A Companion for Chinese Translators* (1997) mainly compiled by Lin Huangtian (林 煌 天), *Aspects of Translation* (1999) by Sun Yingchun, and *A Dictionary of Translation Studies* (2004) by Fang Mengzhi (方梦之) ; the two foreign dictionaries are Dictionary of Translation Studies (1997) by Mark Shuttleworth & Moira Cowie and *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies* (1998) by Mona Baker. In view of this situation, Sun Yingchun argued, "The compilation of translatological

dictionaries in China has gone abreast with the outside world, and the academic study of translatological dictionaries is now pioneering in the world." (Sun Yingchun 2008: 155-156) In her doctorate dissertation, Huang Xiling (黄希玲) also remarked, "The study of DTS (dictionary of translation studies) is in its inception. There is no related literature in this area outside China and the scholarship in our country is in the vanguard." (Huang Xiling 2005: 4)

In 1988, there held a symposium on"Translation and Lexicography" at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, where the importance of translation was pinpointed in terms of its contributions to the compilation of dictionaries. In 2002, a conference on translation and bilingual dictionaries was held in Hong Kong, where the relationship between lexicography and translation was particularly discussed. Nevertheless, the STD did not come into the scholars' consciousness. The first article to academically talk about translatological dictionaries goes to Sun Yingchun's "A Brief Exposition on the Compilation of Comprehensive Dictionaries of Translatology", which was published by Shandong Foreign Languages Journal in 2001. In this article, the author theoretically discusses the compilation of translatological dictionaries and points out that the naissance of translatological dictionaries is a logical and inevitable outcome with the development of translation theory and practice. The basic principles of compilation that the author generalized from his dictionary-making practice are descriptive, comprehensive, theoretical, practical and open principles. The stylistic rules and layout of a translatological dictionary suggested by the author should form a framework to systematically present the theories of translation studies. The author also proposes that a real *Dictionary of Chinese Translation Studies* should be a sufficient condition for the building of Chinese translation studies.

Since 2001, Sun Yingchun (2002a, 2002b, 2003, 2007) has published a series of articles to discuss translatological dictionaries in terms of their contributions to

translation studies, their compilation principles, their typology, and the subjectivity of compilers. As to the functions of translatological dictionaries, Sun Yingchun points out that they can exhibit the grand lineup and achievements of translation studies, sum up the translation experience, further translation theory and practice, present the relationship between translation studies and the relevant disciplines and exert influence on other disciplines. As for the tasks of STD, Sun Yingchun summed up as follows: 1)To classify the translatological dictionaries and define the nature, contents and functions of each category; 2)To probe into the compilation principles, stylistic rules and layout, and methodology for each category; 3)To study the historical and current situations of translatological dictionaries, elucidating their inevitability and necessity to translation studies, and their contributions to the development of translation studies.

The introduction of current situation can help to raise people's understanding of translatological dictionaries. The typology of translatological dictionary, in his opinion, constitutes the basis of STD. In addition, he argues that the subjectivity of compilers should be expressed by following aspects: 1) Defining the nature and scale of translatological dictionaries; 2) Outlining the presentation framework of translatological dictionaries; 3) Setting up the relevant norms.

The main purpose of STD is to serve translation studies by means of dictionary form. If enriched enough, STD itself can become an interdisciplinary research area under translation studies.

On the basis of arguments above, scholars have deepened the related study. Wang Kefei argues that translation studies can be roughly divided into three categories: translation skills, translation theories and translation history. He also points out that the reference books for translation studies can be divided into three types: translation-practice type, translation-research type and translation-history type, and these three types can in turn be subdivided into: dictionaries of figures,

4

places, events, constitutions and other proper names; reference books for translation; dictionaries of translators; translation bibliography; dictionaries of translation studies or translation encyclopedia; bibliography or digest of translation studies. (Wang Kefei 2003: 40) Wang Kefei's categorization shows that the typology of translatological dictionaries is ontologically determined by the contents of translation studies. His categorization is very enlightening, but the borderlines between the various types are too vague to systematically categorize translatological dictionaries. Huang Xiling argues that the establishment of compilation principles of translatological dictionaries constitutes a key aspect of STD. Accordingly she puts forward three compilation principles: systematic principle; the least-distance principle; object-oriented principle. The systematic principle, in her opinion, refers to a holistic overview of translation knowledge, dictionary making and dictionary text; the least-distance principle means that after the user has consulted an entry, the next one that he will most probably consult is of the same entry or belongs to the closely related categories; object-oriented principle helps us to regard entries as "objects" possessing a set of attributes, which are subdivided into common attributes and distinctive attributes. Moreover, separate entries are established in accordance with this principle. (Huang Xiling 2005: 142-151) By virtue of using the theories of computer science, Huang Xiling puts forward the three compilation principles above, which is original in research perspective. In my opinion, these three principles are not exclusively unique to the compilation of translatological dictionaries, for they can also go with the other specialized dictionaries. I think that STD should be systematic and multidimensional in its theoretical structure, so we should not merely treasure one theory. Therefore, I argue that the discussion of compilation principles of translatological dictionaries should not be divorced from the concrete types of translatological dictionaries. "Different types of translatological dictionaries always

require different compilation principles, so we should not abstractly talk about the compilation principles, ignoring the concrete types." (Gao Lei 2007: 105)

The criticism of translatological dictionaries began with the article of "Problems with *A Companion for Chinese Translators*" written by Li Shaoming (李绍明), which points out the shortcomings about the contents of the dictionary. The article comments on the dictionary in terms of seven aspects: inexact collation; improper illustrations; improper expressions; self-contradiction; overweight tasks; problematic basic concepts; stylistic problems, including some meaningless, immature and unbalanced entries and so on. (Li Shaoming 2002: 36) Huang Xiling's article of "An Introduction to *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*" mainly introduces the content and compilation features of Mona Baker's dictionary of Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies in terms of its authority, its focus on the study of translation history, detailed matters, convenient retrieval, and so on. (Huang Xiling 2003: 111-112) The article of "Three Merits of *A Dictionary of Translation Studies*" written by Zeng Dongjing (曾东京) discusses the loss and gains of the dictionary of *A Dictionary of Translation Studies* in terms of its marking the maturity of translation studies, its conformity with the requirements of lexicography, its great contributions to translation studies and its shortcomings. (Zeng Dongjing 2004: 54) The article of "The Prototype and Evaluation System of Dictionaries of Translation Studies" written by Zhao Wei (赵巍) benefits from the typology proposed by the American lexicographer Y. Malkiel, which is based on three main features: range, perspective and presentation. In this article, she puts forward the concept of prototype about the typology of translatological dictionaries. She argues that the prototype of translatological dictionaries can typically reflect the basic problems in the compilation process of translatological dictionaries, and the evaluation system based on prototype can be universally adapted to evaluate the various types of translatological dictionaries.