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视角与阐释 ——林语堂翻译研究

Perspective and Expression:
A Study on Lin Yutang's Translation

夏婉璐 著

两脚踏中西文化
一心评宇宙文章



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严复在其翻译的《天演论》自序中说：“近二百年，欧洲学术之盛，远迈古初。其所得以为名理、公例者，在在见极，不可复摇。顾吾古人之所得，往往先之，此非傅会扬己之言也。……大抵古书难读，中国为尤。二千年来，士徇利禄，守阙残，无独辟之虑。”

严复在此指出了当时中国文化界所面临的两大问题：一是对西学的盲目推崇，对中学的妄自菲薄；二是对中国传统文化之蹈常袭故、抱“残”守“阙”。此后不乏学人致力于解决这两个问题，而林语堂（1895 - 1976）则是其中之佼佼者。

在长达半个多世纪的学术生涯中，林语堂一直以中西文化的跨文化传播为己任。“对外国人讲中国文化，对中国人讲外国文化”可谓他完成此项重任的策略，而“两脚踏中西文化，一心评宇宙文章”则可谓他学术生涯的真实写照。林语堂学贯中西，广采博览，上下千年，纵横捭阖，儒释道融会贯通，文史哲无所不及。作为中国历史上为数不多的真正文达中西、学及古今的学者，林语堂对中西文化的认识并非流于浮泛的人云亦云，而是富有深刻精当的见地。他试图站在超越两种文化的制高点，从人类文化大同的高度提炼两种文化亘古弥新的部分，采撷两种文化之



于现代社会的有益成分。林语堂中英双馨，著译颇丰，他的著作和译作便是对其文化理想的实践结果。在其著译作品中，林语堂根据时代精神对中西思想进行整合、重构。尤为可贵的是，林语堂在《孔子的智慧》《京华烟云》等著译中实践了对中国传统文化的筛选、提纯，使之具有现代意义和普适意义。

夏婉璐博士的著作《视角与阐释——林语堂翻译研究》对林语堂的跨文化翻译实践进行了认真的研究和考证，对林语堂翻译实践中具有现代意义的部分进行了深入的挖掘和阐发。在以往的林语堂翻译研究中，许多研究者偏负一隅，注重从某一微观视角对林语堂的翻译实践及其翻译思想进行解读，重复研究现象比较突出，语料的使用也过多集中于《浮生六记》等少数几部译作，在研究的广度和深度方面都存在不足。而《视角与阐释——林语堂翻译研究》从宏观处着眼，将林语堂作家、译家、文化使者的三重身份视为一个有机的整体，分析了林语堂的大量著作和译作，探究了林语堂的文学观、文化观对林语堂翻译思想形成及翻译过程中决策制定的影响，剖析了林语堂的创作和译作之间的内在联系，系统梳理了林语堂尚未得到足够关注的译著，深入考察了林语堂的多种翻译形式（编译、译写、自译等）及其动因，从而拓展了林语堂研究的维度。因此，夏婉璐博士的这部著作具有重大的理论意义和显著的现实意义。

其理论意义体现在：第一，明确提出了翻译的核心价值以及译者所应具备的文化素养。这有助于翻译界改变目前在研究中将翻译与权力过度结合的倾向，有助于廓清贯穿人类社会始终的翻译活动的核心意义。第二，首次系统地研究了译者以作品艺术性为旨归的改写模式，发现了林语堂对中国传奇小说进行改写的出发点在于对译文艺术性的考虑，在于对自己文学主张的彰显。这一发现有助于深化翻译中改写现象的研究，改变国内翻译界改写

研究中几乎言必谈勒菲弗尔及意识形态的现状。第三，首次将移民作家的创作文本纳入翻译范畴，并论证了移民作家创作文本中对特定文化元素的传达实质上就是翻译。

夏婉璐这部著作对林语堂旨在解决时代命题、构建世界文化、促进中西文化融合的翻译思想和翻译实践进行了广泛而深入的研究，作者反复强调林语堂“在翻译中注重读者的接受”，强调“在林语堂看来，读者的接受才是最重要的”。这种强调之现实意义不可谓不显著，对某些“译不能笔下生花，论不能融通中外”的当代中国学者和译者不可能没有启发。2014年10月，在北京举行的一次“汉学与当代中国”座谈会上，有位外国专家直言：“中国人翻译的东西，我读起来总觉得怪怪的。”随着我国经济的腾飞，随着“一带一路”战略的实施，我们有让中华文化走出去的需要和责任，西方有了解中国文化的动机和欲望，但人家并不想读“怪怪的”英语，所以，再怎么强调“注重读者的接受”也不为过。

总而言之，较之近年林林总总的林语堂翻译研究，《视角与阐释——林语堂翻译研究》有突破性的创新，其立意更为高远，其视野更为广阔。

在祝贺夏婉璐博士的著作付梓之时，我希望她再接再厉，在未来的学术生涯中“日日新，又日新”，取得更为丰硕的成果。



丁酉年仲夏于成都华西坝

摘 要



作为蜚声海内外的著名作家、翻译家、文化使者，林语堂的多重身份是一个有机的整体。他的文学观、文化观、翻译观相互影响，相互印证。林语堂的翻译实践跨越 30 年，共出版 19 部译著，既有汉译英，也有英译汉，并涵盖编译、译写、自译等多种翻译形式。他用英文向西方人介绍中国文化的作品，如《京华烟云》《风声鹤唳》《吾国与吾民》《生活的艺术》，也蕴藏着丰富的翻译元素。此外，就传播中国文化、促进文化交流而言，林语堂称得上是中国典籍英译最为成功的中国译者之一。他的一些译作在多个国家出版并多次再版。林语堂丰富多维的翻译活动为翻译研究带来了无尽的启示。然而，在当前关于林语堂的翻译研究中存在如下一些问题：首先，微观研究远远超过宏观研究，并且重复研究现象突出。大多数研究在选题、观点及资料的使用上雷同。其次，某些研究的结论有失公允。此外，大多数研究过于集中于某几部译作，如《浮生六记》及散落在《中国的智慧》《吾国与吾民》《生活的艺术》中的中国诗词、中国哲学思想翻译。而林语堂的英译汉作品、自译作品以及为中国文化传播做出巨大贡献的编译作品，如《孔子的智慧》《老子的智慧》《英译重编传奇小说》《苏东坡传》则缺乏应有的关注。这些不足为本书的研究提供了深入挖掘的空间。



针对上述现状,本书以林语堂尚未得到足够关注的翻译作品为语料,在描述翻译学的原则和方法指导下,运用现当代西方译论观点,从宏观的角度,以林语堂作家、译家、文化使者三位一体的身份为切入点,探讨林语堂的文化观、文学观对林语堂翻译思想的形成以及翻译过程中决策制定的影响。这一研究有助于我们更加全面深入地把握林语堂的翻译思想及翻译实践。此外,本书考察了基于“中西文化溶合观”之上的林语堂跨文化翻译思想翻译实践,分析其现代意义,揭示了其对当前典籍英译的启示意义。

本书由六个章节组成。绪论部分介绍了本书的选题缘起、研究意义、方法及视角。第一章以林语堂的中英文作品为基础,全面整理和梳理了林语堂的文化观及文学观。本章将林语堂的文化观归纳为两点:一是“两脚踏中西文化,一心评宇宙文章”促进中西文化融合的文化理想;二是当中华民族处于危亡之际,自觉担当中国文化大使,向外传播中国文化的爱国情怀。本章将林语堂的文学观归纳为三点:(1)对作品艺术性的强调;(2)反对文学功利主义;(3)强烈的读者意识。

第二章和第三章考察了在其翻译实践中林语堂的文化观对策略制定的影响。第二章分析了林语堂中西文化融合的文化理想在编译作品《孔子的智慧》《老子的智慧》中,在选材、编撰、哲学术语翻译等方面的具体体现;对林语堂跨文化的翻译思想及翻译实践进行现代阐释,阐明在当下的社会语境中,当文化多元与和平发展成为全球母题时,其翻译理念对促进中西文化的对话交流、人类文化共同繁荣,以及对中国典籍英译工作的重要启示。在此基础上,本章思考并提出了翻译的核心意义和译者应具有的文化素养。

第三章以林语堂的英文长篇小说《京华烟云》为例,分析

了在中华民族生死存亡之时，林语堂以“中国文化大使”自居的文化身份对其翻译的具体影响。本章对移民作家作品中的翻译成分进行了界定，并从翻译过程及翻译中所遵循的规范两个方面进行理论论证，证明移民作家文学作品中特定文化元素的表达实质就是翻译。本章对《京华烟云》中的翻译元素以及林语堂在翻译时所采用的策略方法进行了总结和分类，并将林语堂与华裔美国作家黄玉雪、汤亭亭、谭恩美在其作品中翻译中国文化元素的策略进行比较分析，从而揭示了林语堂的文化身份对其翻译的影响和制约。

第四章至第六章考察了林语堂文学观的三个方面对其翻译的影响。第四章以《英译重编传奇小说》中具有美化倾向的译写实践为例，分析了林语堂强调作品艺术性的文学观在其翻译实践中的体现。本章梳理了翻译中改写实践的不同形式及目的，探究了林语堂译写传奇小说的动因，分析了林语堂在翻译《英译重编传奇小说》的过程中对人物描写、对话、叙事视角及主题思想等微观层面的改写，探讨了林语堂以译文“艺术性”为旨归的改写模式，及其在特定社会语境中对延长原作生命、促进中西文化交流的意义与功用。

第五章分析了林语堂反对文学功利主义的文学观对其翻译取材的影响。本章从历时的角度对林语堂翻译生涯的三个阶段（即“语丝”时期、“论语”时期及1936年出国写作时期）进行了整体考察。通过分析，笔者认为，无论译入语社会的主流意识形态和诗学观念如何变迁，林语堂在翻译取材上对潮流从不盲从。林语堂对文学功用的理解，即“人生的艺术观”的思想是贯穿其翻译生涯的选材标准。

第六章挖掘了林语堂强烈的读者意识在其翻译中的体现。本章以林语堂的自译作品《林语堂评说中国文化》《啼笑皆非》为



例。本章首先探究了在《林语堂评说中国文化》的自译实践中，林语堂在面对不同文化前结构及不同期待视野的读者时对原作所做的改写，分析改写的动因、形式及效果。通过分析，笔者认为，林语堂对英文原文进行改写的出发点是方便读者的理解，增加作品的文学表现效果以吸引读者。接着，本章比较分析了《啼笑皆非》林语堂自译部分和徐诚斌翻译部分。通过比较笔者发现，林语堂比徐诚斌在翻译时具有更大的自由度。林语堂在自译时，只为一位主人即读者服务。读者意识是林语堂在自译活动中改写原文的出发点和原动力。

综上所述，本书证明了林语堂的文化观、文学观对其翻译思想形成及翻译实践所产生的重要影响。这一影响主要体现在翻译目的、翻译标准和翻译的选材三个方面。此外，本书的研究具有一定的理论和实践意义。首先，林语堂的跨文化翻译思想翻译实践为在强调对话、全球伦理、和平与发展的 21 世纪如何开展典籍翻译工作，促进人类文化共同繁荣提供了可资借鉴和参考的范例。其次，本书中探讨的一些问题，如翻译的核心意义及译者文化素养的提出、对译者以作品艺术性为旨归的改写模式的研究、对移民作家创作文本中翻译元素的界定及论证，均有利于深化翻译理论研究，拓展翻译研究的领域，具有积极的理论意义。

As a world-renowned writer, translator and cultural ambassador, the manifold identities of Lin Yutang constitute an organic whole. His views on literature, culture and translation are interrelated and interact on each other. In the span of his over thirty years' translation career, Lin Yutang published nineteen translation works, both from Chinese to English and English to Chinese, with a diverse range of different translation categories. Besides, translation can also be spotted in his English-written works *Moment in Peking*, *A Leaf in the Storm*, *My Country and My People* and *The Importance of Living*. What's more important, in terms of promoting Chinese culture and facilitating the exchange among different cultures, Lin Yutang could be labeled as one of the most highly-acclaimed Chinese translator of Chinese classics, whose Chinese-English translation works enjoy high recognition in western countries. The depth and width of Lin Yutang's translation practice are of great reference significance to translation studies. However, there are still some deficiencies and untouched domains existing in current researches on Lin Yutang's translation. Firstly, the studies at micro level greatly outnumber those at macro level; what's worse, most researches overlap in perspective, viewpoint and texts used for analysis. Secondly, the conclusions reached in some researches are partial and problematic. Last but not least, a great number of researches are based merely on a slight amount of Lin Yutang's translation works, particularly *Six Chapters of A Floating Life*, the translation of Chinese poems and philosophic thoughts in *My Country and My People*, *The Importance of Living* and *The Wisdom of China*, while his English-Chinese translation, his auto-translation and adapted translation (e.g.: *The Wisdom of*



Confucius, *The Wisdom of Lao-tse*, *Famous Chinese Short Stories* and *The Gay Genius: The Life and Times of Su Tungpo*) which contribute profusely to the promotion of Chinese culture capture unduly little attention.

Guided by the principles of descriptive translation studies and with contemporary western translation theories as its theoretical groundwork, this book probes into the impact of Lin Yutang's concepts of literature and culture on the formation of his translation thoughts and his decision making in the process of translation, analyses Lin Yutang's translation works which suffers ignorance in previous researches. This study is conducive to a closer and deeper understanding of Lin Yutang's translation. Besides, this book explores Lin Yutang's cross-cultural translation concepts and practices, expounds its enlightenment in the current social context, and reveals its reference significance to the translation of Chinese classics.

This book is composed of six chapters. Introduction gives a literature review of researches on Lin Yutang's translation, defines the object, methods, contents and value of this research. Chapter One combs through and summarizes Lin Yutang's concepts on literature and culture which are scattered in both his Chinese and English works. Lin Yutang's concepts on culture are summed up into two aspects: 1) his cultural ideal and attempt to bridge the gap and achieve the complementation and integration among different cultures in the hope of the overall prosperity of human civilization; 2) his patriotism to be an ambassador of Chinese culture when China is in dire peril. Lin Yutang's concepts on literature are summarized into three points: the emphasis on literariness, anti-utilitarianism, and reader-orientation.

Chapter Two and Chapter Three examine the visibility of Lin Yutang's cultural concepts in his translation. Chapter Two illustrates the reflection of Lin Yutang's cultural ideal to integrate and enhance the mutual understanding of western and Chinese cultures on the way he selects works for translation, the way he compiles, and translation strategies employed in translating philosophical terms in his adapted works *The Wisdom of Confucius* and *The Wisdom of Lao-tse*; expounds the modern value of Lin Yutang's cross-cultural translation concepts and practices; illuminates its apocalypse for how to enhance dialogue among different cultures, how to promote the overall flourishing of human civilization, how to carry out translation of Chinese classics when the world is themed by cultural diversity, peace and development.

Chapter Three takes a close look at the influence of Lin Yutang's identity as Chinese culture ambassador when China is at critical moment on his translation practice, with a close reading of his famous English-written novel *Moment in Peking*. This chapter defines the translation elements in the works of migrant writers, verifies from the perspectives of translation process and norms in translation that the interpretation of certain cultural components in the literary works of migrant writers is translation essentially. Then, the translation elements and strategies adopted by Lin Yutang in *Moment in Peking* are sorted out and categorized. Next, this chapter makes a comparative study on the translation strategies taken by Lin Yutang and Chinese American writers Jade Snow Wong, Maxine Hong Kingston and Amy Tan, revealing the impact of Lin Yutang's cultural identity on his translation strategies.



Chapter Four to Chapter Six examine how Lin Yutang's concepts on literature help to mold his translation views. Chapter Four looks to the embodiment of his emphasis on literariness in his beautified translations in *Famous Chinese Short Stories*. This chapter firstly clarifies different modes of rewritings driven by variety of purposes in translation. Then, it probes into the motivation behind Lin Yutang's rewriting in this book, analyzes Lin Yutang's rewriting strategies at the micro level, including his rewriting to the characters, dialogues, perspectives and themes. Finally, this chapter expounds the function and reference significance of Lin Yutang's rewriting practice in prolonging the life of the source texts as well as fostering the exchange among different cultures in certain social context.

Chapter Five is a study on the influence of Lin Yutang's anti-utilitarianism on his selection of works for translation. This chapter carries out a diachronic survey on three important stages in Lin Yutang's translation career, namely, Yusi, Lunyu and outbound writing after 1936. A conclusion is reached that under no circumstances Lin Yutang follow blindly the social mainstream thoughts regardless of the alteration of the dominant ideologies and poetics in the society, whose understanding of the function of literature, namely, "art's for life's sake", is a consistent standard in the way how he selects works for translation in the duration of his whole translation career.

Chapter Six excavates the effects of Lin Yutang's reader-awareness on his auto-translation reflected in *Lin Yutang's Comments on Chinese Culture* and *Between Tears and Laughter*. This chapter firstly takes a close reading to *Lin Yutang's Comments on Chinese Culture*, examines

Lin Yutang's rewriting when facing readers of different cultural pre-structure and horizon of expectation; analyzes the forms and effects of his rewriting as well as the impetus behind it. Through analysis, it's revealed that Lin Yutang tailors the English source texts to the taste, reception and interest of his Chinese readers. Then, this chapter compares Lin Yutang's auto-translation with Xu Chengbin's translation in *Between Tears and Laughter* and finds out that Lin Yutang behaves far more liberal, in whose auto-translation only one master is served, namely, the reception of the reader. Lin Yutang's reader-awareness is the momentum and consideration behind the rewriting in his auto-translation.

To conclude, this book verifies the impact of Lin Yutang's concepts of literature and culture on the formation of his translation thoughts and strategies adopted in the course of translation, which embodies in his translation purpose, translation standard and the way how he selects works for translation. In addition, this study is of certain theoretical and practical significance. Firstly, Lin Yutang's cross-cultural translation practice sets a model for the translation of Chinese classics and the interaction among different cultures in the hope of achieving boom of human civilization as a whole in 21st century when dialogue, global ethics, peace and development become the theme of the new era. Secondly, some issues dealt with in this book, for instance, the essential meaning of translation and cultural competence of translators; Lin Yutang's literariness-oriented rewriting practice; defining and theoretically testifying the translation elements in the works of migrant writers are of certain theoretical value.

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