

Exploration of English Translation Skills from the Perspective of Functional Translation Theory

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ABSTRACT

Political, economic, and cultural exchanges between different countries have become more frequent with the continuous development of the economy and society, as well as the continuous rise of China's international status. In order to better ensure the actual effectiveness of translation work, as translation practitioners, they should master the correct work theory and skills, reflect the multifaceted value of translation practice as much as possible, and eliminate the limitations and constraints existing in English original texts to the greatest extent possible, striving to improve the overall accuracy of language conversion work. In the specific process of translation work, they also need to compare the original text with the translated text as much as possible to ensure high accuracy in translation.

Keywords: *Functional translation theory, Pragmatic translation, Translation skills, Translation principles.*

1. INTRODUCTION

In the actual process of carrying out translation activities, as translators, it is necessary for them to faithfully reproduce the operating intention and reflect the content and emotions reflected in the text as much as possible. For a long period of time in the past, people defined translation work as the mutual conversion between different types of languages, but functional translation theory proposed different management points for it. Functional translation theory points out that translation work mainly includes the interrelationships between the original author, translator, and audience. Therefore, translation activities should not simply rely on copying the content of the original text. It is necessary to explore the purpose, objective conditions, and interrelationships with the subject of the translated language text on the basis of loyalty to the authenticity of the original text, so that translation has social characteristics.

2. THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF FUNCTIONAL TRANSLATION THEORY

From different perspectives of translation theory, the characteristics presented by English translation activities are different, and the results presented and the ultimate goals achieved are also different. Based on this, English translation activities under the theory of translation function must be introduced according to corresponding principles:

2.1 Skopos Principle

From the perspective of functional translation theory, skopos principle is one of its most important principles, which is mainly divided into two main sections. Firstly, as the skopos principle, it should be able to adapt to the conversion work of most translated texts; Secondly, under specific conditions, the skopos principle itself should also appropriately transform special texts and ensure the appropriateness of translation work. Under the theory of translation function, the skopos principle holds a relatively important position. It believes that the entire translation process must be effectively related to the context of the context. And most importantly, it must

be able to objectively reflect the purpose of the language text, so as to better realize the value of translation work itself. In the entire English translation activity, the role and skopos of the translated text itself are different. Therefore, in the actual process of carrying out English translation activities, there are relatively large differences in contradictions and priorities. For example, in the translation process of the same paragraph of text, due to different focuses of transformation, there may be relatively significant differences in the final translation results. In response to the situation where the translation purpose is to accurately restore historical scenes, in the actual translation process, it is necessary to preserve the task dialogue in the original text as much as possible and add targeted descriptions related to historical scenes. For translation that aims to restore the attitude and emotions of the task, the main focus should be on restoring the attitude and emotions of the task. In the actual translation process, the translators must express and transform the key words and sentences as artistically as possible.

2.2 Fidelity Principle

Ensuring the fidelity and coherence of translation work itself is one of the fundamental principles that are closest to functional translation theory and ordinary translation theory. Its requirement is that translation activities must be closely aligned with the original text to avoid significant discrepancies. As translators, they should learn specific vocabulary expressions and complete the translation of text content based on different cultural backgrounds. In addition, translators can also combine the expression style of the original authors and other relevant personality traits to ultimately reflect the importance of the translated content to the original text. Based on this foundation, functional translation theory must be based on the skopos principle in the application of the fidelity rule. Once there is a conflict between the two principles, the skopos principle should be applied first.

2.3 Principles of Coherence and Practicality

The principle of coherence refers to the interrelationship between the authors, translators, and readers under the guidance of functional translation theory. For translation workers, they should always adhere to a rigorous attitude in the actual translation process, in order to make the translated text pay as much attention to the original text as possible and further improve the compactness between the

translated text and the original content. In order to better meet the basic reading needs of readers, the translated content must cover the essence of the original text, coordinate different translation elements with each other, further enhance the correlation between the original text and the translation, and strive for flexibility in switching between different translation methods. In the actual process of language modification and polishing, translators should strive to ensure the authenticity as much as possible. For example, in actual translation, for the sentence "人之初，性本善。性相近，习相远", when translating, it can be translated as "Man on earth, good at birth. The same nature, varieties on texture". Under the principle of practicality, translators must ensure that all translated texts are truly usable and can be applied to specific trading environments. To achieve this, it is necessary to combine the basic environment used in the translated text, strive to eliminate relevant obstacles in the translation process, and also respect the original work as much as possible. It is also necessary to fully understand the meaning of the original text to better meet the basic requirements of practical principles, which is crucial for enhancing the practical value of translation.

3. TRANSLATION METHODS AND SKILLS IN ENGLISH FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF FUNCTIONAL THEORY

3.1 Communicative Translation

Communicative translation refers to striving to achieve the same effect on the target language readers as the original text on the source language readers. Compared with semantic translation, in the process of communicative translation, translators need to fully understand the context of the original text before it can proceed smoothly. Usually, different languages have specific contexts hidden behind them, and in different contexts, the meanings of words themselves are also diverse, some of which are even obscure and difficult to understand. Only by systematically understanding can the translators better understand the original meanings of different grammar and vocabulary. In the actual translation process, it is a must to comprehensively consider the main elements of the translation, clarify the central idea of the text, and strive to more accurately express the true feelings and feelings of the original text, ensuring that the translated text can truly match the core points of the original text, and striving to improve the overall accuracy of the translation. And, it is also a must to

fully grasp the background of the language itself, break through the limitations of the original text in a targeted manner, understand the English language structure composition and related fixed collocations in different historical backgrounds, and ultimately achieve the required communicative goals. For example, in the process of English interpretation, the immediacy of English interpretation is strong, requiring translators to have the ability of alternating translation or even simultaneous interpretation. This undoubtedly demands the high overall quality for translators. In the process of daily translation training, using communicative translation training can improve translation speed, enhance the translator's own reaction ability, and judge the true meaning of the text through different contextual analysis. For example, in the process of international trade negotiations, in response to unexpected situations, speakers may inevitably make language errors, express themselves inaccurately, or even have contradictions in their rapid expression. At this point, translators need to quickly respond, enhance their sensitivity to English, and use communicative translation to accurately express the speaker's intentions.

3.2 Free Translation

In the practical application process of English translation, besides communicative translation, free translation is also a commonly used translation method. Free translation mainly aims to achieve the goal of being as close to the language as possible through the use of different skills, which can help readers form a deeper sense of identification with the translated text. In addition, in the actual process of English translation, it is necessary to preserve the language characteristics and tone of the original text as much as possible, and better meet the needs of the language system based on the guidance of the skopos principle. It should be as coherent, smooth, concise, and clear as possible, so that readers can accept it more easily. In the actual process of free translation, it is necessary to preserve the rhetorical devices and special descriptions in the original language text as much as possible, and strive to restore the original language text to the greatest extent possible. In practical life and work, even the most advanced translation skills cannot avoid the situation where the original text and translation are not synchronized. Due to the completely different language families between English and Chinese, as well as the different cultural backgrounds and language expression habits of each language, there will inevitably be certain differences between the translated text and the

original text in the actual translation process. Translators must always adhere to the basic principles of fluency and faithfulness in the work process, strive to reduce the huge differences between languages, and transform a part of the language without damaging the original completeness and semantic essence of the sentence. By adding or deleting the original text appropriately, they can better display the original characteristics of the translated text and restore the authors' most authentic expression intentions. For example, a classic translation case: "I love you once. I love you twice. I love you more than beans and rice." If translated literally, this sentence would be translated as "我爱你一次, 我爱你两次, 我比爱豆子和米饭更加的爱你". This translation method, due to insufficient understanding of the context of the original text and the lack of understanding of its true meaning, can also leave the translated content perplexing. However, if translated using the free translation method as "一见钟情, 再见倾心", it reflects a completely different artistic conception.

3.3 Mastering Skills to Process Relationship Correctly

From the perspective of functional translation ethics, relationship processing skills are also one of the translation skills with strong uniqueness. It focuses entirely on the interaction of interpersonal relationships. Translators not only need to pay sufficient attention to literal translation, but also need to combine multiple requirements such as interpersonal relationships and context to ensure that the translated text has stronger rationality. Relationship processing skills require utilizing the important role of tripartite relationships to bring the original author and reader into a central position, and carry out relationship processing and text conversion work based on this. Due to the relatively high difficulty in practical application, it is necessary to consider multiple basic principles to better ensure the smooth connection between the original text and the translated text. In addition, artistic expressions should be used to better reflect the interactive relationship between the original text and the translated text. As can be seen from the above, compared to traditional translation theories in the past, functional translation theory has higher difficulty in the actual implementation process, but it can maximize the overall quality of the translated text. In the actual application process, it is necessary to combine different translation techniques in a targeted manner, preserve the ideas of the original text as much as possible, and transform the meaning of the text itself

more flexibly. In addition, it is also necessary to coordinate the relationships between the original author, translator, and reader, striving to convey to the target audience in a more accurate and efficient translation method. This is also the essence of conveying the original text.

4. CONCLUSION

Under the guidance of functional translation theory, translators must apply translation methods and techniques with high rationality as much as possible in the process of English translation. In the actual translation process, a combination of communicative translation, free translation, and relationship processing skills should be introduced to better improve the overall translation quality of English texts.

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