

The Sense of Responsibility of Translators in Inter-Cultural Translation

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Abstract

Translation is special and complex, because it is a conversion between two languages, thus we should have the correct understanding of both source language and the target language background if we want to do a good translation, which can not only ensure the quality of the translation, but also improve the translator's translation ability. This paper analyzes the sense of responsibility that translators should have when doing inter-cultural translation, such as inter-cultural background knowledge. On the basis of having the correct translation attitude, we should conscientiously complete each step of translation. Before translation, the original text should be carefully understood to avoid misunderstanding of the source text due to lacking of inter-cultural background. While translating, the translator should be carefully to make the translation in order to ensure the quality and readability of the translation. After translation, the translation should be carefully and patiently checked up to ensure that the wording is accurate and translation is faithful. To sum up, a translator needs to have a sense of responsibility, then he will be a qualified translator.

Keywords

Inter-Cultural Translation, Professional Knowledge, The Attitude That Translators Should Have, Translation Steps.

1. Introduction

With the deepening of economic globalization, countries are more closely connected, and exchanges between countries are inseparable, so communication is a skill that the human needs, and translation can ensure effective communication between countries of different languages. XING Zhilin pointed that English and Chinese belong to two different linguistic and cultural systems, and they are widely used. Their communication plays an important role in cultural development. Due to the influence of cultural differences, there are great obstacles in English Chinese translation.(Xing Zhilin.2020(34):231.)Generally, translation is a way of transmitting information, which is the information expressed in language A interpreted in language B through the translator's translating, so that people who speak language A and language B can exchange information or communicate with each other. Many translations can not be finished perfectly because they don't really understand the meaning of translation. Translation is both scientific and artistic. The nature of translation requires the translator to carefully analyze the complex original text in order to ensure that the translation is faithful. The artistry of translation refers to the aesthetic research after ensuring the accuracy of the translation. Many translators continue to pile up gorgeous words when translating, especially in literary translation, they use as much so-called artistic language as possible to show their literary skill, but they do not know that it will not only be unfaithful to the original text, but also destroy the artistry of the translation. The artistry of translation means that the translators can

not only accurately express the content that the author wants to convey, but also think about what the author thinks. And feel what the author feels, truly communicate with the author's idea, and use appropriate translation methods to convey the content written by the author to the reader on the basis of fully understood the original text, and can also make the reader get the subtle feelings of the author, which is comprised by profound cultural heritage and language literacy. It is difficult to achieve the scientific and artistic qualities of translation alone, and the difficulty of combining the two is far more difficult than any of them. Therefore, this paper aims to analyze the the sense of responsibility of translators in inter-cultural translation and the methods to improve the translation ability. I hope that the translators and translation enthusiasts can refer to it and make criticisms.

2. Translators should have translation ability

Inter-cultural translation involves two languages and language cultures. Therefore, the translator should have translation ability in the translation process. The ability refers to the literacy ability and language ability. Only when he has a solid language foundation in both English and Chinese, and enough cultural knowledge can be able to ensure the accuracy of the translation. On the pursuit of the elegance of the translation, it is essential to highlight the translator's sense of responsibility.

2.1. In the inter-cultural translation between English and Chinese, the translator needs to have solid language foundation in both English and Chinese.

Translators with poor language skills are easily do unqualified translation due to their lacking of bilingual knowledge. Guo Zhuzhang pointed out that the reason why foreign language is as important as a good mother tongue because of two aspects: one is the need for understanding, and the other is the need for expression. (Guo Zh-zhang, 2010:206.) If the Chinese ability is poor, then we can't understand the original text when translating from Chinese to foreign, so there will a lot of problems in translation ; when translating English into Chinese, although we are good at the foreign language and have the ability to understand the original text correctly, we can't express well because we do not have qualified Chinese ability. Some translation enthusiasts ignore Chinese ability because they consider Chinese as their mother tongue, thus it needn't to study more. They mistakenly think that doing translation only requires continuous learning of English, but they ignore the importance of Chinese writing skills. Therefore, translators may not be able to translate in the most accurate and fluent way due to their insufficient Chinese skills. In English-Chinese translation, after a thorough understanding of the original text, the translator should express it in easy-to-understand Chinese. Due to the differences in Chinese and English language and expression methods, bilingual translation between English and Chinese is not an easy task. It is truly difficult to translate if there is no Chinese and English literacy ability. English translation is to present the translation on the paper, which undoubtedly requires translators to constantly strengthen their Chinese language skills and improve their writing skills. Usually, reading an article requires a general understanding of the central idea of each sentence, paragraph, and whole text, but translation need to thoroughly understanding the meaning of each word or sentence. Language itself is very complex, each word not only has one meaning, we also needs to combine a specific context to understand or guess its extended meaning in many cases , the surface meaning is often easy to understand, but the deep meaning requires the translator to use reasoning judgment method to carefully figure out the author's ideas, and then explain it in an easy-to-understand language, so the translator needs to have a certain logical reasoning ability. On the other hand, English translation is by no means a hasty translation of what you see and then directly translate, after searching new words without analysis of the sentence to do the translation, this word-for-word

method of translation will not work, the translator should have a solid bilingual foundation to improve the readability of the translation.

A qualified translator needs to have inter-cultural knowledge. If the translator have no cultural background of the source and target languages when translating, then he will misunderstand the original text , eventually causes a completely difference between the target text and the original text. As people have been cultured in one language over years, they have become accustomed to the knowledge they have learned before, but the translator will be confronted with two languages and two kinds of cultures, thus the translator may be exposed to different or completely different things from current perceptions. In the process of converting the source and target languages, it will increase difficulties for the translator. Due to the author of the original text is familiar with knowledge, so the author will not add explanation to the special thing but the translator needs to search for information before translating in order to do translation accurately. Therefore, it is also essential to master inter-cultural knowledge. Different countries have different cultures according to their regional environment, historical process, traditional customs and ways of thinking, etc. Li Changshuan pointed out that if things with cultural characteristics are translated literally, I am afraid that it will be difficult for the other party to understand, so we must eliminate the expression of cultural speciality and convey the information in plain or neutral language. (Li Changshuan.2004:439.)

In today's pluralistic world, people often have different understandings of the same thing due to different beliefs, morals and values of various ethnic groups. For example, Chinese consider the owl as a symbol of bad luck, but in English it is considered as a symbol of wisdom --- "as wise as an owl"; Chinese regard the "dragon" as the auspicious symbol, because Chinese are the descendant of the dragon. Dragon was the symbol of the emperor in ancient times, and now people use it to express their hope to children, but in English the dragon is terrible. On the other hand, Some words are expressed in different ways in English-Chinese translation, for example, "打九折" translated into English " a 10 percent discount". Translation contains many kinds of knowledge, not only including the knowledge of the translation itself, but also relevant professional inter-cultural background in the translation process, if we do not understand the professional terminology or correct expression in the field, it will be difficult to do a translation that can be understood by professionals in the industry, so if we want to become a qualified translator, we are supposed to familiar with happenings in ancient and modern, and constantly learn related knowledge to improve professional ability. Zhou Zhaoxiang pointed out that translation is not only to translate words, but more importantly, to translate the culture, philosophy, and world view behind the text, although the translator may not be familiar with every subject, but he cannot lack the ability and curiosity to trace knowledge. (Zhou Zhaoxiang. 1998:67.)

3. Translators should have the correct attitude in translation

Theoretically, translators should have sense of responsibility. Translation is a delicate work, from understanding the original text to checking the translation, there should be no negligence, because translation needs to convey the information accurately. A qualified translator must be responsible to the source text author as well as to the reader, ensuring both fidelity to the original text and acceptance of the translation by the reader. If the translator don't have a sense of responsibility, and don't spend time and energy to refine the translation carefully, then they will never do a good translation. The cultivation of responsibility consciousness should avoid these two aspects: one is to delete something or add the translator's own idea into the source text. Translators should not escape from responsibility when encountering difficulties, nor should they deviate from the source text and make arbitrary comments in the translation. Translators must respect the original author and have no right to modify the original text. On

the other hand, when the translator does not fully understand the original text, he or she does a translation just based on subjective imagination and misunderstanding. This irresponsible behavior will mislead readers and even lead to unimaginable consequences. The low acceptability of some translations is not due to the lack of the translator's ability, but the translator's attitude is not correct. The purpose of the original author's creation is to express his own thoughts, feelings and hope to resonate with the readers, and the translator should try his best to convey these to the readers. Therefore, it is not easy to be a good translator, and it takes a lot of time and effort. If we want to be a good translator, we must be careful and patient. When understanding the original text, we should think carefully. When translating, we should consider the usage of each word and phrase carefully. It requires translators to apply the spirit of theoretical translation into concrete translation practice.

Many translation enthusiasts have carried out a lot of translation practice but have not made progress, because they do not follow the correct translation steps. The three steps of understanding the original text, translating and checking the translation are indispensable, and some translators ignore the two steps of understanding the original text and checking the translation. If the step of understanding the original text is missing, then translate after reading the original text roughly will lead to the incomplete understanding of the source text, so the translation is not faithful to the original text. A better understanding of the original text is the basis of a good translation. If the step of checking the translation is missing, the translator's translation ability will not be improved. If the translator does not carefully check the translation and correct the mistakes after translation, the meaning of practicing translation will be lost. Therefore, if we want to become a qualified translator, we should practice continuously according to the steps of translation.

4. The translator's translation attitude in translation practice

The correct attitude of translators should not only stay at the theoretical level, but should be applied to every step of translation practice.

4.1. Translators should maintain the modest and rigorous attitude in the process of understanding the original text, and avoid grasping the meaning of the text or not seeking understanding.

In translation, when they have doubts or doubt their existing knowledge, they should take the initiative to consult reference books, otherwise they are prone to make mistakes. In the process of understanding the original text, the translator should focus on understanding the difficult points and key words. Only by doing this can the translator really understand the original text. For some specific words, the corresponding context and cultural background should be combined to think about, after all, the meaning of Chinese is relatively broad and vague. Cultural background knowledge plays a very important role in English and Chinese translation. Yang Xiaorong pointed out that mastering cultural background knowledge in translation is an important requirement for cross-cultural communication. (Yang Xiaorong, 2022(35):188.) For example, different phrases will be translated as different phrases, like the characteristic "开". "开始" is translated into "at the beginning", "开会" is translated into "have a meeting", "开灯" is translated into "turn on the light"; There are many polysemous words in English. Making clear different meaning is the basis of accurate understanding and translation. For example, "sound" doesn't just mean voice. It also means correct, reasonable, wise, reliable and firm. Like the sentence "Her body was still sound". "Her body was still sound. "If the meaning is not chosen correctly, the translation will be contrary to the original, and the reader will have ambiguity. For example, "浓茶" should be translated as "strong tea", "淡茶" as "weak tea", "红茶" as "black tea", and "红运" as "good luck". If we translate "红茶" into "red tea" and "红运" into "red

luck", then readers will have questions about the translation, or even fail to understand the translation. Therefore, translators should adhere to a modest and rigorous learning attitude in translation. Interpretation requires quick thinking and strict requirements on time, while translation has more time to do translation elegantly. Therefore, it is more important to ensure the accuracy and elegance of the translation.

4.2. Translators should carry out effective translation practices under the guidance of translation methods. Translation is not just the translation of one language into another.

A language expression, but also the use of a certain translation skills, and then to assist a way of speaking and a way of thinking. (Che hang, 2019(7):98.) Translation methods are the experiences summed up by translators. Mastering these methods and applying them flexibly is the key to improving translation ability. Translation methods are derived from practice, which in turn can guide practice. Translation practices without the guidance of theoretical methods are not desirable. Constantly summarizing experience from practice can not only get twice the result with half the effort, but also essentially improve translation ability. Learning translation methods is to be applied to specific translation work. Only through a lot of practice can we really master these methods. Familiarity with the theory of methods is not common with real practice.

4.3. After translation, the translation should be carefully and patiently checked and corrected.

The difference between translation and creation lies in that creation is to choose what the writer is good at and familiar with, but translation is not so. Both creation and translation emphasize appropriate and accurate writing style. The former only wants to match the inner "feelings", while the latter needs to match the appearance and connotation of the original text. After the translation practice, we must carefully check our translation, and we must not be satisfied with our translation. Tan Zaixi [7] pointed out that to judge whether a translation is correct, it must be measured by the target of the translation, and whether the translation is correct or not depends on the degree to which ordinary readers can correctly understand the translation. (Tan Zaixi, 1999:1.) At the same time, our concern is not only to enable readers to understand the translation, but also to ensure that readers do not misunderstand the translation. Checking is a careful examination of the translation based on a re-understanding of the original text. Translation is to convey the original author's ideas and emotional values to readers. In this process, anything intended by the original author should not be added or deleted, but must be completely faithful to the author. At the same time, the translator should not only translate the content, but also try to pay attention to the emotion and spirit of the author. For translation beginners, it is inevitable to encounter difficulties when translating a long article. In order not to interrupt the overall understanding of the original text, such ambiguous places should be marked for correction in the check stage. The correct translation starts from the word, which is the smallest component of the sentence. Improper wording will affect the meaning of the sentence, so it is necessary to choose appropriate and accurate words. The accuracy and fluency of the translation affect each other. If there are mistakes in the translation, it is difficult to make the translation smooth and fluent, and the non-smoothness of the translation will also affect its accuracy. Therefore, accuracy and smoothness are mutually complementary and precondition for each other's existence. Secondly, after ensuring that the target text has been completely faithful to the original text, the translator should forget the original text and examine the translated text separately, because the translated text exists independently and does not depend on others. At this time, the translator should read the target text from the perspective of the reader to see whether the reader can accurately understand the meaning of the original author through the translation.

4.4. Neither servile nor overbearing

In the process of translation, the translator only plays the role of accurately converting the source language into the target language. In this process, the translator is not allowed to add his own feelings and understanding. In other words, the translator must stand on an objective and neutral standpoint to translate, no matter whether the content of the source language is true or not, or whether there are any emotional colors and biases. Translators are not allowed to add their own thoughts and feelings into translation. Translation includes many types of text, such as scientific and technological translation, medical translation, news translation, and etc. Many texts may have regional discrimination or interference in their national regime, and even the content reported by some foreign mainstream media is not true. As a translator, We should uphold neither servile nor overbearing attitude, and always do not denigrate nor excessively praise, in full compliance with the spirit of the original text.

5. Conclusion

Translation is a kind of art, and it is not only the conversion between two languages, but also contains the communication of two cultures. Many translators fail to translate high-quality texts because they do not have bilingual ability, and ignore the cultural background knowledge. Translators should try to use authentic English in translation, which can not only ensure the accuracy of English translation but also convenient for the audience to understand the English language content.(Li Pengmin.2022(1):173.)Therefore,translators should consciously improve their translation ability, and constantly lay a solid foundation for bilingualism, conscientiously study bilingual culture and hold a correct attitude towards translation. The improvement of translation ability is not achieved overnight, but if we master the correct method and practice frequently, we will eventually become a qualified translator.

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