



Analysis on the Significance of Foreign Literature Translation to Cross-Cultural Communication

Wanning Wang*

The University of Manchester, Oxford Rd Manchester, M13 9PL, UK

ARTICLE INFO

Article history

Received: 20 October 2020

Revised: 22 October 2020

Accepted: 24 October 2020

Published Online: 31 October 2020

Keywords:

Foreign literature

Translation

Cross-culture communication

Significance

ABSTRACT

As a carrier of cultural communication, literary works play an important role for culture spreading. The creation, reading and translation of literary works have been regarded as major approaches to spread cultures. With the successful implementation of “The Belt and Road”, increasing exchanges between China and the world in new era ask for spreading domestic cultures and absorbing foreign cultures at the same time. As a result, it is necessary to strengthen the study of foreign literature translation, which is of greater importance, to provide supports for effective cross-cultural communication.

1. Introduction

In the context of globalization, cross-culture can be rapidly communicated and disseminated, which makes different countries and nations blend the culture with each other. Literary works play an important role in the process of cultural spread and communication. However, due to the influence of culture, context and other aspects, the effectiveness of literary translation is greatly reduced during the translation of literary works. Therefore, the translation of foreign literary works is of great significance during the period of cross-cultural communication. This paper analyzes the significance of foreign literature translation to cross-cultural communication.

2. Cross-Cultural Communication and Literary Translation

2.1 Cross-Cultural Communication

We can often hear about cross-cultural communication, but the concept of cross-cultural communication is rarely known in daily life. “The communication between people with different cultural perceptions and symbolic systems is enough to change communication events.” This is Samovar’s definition of cross-cultural communication. From a global perspective, cross-cultural communication is an exchange between different countries and nations, which will not be stopped because of different classes. Subcultural communication can also be regarded as cross-cultur-

*Corresponding Author:

Wanning Wang,

The University of Manchester, Oxford Rd Manchester, M13 9PL, UK;

E-mail: 1062893670@qq.com.

al communication.

The main spread approaches of cross-cultural communication include: verbal communication and non-verbal communication. Foreign literature translation is non-verbal communication. In order to ensure the reliability of cross-cultural communication, it is necessary to understand the specific cultural background. At the same time, there will also be various cross-cultural conflicts, such as object conflict, relationship conflict and weight conflict, which need to be resolved by reasonable means in foreign literature translation in the process of cross-cultural communication.

2.2 Literary Translation

Translation is the bridge of cultural exchange during the communication among countries and nations in the world. It is easier for people to accept the culture by using reasonable means to localize foreign literature. Literary translation has many functions. First of all, it can make information transmitted and communicated; second, it can promote the global exchange of culture and promote the progress of civilization and science all over the world through literary translation^[1].

Foreign literature translation is not only the prosperity of our own culture, but also the study of advanced culture. Therefore, it is necessary to follow the actual situation of foreign countries and our own country, reduce the conflict in translation and improve the quality of translation in the process of translation. By reading and research foreign literature translation works, we can realize the collision and exchange of culture and literature, and promote effective cross-cultural communication and exchange.

3. The Significance of Foreign Literature Translation to Cross-Cultural Communication

3.1 The Transformation of Language Medium by Translation

Although foreign literature translation is the text translation based on foreign literature, it is the re-creation and translator's re-comprehension on the literature works rather than the direct presentation of foreign literature. In literary translation, people prefer to see creation. Literary translation is not a simple text translation, but a comprehension and innovation of the original text from the aspect of creation. In literary translation, fans of the original works will have a meticulous pursuit of literature, even can not tolerate any "betrayal". "Betrayal" means that during the translation of foreign literary works, the style

of the works is lost, or the charm of the works disappears, which caused that the emotions of the original works can not be expressed well^[2]. During the process of translating literary works, it become the focus of many translators to reorganize the original text and translate the work to ensure the localization of literature without losing the originality of the work.

Words are the basis of literary works. Through the expression of words, the value and connotation of the whole works can be expressed. In the process of literary translation, translators not only need to accurately translate the text, but also to recreate the written language so as to avoid the boring situation of words and languages. Translation is not only the re-creation of language, but also a means to make two languages closer. The translation of foreign documents is the important carrier of cross-cultural communication. Translation enables people to have a deeper understanding of foreign culture and they can also understand the culture and spirit of the country and nation through works^[3]. Therefore, in the process of translation, it is necessary to understand the cultural symbols of foreign countries and to be familiar with the syntactic structure of the language so as to avoid literal translation. In fact, cross-cultural is the difference of ideas and contexts in a great extent. It is not easy for translators to clear these barriers and make foreign cultures communicate and spread more smoothly in their own countries. Foreign literature translation plays a positive role and promotes the progress of civilization when foreign culture is spreading in China.

3.2 Update of Citation Dictionary

Excellent foreign literature with rich connotation value has become the treasure of all mankind. As a spiritual food, it plays an irreplaceable role in the progress of global human civilization. The translation of foreign literature is not a simple task, but a process of recreating and processing foreign advanced literature and art, so that foreign literary works can appear in front of people's eyes. In order to play the maximum value of human spiritual wealth, it needs to be shared. Therefore, foreign literature translation is a beneficial project, which can provide help for the progress of human civilization and cross-cultural communication of literature, and make it effective in literary translation as the bridge and link.^[4]

When foreign images, allusions, characters and others enter into the culture of other countries through literary translation, it is unknown what kind of sparks and chemical reactions will be produced. Many people want to know what our own culture looks like when it enters into other cultures. In fact, for a long time, the introduction of for-

foreign literary translation, images, allusions, characters and others has enriched and replenished the citation dictionary, which has provided a lot of materials for China's literary creation and laid a solid foundation for the progress and innovation of China's literature and art. Cross-cultural communication needs a platform and foundation, and foreign literature translation provides the possibility to consolidate this foundation^[5]. People of different countries and nationalities firstly get to know each other through literary works before they communicate with each other. Therefore, foreign literature translation is of great significance to the updating of citation dictionary.

3.3 Extradition of Cultural Experience

In fact, we mainly learn about the world from literature and art, which is also a window for other countries and nations to understand the world. Foreign literature translation translates foreign documents into native characters, so that native people can see the private house mode, cultural value, history and religion of foreign countries. Through such a cultural display, people can realize the transmission and exchange of culture, and it is also an important way for a nation to enter into the world culture and carry forward its own culture. Only on the basis of understanding the background and basis of foreign culture, we can make our own culture go to the world better^[6-7]. Literature is the carrier of culture, and in the process of understanding other nationalities, literary works are the important way and window.

For example, the spread of Chinese traditional culture in the west is achieved through literary translation. The Taoist aesthetic principle of "viewing things from objects" is the westerners' understanding of Taoism or traditional Chinese culture, which is indirectly understood by the translation of literature translators. When they see the Chinese literary works which are translated by translators, they will have a general understanding of Chinese culture and art^[8]. However, the translation of Chinese literature has some difficulties, especially the poetic and artistic conception of literary works, and the philosophy hidden in the text also makes the translation more difficult. Therefore, during the period of literary translation, translators should have a high literary quality and translate works in a perceptual point of view, so as to achieve the extradition effect of cultural experience.

3.4 Providing New Spiritual Resources for the Native Culture

It is not advisable to create literary creation without considering the practical situation, it is also impossible to

achieve the prosperity of our national culture without communication with other countries. Through literary translation, a large number of foreign excellent works can be introduced into China, which can provide spiritual resources and inspiration for the national literature creation. During the May 4th Movement of China, people's ideas were relatively free and romanticism prevailed at that time, which gave birth to a large number of romantic poems, such as *A Doll's House*, which describes a new youth, Nora. She is a teacher who is emancipated in mind and dares to pursue freedom. In the 1980s, a large number of works appeared after Reform and Open-up, and many writers began to talk about the influence of foreign literature on themselves. In fact, for a country and a nation, the entry of excellent foreign literature is a blessing. It is the influence of foreign literature translation that makes the works that can enlighten people's thoughts begin to spread in our country, and more people can change their thinking under the influence of works, and open their closed minds so that culture can be continuously supplied to the brain just like blood. In the process of cultural exchange with the world, China has become more open and goes to the world with a new mentality. It is no longer like a small family with a closed door and has no understanding of the world.

3.5 Promoting the Modernization of Traditional Culture

What a nation owns should be shared with the world. In foreign literary translation works, local culture or national culture can draw spiritual resources from it to provide support for the prosperity of knowledge and culture. In the process of going to the world and modernization, the traditional culture of our nation needs a remolding of culture and thought, and we also need to re-examine the status of our national culture in China and the world. Therefore, in the process of the development of national culture and the prosperity and diversification of local culture, we also need to actively absorb the beneficial elements of foreign literary works in the context of cultural globalization. In fact, foreign literary translation, to a great extent, will bring advanced ideas and thoughts. When readers read the translated literary works, it is a process of ideological enlightenment or self-improvement. In China's long-term development process, Chinese culture plays an important role, and the reason why Chinese culture has been prosperous for a long time is that we are inclusive and take the advantages of a hundred schools to help realize the Chinese dream in the long-term development process.

How can Chinese traditional culture play a positive role in the realization of the China Dream in modern

times? One of the most important methods is to learn from foreign literary works. Through the exchange with global culture, the charm of Chinese culture can be better burst out, which can not only realize the modernization of Chinese traditional culture, but also promote the pace of Chinese traditional culture to the world. In fact, how to show vitality and realize modernization of our national culture is a comprehensive problem. However, the study and absorption of foreign culture is an important way. We should actively promote our national culture to the world and to the modernization through foreign literature translation.

4. Optimization Strategies of Foreign Literature Translation

During the period of cross-cultural communication, the quality of foreign literature translation plays a very important role. However, how to ensure the role of foreign literature translation in cross-cultural communication and achieve the effectiveness of foreign literature translation has become the focus of many translators. The content below is an introduction to the optimization strategies of foreign literature translation.

4.1 Based on the Original Text

When the translator determines the work, he should study the literary work carefully. During the translation, he should not change the work greatly based on his own subjective thoughts, or it will change the meaning of the original text. Therefore, the translation of foreign literature must follow the original text and carry out translation on the basis of the original text. Only when the meaning of the original text is not destroyed can the translated version be guaranteed to fit the connotation of the original text to the highest degree.

4.2 Understanding Two Kinds of Cultures

Literary works are the carrier of culture and they will be greatly influenced by culture. When translating foreign literature, we must fully understand the culture of the original country and nation firstly, so as not to lose the direction of literary translation. At the same time, the understanding of the original national culture can also make it better to grasp the connotation of the text. Translators should also understand their own culture, so as to make the translated works more easily accepted by their own nation or their own people, and realize the collision and exchange of the two cultures.

4.3 Translator's Literary Accomplishment

In fact, it is not difficult to find that there are different versions of the same foreign literature in China, and the literary level of these versions is also quite different. In other words, the translator's literary accomplishment will directly affect the literary level of foreign literature. If the translator has a high literary quality, he will translate the connotation and artistic conception of the original text and express it through reasonable words better.

4.4 Using Reasonable Translation Methods

In the process of translating foreign literature, it is necessary to innovate the translation methods. Through the use of more reasonable translation methods, the effectiveness of translation can be effectively improved. For example, translators use relatively new or advanced translation methods in the course of translation, which can greatly improve the overall level of translation, and can make literary works more advanced.

5. Conclusion

In summary, under the background of cultural globalization and during the culture communication of all countries and nations, foreign literature translation needs to promote cross-cultural communication and provide help for cross-cultural communication. Advanced cultures are interlinked and they can both enlighten people. Culture is a process of mutual reference and exchange. In the process of cross-cultural communication, foreign literature translation plays an important role, which can provide support for the prosperity of Chinese culture and make our culture in the world culture. In the new era, China's international exchange is becoming more and more frequent, especially in the implementation of The Belt and Road. Foreign literature translation provides the opportunity that China can communicate with the world and understand the world and the world can also know China.

References

- [1] Qiong Luo. A study of tourism text translation from the perspective of cross cultural communication-Taking the translation of Yongzhou Tourism Guide as an example. *Overseas English*. 2018; 000(006):131-132.
- [2] Xiao-Mei Wang. Translation and linguistic adaptation from the perspective of intercultural communication-Taking the report of the 19th CPC National Congress and its English translation as an example. *Changzhi Xueyuan Xuebao*. 2019; 036(006):67-71.
- [3] Yu Zhang. Language barriers in cross-cultural com-

- munication-Taking the translation and dubbing of film and television works and games as an example. *Think Tank Era*. 2018; 000(005):P.275-275.
- [4] Jie Zhang. Translation of city image publicity texts from the perspective of cross cultural communication. *The Science Education Article Collects*. 2018; 000(020):180-181.
- [5] Lai-Fang Ling, Wei-Lun Chen. A study of cross cultural communication translation of Yue Opera-Taking the websites of some drama troupes in Zhejiang Province as an example. *Southeast Communication*. 2019; 000(011):61-63.
- [6] Jia-Xin Lin, Peng-Peng Liu. Image construction in intercultural communication of translated texts-Image in literary translation: a summary of the 4th international symposium on translating fiction. *Eastern Translation*. 2018; 000(002):93-95.
- [7] Yan-Xia Li, Yan-Wen Zeng. Translation, introduction and evolution of Lingnan Cantonese Opera from the perspective of cross cultural communication-Taking the English translation of the classic of Cantonese Opera: *Never Say Goodby* as an example. *Sichuan Drama*. 2018; 000(009):18-23.
- [8] Kun Yang. A study on the publicity translation of Shandong folk culture from the perspective of intercultural communication-Taking Weifang folk culture as an example. *Comparative Study of Cultural Innovation*. 2019; 3(25).