A Report on the Translation of Cantonese Cuisine

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Abstract: This paper is a report on the translation practice of Chinese-English translation, which is selected from the introduction of Cantonese cuisine. This video mainly analyzes the characteristics, history, development and cooking skills of Cantonese cuisine, and introduces Cantonese food comprehensively and systematically from many aspects. The translator has translated all the subtitles of the video into Chinese and English, and has realized that different regions of China have their own dietary characteristics, such as Cantonese food is a local specialty in Guangdong, which is significantly different from other dishes, as well as its own unique history of development and cooking skills. According to the classification of German functional translation theory, the book belongs to the information text, pays attention to the content of the transmission text, and the language logic is very strong, so the translator focuses on the transmission of the original text information when translating this type of text. According to the characteristics of the text, the translator is guided by Newmark's text type and mainly adopts other methods in the process of translation. Domestication translation strategies and translation skills, such as irony, concrete translation, addition, subtraction and so on. The report is divided into five parts. These five parts include introduction, comparison between Chinese and English, translation strategies and translation skills, case analysis and conclusion. The first part is the task description, which mainly introduces the background, importance and purpose of the translator's topic selection, and analyzes the text. The second part is the embodiment of the differences between Chinese and English in subtitle translation. The third part introduces Newmark's text type theory and introduces in detail the translation strategies and skills used in the process of translation; the fourth part is a case study. The fifth part is the translator's summary of this translation practice.

1. Introduction

With the further development of globalization, more should be done to opening-up and interaction with other countries. Its aim is to conduct cultural interaction and further spread Chinese culture to intensify the influence of Chinese culture. Nonetheless, those professional translators play a vital role in this process.

When they are embodying their expertise, some elements should be taken into considerationlike the features of bilingual titles and disparity of two languages alongside some translationstrategies and skills to adjust to the source text. The aim of translation is to make it more logic and formal to promulgate more information about Chinese cuisine culture. And our cultural characteristics should

be conveyed well.

In recent years, a large number of scholars at home and abroad have conducted researches about the translation of different texts.

Nevertheless, at present, domestic and foreign studies largely focus on the translation of other texts rather than the translation of the subtitles of Cantonese cuisine introduction. Some pragmatic translation strategies and skills have been put forward by gathering, analyzing some documents about this theme. It is significant for translation learners.

And it is indispensable to point out these features of this discourse-information-based text. Based on the feature of this kind of text, it is also significant for this translator considering linguistic disparity to choose appropriate strategies and techniques. It is also essential for learners to blaze a broader trail on subtitle translation to peddle Chinese cuisine culture.

2. The Disparity of Chinese and English

If translators want to get a better translation version, it is important for them to know more about the disparity between Chinese and English.

2.1 The Difference in the Use of Tense.

In English, tense will be more visible and noticeable but In Chinese, it hard to embody specific tense. For instance, in the process of translation, there's some sign of tense in Chinese like "起源可远溯至距今两千多年的汉初南宋都城南迁时". This Chinese sentence doesn't show the change of tense. But in another English sentence that "It could be traced back to the early Han Dynasty more than 2000 years ago after the capital was moved from north to the south in the Southern Song Dynasty". In this sentence, the change of tense can be seen clearly. So in the process of translation, the difference of tense in different languages should be taken into consideration.

2.2 The Disparity in the Usage of Abstract Words

In English sentences, more abstract words will be used. But in Chinese sentences, more specific words will be used. In bilingual subtitle, there is an English sentence that By Ming and Qing Dynasties, Cantonese cuisine had become systematic. In this sentence, this word "systematic"is used to describe the development and mature period of the Cantonese cuisine.This word is more abstract but enough to describe the current situation of Cantonese cuisine. But in the expression of Chinese subtitle, the description is more specific that"在明清时期, 是粤菜真正的成熟和发展时期". So the usage of abstract words are another feature of bilingual distinction.

3. Theory, Strategies and Techniques of Translation

In terms of translation theory, Peter Newmark's text type theory is adopted in this translation. He is a famous contemporary practical theorist in Britain who has been engaged in translation practice and teaching for a long time.

Text types are divided into Expressive Text, Informative Text and Vocative Text by Newmark. Expressive texts use figures of speech such as personification, exaggeration and metaphor, as well as some words and sentence patterns with to show the author's attitude, emotion and value orientation,mainly including: novel, prose, autobiography and so on. Informative text refers to the text which mainly is used to convey information and reflect objective facts, mainly including: teaching materials, academic works, conference minutes and so on. Calling text emphasizes reader-centered, prompting readers to feel, think and act according to the author's intention, mainly

including: advertisement, instruction manual and so on.

The meaning of text division which Newmark also pointed out is that text division is not absolute and most texts have their functions at the same time. So translators should adopt different translation methods according to different text types.

The translation of expressive text mainly should adopt semantic translation. As the author occupies the core position, the translator should strive to be close to the original text in terms of style, sentence structure, word order, collocation and other aspects. In informational text, the translator can translate the text in the language that the target reader is accustomed to, without being confined to the language form of the original text. However, the content and information of the original text should be accurately conveyed.

So the translation strategies I have used is domesticating strategy. Domesticating strategy, or domestication is "target recipient orientation", that is, the translator tries his best to approach to the target recipient in translation. In Schleiermacher's words, the translator "tries not to disturb the reader, but to bring the original author to the reader." (2006: 229) in translation. And we should try our best to replace the language, literature and cultural elements of the source language with the language, literature and cultural elements which the target language readers prefer to and return to the language, literature and cultural norms of the target language.

The advantages of domestication strategy are that the translation version is fluent, easy to understand and easy to be accepted by the target language recipient, or to adapt to and meet the specific needs of the target language readers. The defects of domestication strategy manifests in the following two aspects: (1) the loss of the language, literature and cultural elements of the original text, which leads to the deprivation of the target language recipients of the opportunity to appreciate the foreign language, literature and culture, which is not conducive to the enrichment and development of the language, literature and culture of the target language countries, and to the cultural exchange between different nationalities. (2) if the strategy of domestication is adopted in the translation from the language of the weak to the strong, it may strengthen the cultural colonization and cultural hegemony of the strong nation and weaken the cultural identity of the weak and small nation (Venuti, 1995).

In terms of translation techniques, this translator has used many like the usage of positive translation, omission and the shift of specific words and others.

Given the distinction of the expression of English and Chinese, negative translation will be used to express special effect and bring more impact; Omission will be used to delete some unnecessary information to make translation version more authentic; in the process of translating those Chinese sentences, more abstract words will be used to translate specific words to make translation version more static and objective.

In a nutshell, based on the type of information-oriented text, the main focus is to express information about the development of history of Cantonese cuisine, features of this dish and some cooking skills. So domesticating strategy, positive translation, omission and the shift of specific words and others will be used to get a better translation version.

4. The Analysis of Cases

4.1 The Application of Domesticating Strategy

ST: 粤菜以其广泛的选材而闻名，可谓天上飞的，地上爬的，水中游的，都能上菜.

TT: Cantonese cuisine is famous for the rich food materials which include poultries, birds, sea food, woodland delicacies, various vegetables and fruits and often the best part of them are selected for cooking.

Analysis: In this case, domesticating strategy has been used in translating this sentence. The source text boasts Chinese characteristics in its expression, belonging to a proverb and describing the feature of food materials of Cantonese cuisine. But in the process of translation, we need to express the specific things that the original author wants to convey otherwise those foreigners may feel ambiguous and don't understand the particular meaning. Just like the translation of the source text, if we just translate the literal meaning of that sentence, information will be distorted that readers may think those Guangdong people eat airplane. But it is not appropriate. So we should choose domesticating to express more accurate information to suit the feature of information-based text.

4.2 The Application of Positive Translation

ST: 粤菜讲究”不时不食”.
TT: Cantonese people prefer seasonal food.
Analysis: In the process of translation, positive technique has been used. The source text has used negative expression. But when we translate the information of the source text, direct translation is not adoptable because foreigners are hard to understand the circuitous expression. Thus, at this moment, positive translation should be used to express the true meaning so that this translation version can better convey the information of source text and suit the characteristics of information-based text.

4.3 The Application of Omission

ST: 使得粤菜美味可口, 装饰美艳, 色香味俱全.
TT: Dishes they cook are not only tasty but appealing in both appearance and smell.
Analysis: Omission has been used in the translation of this sentence. In source text, there are many four words. If we just translate the source text without using any skill of translation, the final translation version will be redundant. So those unnecessary information should be deleted. In the source text, some information are redundant like "美味" and "装饰". In the process of translation, these redundant words should be deleted directly. The final version will suit the feature of information-based text, which will be convenient for foreign readers to acquire more information.

4.4 The Shift of Specific Words

ST: 明清时期是粤菜真正的成熟和发展时期.
TT: Cantonese cuisine had become systematic.
Analysis: In the translation of this sentence, the translation technique-shift-has been used. In combination with the distinction between English and Chinese, Chinese is more specific while English is more static and objective, using some abstract words. In the source text, the Chinese sentence has used some specific words like "成熟" and "发展时期" to express the development of the Cantonese cuisine. But in the English version, "systematic" has been used to be more concise which is more static and embodies the feature of English. And this concise version can appear with photos and videos in the subtitle simultaneously. Through the application of shift, this version can also convey the full information that can convey the feature of information-based text.

5. Conclusion

The study of the translation of subtitle is a long process for us to go. This essay's topic is a research on English translation of the introduction of Cantonese cuisine under the theory of Text Type proposed by Newmark--taking the promulgating video of Cantonese cuisine as an example. The research target is subtitle like the Chinese version of Cantonese cuisine culture. The key point is to dig into the translation of the Chinese subtitle. This essay is guided by Text Type theory. When translating such text, it is important to adhere to the Text Type theory but not in the structure of the original text. This essay has introduced the characteristics of bilingual subtitle, some strategies and techniques of translation in the subtitle. Through this essay, it strikes me that only through long-term accumulation and practices can these theory and techniques be internalized. In the process of translation, our translation version should combine Text Type with some techniques to get a better translation version.

The research meaning is that our own text awareness should be strengthen while more about translation encyclopedia and skills should be learned. After an analysis in all respects aiming at such subtitle, it will provide some lesson like lack of textual awareness as well as mistranslation of expressions with Chinese characteristics and thoughts for those learners. This essay will bring enlightment to those learners.

References

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