

A Translation Report (E-C) on Intercultural Communication

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ABSTRACT. Based on the translation practice of information texts, the material is required to reproduce the meaning of the original text accurately, and at the same time the effect of communication should be considered. Therefore, the author adopts a combination of Functional Equivalence and communicative translation to discuss the problems and solutions of translation, and analyze the cases in combination with specific translation methods. Translation is not a simple process of semiotic conversion, but contains a complex cultural communication. Therefore we analyzing translation from intercultural communication perspective may provide us with some solutions to the problems. As one kind of typical intercultural activities, the translation of the text cannot be simply deemed as the conversion of languages of countries, but the communication between different cultures.

KEYWORDS: Intercultural communication, Information text, Cultural differences, Translation principles and theories

1. Introduction

Translation is an activity that converts one language into another. More and more Chinese begin to study the origin and development of intercultural communication. The study on this material is more conducive for Chinese to understand the development of intercultural communication in a multi-perspective and all-round way. In light of the writing features and language expression, the translator decides to employ the text typology theory of Katherinna Reiss as the theoretical framework of this translation practice. This translation project takes the text typology as the theoretical framework to facilitate the normative development of practice.

2. Introduction of Translation Theory

Nida is one of the greatest translation theorists in the world and a linguist who develops Functional Equivalence Theory. "Functional Equivalence" is the core of his translation theory system. In 1990, the Functional Equivalence Theory was roundly defined by Nida in his book *Language, Culture and Translating* (Nida, 2001). This theory provides new standards for translation assessment and practice. Communicative translation is Newmark's translation theory. Translation as an important mean of communication, especially play an important role in cross-culture communication.

3. Translation Skills and the Application of Translation Methods

Generally speaking, translation skills consist of division, amplification, omission, transliteration and so on. The following are the main translation skills involved in translating material:

3.1 Lexical Level

3.1.1 Extension of Word Meaning

There are many ways to express a word. When translating English to Chinese, the proper meaning of some words is demanded to grasp. If we copy the translation from the dictionary, it is easy to confuse the readers.

Original sentence: According to the anthropologist John Gumperz, each successful message carries with it a second metamessage which tells the listeners how to interpret the basic message.

Analysis: In this sentence, the subject is "John Gumperz", the subject and the non-predicate verb is subject-predicate relation. According to the requirements of translation of Newmark, the author objectively translated the content of the source language. Choosing the extended meaning of the word, in this way, the translation conforms to the

characteristics of attaching importance to semantics and original structure in semantic translation, and it is also convenient for Chinese readers to read.

3.1.2 Word Conversion

Because English and Chinese are quite different in terms of vocabulary and grammar construction, it is difficult to realize the complete equivalence of the original text and the translation in terms of vocabulary and structure.

Original sentence: Professional communication depends on being able to understand not just when and where to communicate what, but also how it is done. Only by explicitly analyzing the process of communication can a professional come to communicate effectively.

Analysis: “When, where, what” in this sentence are adverbials. The author translates them into the noun in Chinese, and transforms the adverbials in English into the noun in Chinese. Because Chinese is a “dynamic” language, and translation will be more in line with the expression of Chinese. In line with the reading habits of the target language readers, and also conform to the requirements of communicative translation, so the translation is concise and powerful.

3.2 Sentence Level

3.2.1 The Application of Annotation

In order to better understand the information conveyed in the article, it is necessary to introduce and explain some information, so that readers can better understand the meaning in the original text and deepen their understanding of cross-cultural communication.

Original sentence: The metamessage is a second message, encoded and superimposed upon the basic, which indicate how we want someone to take our basic information.

Analysis: For common reader, it is hard to understand the metamessage. At the same time, the understanding of the following text will confuse readers. Through the search for information and understand the metamessage, so as to help understanding the following translation.

3.2.2 The Translation of Attributive Clauses

An attributive clause is a complete sentence which modifies a person or something or sometimes a whole main clause. There are two categories of attributive clauses: restrictive attributive clauses and non-restrictive attributive clauses.

Original sentence: This pattern contrasts with the deductive pattern, in which a topic is introduced at the beginning of a discourse and then the minor or supporting arguments are presented afterwards.

Analysis: Some attributive clauses function as the adverbial in the complex sentence, keeping a very close logic relationship with principal clause and indicating the cause, result, purpose, time, condition, concession, etc. In this case, we may translate them into corresponding adverbial clauses. The antecedent “in which” keeps a close and logic relationship with principal clause and indicating the cause.

4. Translation Enlightenment

Though translating this argumentative text is a great challenge, the translator can summarize the methods and strategies of Chinese translation of the text under the guideline of Nida’s Functional Equivalence Theory and Communicative Translation. So the translator has to attend the Chinese translation from lexical to syntactic and discourse levels. In the lexical level, in order to make up for the deficiencies of linguistic knowledge, the translator makes use of modern network resources and reads the parallel texts. In syntactic level, it is of great necessity for the translator to analyze the syntactic structure of the source and target texts. In the discourse layer, the Chinese translation is not expected to rigidly stick to the source text. All in all, from this translation practice, the translator has a deeper understanding for knowledge in second language acquisition and translation skills.

5. Conclusion

The translation of the examples should not only grasp its main idea, but also accord with the creation background, grace of the language and form. Under this circumstance, the demand for the cultural level of the translator is higher. Secondly, because of the limitation of the translator, the textual intention may not be fully expressed, and the translation

language is not concise and fluent. The translator will insist on improving translating level and intellectual literacy by this translation.

This translation practice has deeply impressed me as a translator. To translate articles well, we need to combine the English knowledge we have learned and skillfully use translation skills. It is necessary to read various subjects to expand our knowledge. It is necessary to fully understand the meaning the original text before translation. We should organize the sentence according to Chinese expression habits from the perspective of target readers. And the translation should be in line with the characteristics of academic style with prepositions and nominalization.

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