

Study on the Impact of Contextual Culture on the Translation of English and American Literature

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Abstract: The essence of language is culture, which is inevitably influenced by various cultural contexts in literary translation. Due to the diversity of cultural contexts, translators are inevitably influenced by various cultural contexts in the translation of literary works, which results in different literary translations in different cultural contexts. In the process of translating English and American literature, the translator should give full consideration to the influence of context culture on the translation of English and American literature, and then translate English and American literary works intuitively. On this basis, appropriate and effective translation strategies are found to achieve high quality translation works. Starting from the influence of context culture on English and American literary translation, this paper analyses the differences between Chinese and Western contexts, and puts forward strategies for English and American literary translation based on context culture.

1. Introduction

Literary works, as an important form of cultural exchange and communication between different nationalities, convey ideas and information of various cultures to people. Accurate literary translation is the bridge and hub of cultural exchange. Because the cultural context influences the creation background, mode and material of literary works, the creation of British and American literature cannot be separated from the influence of the corresponding contextual culture. It is also the influence of different contextual cultures that makes the literary works of different styles possible. When translating English and American literary works, we should take full account of the constraints and influences of context, and translate literary works from the perspective of original authors, readers and translators, so as to improve the quality of translation. Therefore, when translating English and American literary works, we should take full account of the influence and restriction of context. Only by translating and reviewing literary works from the standpoint of original author, translator and target author, can we translate high-quality literary works.

2. The relationship between English-American literary translation and contextual culture

Language is an important form of expression of culture. It can even say that its essence is a kind of culture. However, in the process of language formation, it will be affected by various environmental and cultural factors, that is, the influence of culture on context. Therefore, in the

process of translating English and American literature, the influence of cultural contextual factors should be fully analyzed and considered in order to achieve the purpose of accurate translation.

2.1. Literary translation is inseparable from the influence of social context factors

The cultural factor is one of the most important factors in English and American literary translation, which can be combined with the listening, speaking, reading and writing of culture and language. Literary translation is to reproduce the linguistic form, plot, artistic technique and image of literary works. Therefore, the translated literary works should be aesthetic and creative. The culture contained in literary works is a reflection of the cultural phenomena of a country and a region. All these points emphasize the importance of cultural context in English and American literary translation. To cultivate the ability of recognizing cultural context is not only the basic ability of translators to do translation work well, but also the important skill of learners in cross-language communication.

2.2. Literary translation is inseparable from the influence of English context

People's lifestyles vary greatly in different English-speaking countries. Different natural environments breed different English contexts, British and American countries advocate rational and scientific history and culture. Therefore, passive mode has become the most popular sentence pattern for native English speakers. Religious culture, as a prominent aspect of human culture, is mainly composed of national religious consciousness and belief. Only with a profound understanding of western culture can literary works be properly translated. The content contained in cultural context has a great influence on the translation of English and American literature, which restricts how to translate and what kind of language to translate. Therefore, when translating English and American literature, we should cultivate our ability to recognize the cultural context and master the important skills of cross-cultural communication.

2.3. Linkages between contextual culture and English-American literature translation

Context culture mainly includes traditional life style, religious beliefs, values and modern scientific culture, which are different from the cultural concepts in the origin of common nationalities. Language culture covers a wide range of aspects, including gender, race and other special classes, as well as language use norms and skills, including semiotics, linguistics and other high-level system construction. Culture can be regarded as a kind of higher-level ideology, specifically social culture and grammatical vocabulary will restrict the way people speak and what they can say. To learn language well, people must be familiar with and use words and sentences, and have the ability to use these knowledge in the context of communicative language. In the study of translation, the prerequisite is context, which means that in order to successfully accomplish the translation task, it should learn the social context factors of language in real interpersonal communication. Cultural factors are an important factor that cannot be ignored in the translation of English and American literature. Literary translation is to reproduce the content of the plot, language form, artistic technique, image and artistic conception of literary works. The culture contained in literary works reflects the culture of a country and a region. Therefore, when translating literary works, translators need to be creative and aesthetic.

3. Influence of context culture on English and American literature translation

In the translation of English and American literary works, in order to ensure the high quality of the translated works, it is necessary to look at the literary works from a cultural perspective, fully understand the British and American culture, and combine the differences in values, beliefs, and lifestyles of British and American families. It is the premise of accurate translation to consider the thinking habits and sentence structure of the original authors in the works, so as to fully express the connotation and thoughts of the original works in the translation. Generally, there are three context culture differences which induce influence on English and American literature translation, as shown in figure 1.

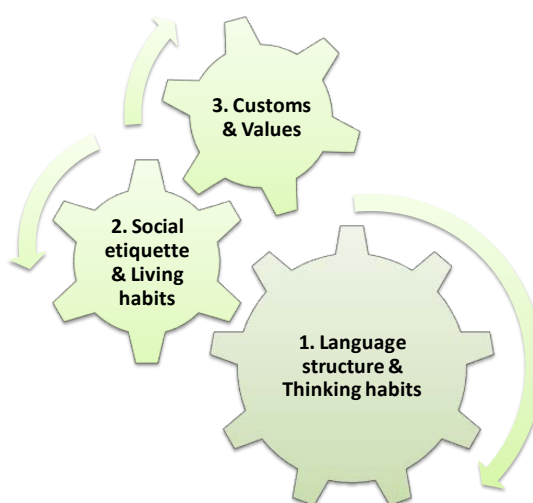


Figure 1: Context culture differences which induce influence on translation

3.1. Differences between language structure and thinking habits

In English and American literature, people pay more attention to the subject-predicate-object structure of sentences, but in China, the rules of using verbs and the structure of this sentence are relatively valued. These two sentence structures have different ways of expression, which are mainly caused by the differences between Chinese and Western ways of thinking. In Western values such as Europe and America, people admire individualistic values and yearn for freedom, believing that the power of the individual is unlimited, while China has been influenced by Confucianism for a long time, and the concept of big and small countries is very obvious. In literary works, if we want to describe a character psychologically, western writers mainly describe a character from a subjective perspective, expressing emotional changes from the inside to the outside, but in the works of Chinese writers, they pay more attention to the description of objective things. Therefore, when translating English and American literature, it should start from the way of thinking and have a thorough understanding of the works in order to achieve a better translation.

3.2. Differences between social etiquette and living habits

Social etiquette and life habits are mainly influenced by ideology and culture. For example, in Chinese etiquette culture, etiquette is more conservative under the influence of Confucianism, while Western etiquette culture is influenced by its more liberal and straightforward ideas. People are more open in social etiquette activities, and their language expression is more colloquial. The topic they meet is mainly about weather. Besides, there are also great differences in the way of life. These

contextual and cultural differences are also described and expressed in literary works. When translating English and American literary works, it should stand on the ideological, political, values, living environment, religious beliefs and lifestyle of the original. By comparing and analyzing the language structure and thinking mode used in the works, we can translate English and American literary works more accurately, promote the works to be accepted by the vast majority of readers, and promote good communication between Chinese and Western cultures in the process of dissemination.

3.3. Differences between customs and values

There are great differences between Chinese and Western cultures, and people's perceptions and views on things are also very different. Especially in the way of expression, it is precisely due to the aesthetic view caused by the regional custom culture that produces this cultural difference phenomenon. In addition, for the Chinese people, people can sacrifice the interests of a few or even their own for the sake of preserving the interests of the majority, but for the Westerners, they are more in pursuit of freedom. These two values have a great impact on the translation of English and American literature.

4. Conclusions

Nowadays, the demand for translators is getting higher and higher. Not only do translators need to master the basic rules and skills of translation, but also they need to have profound knowledge and profound cultural connotations. The translation of English and American literature is not a mere translation of words themselves, but a recreation based on two different cultures. It is the expression of language and emotion, which is influenced by many contexts and cultures. Translators need not only to master translation skills, but also to have profound cultural connotations and a high sense of mission in cultural exchanges between China and the West. In translation, we should pay attention to the context culture of the original author and the context culture of the reader. Therefore, in the process of translating, the translator should not only grasp the background of the times of the original author, but also fully consider the readers' understanding ability and reading habits, so as to translate high-quality English and American literary works more completely and more readily.

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