

Cultural Differences between China and the West and English-Chinese Translation of British and American Literary Works

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Abstract: Due to the Differences in Cultural Environment, Historical Background and Human Habits, There Are Great Differences between Chinese and Western Cultures. to a Certain Extent, This Cultural Difference Affects the Popularity of Excellent Literary Works in Various Countries. Therefore, in the Process of Translating English and American Literary Works, Many Factors Need to Be Considered Comprehensively. Fully Understand the Cultural Differences between China and the West, the Living Environment, Values and the World Outlook of Britain and the Americans. Continue to Improve the Translation Level of Literary Works, So That People Can Enjoy the Purest and Most Formal Literary Works, and Recover the Literary Works of Britain and the United States in the Original State. under the Influence of Cultural Differences between China and the West, This Paper Makes a Detailed Analysis of the English Translation of Many British and American Literary Works.

1. Introduction

Translation is Not Only the Mutual Transformation of Languages, But Also the Richness and Diversity of Cultures in Different Countries[1]. Different Cultures Are Connected with Different Aesthetic Concepts. These Differences Will Inevitably Have a Certain Impact on the Translation of English and American Literary Works. Therefore, When Translating English and American Literary Works, It Enriches the Basic Translation Ability[2]. It is Necessary Not Only to Have the Research on the Historical Background, Historical Background and Social Environment of the Works, But Also to Have a Deeper Understanding of the Meaning Expressed in the Works.

2. An Analysis of the Differences between Chinese and Western Cultures

In the Long Process of Historical Development, Different Cultures Have Gradually Formed, among Which Chinese and Western Cultures Are the Representatives. as the Saying Goes, One side of Soil and Water Nourishes One side of People, Which is the Truth. These Differences Are Reflected in Many Aspects, Such as National Geography, Human Culture, People's Customs and Lifestyle [3]. These Factors Are Influencing the Development Pattern and Cultural Characteristics of the Country. the Differences between Chinese and Western Cultures Are Mainly Reflected in the Following Aspects.

2.1 Differences between Chinese and Western Values

In China, group culture is the main body, and individual value is not allowed to be superior to collective value. Therefore, there is a saying in China that “great trees attract the wind” and “guns shoot the first birds”, and China pays attention to the middle way. In Britain and the United States, the core values are mainly individuals. Influenced by thousands of years of traditional Chinese culture, Chinese people often focus on the overall situation[4]. When there are contradictions and conflicts between personal interests and collective interests, they are willing to sacrifice their personal interests to protect the collective interests. This strong sense of responsibility and mission makes them consciously undertake social responsibilities. And individualism is the most respected in the West. We can feel this strong sense of value in some English words[5]. For example, “egoist”,

“self-interest”, “self dependence” and “go helps those who help them” in English are in contrast to “everyone is responsible for the rise and fall of the world” in Chinese language and culture.

2.2 Differences of Thinking Mode between China and the West

People's way of thinking often affects people's way of doing things and their attitude towards people and things. In China, people tend to pay more attention to the practicality of one thing, that is, people are more inclined to do things by themselves, pay more attention to the process, and hope to find the results and conclusions of things through their own or team strength. In the west, people are concerned about the view of a thing[6]. They think that the ability of logical thinking is more important, so they focus on the conclusion of things rather than the process. The process is far less important than the conclusion. Therefore, in the process of English-Chinese translation of British and American literary works, the differences between Chinese and Western ways of thinking are also one of the factors we consider.

2.3 Differences between Chinese and Western Customs and Cultures

The custom culture of a country is formed in the process of continuous development and progress, and it is a process of continuous accumulation[7]. Therefore, the differences between Chinese and western customs and cultures have a great influence on the translation of English and American literary works. In our traditional Chinese culture, red is not only a color, but also a symbol of auspiciousness and smoothness. Therefore, we can see red everywhere every new year's day. But in Britain and the United States, the meaning of red is different. In English idioms, “go into red” means “deficit” and “loss”. “See red” translates as “mad with anger” and “furious”. In addition, blue represents noble blood or melancholy mood in western countries. People in western countries prefer the former's moral meaning. Therefore, in the west, blue is the color most people like. In addition, the word “old” means something backward and outdated in western countries. In China, in addition to the above meanings, there is also the meaning of showing respect for elders. For example, “Zhang Lao, Wang Lao”, etc. If translators do not know enough about these customs and cultures, it is impossible to restore the most authentic English and American literature.

Table 1 General Knowledge And Culture of English Teachers in China

	Generalized Average Score of Cultural Knowledge	Average score of English expression of generalized cultural knowledge
English Majors	1143	798
Non-English Majors	698	1298
English teachers	522	584

2.4 The Differences of Non-Verbal Culture

Language is one of the important ways for us to communicate. Besides, there are body movements, facial expressions and so on. These all play an important role in people's daily communication. Even it can show the effect that language can't achieve[8]. In western countries, non-verbal culture is also very different. People in western countries are more direct in expressing their feelings. When they meet, they usually choose to kiss their cheeks or hug. In China, the expression of meeting is more euphemistic, usually with a handshake to show friendship. In western countries, if people don't look directly into each other's eyes in the process of conversation, the other party will think that the content they tell can't attract others, or it's a kind of disrespect[9]. In China, on the contrary, it is impolite to look at others directly all the time. All in all, these differences in details also need our attention.

3. The Influence of Western Culture on British and American Literature

In the process of the development of western culture, it is permeated by ancient Greek, Roman and other cultures. Therefore, we can also feel the western culture in the British and American literary works.

3.1 British and American Literature Influenced by Ancient Greek and Roman Culture

The mythological stories of ancient Greece and ancient Rome can be said to be well-known. Many British and American literary works are permeated with the mythological stories of ancient Greece. The inspiration and ideas of many excellent works are derived from the mythological stories of ancient Greece. Then fully understanding the traditional culture of ancient Greece can promote our better translation of British and American literary works. Shelley, the famous western writer and Shashi, the dramatist BIA et al. Many of the themes of their works are mythological stories from ancient Greece and Rome. Therefore, the translator's mastery of these myths is very necessary for the translation work [10]. If he does not understand these myths, he will inevitably encounter difficulties, not to mention the real understanding of the author and the connotation of the work. If the content of "Pandora's box" appears in the translated literary works, and if we have a deeper grasp of the myth, we can easily know that it represents trouble and disaster. In the process of translating "shyness is her Achilles' heel", we know that it is actually inseparable from the myth, Achilles Achilles, a hero in the ancient Greek myth. In western culture, Achilles is a symbol of a person's fatal weakness, so that the above sentence can be easily translated: "shyness is her fatal weakness". To sum up, to be familiar with the mythology of ancient Greece and Rome is the key for us to translate English and American literary works smoothly.

Table 2 Teaching of Western English Teachers

	Average score of narrow sense knowledge culture	Average score of English expression of narrow sense knowledge culture
English Majors	3242	17425
Non-English Majors	5125	2004
English teachers	1333	1389

3.2 Bible and British and American Literature

Christian thought has a profound and extensive influence on Western culture. As a formal Christian classic, the Bible is regarded as a moral standard in life. The Bible describes the confusion, prayer and pilgrimage of different characters in different genres, such as novels, history, poetry, drama, letters, etc. It has a profound influence on English language and culture. Therefore, in the process of writing, the author often quoted the allusions, idioms, words and sentences in the Bible, some even quoted the contents of the Bible for a long time. For example, "Noah's Ark" and "Solomon" represent "intelligent people". If translators do not fully understand these frequently used English words, they cannot express the real meaning of these words. Generally speaking, literary works to a certain extent reflect the background of an era, a realistic portrayal, different cultural customs and language habits of China and the West are one of the main difficulties in the translation of British and American literary works. Only by solving this problem can we obtain accurate and authentic translation works, accurately convey cultural information and spread literary works.

4. English Chinese Translation Strategies of Diversified English and American Literary Works

As far as the present situation is concerned, many translated English and American literary works do not really show the author's truth. The translated literary works are too rigid. Through the above content, we have further understood the cultural differences between China and the West. Therefore, under the influence of the cultural differences between China and the west, we should find out the translation skills and Strategies of literary works as soon as possible, so as to translate more authentic British and American literary works.

4.1 Taking Domestication and Foreignization as the Starting Point of Translation

In 1990, American scholars put forward two ideas in literary translation, that is, domestication

and foreignization. The common starting point of these two thoughts is to let readers enter into the author's works, deeply appreciate the works, as little as possible be disturbed by the translator's subjective thoughts, so that readers can feel the author's thoughts to the greatest extent, experience the meaning of the works, and understand the most real connotation.

In the process of translating English and American literary works, it is necessary to choose domestication and foreignization reasonably and appropriately according to the text and the actual situation. These two methods are opposite, domestication is the literal translation and transliteration of the work content. For example, when translating *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, Mr. Zhang Ruogu used the idea of domestication and explained the British customs in his works through footnotes, so as to help readers better understand the contents of literary works. In addition, many translators use both domestication and foreignization to translate works. The ultimate goal is to let readers better understand the connotation of the works, and more deeply understand the exotic customs of other countries.

4.2 Taking Readers' Feelings as the Foothold of Translation

The basic purpose of translation is to serve the readers, so the readers' feelings are the best feedback of the translator. Translators should try to make their own translation more authentic. This requires us to understand the needs of the readers from the standpoint of the readers. When we can't use Chinese language for description, we can use the combination of foreignization and domestication to avoid rigid translation, use footnotes to indicate foreign cultural customs and habits, show the differences between Chinese and Western cultures, help the readers better understand the works, and realize the transmission of excellent British and American literary works. Broadcast, the translator must fully realize that the translation of literary works is not only the language itself, it more conveys the rich human knowledge and cultural connotation, which requires the translator not only to have a solid foundation of translation, but also to have a rich connotation of human quality.

4.3 Fully Understand the Implied Meaning Behind English Vocabulary

When translating British and American literary works, the most important thing is to combine the translation with the language environment, not only to look at the surface meaning of words, but also to take cultural differences into account. In many previous translation works, literal translation works usually only express the surface meaning, not dig out the deep meaning. For example, the surface meaning of the English idiom "smile a rat" is to smell a mouse, so the translation is obviously wrong. We should translate it into feeling bad about something. Generally speaking, the meaning of the English idiom is accumulated over a long period of time. Therefore, when translating works, we should not only look at the surface meaning, but also go deep into the context and substitute sentences into the language environment.

5. Conclusion

To sum up, the differences between Chinese and Western cultures put forward higher requirements for the translation of British and American literary works. When translating works, first of all, we should fully understand the differences between Chinese and Western values, ways of thinking and customs, and make use of these differences to better serve our own translation. At the same time, in the actual translation process, we should comprehensively consider various factors to integrate Chinese and Western literature. The influence of Fang's cultural differences is minimized, and more excellent translations of British and American literary works are presented to the readers.

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