

# An Analysis of Translation Skills from the Perspective of Skopos Theory

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**Abstract:** This paper first introduces the skopos theory, and analyzes the application principles of translation skills in terms of adaptability and faithfulness. Then, it puts forward the application strategies of translation skills from the perspective of Skopos theory by focusing on four aspects: clarifying the requirements of text translation, paying attention to the scientific use of terms, realizing the deep interpretation of metaphor, and making flexible choice of means.

## 1. Introduction

Skopos theory is an important development achievement of functionalism theory, which plays a very important role in and supports the cause of modern translation. From the perspective of Skopos theory, translation is no longer a traditional static and fixed linguistic behavior, but a cultural information conversion activity based on different purposes, different environments and different objects, which requires the translator to be responsible to both the sender and the recipient of the language or text information. Therefore, in order to improve the effectiveness of translation results, it is necessary for us to discuss and analyze the translation skills from the perspective of Skopos theory.

## 2. The Application Principles of Translation Skills from the Perspective of Skopos Theory.

The theoretical concept of Skopos Theory was developed from the functionalist translation theory of Germany in the 20th century. To a great extent, it got rid of the static and fixed traditional translation thought, and placed the language translation behavior in a new cross-cultural and cross-contextual model. From the perspective of Skopos theory, translators should adhere to the behavioral concept of "result determination method" and adjust translation skills, translation content and translation thinking from the ultimate goal of translation behavior, so that the translation results can conform to the application environment and resonate with the target readers. Based on this, translators should follow the following principles when applying translation skills from the perspective of Skopos Theory:

### 2.1 Principle of Adaptability of Translation Skills

It is influenced by the historical development, the social form, the cultural concept and so on, and the cultural context in the west is very different, and it is in a great extent the use of all kinds of vocabulary and grammar. For example, red in Chinese culture is a symbol of happy and auspicious, so it has a certain beautification and modification effect, such as "red package", "dividend", "the Red Star" and so on. In the western culture, the red is related to the "blood", the "flame" and other things, and then represents the cruelty, the evil, the revenge, and so on. At this time, when the translator works in the translation of Chinese and Western languages, it is necessary to define the concept of the "Red" in the context of the purpose The meaning of the symbol, and then make good use and use with caution. It is only to ensure that the translation results are compatible with their cultural context, so that the target reader can be accurately and quickly integrated into the text context, and the comprehensive grasp of the translation content is realized[1].

In addition, the principle of appropriateness of translation skills is also reflected in the differences of translation types. In the translation of business, science, medicine and other text content, the translator must be careful and meticulous, and try to translate word for word, sentence

for sentence based on the text, so as to ensure that the translation results are completely consistent with the meaning of the text, which can be used as a good data basis. When translating the living and entertaining content, the translator needs to understand the main meaning, environment background and implementation object of the text, figure out the emotional thoughts of the text author, and then appropriately express the translation language, so as to avoid the alienation and rigidity caused by the word for word translation and fully reflect the humanity and artistry of the translation results.

## **2.2 The Principle of the Fidelity of Translation Skills**

In the process of translation practice, translators should be loyal to both the author and the reader. On the one hand, we should ensure that the translation results are the same as the original meaning of the text, and can fully present the system structure and connotation emotion of the text. On the other hand, it is also necessary to ensure that the translation results match the understanding thinking of the target readers, that is, the content of the original text is smoothly transferred to the familiar cultural environment and language habits of the readers. In cross-cultural translation, the principle of loyalty is particularly important. For example, in the English translation of the word “dragon's descendant” in Chinese context, the translator directly translates it as “the general.” Ions of the dragon will cause errors in the understanding of Western readers. Because in the cultural context of China and the West, the image and extended meaning of the dragon are very different: in our country, the dragon is a symbol of auspiciousness and nobility, while in the western context, the fictional creature of the dragon is synonymous with evil and cruelty. Therefore, from the point of view of loyalty principle, translators can translate Dragon's Legend into “the offspring of Chinese nation” from the point of view of loyalty principle.

## **3. The Application Strategy of Translation Skills from the Perspective of Skopos Theory.**

### **3.1 Clarify Translation Requirements of Text Type**

In the translation practice based on the view of teleology, the translator should make clear consideration to the final result, the application direction and the target audience of the translated works, so as to ensure that the translation results meet the purpose requirements of the text application and conform to the author and the reader's behavior will. For example, in the translation of commercial contract, the translator should specify the serious and standard application requirements of the contract language, understand the legal effect of the contract text in the commercial application, and then make the language formal, clear and precise in the translation. For example, when translating the word “because” in a commercial contract, we should try to avoid the use of “because of” and “due to”, and translate it into “by virtual of”, which is serious and normative; when translating the word “in fact” in a commercial contract, we should avoid the use of “in fact” and translate it into “in effect”. In contrast, the translator's openness and autonomy are much stronger when translating movies and TV plays. For example, in the English-Chinese translation of “who do you think you are, panda?” in the animated movie “Kung Fu Panda”, the translator of the movie uses the word “death” as a modification on the basis of the original text, and translates it into “who do you think you are, dead panda?”. In this way, it can not only show the tense relationship between the two sides, but also make the Chinese audience feel the humor conveyed in the film, so as to better mobilize the audience's mood and arouse the audience's resonance [2].

### **3.2 Emphasis on the Scientific Use of Technical Terms**

In practical work, translators need to face multi-industry, multi-domain, multi-type text materials, so it will inevitably involve medical, scientific and technological, industrial and other professional terms. At this time, if the translator lacks comprehensive terminology knowledge, it will be difficult to grasp the professionalism of this translation, and then reduce the application value of the translation results, or bring readers the wrong cultural demonstration and knowledge output. For

example, in translating medical texts, if the translator does not have a high level of medical English accumulation, it will be difficult to complete the accurate translation of professional terms such as “portal hypertension”, “progressive muscle dystrophy” and “pulmonary embolism”. Therefore, from the perspective of Skopos theory, translators should not only make clear the ultimate purpose of translation behavior and the main needs of target readers, but also take translation purpose as the main direction of their own learning and development, so as to make up for the shortcomings and defects of traditional translation concepts and significantly improve the scientificity, accuracy and professionalism of translation results.

### **3.3 Deep Interpretation of Metaphorical Content**

In the human language system, metaphor is not only a high-level rhetorical device, but also a cultural behavior formed through psychological activities such as experience, feeling, imagination and understanding. Based on the principles of adaptability and loyalty of Skopos theory, translators should make a deep understanding of the author's inner activities, thoughts and feelings in writing and expression, and combine the context differences between the author and the reader to realize the mining, extraction and transformation of metaphorical content in the text. For example, when translating the line “I got a little money stashed away for a rainy day” in the American TV series “2 broke girls”, the translator should first understand the metaphorical meanings of “bad weather” and “bad situation” behind the surface meaning of “rainy day” in the western cultural context. After that, translators need to shift their thinking to the local context to analyze whether the word “rainy day” in Chinese also has metaphorical attribute. At this time, because the word “rainy day” in the Chinese context has no metaphorical ability, the translator must process the deep expression of the line, and then translate it into “I leave some money for a rainy day”, so as to ensure that it meets the translation requirements of Skopos theory, interpret the implied meaning of the line, and smoothly convey it to the Chinese audience.

However, it should be noted that when interpreting metaphor, if the translator finds that there is an intersection of Chinese and Western cultural contexts in the relevant metaphorical content, the metaphor can also be translated directly without conversion or processing. Take the film and television drama “2 Broke Girls” as an example: In the play, there is a line of “You better widen the net a bit”, which means “you'd better cast a bigger net”. The metaphorical meaning is “not limited to someone, something, but to expand the scope in order to achieve a better goal effect.” Whether this English line is Surface consciousness or metaphorical meaning is highly consistent with the saying of “casting a big net and fishing for big fish” in our country. Therefore, even if the translator adopts a simple literal translation method, it can achieve a good translation purpose and communication effect too [3].

### **3.4 Flexible Choice of Translation Means**

Although Skopos perspective puts forward many requirements for translation work, under normal circumstances, translators still have a relatively free choice of translation means. In short, on the basis of Skopos theory, translators can achieve the ultimate goal of translation through literal translation, transliteration, free translation, contraction translation, mixed translation and other means. For example, when translating the Chinese name of Western medicine, the translator can make full use of various translation methods, so as to achieve the purpose of translation and achieve better language conversion effect: when translating the name of “valium”, the translator keeps two options of free translation “diazepam” and literal translation “diazepam”. At this time, although it is not wrong to translate the name of the drug directly, it can obviously achieve a stronger effect that not only highlights the therapeutic effect, but also improves the persuasive function if the literal translation is adopted. In the translation of the name of “dolantin”, a western medicine, it can be transliterated as “dolantin” because it is an anesthetic used in the operation and does not have the demand for persuasion. In this way, it can not only avoid the misunderstanding and misusing problems caused by free translation of “pethidine hydrochloride”, but also make the drug name read more smoothly and have more linguistic beauty.

#### **4. Conclusion**

To sum up, it is very necessary to put the flexible application of translation skills from the perspective of Skopos theory. Under the requirements of Skopos theory suitability principle and loyalty principle, translators must make clear the ultimate purpose of translation behavior, deeply analyze the similarities and differences between the author and readers in the cultural context, and then implement effective means to meet the application needs of translation results, rather than blindly and rigidly sticking to the word correspondence. Finally, it is hoped that this paper will be helpful to the practical activities of translators.

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