

An Analysis of English Translation of Chinese Tea Culture-loaded Words

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Abstract: The background of globalization has brought more historical opportunities for China's economic development, and at the same time, it has also provided greater development space for the dissemination of traditional Chinese culture. At present, the revitalization of Chinese culture and the promotion of Chinese civilization have become major tasks and strategic issues for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. China is the birthplace of tea and the cradle of tea culture, and tea culture is an important part of traditional Chinese culture with a long history. Actively promoting the external communication of tea culture is conducive to enhancing the influence and competitiveness of Chinese culture. Taking cross-cultural communication theory as the guiding principle, this paper analyzes the English translation of the loaded words of Chinese tea culture, and explores appropriate translation skills to promote China's tea culture to the world stage better.

Keywords: Intercultural Communication Theory; Chinese Tea Culture; Translation Skills

1. Introduction

Under the background of "Belt and Road Initiative", the standardized translation of tea culture in Shaanxi, as the starting point of the Silk Road, is of great significance in promoting Chinese culture to the world. Throughout the 5,000 years of Chinese civilization, tea is one of the most influential cultural symbols of China as an important part of ancient Chinese culture. China is also striving to build a friendly image of a big country, insisting on the road of peaceful development, and paying more and more attention to the attraction and appeal of its culture and values to the international community. Exporting the nation's outstanding culture can not only effectively optimize the national image, enhance the attractiveness and influence of Chinese culture, but also improve the international status. At the same time, it can also increase the goodwill of countries around the world towards China, so that the positive effects of cultural export can benefit the political, diplomatic, economic and trade fields.

2. Intercultural Communication Theory and Translation

Intercultural communication theory is that studies the interaction and mutual understanding between different cultures, and it focuses on the differences and similarities between different cultures and how these differences affect communication and understanding between people. In the process of communication, people should not only focus on the surface meaning of the language, but also understand the cultural background and implied meanings, and people need to learn to adapt their behaviors and communication styles to conform to the habits and norms of each other's cultures in order to promote mutual understanding and cooperation. Intercultural Communication Theory provides a theoretical framework for understanding the problems and difficulties that may be encountered when communicating in an intercultural environment. The theory analyzes the effects of linguistic, non-linguistic and cultural contexts on communication and provides strategies and techniques to promote effectiveness and success in intercultural communication.

Translation is the process of transforming the meaning of one language into another. It plays an important role in intercultural communication because different languages and cultures have different grammar, vocabulary and cultural backgrounds, which can lead to distortion in the delivery of messages. Translation needs to take into account cultural differences and find the right way to convey a message so that it is accurately understood in another language and culture. Translators need to understand the differences between languages and cultures and use appropriate linguistic and cultural symbols to convey accurate meanings. There is a strong link between intercultural communication theory and translation because intercultural communication theory provides translators with theoretical guidance in dealing with intercultural communication and helps them understand and adapt to communication differences and barriers in different cultures. Translation, on the other hand, serves as a bridge in intercultural communication, helping accurate and effective communication between different languages and cultures.

3. Translation Skills of Chinese Tea Culture Loaded Words in the Perspective of Intercultural Communication

There are many kinds of tea in China, for example, the translation of “Liu An Gua Pian” and “Qi Shan Ming Pian” in green tea, in which the place of origin of tea appears, if the transliteration is “Liu An Gua Pian” and “Qi Shan Ming Pian”, it will not only make the target language readers confused and not understand the cultural connotation, but also not clear that this is the kind of tea. If it is transliterated as “Liu An Gua Pian” or “Qi Shan Ming Pian”, it will not only make the target language readers confused and not understand the cultural connotations, but also not be clear about the type of tea. Therefore, the “place of origin” here has both the “place name” and the “mountain name”, such as “Liu An (city)”, “Qishan (mountain)”. Therefore, in the Chinese tea category, Chinese tea named after the origin, the number is quite large. Therefore, “place name + tea name” of this kind of tea, purely transliteration is too simple, not conducive to the performance of tea characteristics and types. Through the method of transliteration and annotation, it can be translated as “Liu An Gua Pian (Flake Shape Green Tea)” and “Qi Shan Ming Pian (Flake Shape Green Tea)”. Through this kind of translation treatment, the specific characteristics of Chinese tea can not only be conveyed, but also let the target language readers feel the profundity of Chinese tea culture.

For example, how to translate Anhua “Unshredded Black Tea”, because we know that there is a difference between “工夫红茶” and “功夫红茶”, do we need to translate it into “Congou Black Tea”? Check the information shows that “工夫茶” refers to black tea and part of the Wuyi Rock Tea, where “工夫” is obviously the force, the meaning of time, and then gradually extended to spend effort to make good tea. The “功夫红茶” more refers to a black tea brewing method, according to the literal interpretation, “功夫” refers to the skill or technology, “功夫茶” refers to the bubble tea, cooking tea and technical skills. It refers to the art of making tea, cooking tea, which is about the knowledge and skill of steeping, tasting and drinking. Therefore, they are completely different concepts and should be translated separately. Here we adopt the translation method of free translation, and translate “工夫红茶” as “Unshredded Black Tea”, “功夫红茶” as “Congou Black Tea”.

Another example is how to translate the most famous “西湖龙井茶”? If directly translated as “Long Jing Tea”, it can not achieve the effect of cross-cultural communication, the target language readers simply do not understand the cultural characteristics, based on cross-cultural communication, we should respect the Western culture, and at the same time disseminate our Chinese culture, we know that the West Lake is a place name, the Longjing take the method of transliteration. Therefore, “西湖龙井茶” is translated as “West Lake Longjing Tea”.

Another example is how to translate “Mingqian tea” and “Yuqian tea” in green tea. Because the name of tea is not a simple symbol, which contains a wealth of connotations, reflecting China’s geographic environment, national concepts, customs, aesthetic values and other cultural factors. “Mingqian tea” is harvested before the Qingming Festival, when translating this kind of tea name, we should restore the meaning of the original name as much as possible, so that the target language readers can appreciate the profundity of the Chinese language and the colorfulness of the Chinese tea culture. The “Ming” in “Mingqian Tea” refers to “Qingming Festival”, which is one of the traditional festivals of the Chinese nation. As for the “tea before the rain”, the rain here refers to “Guyu”, which is one of the twenty-four traditional Chinese festivals. Therefore, we should translate its implied meaning, and adopt the literal translation method to translate “Mingqian Tea” as “Pre-Qingming Festival Tea”, and “Yuqian Tea” as “Pre-Grain Rain Tea”. This kind of translation not only accurately expresses the content of the original text, but also expresses the connotation of the festival and the time of tea picking, and lets the readers of the target language understand the traditional Chinese festivals and festivals.

4. Conclusion

By analyzing the above examples, we should pay more attention to the accuracy of tea culture translation. With the continuous dissemination of Chinese culture, the door of China’s opening to the outside world wider and wider, and international exchanges becoming more and more frequent, more and more international friends are keen on learning Chinese history and culture, and more and more Chinese students and tourists come to China in admiration of the culture. In order to make Chinese history and culture more widely publicized, accurate English translation of cultural names is a crucial step, and more importantly, the width of the translator’s own knowledge will directly affect the quality and speed of translation.

The process of translation is conveying cultural information, and it is necessary to study the commonality and individuality of cultural contexts and cultures among peoples as well as the surface and deep structures of languages, explore the inner connection and objective regularity between culture and translation, and not to be puzzled by superficial phenomena. For translators, translation work

involves a lot of knowledge, and only by enriching their professional knowledge can they be able to learn from others and improve the efficiency of translation work. In other words, the width of the translator's own knowledge will directly affect the quality and speed of translation. Translators need to have a correct attitude, improve their own quality, professional translation ability and a strong sense of responsibility. As a bridge between two cultures, the translator needs to be clear about the relevant cultural background and connotation, and make the translation accurate. Therefore, historical and cultural monuments with deep cultural heritage need to be translated by translators with high cultural literacy, so that the readers of the target language can better understand Chinese culture and widely publicize it.

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