

A Study on the Translation Strategies of Patriotic Films from the Perspective of Skopos Theorie – A Case Study of Full Red River

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Abstract: Based on the perspective of Skopos theory, this article explores the application of translation theory in the translation process. Firstly, the basic concepts of Skopos theory were introduced, emphasizing the guiding role of translation purpose and function in translation methods. Subsequently, emphasis was placed on analyzing the relationship between functionalism and cultural dissemination, emphasizing the importance of considering cultural factors in translation to effectively convey subtle differences and meanings. Next, by analyzing patriotic films and their translation challenges, the key role of cultural symbols in patriotic films is revealed. Finally, taking the film Full Red River as an example, this paper makes an in-depth study of translation strategies, discusses the challenges in retaining emotional expression and cultural symbols, and the comprehensive strategies to deal with these challenges.

Keywords: Teleology; Patriotic films; Translation strategy; Full Red River

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Introduction:

In the context of globalization, translation has become increasingly important as a bridge across language and cultural differences. As a translation theory, Skopos theory provides us with a powerful tool that enables translators to better understand the purpose of translation behavior and flexibly respond to various challenges during the translation process. Through these studies, we can better understand the complexity of translation in different cultural backgrounds and provide useful insights for improving translation quality.

1. Translation Theory from the Perspective of Skopos Theory

1.1 Basic Concepts of Skopos Theory

Skopos originated from the German word Skopos, meaning “purpose”. Skopos theory is a translation theory that focuses on the purpose or function of translation. The basic concept of teleology revolves around understanding the expected purpose of the translation process and customizing translations to effectively achieve that purpose. Skopos theory refers to the study of purposes or purposes based on causal relationships. In the context of translation, Skopos theory involves determining the purpose or function behind translation behavior. According to Skopos theory, translators should be aware of the ultimate goal of translating texts, whether it is to inform, entertain, persuade, or serve other specific functions. Skopos theory recognizes that translation is not a one size fits all approach, and translation methods must be consistent with the expected purpose or function of the target text. Therefore, translators must consider the specific communicative context, audience expectations, and the expected impact of the translated work. This dynamic approach emphasizes the importance of adjusting translation strategies to meet the different needs of different projects. In practice, the application of Skopos theory involves making thoughtful decisions on the fidelity of the source text, language and cultural adjustments, and stylistic choices based on the expected translation purpose. This theory enables translators to make purpose driven choices, ensuring that the translated text effectively performs its intended function in a given context.

1.2 Skopos Theory and Cultural Communication

Skopos theory extends its relevance beyond linguistic considerations, encompassing key dimensions of cultural dissemination. The core of the teleological principle of cultural communication in teleology is to recognize that the ~~purpose or~~ purpose of translation is not only language transmission, but also the effective dissemination of cultural nuances and meanings. The teleological principle in cultural communication holds that the primary goal of translators is to ensure that the target audience understands and participates in the cultural aspects embedded in the source text. This not only involves language fidelity, but also a keen understanding of the social and cultural background of the source text's origin. Skopos theory, by acknowledging the cultural objectives of translation, encourages translators to navigate the complex interactions between language and culture, thereby improving the communicative effectiveness of translated works. Skopos theory plays a crucial role in cross-cultural translation, providing a framework that acknowledges the dynamic nature of cultural differences. It emphasizes that successful cross-cultural translation requires not only language accuracy; It needs to appreciate the subtle cultural differences that shape meaning. This theory recognizes that different cultures may have different expectations, sensitivities, and communication styles, and these factors must be considered in the translation process. In cross-cultural translation, Skopos theory guides translators to make culturally informed decisions. It encourages adaptation of content, idioms, and cultural references to meet the expectations and preferences of the target audience. This method ensures that the translated text not only accurately conveys the expected information, but also resonates with the cultural sensitivity of the target reader or audience. Essentially, the role of functionalism in cross-cultural translation emphasizes its commitment to achieving effective communication beyond language barriers, recognizing that cultural understanding is an indispensable part of the success of the entire translation process.

2. The Characteristics and Translation Challenges of Patriotic Films

2.1 Analysis of Elements in Patriotic Films

As a genre, patriotic films need to undergo element analysis to examine their profound themes and emotional expressions. This theme is a fundamental aspect that typically revolves around love, sacrifice, and national pride towards the country. These themes are intricately intertwined in the narrative, serving as the foundation for emotional expression. Emotional expression is a key element in patriotic films, and filmmakers aim to evoke patriotism, pride, and loyalty from the audience. Through captivating storytelling, emotional journeys of characters, and influential photography, these films strategically manipulate emotions and create a resonant patriotic experience. Cultural symbols play a crucial role in conveying the essence of patriotism in movies. The national flag, anthem, historical landmarks, and national heroes are often used as visual and symbolic representatives of national identity. These symbols are carefully integrated into the narrative, serving as channels for the audience to establish emotional connections with the depicted patriotic passion. In addition, the use of cultural symbols in patriotic films presents a series of unique challenges to translation. Translators face a delicate task of preserving the cultural specificity and emotional resonance associated with these symbols, while ensuring that they are understandable and meaningful to different audiences. Balancing cultural authenticity and universal appeal is crucial for maintaining the expected impact of a film across language and cultural boundaries. Symbols include visual metaphors, fable expressions, and recurring themes. These symbols contribute to the layered narrative in patriotic films, providing additional depth and meaning. When translating these symbols, it is crucial to maintain their cultural significance and connotation to ensure that the essence of the narrative remains unchanged.

2.2 Cultural Transformation in Translation

Cross cultural communication is fundamentally influenced by changes in language, customs, values, and social norms. Translators involved in this process must have a profound understanding of the cultural nuances embedded in the source text. Recognizing these differences is crucial for ensuring that translated works not only accurately convey expected information, but also resonate with the cultural sensitivity of the target audience. Cultural suitability requires adjusting content to meet the cultural expectations and norms of the target audience. This may involve modifying idioms, references, or expressions to make them more relevant or understandable in the cultural context of the audience. However, this pursuit of cultural appropriateness must be balanced with the need to be faithful to the original text. Maintaining fidelity ensures the preservation of the essence and completeness of the original information during the translation process. Striving an appropriate balance between cultural appropriateness and fidelity is a challenging task, as excessive literal translation can lead to cultural imbalance, while excessive adaptation can result in a loss of authenticity in the source text. Therefore, cultural transformation in translation requires meticulous methods. The translator must act as a cultural intermediary and be adept at handling the complexity of the source and target cultures. This requires not only language proficiency, but also cultural competence to ensure that translated works transcend language boundaries and truthfully convey expected information in a new cultural context. Essentially, cultural transformation in translation is a clever negotiation between preserving the essence of the source

culture and engaging in effective communication within the target culture.

3. Analysis of Translation Strategies by taking Full Red River as an example

3.1 Film Background and Patriotic Theme

The film Full Red River, with its fascinating narrative and patriotic themes, provides a rich background for the study of translation strategies. Firstly, a thorough study of the plot background is crucial for understanding the subtle differences in the background that shape the overall information of a movie. The plot of Full Red River unfolds against the historical background, interweaving personal narrative with larger social events. It explores the struggles, sacrifices, and victories of individuals caught up in the wave of national turmoil. A detailed introduction to the plot background is crucial for translators as it lays the foundation for understanding the thematic elements embedded in the movie. The theme of patriotism runs through Full Red River, and the characters respond to challenges with firm commitment to the country. This movie summarizes the spirit of patriotism through the actions, dialogues, and emotional arcs of the characters. Whether depicting heroic behavior, expressing national pride, or sacrificing for greater gain, this film intricately weaves these elements into its narrative structure. The patriotic theme in Full Red River goes beyond mere representation, and it involves arousing the audience's emotional reaction. The challenge faced by translators is to preserve the subtle emotional differences related to patriotism and ensure that the translated version resonates with the audience in a similar way. This requires a sharp understanding of the cultural and emotional foundation of the source text.

3.2 Translation Challenges and Strategy Analysis

The translation of Full Red River presents a unique challenge, especially in the preservation of emotional expression and cultural symbols. Emotion is an important aspect of this movie that requires meticulous handling to convey the expected impact of the character's emotions. Translating emotional expressions involves capturing subtle differences in dialogue, tone, and context. The emotional landscape of this movie, from strong patriotism to personal sacrifice, requires a translation strategy to ensure that these emotions resonate with the target audience. The challenge for translators is to find equivalent expressions that can evoke similar emotional responses, transcending the boundaries of language and culture. The choice of words, wording, and cultural references must be consistent with the emotional tone of the original work and maintain the emotional authenticity of the movie. For example, the Chinese saying “螳螂捕蝉，黄雀在后” was translated as the western saying “The wolf has a winning game when the shepherds quarrel”. The translation shares a similar cultural meaning with the Chinese one and helps western audience understand its meaning correctly. The phrase “软骨头” was translated as “wimp” instead of literally “soft bone”. This translation avoids a misunderstanding of the phrase as a disease and clearly communicates its meaning to target audience. So, cultural symbols play an important role in “Full Red River”, which is the visual and symbolic expression of national identity. The translation selection of these symbols is a delicate task that requires a balance between cultural fidelity and audience understanding. The translator must decide whether to retain the symbols of the source culture or adjust them to resonate with the target culture. This decision involves understanding the cultural connotations associated with specific symbols, ensuring that the expected meaning is not lost in translation.

4. Conclusion

Overall, this article provides an in-depth analysis of translation theory and its application in cultural dissemination and patriotic film translation from the perspective of functionalism. Taking Full Red River as an example, this paper expounds the challenges and coping strategies in emotional expression and cultural symbol translation. To deeply understand the complexity of translation, it is necessary to maintain emotional resonance while also considering the adaptability of cultural symbols. This study provides translators with a comprehensive perspective of thinking, promoting more accurate and in-depth communication in cross-cultural translation.

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