

A Study of Moderate Prosperity in All Respects: Another Milestone Achieved in China's Human Rights from the Perspective of Eco-translatology

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Abstract: This thesis will conduct a case analysis of the translation of the Human Right White Paper(HRWP)within the framework of Eco-translatology,systematically analyzing the question of how to"select"and"adapt"for translators from the dimensions of language,culture,and communication.

Keywords: Eco-translatology;Human rights;"Adaption"and"Selection"

Introduction

Nowadays,the world has become more interconnected and countries around the globe have been more closely interdependent. Since the introduction of reform and opening up in 1978,China has made remarkable progress in economy,politics,culture,science and technology,human rights,and so on,especially in the 21 st century.Then it comes a long way in improving its human rights.

On August 12,2021,the State Council Information Office of China released the white paper titled"Moderate Prosperity in All Respects:Another Milestone Achieved in China's Human Rights".This white paper reviews and summarizes the remarkable journey of building a moderately prosperous society,confirming the significance of this achievement for the development of China's human rights cause.The white paper is rich in facts and data,providing China's wisdom and solutions to the development of the world's human rights cause.

Therefore,the translation of the white paper is significant in conveying China's voice and conveying Chinese ideas.In this context,Hu Genshen's theory of Eco-translatology is of great guidance to the translation of white paper.Eco-Translatology,rooted in indigenous translation theories,aligns more closely with the research logic and thinking patterns of Chinese translators.

1. Studies on Eco-translatology

In October 2001,Hu Gengshen delivered a lecture titled"From the Darwinian Principle of Adaptation and Selection to Translation Studies"at Hong Kong Baptist University.Later that same year,he further developed his ideas on Eco-translatology during his presentation"Initial Exploration into a Translation Theory of Adaptation and Selection"at the 3rd FIT Asian Translators Forum,held from December 6th to 8th.Since then,Eco-translatology has significantly expanded and matured into a well-structured and detailed field of study.Eco-translatology introduces a new way to analyze translation studies by highlighting the central role of translators in adapting and selecting during the translation process.It defines translation as'an activity of translators'selection of the transplanted text after they have adapted themselves to the translational ecology.In this process,the translators play a central role in and focus on the transformation of cross-cultural information based on the source text."(Hu,2013)

The theoretical foundation of Eco-translatology draws heavily on the notion of adaptation and selection from ecological science. Hu equates the translation process to an ecological environment where various textual elements interact,and adaptive strategies must be employed for effective translation outcomes(Hu,2008).Eco-translatology emerged in 2001 amid the rising global interest in ecology and the wisdom deeply rooted in China's history.(Hu,2010)

In summary,Eco-translatology provides a holistic and sustainable framework for understanding and conducting translation.

2. A Case Study of the English Version of the 2021 HRWP

In this part, examples and analysis are provided to showcase the application of Eco-translatology in dealing with different phrases and sentences in Human Right White Paper.

2.1 Translators' Selection from the Linguistic Dimension

2.1.1 Tactics in Dealing with Repetition in Chinese

When translating Chinese texts into English, one of the challenges that translators face is dealing with repetition. In the book *The Translator's Guide to Chinglish*, Pinkham offers translators four strategies to address unnecessary repetition when translating from Chinese to English. These strategies include "to find further (or different) meaning in the original; to delete the redundant words; to change the wording; to let the repetition stand." (2000:95) Official writings are "information priority" texts so the solution lies in deleting the redundancy in Chinese.

Example 1. China has always been committed to respecting, protecting and advancing human rights, and the ultimate goal of increasing the people's sense of fulfillment, happiness and security.

Chinese writers and readers often struggle with redundancy in their writing, as they tend to repeat words and ideas to emphasize key points. This practice is common in Chinese to convey strong feelings and stress important concepts. However, English-speaking readers do not require this level of repetition as they focus more on conveying facts and information rather than reiterating meanings or emotions. In Pinkham's book, she discusses "Redundant Twins" and divides them into three types, one of which is "a pair of words in which the meaning of one is virtually the same as that of the other" (Pinkham, 2000). The case above proves that the tactic of deleting redundant meaning is a feasible choice for the translators.

2.1.2 Tactics in Dealing with "Modifiers"

Example 2. It actively carried out pilot programs to achieve full legal defense coverage in criminal cases.

Though some have criticized the use of adverb in the English sentence, this modifier is indispensable as it clarifies the attitude; its removal may obscure the intended meaning. However, alternative approaches exist to address this issue.

It is common to see that adjectives are translated into adverbs to modify the verbs. According to the 2021 HRWP, the translators have converted the word class. Here are some examples.

Example 3. Active measures have been taken in these four areas, and the main targets have been reached.

Example 4. Proactive Efforts have been made to help people with disabilities emerge from poverty.

In these two cases, the phrases "active measures have been taken in" and "proactive efforts have been made to" are adopted in translation to accommodate to readers' habits. So if possible, the adverbs in Chinese can be transformed into other word class such as adjective, and the verbs in Chinese can be substituted with prepositions. The translators show great initiatives in translating the text in order to realize "adaptive transformation", echoing the theory "translator-centeredness" in Eco-translatology.

2.1.3 Tactics in Dealing with "Zero Subject" in Chinese

Chinese official texts often contain long sentences and may lack explicit subjects. In English, sentences typically do not begin with a verb unless in imperative form. Translators commonly address this by breaking sentences into meaningful segments and introducing subjects where necessary. It is crucial to carefully select subjects to ensure the linguistic styles of the source and target texts align.

Example 5. China adheres to a series of principles and policies to encourage, support and guide the development of the non-public sector...

In this sentence, why not the author uses "we" to tell "our" story but adds the subject "China"? "The first-person pronouns make people easier to integrate themselves into the text and feel more intimate. The application of the third-person makes readers feel like narrating or showing something. There is a gap in between, thus making readers treat the whole thing from the viewpoint of critics." (Wang, 2019) She analyzes this phenomenon from the perspective of narration. Therefore, in order to narrate a story objectively, China should employ the third-person perspective to make it more acceptable and convincing in international communication.

2.2 Translators' Selection from the Cultural Dimension

2.2.1 Tactics in the Translation of Chinese Political Slogans

Example 6. In this unified multi-ethnic country, the sense of identity of the Chinese nation is heightened to unite all the people in pressing forward for common prosperity and a bright future.

The original Chinese sentence employs a rhetorical device known as parallelism, common in Chinese prose, which emphasizes multiple aspects of a concept through repetition and symmetrical structure. This style, while powerful in Chinese, can be overly repetitive and cumbersome in English. In the translation, this parallel structure is streamlined to "pressing forward for common prosperity and a bright future." This simplification reduces redundancy and aligns with English rhetorical preferences, which generally favor brevity

and less formal structure.

In summary,when handling political slogans,it is more advisable to delete and omit the unnecessary images in Chinese culture,repitition and the parallelism in Chinese language.

2.2.2 Tactics in Tackling Words with Chinese Cultural Characteristics

Example7.China has enforced strict eco-environmental red lines and made solid efforts to prevent and control pollution....

The phrases"red lines"and"made solid efforts to"in the original texts are loaded with cultural characteristics and are illustrative of the Chinese government's approach to policy enforcement.They also use metaphorical language,however,this case is different from the previous one,the two terms can retain its metaphorical meanings.

The direct translation of"red lines"is effective because the concept of a"red line"as a metaphor for non-negotiable boundaries is also used in English,particularly in political and strategic contexts.This makes the term both linguistically and culturally translatable while preserving its original strength and urgency.

From the examples we can learn that the expressions like"make solid efforts"are commonly used in Chinese official writing and can also be translated into"win the battle against XX".It reflects Nida's formal equivalence,saying that the messages conveyed by the translators have to meet the"the receptor's linguistic needs and cultural expectation"and reach the goal of"complete naturalness of expression".(1964:166).

Therefore,with equivalent expression in the target language,sometimes the metaphorical meaning can be retained because it also convey the deeper implications of the original.

2.3 Translators' Selection from the Communicative Dimension

2.3.1 Interpretation of Rhetorical Information for International Communication

Example8.The funds have supported treatment for more than 20 million poor patients,relieving their families of the financial burden incurred by medical expenses.

The original text uses a metaphor which implies resilience and recovery.In English,the translation"relieving their families of the financial burden incurred by medical expenses"shifts from a metaphorical to a literal interpretation.This change is significant because metaphors can vary greatly in their cultural resonance and may not be clear enough in another language.By focusing on the financial relief,the translation echoes the previous paragraphs,making the target text more coherent and smooth.

By interpreting the rhetorical information,the translation enhances the communicative impact of the text.This approach not only maintains the original message's intent but also expands its accessibility and relevance and ensures that the text is information-centered,facilitating better international communication and understanding.

2.3.2 Different Translations for the Same Chinese Words

Example9.China advocates an employment-first strategy and a proactive employment policy.It encourages widespread entrepreneurship and innovation,and gives top priority to ensuring stability in employment and people's well-being.It is committed to realizing fuller employment,with decent jobs for all and harmonious labor relations.

"Fuller employment"suggests a focus on the quantity and availability of jobs.The use of"fuller"instead of"full"implies an ongoing process towards achieving complete employment,rather than a static state.

The translation shifts from the literal"decent employment"to"decent jobs for all."This change not only avoids repetition but also emphasizes the quality of employment,suggesting not just jobs,but"decent"ones,thereby focusing on the dignity and quality of work,which aligns with international labor standards.

"Harmonious labor relations"shifts the focus from employment itself to the environment and relationships within the workplace.This reflects a broader interpretation,considering the cultural and social dimensions of employment.In this case,"harmonious employment"is correct linguistically.However,such a direct translation might not fully convey the broader implications.The term"harmonious"in English,especially when used in the context of employment,can be ambiguous or lack the specific connotations intended in Chinese,which emphasizes not only individual job satisfaction but also a collective,peaceful,and productive work environment.

3. Conclusion

Linguistically,translators should avoid repetition in information-centered text,convert the word class or employ alternative phrases to reduce the overuse of modifiers,translate the adverbs directly,add Chinese subjects omitted in the original text and employ third-person narration to enhance the document's objectivity.

Culturally,translators should remove redundant images from Chinese political slogans,exercise subjectivity when cultural elements appearing in the source text and provide explanations to readers if necessary.

In order to realize effective international communication and ensure successful transmission of information, it is necessary for translators to have a thorough comprehension of the policies and offer sufficient background knowledge for foreign readers. In other words, translators are encouraged to possess political awareness and a strong grasp of policies.

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