

Translation of English Literature from the Perspective of Acceptance Aesthetics Theory

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Abstract: English literary translation activities have linear characteristics. Throughout the translation process, translators should pay attention to the reader's acceptance and provide reliable guarantees for the effectiveness of English literary translation. In order to improve reader acceptance, translators need to strengthen their research on reception aesthetics theory and carry out translation work under the guidance of reception aesthetics theory. Based on this, this article mainly analyzes the connotation of reception aesthetics theory and explores English literary translation strategies from the perspective of reception aesthetics theory, in order to provide reference for relevant personnel.

Keywords: Acceptance of aesthetic theory; Translation of English literature; Strategy

Literature, as an art form, has strong personalized characteristics, which are reflected in both internal concepts and external content. Therefore, literary translation work is relatively complex and has great uncertainty, which increases the difficulty of translators. For a long time, many people have focused on the research of literary translation theory, providing various directions for literary translation. The development of English literary translation reflects a clear reader centered concept. In the process of English literary translation, translators should recognize the essence of translation work, run through reader awareness throughout the entire translation process, and meet reader expectations. There is a high degree of compatibility between the theory of reception aesthetics and the essence of literary translation work. Translators should deeply analyze the theory of reception aesthetics, actively implement the theory of reception aesthetics in English literary translation work, and promote the return of value rationality in English literary translation.

1. An Overview of the Theory of Acceptance Aesthetics

In the process of forming aesthetic theories, Iser and Yaos made significant contributions. The theory of receptive aesthetics mainly includes core concepts such as expected field of vision, fusion of perspectives, and undefined points. Unlike other translation theories, the reception aesthetics theory requires translators to value their readers and place them in an important position. Firstly, accepting aesthetic theory holds that the meaning of literary works is open and uncertain. Different readers who read the same literary work will have differentiated reading comprehension and feelings, which will affect the communication of the meaning of the work. Both literary creation and literary translation are dynamic creative processes. In this process, readers' reading and acceptance of the work will continuously enrich the meaning of the work, thereby promoting the diversified generation of the meaning of the work. Secondly, accepting aesthetic theory places readers at the center of literary creation. According to the theory of acceptance aesthetics, literary works have many blank and unspecified points, and readers will supplement the blank points and determine the unspecified points during the reading process. Readers will generate reading expectations based on their own various situations during reading, thus making psychological predictions about literary works. Whether literary works meet the reading expectations of readers can affect their recognition of literary works. Translators should be aware of this in English literary translation and strive to meet the reading expectations of readers. Finally, when translating literary works from the perspective of aesthetic theory, it is important to maintain a certain aesthetic distance to encourage readers to gain new experiences and broaden their reading horizons. When creating aesthetic distance, it is important to control the degree to avoid being too advanced and causing readers to have a difficult reading experience. It can be seen that the aesthetic distance of literary works will have

a significant impact on reader reading, and at the same time, it will also affect the value generation of literary works. When conducting English literary translation, translators should create appropriate aesthetic distance to improve the literary, artistic, and readability of English literary translation.^[1]

2. Translation Strategies of English Literature from the Perspective of Acceptance Aesthetics Theory

Based on the significant influence of reception aesthetics theory on the translation of literary works, English literary translators should seek more effective strategies to reflect reception aesthetics theory and improve the attractiveness of translated works to readers when carrying out their work.

2.1 English literary translation should pay attention to readers' "horizon of expectations"

During the reading process, readers will form an expectant perspective based on their own cognition, which will have a significant impact on their later reading. In English literary translation, translators should pay attention to the reader's perspective of expectations, and maximize the integration of the translated work and the reader's perspective of expectations. On the one hand, it stimulates the reader's interest in reading, and on the other hand, it promotes the reader's good aesthetic experience and encourages them to participate in the process of generating meaning in the translated work. Firstly, the translation of English literary works should take into account the aesthetic expectations of readers. Due to various factors, readers may have different aesthetic preferences when reading literary works. Based on this, free translation should be adopted in English literary translation to enhance readers' understanding of the content of literary works. Secondly, translators also need to pay attention to the cultural and psychological expectations of readers. Cultural psychological expectations are influenced by various factors, such as educational background, cultural traditions, etc. Cultural psychological expectations are actually the psychological stereotypes of readers, which can affect their identification with the work. Therefore, in English literary translation, it is necessary to respect the cultural values of readers, use translated vocabulary correctly, and avoid inappropriate vocabulary application that may cause misunderstandings among readers. Finally, English literary translation should also take into account the language habits and expectations of readers, adopt language translation methods that readers like to enhance the infectivity of English literary translation, and encourage readers to evoke language resonance in reading.

2.2 Emphasize the "unspecified" translation of English literature

Acceptance aesthetics has multiple concerns, among which textual meaning is its most central issue. The theory of acceptance aesthetics holds that the meaning of a text is uncertain and requires readers to fill it in during the reading process. Different readers will fill in different content, so when translating English literature, it is important to pay attention to "unspecified" and use effective translation methods to achieve the concretization of uncertainty. In the translation process, translators should adopt diversified translation strategies based on the reader's aesthetic feelings to determine the retention or concretization of "unspecified" content. In order to provide readers with a certain interpretation space in English literary translation, translators also need to accurately grasp the author's historical background and writing style, guide readers to use their imagination under the stimulation of language, and fill in the "unspecified".^[2]

2.3 Implement the "fusion of perspectives" in English literary translation

People's understanding of things has limitations, and in literary translation, people from different eras may have different understandings of the same literary work. The main reason for this problem lies in the different historical periods. The theory of reception aesthetics emphasizes the fusion of perspectives, which requires translators to achieve the fusion of the work's perspective and the reader's expected perspective in the translation of literary works, promoting readers' understanding and acceptance of the reading content. Therefore, in English literary translation, translators should first pay attention to the selection of translation vocabulary, focus on the reader's expectations, and consider the reader's cultural psychology, life experience, knowledge background, etc. to choose the optimal vocabulary. Utilizing vocabulary expression to promote the cultural perspective of literary works and achieve a good integration effect with the reader's perspective. Secondly, translators also need to pay attention to the application of translation sentence structures, accurately grasp the differences between English and Chinese sentence structures, so as to better care for the reader's sentence expectations during translation, and use word order changes, flexible clauses, etc. to achieve accurate expression, which is in line with the reader's expression habits. In English literary translation, translators also need to continuously accumulate translation skills in their work practice, promoting the deep integration of translated works with the reader's perspective.^[3]

3. Conclusion

Based on the significant influence of reception aesthetics theory on the translation of literary works, translators in English literary translation should pay attention to the reflection of reception aesthetics theory in the translation process, and improve readers' recognition of literary works translation. Translators need to accurately grasp the connotation of aesthetic theory of reception, pay attention to the "expected horizon" of readers and the "unspecified" of literary works in English literary translation, achieve the integration of literary translation works and readers' horizons, and promote English literary translation to better meet the reading needs of readers.

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