

On the Influence of Chinese and Western Cultural Differences on the Translation of British and American Literature

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Abstract: There are objective differences between Chinese culture and Western culture, and there are significant differences from people's lifestyles, entertainment and leisure methods to cultural exchanges. The cultural differences between China and the West have a certain blocking effect on communication, as well as the communication of literary works. This article mainly discusses the impact of cultural differences between China and the West from the perspective of English-American literature translation.

Keywords: Chinese and Western Culture; Cultural Differences; Anglo-American Literary Translation

1. Introduction

The different development contexts and civilization forms between China and the West determine that both sides have different language habits and cultural structures. Therefore, when translating Western literary works, we cannot simply translate the meaning. We must pay attention to the differences in cultural systems, deepen our understanding of Chinese and Western language usage habits and culture, and improve translation.^[1] Whether the translated work is readable is closely related to the translator's own language ability and cultural mastery, so the translator needs to focus on improving these two abilities. Cognition of the differences between Chinese and Western languages and cultures, as well as an in-depth understanding of the two, will enable translators to better communicate the original work. Translated works with a high degree of reduction can bring readers a better reading experience, make it easier to understand the connotation of the work, and enhance cultural exchange between China and the West.^[2]

2. The main influence of Chinese and Western cultural differences on the translation of British and American literature

British and American literature is a representative mainstream literature in Western culture, which has a wide spread and a far-reaching influence in Western countries. The translation of English and American literature is the main aspect that needs to overcome the cultural differences between China and the West. It requires the translators to have profound Chinese and English skills and to accumulate a lot of language knowledge. Due to the large differences in the use of Chinese and Western cultures and languages, translated literary works cannot be recovered 100%, so if the knowledge of the translators is insufficient, it will have a great impact on the translated works.

2.1 Differences between Chinese and western customs and values

Although people in different parts of the world have little difference in knowledge, but because of different customs and habits, there is a huge difference in cognition and understanding of things. Even the customs and habits in the same country and the same administrative division are not the same. "Ten miles of different wind, a hundred miles of different customs", it is true. The differences in customs and habits make the way people look at and deal with problems different, and the gap in translation is more

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doi: 10.18686/ahe.v4i5.2265

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obvious.^[3]

Due to historical reasons and changes in the world's development pattern, English has become the most widely used language in the world today, while Chinese is the most spoken language in the world and one of the six official languages of the United Nations. The usage rate of English in Chinese-Western communication is higher than that of Chinese. Culturally, China, as the oldest civilization in existence, is a typical farming civilization. It needs to work together to ensure the supply of food and living materials. Therefore, people have a stronger sense of collectivism, pay more attention to collective interests, and are willing to contribute their own strength to serve the collective, and even sacrifice their own interests to protect the collective interests. Western civilizations represented by countries such as Britain and the United States started relatively late. Most of them originated from nomadic civilizations. Individualism and liberalism occupy a more important position in the concept of Western people. It can also be seen from literary works that the West pursues personal heroism and is obsessed with superheroes. Therefore, the cultural difference between China and the West is very large, and the angle of thinking is also different, which has a great influence on translation.

2.2 Differences between Chinese and western thinking modes

Historical evolution and the path of civilization development have also had a major impact on the way of thinking, which is reflected in the structural forms of Chinese and English. In the sentence structure of English, the structure of subject, predicate, and object is very important, and the distinction between people such as "he, she and it" is also very clear; Chinese pays more attention to the structure of the verb in the sentence structure. Language reflects a great difference between Chinese and Western ways of thinking, and this difference stems from the cultural origin mentioned above. Related to the different concepts of individualism and collective supremacy, the West pursues freedom and egoism; China has paid more attention to collective interests due to the long-term influence of Confucianism. Therefore, the translation work requires the translators to have a deep cultural foundation and comprehensive cultural cognition, to observe the differences between the two sides, find a balance between Chinese and Western cultural differences and differences in thinking, perform more appropriate translations, and complete the translation of works as accurately as possible.

3. Translation strategies of English and American literature based on cultural differences between China and Western countries

3.1 Focus on the study and understanding of Greek and Roman mythology and the culture of the Bible

Greek and Roman mythology and the "Bible" culture are important elements of English and American literature, and they appear very frequently. When translating English and American literary works, translators need to have a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of Greek and Roman mythology and the Bible culture in order to fully understand the connotation of the work and accurately convey the religious and cultural content contained in the work; Otherwise, the translated works will lose an important cultural core and lack the emotional expression of the original works.^[4]

3.2 Pay attention to the influence of Chinese and western cultural differences on English and American literary translation

With the development of the times, translators' understanding of the cultural differences between China and the West has become more and more deep. In addition to increasing their own knowledge reserves, they will also do sufficient translation preparations, understand the content of the translation, find relevant literature, and have a better understanding of the translation content and the Chinese and English languages and the cultural gap between China and the West. Translators accumulate experience through translation, receive more cultural knowledge, broaden their horizons and channels for absorbing knowledge, and at the same time improve their cultural and social skills. In the new era, network technology is developing rapidly. People can select relevant knowledge that needs to be understood in translation through massive network resources, and they can also learn from it. When conditions permit, field visits can better enable translators to have an objective and practical understanding and understanding of culture, especially where the work is born. Visiting local customs and history and culture, and understanding the background of the creation of the works, will greatly benefit the improvement of translation quality.

3.3 Further master the metaphorical meaning behind English slang, idioms and vocabulary

Slang and idioms are indispensable objects of understanding in translation. In the language environment where the original work was born, the expressions and common contexts of slang and idioms need to be taken into consideration in translation. With the increase of exchanges between China and the West, the mutual learning of Chinese and English has also increased, and the use of English in China has become more popular. The developed network and convenient transportation have shortened the distance

between China and the West. There has also been more interaction between the culture and life of both parties, the recognition of slang and idioms has increased, and the translation of this part of the terms during the translation is more flexible and appropriate. For example, the Big Wig literal translation in English means a large wig, but it actually refers to a person with status, and it can also refer to authority. This is because in the eighteenth-century England, people wearing wigs have a status. The larger the wig, the higher the status. Therefore, slang and idioms are some idioms formed in the long-term production and life, and gradually become fixed words. Therefore, when translating, translators should pay attention to the true meaning and background of these words in the local context, so as to better describe the translation.

3.4 Proficiency in translation skills such as domestication and foreignization

Translation skills are the secrets of translators' work. Using translation skills can better convey the original meaning and improve the quality of translated works. There are two main translation techniques commonly used, namely domestication and foreignization. The naturalization strategy is to summarize the original word meaning and sentence meaning, which is mainly used for translation of different cultures to reduce the difficulty of reading the translated works. The specific operation is to have a thorough understanding of the original English text, and then describe the sentence meaning in combination with Chinese thinking, and abandon the word-by-word translation, to avoid the situation where the translated work is obscure and difficult to read. Foreignization strategy is simply to put aside differences, cultural differences are large, and some content will be difficult to translate. If the translator cannot translate through the domestication strategy, he can adopt the foreignization strategy and express English and Chinese in Chinese. It refers to the translation of the original literal meaning and language culture under the premise of meeting the grammatical rules. The exotic style is obvious, which can make the reader feel the difference between British and American culture and Chinese culture, and can also improve the legibility of the work.

4. Conclusion

Due to multiple factors, the cultural differences between China and the West exist objectively and are distributed in various fields. Literary works are greatly affected by the cultural environment, so when translating Western works with great cultural differences, such as Britain and the United States, there are bound to be some difficulties. If only the literal meaning is translated, it is not only obscure, but also loses the emotion and thought of the original. Therefore, translators must have a full understanding of the cultural differences between China and the West, and have a comprehensive and profound understanding of the culture and differences between the two sides. They must be prepared before translation, and use scientific methods and strategies for flexible processing during translation to complete the translation of high-quality cultural works.

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