

Analysis of Manchu traditional Diet Culture Based on Functional Equivalence Theory

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Abstract: Chinese Manchu food culture has a long history and has been favored by many countries on the world cultural stage after thousands of years of evolution. Manchu food culture is an important part of Manchu culture and a representative part of Manchu traditional culture. Until today, Manchu folk food still maintains distinct national characteristics and still exists in Manchu inhabited areas in the form of dynamic culture. It is embodied on the taste of men, women and children at the table of every household in the Manchu settlement.

This translation practice report is translated from *The Manchu traditional Diet Culture*. Starting from the linguistic characteristics of the original text and under the guidance of the theory of functional equivalence, this translation practice report carries out a comprehensive and systematic discussion on the translation of “Manchu traditional Diet Culture” in terms of lexical equivalence, syntactic equivalence and discourse equivalence, analyzing whether the translator has achieved functional equivalence with the original text in the three aspects of conveying vocabulary, syntax, and discourse, so as to be able to reproduce the beauty of the original text.

There are many translation difficulties in this translation practice, including vocabulary translation difficulties, sentence translation difficulties and cultural translation difficulties. The translators deeply realize that translation requires not only a high level of bilingual knowledge, but also a profound cultural background knowledge of their own country as well as the target language country, only in this way can they produce the same excellent text as the original text, and can better spread our excellent traditional culture so as to realize the innovation of culture and make it last for a long time. Besides, there are the following findings in this translation practice: first, the material for translation practice. Although the foreign propaganda texts are written in a relaxed tone, the core logic is very rigorous, and when it comes to the introduction of Chinese traditional culture, it is inevitable to quote from the classics, containing a large number of proverbs and ancient poems. Second, translation theory. Functional equivalence theory, when combined with translation practice, requires that the form and content be infinitely close to the original text, but not absolutely equivalent, and needs to be flexibly utilized by the translator. Through this practice, the translator has gained a deeper understanding of traditional Chinese Manchu cuisine, and hopes that through this translation practice report, more foreign friends can recognize and understand Chinese food culture, which can also contribute to the development of Chinese culture.

Key words: Manchu traditional Diet Culture; Functional Equivalence Theory; Chinese traditional culture

1 Describe the Traditional Manchu Diet

1.1 Introduction of Manchu Traditional Diet

As a Manchu, the author has been deeply influenced by Manchu traditional culture from childhood to adulthood, and is also very familiar with Manchu traditional food. Based on the attention of Manchu traditional food culture and the analysis of the current situation of ethnic minority food culture translation, the author selected this text for translation.

As one of the minority nationalities in China, Manchu has a long history, and its food culture has both national inheritance and integrated development. Manchu traditional cuisine is closely related to its ancestors engaged in fishing, hunting, gathering, farming and animal husbandry, and to some extent, it is affected by the natural environment in Northeast China, so the animal protein eaten by Manchu people is significantly increased compared with the central Plains, and the formed food culture also has obvious characteristics of resisting cold weather and enhancing physical fitness.

2 Analyzes the the Traditional Manchu Diet

2.1 Characteristics and Difficulties in Translation of Manchu Traditional Diet

The original “Manchu Traditional Food” is composed of ten traditional Manchu food. This text introduces the sources and specific practices of these ten cuisines. It includes many objective factual descriptions and many lively and interesting folk proverbs. This text is an informational text, which plays a role in publicizing and promoting the traditional cuisine of Chinese ethnic minorities. This type of informative text has many clear logical words. These objective tones make the original text sound more reasonable and convincing. In terms of vocabulary, there are more culture-loaded words in informational texts, which involve a wide range of aspects and are highly professional. A correct understanding of these culture-loaded words is the key to a correct understanding of the whole article. For example, Sakima and Donkey Tumu, which are traditional Chinese Manchu food, may not be heard of by the target language readers, so the translation of such words should be carefully considered, not only to make the target language readers accept, but also to avoid cultural gaps. From the sentence pattern, the information text is mostly loose sentences, flowing sentences, its purpose is mainly to convey information and culture, without solemn emotion color. For example, in the original text: “When the the son-in-law enters the house, the chicken will be killed, ”which is the Manchu people respect the uncle, and when the uncle comes home, they will kill chickens to entertain the son-in law. From the

perspective of the text, the structure of such texts is different, and the translator needs to adjust the word order appropriately according to the understanding of the source text, so as to make the target language readers adapt and accept. Therefore, translators should adopt appropriate translation theories and methods on the premise of fully understanding the characteristics of the text.

3 Case Study

Under the guidance of functional equivalence theory, this chapter reviews typical cases from lexical, syntactic and discourse perspectives. Translation is more than just language conversion. It also deals with the culture and communication represented by the original and target languages. In order to strike a balance between the two, translators should give full play to their subjectivity and even centrality to choose the most appropriate translation strategy. For convenience, ST stands for the source text and TT symbolizes target text in the following cases.

3.1 Lexical Equivalence

3.1.1 Word Class Conversion

In Chinese-English translation, it is very common to convert Chinese verbs into English nouns. Because English tends to use nouns, so the narrative is static; Chinese tends to use more verbs, so the narrative is dynamic. In other words, English is a static language and Chinese is a dynamic language. Therefore, it is of great practical significance for the equivalent expression between bilinguals in terms of the conversion of verb names.

Example one□

TT□At the end of autumn and the beginning of winter, the Manchu people reserve vegetables by the method of pickling or cellars for utilization.

Analysis: The original text describes the process of preparing sauerkraut. In a short sentence, many verbs are used. These verbs vividly depict the process of preparing sauerkraut in the original text and make the process vivid on paper. The translation chooses to nominalize the verb. The first phrase is translated by pickling or cellars, and utilization is selected for the second phrase, which also greatly satisfies the English expression mode, making the translation more fluent, improving the quality of translation, and more in line with English expression habits. In fact, such examples are not uncommon in English-Chinese translation, the main purpose of which is to perfectly convert the two languages to achieve functional equivalence.

3.2 Syntactic Equivalence

3.2.1 Literal Translation of Sentences

The literal translation method of sentence can keep the sentence order and sentence structure of the original as much as possible in the target text, so that the target text is closer to the language style and structure of the original text. At the same time, the literal translation of sentences will not increase or delete too much information, nor modify the expression in the original text excessively, so as to maintain the consistency of the translated emotion and tone with the original text and avoid ambiguity or misunderstanding, so as to maintain the emotion and tone in the original text as much as possible.

3.2.2 Example two:

TT: Hot pot, also known as “ye yi hot pot”, is a traditional food custom of the Manchu people.

Analysis: In terms of the processing of the original text and the translated text, the translator adopts the syntactic literal translation method, translating the original text according to the parenthetic method, without adjusting the word order or modifying the content of the original text, maintaining the emotion and tone of the original style. Ye yi hot pot has cultural connotation, and the Manchu people originally called it “Ye yi hotpot” . In order to avoid cultural loss, the translator transliterates. Hoping to retain the internalized connotation of the original text, the direct translation of hot pot as “hot pot” also avoids the incomprehension of the target language readers, makes the structure of the article clearer, not only retains the characteristics of the original text, but also makes it easy for the target language readers to understand the original text.

3.3 Textual Equivalence

3.3.1 Context Schema

In a particular case, the logical connection between various linguistic components and various subjective and objective environmental factors that affect the meaning of a discourse can be called a context schema. Context schema refers to “the context in which the language is used”. The translation of context schemata is crucial in translation because context is the only factor that determines the meaning of words. Lexical polysemy is the most common and important semantic phenomenon in English. In addition, in China, a word may have two different pronunciations, and under different pronunciations, the word will show different meanings under different context schemata. Therefore, in Chinese-English translation, it has always been the focus of the context schema, because the meaning of words may change in different contexts, and the decoding and encoding of these words should be more careful.

3.3.2 Example three:

TT: In the northeast, there is a local saying called: “When the brother-in-law enters the door, the chicken will be killed”.

Analysis: “Soul” in the “modern Chinese Dictionary” has four meanings, first, the original meaning is “soul”, “soul” in legend or superstition refers to attached to the human body, can leave the body and independent spirit. Second, it also refers to people’s spirits or emotions, such as: fright, soul; Third, the word “Soul” refers to the lofty spirit of the country and the nation from the upper meaning, such

as: national soul, loyal soul, national soul. Fourth, the word “Soul” also refers to the personified spirit of things, such as: poetry soul, flower soul, mountain soul. From the perspective of discourse and cultural connotation, the “soul” of the original text should refer to the life of the chicken. Therefore, the translator did not translate the word “soul” into literal translation in the translation, but translated it into “the chicken will be killed” according to the content of the full text. From the perspective of discourse, this is also in line with the translation of food. In addition, the subjunctive mood “will” is used in the translation to express the fate of the chicken, which is in line with the tone of the original “broken soul”. In this case, the context schema takes into account the emotional tone of the original text. On the other hand, it is a translatable product of the mind.

4 Conclusions

Manchu culture is an indispensable cultural branch of Chinese minority culture. The author believes that the formation and development of Manchu diet customs and culture is not something that can be decided by the subjective consciousness of Manchu people. Because of the time and the environment in which they lived, they were forced to hunt in order to sustain their lives. In this process, the Manchu dietary customs were formed, in fact, a process of forced acceptance. This also led to the formation of the Manchu food culture.

Under the guidance of functional equivalence theory, translators analyze the source text from lexical, syntactic and textual dimensions to form a suitable translation. In the specific analysis, the translator did not completely rely on the functional equivalence theory, but added the translation strategy such as schema translation, so as to convey the food culture connotation of the original text. Reviewing the whole translation process, the translator summarized her gains and some limitations through translation, and improved her translation ability. From the perspective of functional equivalence theory, the practice includes the following three main purposes: First, it aims to clarify the linguistic features of Manchu cultural texts, focusing on the transformation of cultural vocabulary expressions in the translation process. Secondly, through the use of various detailed translation strategies, translators hope to reproduce the characteristics of the original text in the target text on the basis of the culture of the source language. Finally, the translator also hopes to add to the traditional Manchu culture, thereby stimulating the interest of the target audience who are interested in Manchu culture. In the process of translation, the author mostly adopts the method of functional equivalence, hoping that the target language readers can fully understand the text.

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