

Translation Strategies of English Translation Version of China's Diplomatic Reader from the Perspective of Skopos Theory

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Abstract:

This study mainly studies the translation strategies in the English translation of China's diplomatic books from the perspective of Skopostheorie. The core is to analyze the reasons for adopting these translation strategies and the relationship and differences between the final translation and the original text. This paper mainly focuses on the following dimensions. The first dimension is a brief analysis of the origin of Skopos Theory and its influence on the translation field. The second dimension is the definition and selection of diplomatic readers. The third dimension is a brief introduction to translation strategies. Finally, based on the above foreshadowing, the translation strategies really used in the translation are studied. A large number of existing documents focus on the translation strategies of Arabic and Korean versions, and this study will make up for the gap in the study of English versions under this theme to some extent. Academics also generally believe that domestication and foreignization are commonly used translation strategies.

Keywords: Skopos theory; translation strategy; domestication; foreignization

1. Introduction

1.1 Research Background

In today's economic globalization, countries are closely linked. How to express China's position to English-speaking countries through diplomatic language has become the theme of many translation studies, which should be neither too difficult to un-

derstand the traditional image of China nor original of China. Pay attention to media books and other channels that can be used to express China's position and views and actively strive for the right to speak internationally [1]. In order to achieve the above objectives, translation is particularly important, and the choice of translation strategies often shows a country's attitude and purpose. As the largest developing country in the process of globalization, China needs

flexible and diverse translation strategies in its diplomatic activities, so as to cater to different occasions and translation contents and make China's thoughts go global [2].

1.2 Research Significance

At present, the research that can be collected usually refers to simply paying attention to the translation strategies in diplomatic translation or just looking at the overall situation of diplomatic translation from the perspective of teleology. This study will focus on the translation strategies adopted to achieve the purpose of diplomatic translation from a brand-new perspective of combining the two, which will fill the gap in the research to some extent and provide some perspectives for the future development of translation. In addition, the previous literature on this topic mainly focuses on Arabic or Korean, while this study focuses on English, with the aim of filling a theoretical gap and providing some support for future research.

2. Literature Review

Looking back on the past literature, translation is a human behavior, and any behavior has its purpose [3]. Refers to the skopos theory of translation, which originated from the fact that different translation targets adopt different translation strategies, but all of them need to serve the translation purpose to make readers easy to understand [4]. Functional translation under Skopostheorie can help readers and listeners resonate with each other, and make the translated text closer to the source culture and break down certain cultural barriers under the guidance of theory [5]. In addition, translation has a certain purpose. Under the guidance of Skopostheorie, translators choose translation strategies that meet the purpose, among which domestication and foreignization are the most widely used translation strategies [6].

3. Theories

3.1 Skopos Theory of Translation

Originally put forward by German scholar Hans Vermeer, it simply means that the translation purpose dominates the translation methods and strategies chosen by the translator so as to better cater to the purpose. Therefore, domestication and foreignization have emerged as two mainstream translation strategies, which are used alternately or in combination according to different translation purposes from two different perspectives. The skopos theory of translation mainly has the following core principles: 1. Skopos rule: the main purpose of translation is to translate the mood in the language in place, and the translator can

better express it in a language by trying to figure out the speaker's purpose. 2. Coherence rule: the translator must ensure that the translated text is easy to understand for readers in the target language country and has certain value. 3. Loyalty rule: the deep meaning in the translated text should keep strict correspondence with the original text.

3.2 Functionalism Translation Theory

This theory promotes pure translation to the level of cultural communication. Its particularity is not only reflected in the high degree and professionalism of terminology, but also in the combination of the culture of the translated language and the culture of the translated language through translation, so as to achieve the purpose that all readers and listeners can understand. Functionalist translation theory breaks through the concept of „equivalence“ in traditional translation theory, and emphasizes the functional realization of questions in the target culture [7]. In the process of translation, the translator should fully consider the expected function of the question, the expected vision of the target audience and the cultural background, and make translation decisions on this basis [8].

4. Translation Strategies

Domestication and foreignization translation strategies were first put forward by Venuti, who defined two translation strategies from an academic point of view, and at the same time strongly advocated the use of domestication and foreignization strategies. Venuti pointed out that domestication and foreignization can respect cultural differences and promote cultural exchanges [9].

4.1 Domestication

Domestication mainly serves the target language and makes the translated text meet the needs of the target language. Domestication, as a translation strategy, will replace words in the source language with equivalent or similar words in the target language, thus reducing misinterpretation caused by cultural differences. In syntax, domestication will adjust the source sentences according to the grammatical rules of the target language, so that the grammatical structure can be understood more easily by the translated readers. For the cultural item, the planning may adopt an image item familiar to the target readers' culture to replace the image of the source language.

4.2 Foreignization

Foreignization refers to preserving the heterogeneity of the original culture and the differences of the original text, so that readers in the target country can understand the

culture of the target language. Taking the culture of the source language culture as the center of translation, translations are committed to showing the original culture and language characteristics of the source language to the readers of the target language. From the perspective of vocabulary, different from domestication, foreignization will directly introduce some words unique to the target language instead of replacing them. In addition, from the perspective of grammatical structure, foreignization tends to directly use the grammatical structure of the original language to reflect the particularity of the language. To sum up, the application of foreignization translation skills to diplomacy is to show China's distinctive diplomatic neologisms to the citizens of the world intact.

4.3 Examples

Example 1.

Original: 打铁还需自身硬 [10]

Translation: To be turned into iron, the metal itself must be strong. [11]

This is an obvious example of adopting domestication translation strategy in this research. First of all, from the perspective of skopos theory, this paper made it clear that this sentence is intended to express the implied meaning in diplomatic language. Whether an individual or a country wants to succeed, it needs to constantly strengthen its own ability, so that the country or individual can excel. It is emphasized that internal cultivation is the foundation of external success. From this, this paper can draw the conclusion that what this sentence wants to convey is not the Chinese word „strike while the iron is hot“, but to express China's diplomatic concept of self-reliance and self-improvement through iron. Achieved diplomatic purpose, easy to understand and showed China's blacksmith spirit. Instead of simply translating while the iron is hot, the translator chose to use the word „force“ to show that the formation of iron is through forging and constant beating, which requires great strength and ability.

Example 2.

Original: 绿水青山就是金山银山

Translation: Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets.

The translation strategy of domestication is also adopted in this sentence, which mainly expresses China's concept of environmental protection, that is, attaching importance to protecting the green environment. This sentence mainly wants to show the concept of ecological civilization with China characteristics, to link natural ecology with economic value and to convey this dialectical relationship to English-speaking countries. The purpose is to convey China's ecological values, not to sacrifice the environment

to save the economy, but that the environment is China's precious heritage, and to achieve the philosophical idea that China's environmental protection concept can be used for reference by the world through translation strategies. First of all, it can be said that the translation of green water and green hills is not straightforward, but uses two poetic words, lucid and lush. Different from green, these two words can better express China's environmental concept, not only emphasizing evergreen trees, but shaping the environment into a truly beautiful and pleasant one. At the same time, Jinshan Yinshan directly uses invaluable, which means that the beautiful environment cannot be estimated. Moreover, it also expresses China's environmental protection concept that environmental protection is above all else, which reduces the misinterpretation brought by direct translation to some extent.

Example 3.

Original: 修身齐家治国平天下

Translation: cultivate the self, regulate the family, govern the state, and bring peace to the world

This is a classic sentence of Confucianism, which shows that China's contemporary concept of governing the country can be traced back to the past and has a profound cultural foundation. It is indispensable to convey to the world that individuals, families and countries are three layers in China's values of governing the country, which strengthens China's concept of a community of human destiny. Through translation, the profound connotation of China's diplomatic language is conveyed to English-speaking countries, which is more convincing. Domestication is also adopted in the translation of this sentence. From the first cultivation, it shows that instead of using the word „promotion“. 'cultivate' conveys the continuous effort needed to improve one's moral character, and it also shows that a lot of time and energy need to be invested to improve moral quality and personal cultivation. The second word, the idiomatic English phrase used by Qijia, is easier for English language readers to understand, including the meaning of management to convey the family style well and the family is harmonious and orderly. 'bring peace to the world' implies not just the absence of war, but social stability and harmony for all, and everyone's life is stable, bringing peace to the world is a high-level expression of this deep meaning.

Example 4.

Original: 全面从严治党

Translation: To exercise full and strict governance over the party

The translation purpose of this sentence is to express China's diplomatic concept to the world, which is a socialist term with China characteristics and an important part of the strategic layout with China characteristics. It is not

easy to find an appropriate word to express the meaning in translation. It needs to convey the profound connotation of demanding high standards, and at the same time, it needs to be used to define and spread China's characteristic governance model. It needs to form proper nouns that are accepted and used by the world. Different from the domestication translation strategy, this sentence needs to convey China's unique political terminology, so the following research strategy is chosen. The foreignization translation strategy used, first of all, the innovative translation of the word „governance“, did not use words such as anti-corruption in European and western political languages, but chose sentences with China characteristics that began with exercise. These collocations are the special language characteristics of China that have never been seen in the original political language, and convey a brand-new concept of governing the country through self-governance revolution. Although it may bring some inconvenience to readers, it still conveys China's unique culture and language system, and expresses China's idea of active political innovation.

Example 5.

Original: 老虎苍蝇一起打 (反腐败)

Translation: catching tigers as well as flies

This expression deliberately introduces a striking metaphor to draw attention to China's unique political culture. From the perspective of teleology, this sentence mainly wants to express that China should create a clean and honest national image and resolutely crack down on all corruption problems. The core purpose is to clearly convey the firm confidence and determination of the China government to comprehensively fight corruption. At the same time, it also exports political metaphors with China characteristics, which makes the tiger fly a symbolic symbol in China's political language, and conveys the story and cultural connotation of China as vividly as possible. This sentence adopts a very standard foreignization translation strategy, retaining the metaphors of flies and tigers with China characteristics, in which the tiger refers to a high-powered corrupt person and the fly refers to a person with low grassroots status who participates in corruption, which does not exist in English-speaking countries. Using foreignization translation strategy, the meaning of preventing corruption is more euphemistically expressed.

Example 6.

Original: 苟日新, 日日新, 又日新

Translation: If you can renovate yourself one day, do so every day, and always keep renovating yourself.

This is an old saying in China with a long history, which not only expresses the innovative idea of governing the country, but also conveys the traditional culture of China to English-speaking countries intact, showing the profound connotation of dynamic philosophy and self-im-

provement, which not only means the cultural inheritance, but also is the unique feature of China's governance. Different from other diplomatic terms, the audience of this sentence is also scholars from China who are interested in classical literature and some foreign politicians. While expressing innovative meanings, it is also necessary to inspire people from all countries to respect and try to understand Chinese traditional culture. This translation also adopts the foreignization translation strategy. A typical foreignization strategy is first realized in the translation of the word new. In Chinese, new means reform, so in the translation version, renovate is chosen, which means renovation and innovation are consistent with the Chinese meaning. At the same time, in the aspect of syntax, it imitates the Chinese date progression by dissimilation, and does not pursue the coherence of sentences to the extreme. Finally, the translation conveys the dignified tone characteristic of classical Chinese maxims.

5. Conclusion

From the perspective of Skopostheorie, diplomatic texts mainly serve some government officials, media practitioners and some experts in the field of international relations. The appearance of English versions makes these translated audiences more able to promote China's distinctive diplomatic terms to the world and export cultural and distinctive concepts. Although there are still some differences between the English version and the original text in some aspects such as grammar, sentence patterns and vocabulary, they seek common ground while reserving differences on the whole and expand multilateral diplomacy on the basis of easy understanding. This study holds that in the choice of translation strategies for diplomatic readers, more translators will choose two translation strategies: foreignization and domestication. Although the two strategies have different emphases, they also show the function of restoring the original meaning to the greatest extent, in which foreignization is mostly reflected in the use of words and planning bureau is in the aspect of sentence grammar. China's diplomatic readers also reflect the unique and innovative characteristics of nationality, in which nationality is the key to leading the use of translation strategies, and the choice of domestication and foreignization also reflects the bias of national style, which also focuses on teleology. Simply, it can be understood that if the purpose is to make readers in western countries understand easily, foreignization translation strategy is the first choice, and if you want to convey China's national style, then domestication strategy will be chosen. To put it simply, the choice of translation strategies depends on whether you want to spread the content or the political

culture with China characteristics. Domestication and foreignization are complementary to each other, so that diplomatic language can not only meet the purpose and needs of translation, but also be full of culture. At the same time, this paper also has some limitations, and the selected research examples are few, and all of them are selected in the same text, which makes the research conclusions not fully universal. In the future research, more texts will be selected to explore the choice of translation strategies of diplomatic terms under Skopos Theory.

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