

# Practical Operation Mode of Translation based on Cultural Details

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Abstract: During the development of China, English translation has experience a difficult start to today's situation. The exploration on translation based on cultural details not only shows clearly directions for translators, but also further expands the operation mode of translation. Then, translators will devote more emotion and inner perception, thus increasing the vividness and value of translation works. This work studied and analyzed the practical operation mode of translation based on cultural details.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

As the medium of daily communication, language also carries the information of culture, custom and individual emotions. Besides, the languages in different countries have formed their unique feature during development. Ostensibly translation is the transformation of two different languages, trying to express the same meaning. While in practical operation, the effectiveness always has a close connection with translators' specific flows, individual attitudes and abilities. Therefore, translators should keep prudent and show enough professional quality to achieve the standard of Yan Fu's "Faithfulness, Expressiveness and Elegance". Only in this way, the goal of promoting the civilization of knowledge will be achieved by translation. Nowadays, many translators are trying to seek the skills and experience of translation in practice. At the same time, the masses also hope to obtain more abundant foreign resources and outstanding literary and television works by the efforts of translators. Cultural details are of significant importance in practical translation. Both the translations of foreign language to Chinese or Chinese into foreign languages need the consideration of culture and history of different regions. Chinese is concise and implicative, while most foreign languages are concrete and changeable. So it is necessary to combine the different cultural features of regions for accurate expressions. Therefore, outstanding works always need painstaking and rigorous modification by professionals.

## 2 PROBLEMS IN THE CURRENT OPERATION MODE OF TRANSLATION

### 2.1 Laying Stress on Literal Meaning While Ignoring the Extending Meaning

At present, the population engaged in translation is increasing. The reasons are related to the popularization of English and other foreign languages, the frequent communication of Chinese and foreign literatures and spontaneous behaviors of translation amateurs. With the translation surging forward, it is difficult to avoid that someone would mix the genuine with fictitious. Take Chinese-English translation for example, passionate literary works with complex plots will cost translators' more effort on emotional expression compared to foreign investigation report and academic papers. Domestic fiction and prose have obvious characteristics of traditional Chinese culture, and their languages are relatively concise and implicative. Few words or even the special use of punctuations can express fantastic emotions and artistic conception. It is the space reservation in Chinese that leaves readers the room for imagination. The charm of works is the thinking and creation of readers with their own feelings based on works. This show the profound meaning of Chinese traditional culture and thoughts, and this is why Chinese works attracts foreigners so much. Many junior translators excessively pursue the semantic meaning of words. Such imbalance of the whole view will easily deviate from the theme of

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works, thus losing the flavor. Therefore, such incorrect approach should be avoided in further translation. In fact, some distinguished translator would also make such mistakes. For example, Arthur Waley, a great translator, has translated the “celestial being with barefoot” into “celestial being with red feet” while describing Sun Wukong (a character in Pilgrimage to the West). Therefore, not only a correct attitude, but also a whole mastery of related cultural knowledge is required to avoid such problems.

## **2.2 Emphasizing Too Much on Innovation While Losing the Precise of Translation**

With the change of people’s concepts and grades, each field is trying to interpret their own definitions of innovation. So does the translators. In different cultural fields, new words, sentence and things are emerging rapidly, and the object of translation are also updating timely. More modish translation goals have impelled translators to improve their translation modes, thus providing readers the enjoyment of reading. However, some translators blindly use some fashionable words or new expression methods in order to make their works eye-catching. Such practices not only perplex the readers, but also deviate from normal translation and guidance, thus resulting in penny wise pound foolish. For example, if the word of “Dwelling Narrowness” was translated into “Snail’s House”, then foreigner can hardly understand it, or even interpret as dirtiness or laziness. Such innovative translation can also be interpreted as irresponsibility for the original works, so it is not desirable. It is reasonable for people to accept and use new things, so there is no cause to give much criticism. Innovative translation should be built on certain accuracy, because strictly following the rules of translation is the basis of innovative translation. Only using several new words or translating operations cannot achieve the accuracy, felicitous and fluency of translation, or even violate original intention of cultural communication by translation.

## **2.3 Stereotyped Operation, Losing the Characteristic of Works**

Each literature has its own life. Especially for some special works, only their verve has been sedulously reserved by professionals can these works exhibit special values. Besides, this can also reflect translators’ high-level. In this aspect, some

translators always face the bottlenecks. Especially for some experienced ones, they will easily be lost in their own idiomatic patterns while translating any work. Although such method may shorten time and procedures, it will harm the effectiveness of translation. Furthermore, mechanical translation will not only tarnish the works packed by native language, but also confine translators’ thoughts, bringing no good for both translators and works. Currently, more and more works have been labeled as products rather than making readers’ eyes glow. These pipelined translations bring readers nothing but dull works, or even bring translators into a vicious circle. For example, the Chinese word “Zouhong” was translated into “well-known” or “popular”, or the “Baofu” into “joke”. These handlings will indeed allow readers to acknowledge the meaning, but its effect is not good. If it goes on, the shortage of works and restriction of translating thoughts will influence translators, thus reflecting on their works. Furthermore, the whole translation of literary field will face bigger crisis. Then, the experiences and consuetudes will become the stumbling block in the development and communication of culture, thus slashing the significance of translation.

## **3 IMPROVED METHOD OF THE OPERATION MODE OF TRANSLATION PRACTICE COMBINED WITH CULTURAL DETAILS**

### **3.1 Emphasizing the Extension and Preparation of Translation Works**

Most of the foreign literary works bring certain exotic elements, which is called the distinctive expressions of each country and foreign scholars’ and writers’ individual language habit. While translating such works, translators should fully mobilize their learned knowledge. Only when translators have learnt and investigated the history of works and writers’ background can they make the least mistakes, thus guaranteeing the quality of works. To improve translating operation and solve the existing problems in practice, many feasible ways can be adopted combined with cultural details. Prior to translation, certain necessary preparation should be done by translators, such as the acquaintance of language habits of writers’ country

and writers' character and belief. After all, as the mothers of works, writers' each word has been given enough emotion, reflecting their own habits of wording and arrangement. Therefore, it is necessary to understand the culture in writers' living places. In practice, translators can also compare and arrange other works or translations of writers to seek inspiration. Besides, it is also possible for translators to use the existing wording habit and translating keynote for re-creation. With the help of existing works and readers, such mode can be more conducive for the consistency of original works and connection between translators and writers. This is obviously beneficial for both translators and writers. Translations produced through above methods will not only significantly decrease mistakes and ambiguity, but also make the works be more readable. Besides, translators will also gather more experience in practice, thus improving their individual ability and professional skills.

### 3.2 Stressing the Importance of Faithfulness of Translation

Translators' job is to transfer original works into another language. So they will absolutely face certain problems like the selection of terms, feature description of characters and scenery and interpretation of allusions. Generally, most of foreign masterpieces have their bright lines and dark lines, while academic papers with their logic and specialty. So it is difficult for readers to obtain a translation with high reduction degree of original works. So in practice, translators should pay much attention to the reduction degree and faithfulness of words selection without breaking the rule of "Faithfulness, Expressiveness and Elegance". Faithfulness is the basic and most important requirement of translation, which is also the lowest requirement of information transmission. Although translators have enough space for re-creation, the adjustment and alteration should be repeatedly weighed. Therefore, inexperienced translators should take pains to the faithfulness of originals combined with works' cultural background and related professional knowledge. Especially for the academic works of medicine and science and technology, translators should pay attention to words selection and logical order. That is because the fuzzy expression or little mistake may bring harmful influence to readers' learning and investigation. Translators are in fact the transfer station of knowledge and culture. However, their job is not merely mechanical transformation of languages, but

the propagation and extension of cultures. Besides providing readers understandable works, translators should also pay attention to the quality of works, thus better propagating the wisdom crystallization of human beings.

### 3.3 Differential Treatment for Works and Emphasis on Re-creation

Although more and more translation software and assistant are flooding the market, the job of translation still has its position. Through perception, reading and comprehension of original works, translators can provide readers works with high reduction degree, thus better meeting readers' habit of language and comprehension. And this is the significance of translation. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct detailed investigation and high-level re-creation to produce foreign cultural works with high quality. Methods of omission, amplification and transformation are different in the practical operation of re-creation, so enough energy and emotion of translators should be paid. That is why most excellent works are so vivid. Considering the particularity of intercultural communication, several adjustments should be made by translators on the basis of original works' cultural background. Besides, translators can also add appropriate amount of cultural elements for targeted readers, such as allusion and slang. These elements will shorten the distant between readers and writers, and also bring bright spots to translations. Therefore, besides the professional quality, translators should also widen their knowledge range, learn cultural knowledge and experience cultural atmosphere of related countries. Then, translators can use translation skills more freely, thus realizing re-creation.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

Translation is not mere the language transformation. The translation of most of foreign works is not the combination of words. The value of translation lies in the devotion of translators' wisdom and emotion. Therefore, prior to translation, translators should make an exhaustive study of the cultural details of writers' country and writers' other works. With the guarantee of faithfulness, translators should make some adjustments and choices to meet readers' requirements. Then, readers can more choices to select their desired works. This is also a way to embody the charm of translations. Therefore, the accurate grasp of original works will embody the

unique charm of culture details in works, thus producing more excellent works.

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