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Linguistic Adaptation Theory in the Translation of Children's Literature

Yu Xing

Zibo Vocational Institute, Zibo, Shandong 255000

Abstract: The theory of Linguistic adaptation provides theoretical basis for literary translation research. Translators dynamically choose and adapt based on the variability, negotiability, and adaptability characteristics of the target language during the translation process, and children's literature translation as a unique genre is no exception. Based on the theoretical framework of adaptation theory, this article explores the phenomenon of language selection and cultural adaptation in the process of translating children's literature. It is found that the two complement each other and run through the entire process of translating children's literature. Both are simultaneously constrained by multiple factors, serving the translation purpose of children's literature together.

Keywords: Adaptation; Translation of children's literature; Language selection; Culture adaptation

1. Introduction

With the continuous development of pragmatics and its penetration into the field of translation, pragmatic translation theory has received more and more attention. In their research, scholars have begun to explore translation issues from the perspective of pragmatics in a multi-faceted way, thus giving new depth and breadth to translation studies. Pragmatics is the study of language in actual use and the relationship between language and language users, and it has gone beyond the traditional linguistic theoretical framework to begin to study language in a dynamic and more practical way. The framework of the analogenic research is to provide a comprehensive view for translation research. The core content of the consistency view is the theory of adaption, that is, the language use process is actually a process of language selection and conformity (Li Yuansheng Shengsheng, 2007). Domestic children's literature translation research has been increasingly paid attention to this century. At present, the research trend combined with multidisciplinary perspectives. At present, the study of children's literature translation from the perspective of language use is relatively lacking. The research perspective analysis of the language selection and cultural dynamics of the translation process of children's literature, and strive to provide new research perspectives and references for children's literary translation research.

2. The review of Linguistic Adaptation theory

Linguistic adaptation theory is proposed by the elastic scientist Jef Verschueren in 1987. In his view, the use of language is a continuous process of choice, and the user of the language is driven by internal and external motivations to make choices, which may be conscious or unconscious. The reason for this continuous selection process is that language users are constantly adapting to their surroundings and objects in the process of using language. In conjunction with the theory, language use is the process of language play function. It is the process of language users to continuously choose language methods according to the needs of the communicative context. In the process, language conforms can penetrate all levels of language expression meaning.

In conjunction with the perspective, the language has three characteristics: Variability, Negotiability, and adaptability. From the beginning, the use of language is regarded as the process of choosing a choice for the speakers and the recipient. Choose both at the level of language structure and the strategy level. The process of choosing is the dynamic process of context and language selection. In this process, the degree of consciousness of language users of the communication process is highlighted through language selection. The core of language adaptation theory is dynamic adaptation, that is, the choice or use of language will change with the interaction of context and language structure factors, different language choices will create different contexts, and even the meaning generation behind the context is a dynamic process. In the process of communicating using oral or written words, it is important to take into account the acceptance of the audience in order to convey meaning smoothly.

3. The usage of adaptation in children's literature translation

The adaptation theory emphasizes flexibility, and in the face of different contexts and translation objects, translators should take

the initiative to adapt, mainly including the adaptation of language structure and cultural context. In the translation of children's literature, the author and the translator are adults, and the special audience is children, and there is a certain asymmetry between the three parties. Therefore, an important issue that needs to be solved urgently in the translation of children's literature is the relationship between adults and children. Children's readers have their own uniqueness in many aspects such as age, psychology, feelings, thinking, etc., they pay more attention to the intuitive feeling in reading, and prefer easy-to-understand, vivid and childlike language, and have difficulty in understanding obscure terms and expressions, and even have subjective rejection reactions. Therefore, the uniqueness of the target language recipient brings the translator a translation purpose that is different from that of other genre translations, as emphasized in the functionalist translation theory, the purpose determines the method, and under the guidance of such a translation purpose, the translator of children's literature must dynamically select and adapt to the uncertain multi-language expression based on the target language, culture, readers and other factors.

3.1 Language selection in children's literature translation

According to the theory of adaptation, language selection is both internal and external from the language. Children's language is a special language style, with its own characteristics, closely linked with the specific image, the frequency of using overlapping words and onomatopoeia clearly tells the adult language. Therefore, if the translator wants to translate a children's literature work vividly, he must be good at choosing the appropriate language expression in the source language, conform to the children's language style, and express with the children's language, so as to achieve the equivalent translation purpose.

Example 1: Down, down, down. Would the fall never come to an end!

The example of the above translation is taken from Zhao Yuanren's *Alice in Wonderland*. From the translation, it is not difficult to find the translator use the children's colloquial expression, pronunciation, harmony, words, exclamation and mood, abandoned some abstract and complex sentence patterns and expression, and the appropriate choice is the translator from the source language the meaning of multiple understanding options, according to the translation readers (children) psychological, language, aesthetic characteristics, using the appropriate pragmatic strategy and translation strategy.

3.2 Culture adaptation in children's literature translation

As far as translation is concerned, translation is not only a process of language conversion. It is actually restricted by culture. The process of translation is actually a process of culture. For children's readers, they are in the learning stage of mother tongue. A large number of foreign vocabulary and unfamiliar concepts will cause them to reject them, which will cause interference to their reading, which is not conducive to the development of children's language and thinking. During the translation process, the translator should try to conform to the cultural context of the translation language as much as possible, so that the translation is close to the expression of the purpose language, so as to achieve the equivalent of the social language of the translation.

Example 2: He was a brighing boy, so the time runs, healthy and strong, and he had seen Thirteen Suns, in their way of review time.

As can be seen from the above example, the existence of cultural differences and children's limited language comprehension and thinking skills make it impossible to fully translate cultural concepts in the source language, and the translator interprets "thirteen suns, in their way of reckoning time" in the form of annotations, because "thirteen suns" has obvious cultural loads, such as literally translated as "thirteen suns", for child readers, Its cultural meaning cannot be understood, so according to cultural adaptation, it is necessary to properly paraphrase those expressions with obvious cultural load implications, choose expressions that adapt to the target language culture, and appear in the form of annotations, so as to meet the cognitive needs of target language readers (children), try to bridge the cognitive bias between the source language and the target language, and help young readers better understand the connotation of the original text.

4. Conclusion

The enlightenment of the adaptation theory of language choice to children's literature translation lies in the fact that choice runs through the whole process of translation activities, and the adaptation characteristics of language choice suggest that the choices made by translators are not arbitrary, but are constrained by many factors and serve a specific purpose. Children's literature has a unique audience, so when translating children's works, translators should take a correct stance on children, children's literature, and children's literature translation, and always keep in mind the awareness of children's readers and children's views. At the same time, language choice and cultural adaptation complement each other and serve the ultimate purpose of children's literature translation. At the same time, adaptation theory also opens up a new research perspective for the study of children's literature translation, and future research should carry out further research on the analysis of the translated text, children's psychological characteristics, translation culture, and the pragmatic function of the translated text.

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