

Language, Culture, and Translation

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Translation is a kind of cross-cultural language communication and the product of cultural communication. So translation is closely related to culture. And culture is reflected in all aspects, including not only the material culture of clothing, food, shelter, and transportation, but also social culture and other unknown culture. Understanding and learning foreign cultures well is beneficial to communication and translation.

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Dr. Nida points out that the prerequisite for a word to be meaningful is its presence in the cultural context in which it is used, so the familiarity with two or more kinds of culture is even more important than the mastery of two or more languages for a truly successful and widely accepted translation (Nida, 2001). He made an in-depth study of the relationship between language, culture, and translation, and analyzed the horizontal combinational context and vertical convergent context in translation, as well as the level of vocabulary people need to translate texts in their mother tongue and second language. Translation of different types of texts should take into account both language and translation learners, professional translators or interpreters, etc. Culture and the needs of daily communication and academic communication are the sources of translation. Therefore, translation is the product in the process of cultural communication and obviously; translation activities are closely related to culture (Wang, 1997). In a specific culture, when a kind of language or source language masterpieces have been translated into another language which is the target language, specific cultural equivalence of words usually makes the target language readers feel kind easy to understand, especially when a word is in conformity with the cultural context in the specific context, and makes the context semantically coherent, but without a text, the word has another completely different meaning, which is often the first meaning most commonly used in the dictionary. Similar but often not identical words, or synonyms, sometimes superordinate terms and hyponyms, not only have their own meanings, but can also be used appropriately in a particular cultural context. The richness of learners' vocabulary and their accurate grasp of culture affect the level of vocabulary used in various texts, as well as the decisive factors of their daily conversations, important interviews, formal or informal discussions, and even the quality of official conversations.

Translation is a kind of cross-cultural language communication and the content of translation is not only the transcoding of linguistic signs, but also the culture carried by them (Hu & Zhang, 2006). Many words or sentences that seem to be incompatible with the logic of native language are actually transformed and transmitted through the translation channels of foreign culture. As a cross-cultural discipline, the role of translation in cultural communication is one of the hot topics of academic circles (Yang, 2006). As Nida said, translation is a communicative activity between different languages and cultures, and the semantics of the

translation ultimately depends on the understanding of the text by the listener or reader guided by their own cultural context (Nida, 1993). Culture is a way of life and its manifestations, which is specific to a community and uses a specific language as its means of expression, and specifically, cultural language is distinguished from universal language and from individual language or personal idioms (Newmark, 2001). When we learn the names of non-native countries on the world map, such as Pattaya, Florence, Strasbourg, etc., we can feel the local social culture. In the exquisite Japanese cuisine tempura, sushi platter, Thai cuisine curry fish cake, mango rice, Korean cuisine kimchi, bibimbap, Italian restaurant tiramisu, cappuccino, and other words, we experience the food culture. In the narrow sense, foreign culture is reflected in all aspects. From the bigger perspective, on Internet, books, radio, and various media, we find some eye-catching foreign climates such as polar ice sheet climate, tundra climate, Mediterranean climate, tropical desert climate, tropical savanna climate, etc. Some peculiar phenomena such as the black snow mixed with ash in Alaska, the super refraction in Ohio, the aurora borealis in Oregon, the winter snow thunder in the east coast of the United States, hurricanes, and double tornados show various exotic charming culture. The Ethiopian Plateau, the Labrador Plateau, the Great Artesian Basin, and so on bring us diverse geographical cultural knowledge. Imported plant and animal species like the tomato from America in the early 18th century and the introduction of Brown laying hens Ross from Britain in 1981, etc., gothic clothing, waistcoat, kimono, shoe house in South Africa, upside-down house in Germany, the Swedish spacecraft house, home of the hobbit in the Czech republic, Jeep car in Philippines, monorail train in Malaysia, and other foreign material culture all involve basic necessities of life. Religious culture of Catholic and Christian, political culture of the house of lords and the house of Commons, the senate and the house of representatives, some special habits such as agreement with shaking one's head and disagreement with a nod in some countries like India and Sri Lanka, different kinds of social culture include work and leisure, and on a global scale, the mystery culture of unknown areas, waiting for further explore, like ocean culture in high-pressure sea areas, and the primeval forest culture, which is almost the top-level community, embody all aspects of foreign culture, which involves the transformation from source language to target language, namely translation.

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