The application of text typology theory in translating children psychological works

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Abstract: In recent years, children's mental health has gradually become a hot topic of public concern. The source text of this translation project is selected from *Children's Ways: Being Choices from the Author's Studies of Childhood* written by a British psychologist James Sully. The aim of this project is to provide some reference for children's psychological research field. The source text belongs to popular science literature, so this paper uses "text typology theory" to analyze it. Based on Katharina Reiss's "text typology theory", the commentary analyzes the text type, audiences, translation purpose and function, and formulates corresponding translation strategies according to the above analysis.

Key words: children psychology; text typology theory; popular science; text type

1 Introduction

The present study will concentrate the use of Katharina Reiss's "text typology theory" in the translation of a popular science text--*Children's Ways: Being Selections from the Author's Studies of Childhood*. This text mainly analyzes the psychological characteristics of children, such as language, behavior, thoughts and so on. The study of children's psychology in China began in the 1920s. Chen Heqin, a famous Chinese child educator and child psychologist, wrote the book *Research on Children's Psychology* in 1925 on the basis of 808-day follow-up study of his own children. This is the first book on developmental psychology in China. In 1933, Xiao Xiaorong published *Experimental Child Psychology*, and nine years later, Huang Yi published *Child Psychology*.

The translation of children's psychology books will play an important reference role in the study of children's psychology and children's books. At present, the quality of children's books in the market is quite different. Recently, China Press and Publication Administration notified a batch of teaching materials for children's books that did not meet the requirements, and identified 62 books as unqualified. Children's psychological works provide guidance to researchers in this field, and help relevant personnel to supervise children's books on the market.

2 Literature review

In the 1970s, based on the "equivalence theory", Katharina Reiss put forward text typology in accordance with the categorization of the three functions of language by German linguist Karl Bühler [1][2]. In Bühler's work, he divides the language functions into three categories: informative; expressive, and appellative functions [3][4]. Reiss links the three functions to their corresponding language "dimensions" and to the text types or communicative situations in which they are used. So she divides texts into three main types and a supplementary one, namely informative texts, expressive texts,

operative texts and audio-medial texts.

To meet the needs of translation work and make it have an objective and scientific theory and model to guide translation behavior, Reiss has broken through the traditional equivalence and text classification types. Translation criticisms combine text functions, translation purposes, translation strategies and evaluation criteria, creating a translation criticism model based on the functional relationship between the source text and the target text [5].

Types of texts are divided according to the main functions of the texts. Reiss's "text typology theory" analyzes the language function, language features, communication situation and information focus of the text, all of which seek the motivation for translation strategies. This theory transcends the level of pure language, gets rid of the bondage of text-centered "equivalence theory", and provides a more objective theoretical basis for the choice of translation strategies [6].

3 Text-type analysis

According to text types, scientific texts can be divided into scientific papers, technical texts and popular science articles. However, the writing techniques of popular science texts are different from those of scientific papers and technical texts. Because the readers are mainly the masses who have only a superficial knowledge of science and technology, their texts must be plain, popular and flexible. Therefore, this determines that most of these texts not only need to list objective and fair factual content, but also express the content through colorful language forms, so as to increase language appeal, and form knowledge popularization and emotional contagion for readers. Therefore, the translation study of popular science texts is not only of practical significance to promote the popularization of science, but also of theoretical value to enrich and develop translation studies.

Translation studies of popular science texts mostly focus on the exploration of translation strategies. At the same time, it is also necessary to explore the translation strategies of popular science texts based on understanding, expression and flexibility. Translation is a process of understanding, expression and adaptation [7]. Understanding is the foundation of translation, expression is the key of translation, and adaptation is the means of translation. These three are essential elements to complete translation activities.

4 Challenges and solution

The translation of popular science texts plays an active role in introducing foreign advanced scientific and technological knowledge into China, promoting the exchange of related technical knowledge and improving the scientific literacy of the public. Popular science works are a variant of scientific and technological style, which have some lexical and syntactic features of scientific and technological style. In terms of vocabulary, popular science texts have certain technical terms, which are very important for accurately expressing knowledge in a certain field.

"Translation is a speech and thinking activity as an intermediate link of cross language communication, which takes the transformation of language symbols as a means and aims at the complete transmission of the function, content and style of the original text as far as possible." When translating informative texts, the translation should be faithful to the function and content of the original text, so that the readers of the target language will get basically knowledge and information when reading the translated version [8].

4.1 Lexical translation

In this part, I want to focus on two kinds of words: the first is "technical", and the second is "historical". First of all, the technical term refers to professional and objective things, and is different from general vocabulary. The difference is not external, but internal and content. According to the relationship between scientific development and vocabulary expression, "initial terms" were used to express common sense concepts, and later understanding was further improved.

Therefore, some names have become "quasi terms" in professional vocabulary, and with the development of science, they have evolved into "terms".

English for science and technology (EST) embodies rigorous, professional, scientific and objective characteristics in language, style and form. It is necessary to think about the corresponding translation methods according to the characteristics of scientific and technological style, rather than just listing translation skills. Therefore, scientific and technological translation must be based on the "specific analysis of specific problems" of the research object, and cannot be generalized, so as to ensure that the translation can convey the information of the original text to the greatest extent, and achieve accuracy and fidelity.

4.2 Syntactic translation

Various forms of conjunctions, clauses are commonly used in English, with an emphasis on expressing meaning by form. However, Chinese seldom or even does not use formal connection, so it is often necessary to analyze its grammatical meaning and logical relationship in combination with context. Due to the complicated structure in English sentence patterns, it won't be too lengthy when reading. However, if the original sentence is translated literally, it will appear ambiguous, so it is necessary to break the sentence before linking it up in Chinese translation. To overcome lengthy sentences, it is necessary to translate tree-structured sentences into linear ones. The most effective technique is sentence breaking, and the key lies in finding the correct period, such as punctuation marks, paragraphs and logical relationships.

English modifiers are often too complicated, resulting in long translated sentences which do not conform to the Chinese language norms. First of all, consider reducing words appropriately. Secondly, we can change the word order or sentence components of English sentences according to the needs of Chinese logic, such as changing them into adverbials, predicates, etc., so as to achieve the purpose of reducing sentence levels and shortening the length of sentence components. Thirdly, they can be analyzed by Chinese thinking logic, and the necessary connecting elements can be added, and then converted into corresponding forms of coordinated or subordinative compound sentences.

5 Conclusion

Some typical features in popular science articles show that popular science articles are obviously different from scientific papers and technical texts in stylistic features. The popular science article needs to list a large number of objective facts and data to prove the objectivity of the text content, and at the same time, it should use flexible, popular and artistic narrative techniques to show the facts, data and the author's thoughts. This stylistic feature makes it difficult to classify the text types of popular science articles [9].

For the translation of popular science texts, we should put the informative function, expressive function and operative function of texts in the same important position. If only one side is emphasized, the effect of "popular" or "science" in popular science will be discounted. In the specific translation process, if two of them are in conflict and a compromise needs to be made, the audience should be analyzed on the basis of ensuring the objectivity and correctness of the information [10].

Conflicts of interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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