

TRANSLATION THEORY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT:

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Translation plays a crucial role in the dissemination of foreign language literature, allowing readers from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds to access and appreciate literary works. This abstract explores key aspects of translation theory, focusing on its significance, challenges, and strategies in literary translation. The study examines different translation approaches, including literal, free, and dynamic equivalence, and their impact on preserving the original text's meaning, style, and cultural nuances. Additionally, it highlights the challenges translators face, such as cultural adaptation, idiomatic expressions, and maintaining the author's voice.

INTRODUCTION. Translation plays a crucial role in the study and appreciation of foreign literature. It serves as a bridge between different cultures, enabling readers to access literary works beyond their native language. The theory of translation in foreign literature examines various approaches, strategies, and challenges involved in translating literary texts while maintaining their artistic, cultural, and emotional essence. In literary translation, achieving an accurate and faithful rendering of the original text is complex. The translator must not only understand the linguistic structure but also interpret the deeper meanings, cultural references, and stylistic nuances of the source material. Over the years, different translation theories have emerged, ranging from literal (word-for-word) translation to free (sense-for-sense) translation, each with its advantages and limitations.

This study explores key aspects of translation theory as applied to foreign literature. It discusses the principles and methods used in translating literary texts, the impact of cultural and linguistic differences, and the role of the translator as both an interpreter and a creator. By understanding these concepts, we can appreciate how translation shapes our perception of world literature and enhances cross-cultural communication. Translation Theory of Foreign Language Literature

Translation is not only a branch of linguistics but also an important field in literary studies, cultural studies, and philosophy. When translating foreign language literature, a translator must pay attention not only to the linguistic aspects of the text but also to its artistic and aesthetic qualities.

Key Principles of Translation Theory

When translating foreign language literature, the following theoretical principles are essential:

1. Preserving Equivalence – Accurately conveying the original text’s meaning, style, and aesthetic impact.
2. Considering Cultural Context – Every language and literature has its unique cultural background, which must be taken into account when choosing translation equivalents.
3. Conveying Literary Style – In poetry, prose, or drama, it is crucial to retain the author’s distinctive literary style.
4. Adhering to Linguistic Norms – The translation should align with the grammatical and lexical rules of the target language.

Challenges in Translating Foreign Language Literature

Several difficulties arise when translating foreign literature: Loss of Meaning – Some words or expressions do not have direct equivalents in another language, affecting the translation’s accuracy.

Complexity of Poetic Translation – Maintaining rhyme, rhythm, and imagery in poetry is particularly challenging.

Conveying National Identity – Expressions and traditions unique to a particular culture may require creative solutions in translation.

Practical Importance of Translation Theory

Translation plays a vital role in studying foreign literature, understanding different cultures, and promoting world literary heritage. A good translation allows readers to experience the essence and impact of the original work. Translation theory requires not only

technical knowledge but also a creative approach. A translator must go beyond linguistic and cultural barriers to faithfully convey the essence of the text to a new audience.

Culture is an important issue to consider in translating from one language into another. The problem faced in transferring the dialogues also involved cultural elements to standardize the course content before the template in Malay is translated into the foreign languages. Relating to 'restaurant' scene, the word 'nasi (rice)' is used in the Malay template. It obviously reflects the Malay culture but the translation has to consider cultural aspects in the target dialogue. Thus this item is translated as 'noodle' (naeng-myeon) in Korea and 'bread' (le pain) in French. Such consideration is also applied for types of drinks where hot or cold drinks are common but in Arabic coffee and tea are commonly hot drinks so asking the question is avoided in the translated dialogues. This interesting cultural difference provide cultural knowledge to language learners.

The level of language used in the preparation of the template in Malay is another significant factor that the research takes into account. To prepare a dialogue within a context is important in the sense that it influences the level of formality in the dialogue. For the dialogue at the supermarket, the language use is semi-formal compared to dialogues at the hotel therefore the research team has to consider the level of formality appropriately so that the dialogues are more natural. Correct lexical choice in transferring the course content is a must to ensure that the translation caters to the grammatical or stylistic demands of the target languages. For instance, in Malay, ingin, mahu, and hendak may be used interchangeably while in Korea language the Malay version of 'saya mahu kopi' (I 'want' coffee) should be translated as 'saya ingin kopi' (I 'would like' coffee).

In developing teaching and learning materials in the form of dialogues from the Malay language, the researchers found that there needs to be consideration of general and specific lexical items. For instance, the different types of coffee such as espresso, black coffee are substituted with the general lexical item coffee; likewise LRT and commuter are replaced with the general term train.

Translation plays a crucial role in bringing foreign literature to a wider audience, allowing readers to experience different cultures, ideas, and artistic expressions. Literary translation, in particular, is a complex process that goes beyond mere word-for-word conversion. It requires a deep understanding of both the source and target languages, as well as the cultural and artistic nuances of the original text.

Key Aspects of Literary Translation

Faithfulness to Meaning and Style: A good literary translation preserves the meaning, tone, and style of the original text. Unlike technical or scientific translation, where accuracy is the main priority, literary translation must also maintain the artistic and emotional impact of the work.

Cultural Adaptation: Literature often contains cultural references, idioms, and historical context that may not be directly understandable in another language. Translators must find ways to convey these elements while ensuring the text remains accessible and engaging for the target audience.

Challenges in Poetic Translation: Poetry is one of the most difficult genres to translate because it involves rhyme, rhythm, and figurative language. A successful poetic translation captures both the literal meaning and the musicality of the original poem, sometimes requiring creative adaptation rather than strict word-for-word translation.

Prose Translation and Narrative Flow: In novels and short stories, maintaining the flow of the narrative is essential. Sentence structure, dialogue style, and descriptive techniques should be adapted carefully to ensure the translated work reads naturally while preserving the author's voice.

The Role of Translation Theory in Foreign Literature

Translation theory provides the foundation for literary translation by offering strategies and methodologies to deal with linguistic and cultural challenges. Some key approaches include:

Literal Translation – Staying as close as possible to the original text while ensuring readability.

Free Translation – Prioritizing the overall meaning and artistic effect rather than exact wording.

Dynamic Equivalence – Striving to create the same emotional and intellectual impact on the target audience as the original text did on its readers.

Literary translation is an art that bridges linguistic and cultural gaps, making foreign literature accessible to the world. A skilled translator must balance accuracy with creativity, ensuring that the translated work retains the beauty and depth of the original. As translation theory continues to evolve, it helps refine the methods and techniques used to bring literature across borders while preserving its essence.

Translation theory plays a crucial role in foreign language literature, as it bridges linguistic and cultural gaps, enabling readers worldwide to access and appreciate literary works beyond their native languages. The process of translation is not merely about

converting words from one language to another; it involves preserving the essence, tone, and cultural nuances of the original text while making it understandable and relatable to a different audience. One of the key challenges in translating foreign literature is maintaining the author's original intent and artistic style. Different translation strategies, such as literal translation, free translation, and adaptation, are used to balance fidelity and readability. A successful literary translation requires not only linguistic proficiency but also a deep understanding of both the source and target cultures. This ensures that idiomatic expressions, metaphors, and stylistic elements resonate with the new audience without distorting the meaning of the original work.

Furthermore, translation contributes to the global literary landscape by fostering cross-cultural communication and enriching world literature. Through translation, masterpieces from different cultures gain international recognition, influencing writers and scholars across linguistic boundaries. It also plays a vital role in preserving and revitalizing lesser-known languages and literary traditions.

In conclusion, translation theory is an essential field that enhances the accessibility, understanding, and appreciation of foreign language literature. It requires a delicate balance between accuracy and creativity, ensuring that the richness of the original text is conveyed to new audiences. As global interactions continue to grow, the significance of literary translation will only increase, promoting cultural exchange and mutual understanding among diverse communities.

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