Study on the Development of English Translation of Chinese Classics from the Perspective of Eco-translatology

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Abstract

Eco-translation studies focus on the use of ecological rationality, from the perspective of ecological integrity of research conducted overview of translation. It reflects the translation of the selection process anthropocentric mindset and construction of a new paradigm. According to this paradigm or principle, the translation of the selection is not based on their own subjective translator, but rather on self-selected text-translatability. This should ensure translation studies as a basic premise of scientific disciplines. As a sub-discipline of translation studies, eco-translation studies has its own ecological characteristics: both the pursue its translatability in the process of translation and the reserve of the original text in the target language of ecology balance.

Keywords: Ecological Translation Studies, the Chinese classics, translation, traditional culture, development trend.

Introduction

From the 1990s, translation teaching model studies has attracted more and more attention of scholars. But the current modes are mostly from translation theory and educational theory, that means, the existing problems cannot be analyzed from the overall concept and the system itself.

In today's era of globalization, with increasingly frequent cultural exchanges, the role of translation has become more and more indispensable. Thus the study of translation will with no doubt be referred to the academic research agenda. Translation studies has gone through cultural shift and thereafter become a common problem of domestic and international translation researchers. In the past few years, through the joint efforts of scholars, translation studies has made great progress, which finally establishes its position in the territory of discipline, meantime, which is moving towards a relatively independent and mature branch of Humanities and Social Science. Thus, eco-translation studies should be regarded as a branch of translation studies.

Eco-translation theory and criticism in literature translation is on a rise, which poses a challenge to the traditional literary and cultural translation studies doctrine. But in the contemporary translation studies, a considerable number of scholars are skeptical of the significance and vitality of this branch. Given the eco-translation studies research already existing in the practice of translation studies, the relationship between ecological research and

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ecological criticism of this essay is to explore ecological translation studies in literature translation.

Eco-translation studies, started in 2001, is in full swing in the year 2009 in a gradual process. If the system of discourse construction is regarded as a result of this process, then it is bound to have its occurrence—the basis for development, the premise and conditions, etc.

Consequently, many learners believe that translation can only be taught and they probably do not even trust the ability of teachers on translation. The new direction of exploring the teaching model from the perspective of eco-translation provides a new view. The basic principles and ideas of eco-translation theory are under the guidance of Darwinian "adaptation/selection", which is proposed as "Translation as Adaptation and Selection". It aims not only to emphasize the ecological integrity of the entire system of translation, but also to re-interpret the "nature of translation, process and methods, and a series of translation phenomena." Eco-translation studies emphasizes the use of traditional translation teaching skills with the lack of practice relevance. In practice, the translator should pay attention to the text under the translation environment, in order to adapt to the ecological environment to make a dynamic selection of different degrees, such as cultural texts, authors, readers and other mutual interaction between ecological subsystems; therefore, teachers should improve students' language skills, meanwhile, strengthen the cultural, religious, social and historical background of knowledge between the various sub-ecosystems integrity and relevance, so as to make the translation theory and techniques with a reasonable explanation.

Figure 1. Eco-translatology.

The Proposed Methodology

Ecological Paradigm. Paradigm is a broad concept related to the specific field of study in a large "direction" and big "principle", which is a way to study the overall concepts of research modes, and to embody its evaluation and research methods.
Translation studies, from the perspective of ecology, explores the translation theory when “ecological paradigm” is gradually taking shape, and thereafter has gained more and more recognition. The main characteristics is that in the study of basic concepts related issues, many researchers are all pointing to the value judgments, research methods, and conclusions with the eco-translation theory approach.

Eco-translation researchers integrate the recognition of the basic descriptions of translation, and the translation studies provides guidelines for eco-translation studies following the research methods of ecological relevance, and the ecological value of the standard translation studies. These studies has not been isolated as single case studies. It can be seen as a joint research agreement under eco-translation theory paradigm.

**Principle of Relevance.** Highlighted associated relevance sequence is: Translation is part of language, language is part of culture; culture is the accumulation of human activity, and humanity activity, part of the nature.

Principle of relevance reflects the expansion of the horizons of human cognition and rational process, which is consistent with the basic laws of human cognitive evolution with the feature of both interactive and progressive nature. It can be outlined as the logical sequence of the progressive visual field of human cognition and the inherent mechanism derived from evolution. The focus of translation studies shifts from the translation itself to the language, the culture, and human ecology. Its characteristics have also been reflected as a constantly repeated and interactive trend. We can see the basic characteristics of the inter-connections between nature and biological translation, as well as that of the natural eco-system and the common system of human interaction.

**Ecological rationality.** The so-called integrity/association, is to follow a rational ecology, the study of translation ecosystem, not just limited to the isolation of a sub-ecosystems (such as translation ecosystems), or some other relevant (such as translation activities funders) from an ecological rationality perspective, the relevance and the need to take care of the integrity between different ecosystems.

The dynamic stress/balance, is to follow a rational ecology through the translation between the main objects of attention and the interaction translation subjects, whose external ecological environments influence one another, forming a translation of ecological interdependence homeostasis system.

The aesthetics reflection of the ecological rationality is the pursuit of aesthetic principles during the process of translation studies, in both macro-level or micro-level. Ecological rationality mentioned above has an important guiding significance to build eco-system of translation studies. It is also believed that there will be more and more rational use of theoretical ecology and applied translation studies in translation studies.

**Translator-centered mode.** One of the fundamental problems of translation theory is how to describe and explain the role of translator. And the importance of the translator in the translation process also makes it an eternal topic of the study of translation circle.

Eco-translation studies explores the relationship between the translator and the translation environment. On the translator, he/she is an independent body leading the role of the consciousness, throughout the process of translation. Translator is the cornerstone in the
different languages and different cultures interacting forces, and the main body of the translation process.

Eco-translation studies believes that the translator is the core of all translation "contradictions". "Translator-centered" concept means that the translation theory should be based on real and concrete translator to translate living, emotional, creative reception, which helps to extend the "research radius" of the translator’ studies, and improve the theoretical level of the translator; meanwhile, the quality of the self-respect and the self-discipline of the translator should also be promoted.

This orientation of the translator is the ultimate care of translation theory, whose advantages have become increasingly evident, so as the aspects of the translator-centered case studies, including translator, translator subjects, etc.

**Review of Chinese classic literature.** Classic literature is the product of the development of academics, ideology and culture involved within the historical process. In the long course of development, it includes at least three inter-dependent aspects: First, the spirit of thought; second is to preserve the spirit of symbolic thoughts, that is language; the third is the shell material of the language, such as paper and the like. Things to do are to translate the spirit of ideological conversion from one language to another language. The language is its external form, while the internal texture is spiritual, ideological and cultural. Therefore, the translation process should not only study the conversion of languages, but also study the internal texture of languages.

China is a country which attaches great importance to its traditional history, resulting in a lot of excellent classic books. Dynasties would learn from the experience of the rise and fall of the previous dynasties, learn from their history and serve for the present. History in China is a profound subject, with a deep historical roots.

Chinese culture, characterized as Confucianism and Taoism, plays a significant role on Chinese people's social life norms and their character-building. Its influences have never been interrupted, undoubtedly belong to Chinese cultural classics in the central part, which belongs to the elite Chinese traditional thinking. The rich Chinese literature basically reflects the spirit of Confucianism and Taoism, Buddhism or other main thoughts. Chinese literature is a concrete manifestation of Chinese thought and culture, so Chinese literature or literature classics is also an important part of Chinese traditional culture. Translation of Chinese cultural classics began in 19th century, with two classic books translated for most English speakers, thus began the study focused on Chinese thought and literature classics in the English language. Except for this, books on the science and technology, pharmaceutic, and geography are all sorted as a part of Chinese cultural classics.

**Translation of Chinese Classics.** History of translation is able to provide a reference for contemporary translation studies. Learning from the history, serving the present with the past, it plays an essential role in translation study. Guided by this purpose, this study will be noted in the description of translation of the language level, which is the translation of the operational level, focusing on comparison between the original text and the translation version, the important experience and lessons learned for the previous translators’ work; as well as the analysis among translators, readers and society together with exchanges between different cultures. Starting from the microscopic level to the macroscopic transition, researchers link the
two aspects into a comprehensive study, and explore the value of the 19th Century Chinese classics into English.

**Eco-translation.** When mentioned about the eco-translation science, it may expect the active eco-criticism in the field of literary criticism currently. Ecological criticism studies from the perspective of the ecological environment for critical interpretation and explanation of literary phenomena, which refers to the practice of a gradual transition from a problem-oriented movement of a methodological to literary criticism methods for nearly two decades. Institute of ecology, ecological literary criticism or the ecological environment are the theme of writing. Of course, there are various forms of writing: original writing, varied writing or rewriting. It is acknowledged that across the boundaries of language, translation is the use of another language with the original text rewritten or some kind of rewriting, which contains both creative ingredients and a reproducible composition.

Translation, unlike the creative writing, whose anthropocentric consciousness will have a distinct deconstruction, is engaged in translation studies taking into account the opposite characteristics of deconstruction. It can be said, deconstructive eco-translation studies is the digestion of the selection of anthropocentric mindset, regardless of the inherent translatability of the original text, as long as the translator would be willing to contribute to its reproduction into another language. In anthropocentric mindset, the function of political and cultural enlightenment translation is often inappropriate to translate, as a consequence, it also ruins its laws and nature.

Ecological principles of translation studies will be reflected in the restrictions on the role of the translator: the translator must respect the original internal ecological structure, by carefully reading and deeply understanding the original text to achieve the equal exchange and dialogue between the author and translator.

**Conclusion**

In today's cultural background, we emphasize that the translation should spread Chinese culture and literature all over the world and make due contributions. Translation of teaching mode from the perspective of eco-translation theory focuses on the teaching objectives, curriculum resources, translating objectives, translation market demands and other factors, with more brand-new contents and broader perspectives, which renders more possible research questions for further exploration.

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**References**


