## Journal of Contemporary Educational Research

Research Article



## The Embodiment and Analysis of Feminism in Literature Translation

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**Abstract:** Chinese culture has been accumulated for five thousand years, and with the development of social civilization, the door of literature has opened to the world. In recent years, feminism has been extremely prominent in literature, and it has been welcomed and respected by the majority of people. In addition, under the influence of various cultural factors, translation has become an indispensable way of writing. The so-called feminism refers to women's social rights and their opinions in society. With the advancement of science, feminism has been widely used by many countries in the world. In the last century, feminist translation theory was regarded as the mainstream translation at that time. It provided room for translation work. At the same time, it also had a certain impact on traditional translation theories. Nowadays, the development of science has entered a new era of information network. Feminist translation theory has become an important basis for translation work. At the same time, the application of feminist theory in literary works is systematically analyzed to enable women's social status and personality values been enhanced in literary works, thus highlighting the positive image of women.

**Keywords:** Feminism; Translation theory; Literary works

Publication date: March, 2021 Publication online: 31 March, 2021

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Chinese Library Classification Number: H315.9

Document Identification Code: B

## 1 Characteristics

Feminist translation theory originated from the Western women's liberation movement, and its formation was based on the duality of men and women. The content not only denies the existence of gender differences, but also transforms and improves traditional translation tremendously, and attaches great importance to the subjectivity of translators.

## 2 Gender in Translation

According to what the "Bible" says, it is more often translated from the male perspective such as masculine language, masculine images, and masculine metaphors <sup>[1]</sup>. In the Bible, God is originally a genderless role, but in the eyes of all living beings, God often represents the image of the father. Doesn't this reflect the supremacy of male power, and the power of women is mostly attached to men, even being ignored. In addition, it is said in the "Bible" that the fall of mankind was caused by Eve. Because of Eve's gluttony of the forbidden fruit, it has become the clue of evil since then, and it has also become the fuse of discrimination against women.

Of course, the interpretation of different dimensions is also very different. In translation theory, because the manifestation of gender differences between men and women is universal in society, the status of female interpreters and women tends to be weak. In fact, gender itself is neutral, however, gender is distinguished because of the difference in the physiological structure of men and women. In today's society, the gender of men and women is a way of maintaining social balance and a manifestation of cultural symbols. Although people

are in different cultural education, their image will change differently on different occasions. In addition, in both China and the West, the power-subordination relationship between women and men has been deeply rooted in people's hearts. China's long-term feudal social system has thoroughly proved this point. Under the feudal system, women have been completely restricted, causing thousands of innocent women being treated with injustice and humiliation for a century. In fact, the independent existence of physical gender separated from power is a fair and just common social gender concept endowed with cultural symbols<sup>[2]</sup>.

Although the difference in physical sex is difficult to be completely eliminated, the society is still absorbing justice from backwardness and gradually improving. The status of women has also been paid more attention. In the contrast, in feminist theories, traditional translations are often feminized, and women are the subject of translation, which means that the translator is subordinate to the author and the translation should also be subordinate to the original text. As far as the work itself is concerned, when society is embodied in the construction of male subjective consciousness, men can control the power to create language and are its owners, while women only have the right to use it, so is translation, nothing more. In fact, translation and women are one body, it is an imitation that is not real, there is no creation at all. In addition, the existence of objective differences in literary translation work is unavoidable. No matter how excellent and talented the translator is, he can only get close to the original text as much as he can. It is impossible to be equal to the original text. Feminist translation theorists believe that if translation is limited to this, Then translation theory must be re-interpreted.

# 3 Feminist translation view and literary translation

## 3.1 Feminist translation view

With the infiltration of traditional literary views, most translators believe that writing books is a male career and that women have no early days in the cultural field. This has formed the pattern of "male superior to female inferior" in traditional society, while in patriarchal society, the status of women is very low. However, with the rise of the feminist movement,

feminism gradually awakened, and at the same time, feminism was finally released under the long-term suppression of the traditional patriarchal society. This is a subversion of the status of women and a turning point in ending discrimination against women, which in turn promotes the harmony of the relationship between the sexes and the development of the entire society to a large extent. In addition, with the continuous rise of the women's liberation movement, feminist thought has gradually become the focus of literary works<sup>[3]</sup>. With the improvement of women's status, their rights in society are also increasing. At present, more and more writers are beginning to be interested in literary creation with feminism as the theme. Therefore, feminist literature is expanding in people's field of vision. In addition, in the field of literature, women often play the role of translators. Therefore, translation has gradually become a stepping stone for women to gain a foothold in the field of literature, and at the same time they have written a new chapter for the improvement of feminist status. With the passage of time, the process of translation has become more and more skilled, which has formed a new feminist translation view.

## 3.2 Literary translation from the perspective of feminism

For the translation of literary works, no matter any language, it is the translation of the culture and connotation of literary works. For women, the translation of literary works is actually a new understanding of themselves, and it is also the spread of the value of feminism in the field of literature. In addition, when translating, it is necessary to take into account its form and charm, and retain its rich cultural connotation, so that the translation can be both form and spirit, and the interpretation is easy to understand. At the same time, in the translation process, the following basic principles need to be followed: First, the target group needs to be regarded as the main body, considering its habits in the translation process of literary works, and mastering its writing subject, so as to achieve more accurate translation to reflect the true value of the text. In addition, when translating, it is necessary to take into account its form and charm, and retain its rich cultural connotation, so that the translation can be both form and spirit, and the interpretation is easy to understand. Further more, in the theory of women's translation, women's translation behavior not only greatly improves their status in the literary field, but also enables the interpreters to have a newer understanding of feminism in literary works. At the same time, it is necessary to fully understand the content described in the literary works and choose a suitable method to translate them. In this way, the discrimination against women in traditional literature will be completely eliminated, so that more women can devote themselves to literary career. Second, the subjectivity of the translator must be highly valued. Because in literary creation, not only the author's rich thoughts and emotions are infiltrated, but also the profound cultural background. Therefore, there must be no content equivalence in the translated works. In addition, when translating, the reader's reading habits should be combined to master the translator's subjectivity<sup>[4]</sup>. In feminist translation theory, the translation of the original text cannot be limited to the translation of the language, but must be based on the original text and re-created in combination with its grammatical structure, in order to have a deeper understanding of the importance of feminism in literary translation.

## 4 The transformation of feminist subjects

The contribution of feminist translation theory lies in its emphasis on changing the subordinate position of the translator in the translation process. Feminism believes that "translation" is the main way for women to enter the field of literature, and women should give full play to their translation privileges as a weapon for power fight. Because women are not born weak, but grow up strong. In addition, the social concept of women's empowerment is the chief culprit of women's power inequality, and it is also a symbolic cultural behavior. Further more, the re-understanding of women has created the formation of feminist translation theory. At the same time, gender differences are also affected by social factors such as different social culture, religious beliefs, and educational differences. In addition, as far as translation is concerned, in order to completely change the dominant position of women, it is necessary to re-establish the feminist translation concept and eliminate the neglect and uncertainty of female consciousness in translation works. It should be known that translation is not only a kind of language decoding, it is also a broad cultural dimension. In traditional culture, ideology and language images, it is not difficult to see that the creation of feminism in literature is actually a criticism of neglect of women's power. Therefore, the change of the feminist subject reflects the literary value of women to a certain extent.

## 5 The influence of feminism

## 5.1 Impact on text cognition

The reader's own cognitive transformation of the text is also the key to feminism's influence on literary translation. For women, refuting male critical standards is not the ultimate goal of feminism, but to deconstruct traditional prejudices and construct a reasonable female reading cognition. From the perspective of human acceptance and understanding of themselves, it is impossible to achieve complete objectivity in the process of understanding, because they cannot resist the limitations of historical time and space and their own reality<sup>[5]</sup>. However, there is still a big problem in the understanding of translation. Therefore, when translating the text, the translator needs to interpret the text according to the changes in history and culture and the accumulation of life experience. In addition, because of the interactive relationship between translators and cultural traditions, women's translation creations are unique. All in all, translation also needs to consider the time and location, and it will start to understand the original meaning of the text, and then expand, innovate and break through.

## 5.2 Influence on literary style

In traditional translation, feminism pays more attention to the relationship between literature and reality. At the same time, feminism also criticizes traditional text analysis methods. In addition, in the traditional translation view, literature is regarded as a true portrayal of reality, and feminism has a great influence on the style of literature under the domination of a specific ideology. Not only that, the shaping of men and women is more prominent. Besides, the author's creation is not based on imagination, but on the basis of being affected by a specific ideology and combining actual conditions to expose social relations. Therefore, translators need to understand the author's historical background and combine with the historical environment in

which they are located to reflect their own initiative. Moreover, social context and culture are also crucial to translators. Only by establishing literary creation in a specific ideological field and closely following the mainstream literary trend of thought can the extension and breakthrough of translation be realized.

## 6 Conclusion

Through the above analysis, we can understand that different translators often have a latent feminist consciousness when translating different works. However, the manifestation of female consciousness does not entirely depend on the translator's gender, but on the translator's educational and social cultural background. The manifestation of feminism in literary creation overturned the restriction of women's social status under feudal socialism, making feminism embark on a higher peak of literature.

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