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Research Article

The English-Chinese Translation Research of Divided We Stand from the Perspective of Translator Behavior Criticism

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Abstract: The paper is designed to research the translation practice of Divided We Stand from the perspective of Translator Behavior Criticism. Thus, the paper uses the tools of degree of truth-seeking, degree of utility and degree of rationality under the macro-guidance of Truth-seeking-Utility-attaining evaluative model of continuum. Specifically from the perspective of intra-translation, extra-translation and non-translation, the paper research and evaluate the translation practice.

Key words: Divided We Stand; Translator Behavior Criticism; Translation Practice

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1 Research Background

1.1 Introduction to the author

William de Berg is an American author who has written three conspiracy fiction thrillers on topics such as September, CIA drug trafficking, the occult financial system, oil wars, media, control, and Bilderbergers. His novels contain a mix of historical facts and analysis wrapped in thrilling action and suspense. "Shield Down"is his first science fiction novel.

(https://www.williamdeberg.com/serpent-savior/?from=groupmessage)

1.2 Introduction to the novel

According to the introduction above, the detail that the author is a fiction novelist has been exposed. Enrique Ybarra, a famous young general, suffers the loss of his two brothers, one in a drug overdose and the other in an effort to expose the drug trade. Already reeling in his person life and marriage, Enrique is introduced to a team of high-ranking military officers who convince him that there will soon be a crisis in the republic involving martial law and that he needs to join them against the Deep State.

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In de Berg's novel, three brothers take different roads across the landscape of the American dream. One falls prey to the allure of drugs. Another takes up liberal causes and the search for truth. The third devotes himself to honor and service. Together, their routes merge into a mosaic of deception that threatens the very foundation of the country each loves in his own way.(Kilgore)

2 Translation Process

2.1 Preparation before Translation

Before translation, I learn about some background information of the author and make preparations for the theoretical framework. Meanwhile, I scan through the novel. Thus, I have a brief on it. Although i cannot find some significant information online and in reality, I try to analyse and find the background through some unique cultural words. For example, "large Mexican-American families" is a characteristic cultural word, which can bring us a lot of clues and help us find more cultural connotations. Regardless of this, i use Google and Youdao translation tools to examine whether some simple mistakes in my translation upon name, address and so on. These tools also can increase the efficiency of translation.

2.2 In the process of Translation

In the process of translation, the application of Google and Youdao helps me solve some problems of new words. At the same time, computer-aided translation can examine some simple logic problems of sentences. Certainly, the approach cannot address everything, especially for the mastery of the whole context. Thus, theoretical tools can be applied to some correspondent problems of cultural connotations. Based on the information above, a translator can comprehensively combine technical and theoretical tools in order to make the translation a great success.

2.3 Proofreading of Translation

After completing the translation, i invite my friend, Xue Linqiao from University of International Business and Economics to give me some suggestions. For example, with regard to English-Chinese translation, a translator should avoid the repetition of "duiyu"and " zai". As for the translation of advanced placement, he gives the referential version, namely "tiaojisheng". Apart from these, i use the theoretical tool——Translator Behavior Criticism to examine the translation.

3 Translator Behavior

3.1 Literature Review

The paper takes the theoretical tool of Translator Behavior Criticism to analyse and research translation phenomenon in the novel Divided We Stand. The core framework of Translator behavior criticism—Truth-seeking-Utility-attaining evaluative model of continuum based on translator behavior (Zhou Lingshun, 2014:87) takes notices of a problem. It is undesirable for each translator to divide truth to the level of language and utility to the level of society. Applying the thought of continuum just does not divide them.(Zhao Guoyue, 2018: 20)

In the beginning, I threw myself in the relationship of division. I simply think that we can separate utility and truth-seeking. Later on, I build up a framework of the paper, namely utility and truth-seeking. However, from the book, I find the answer that in terms of translator behavior and text evaluation, there always exist three elements including degree of truth-seeking, degree of utility and degree of rationality (Zhou Lingshun, 2014:250). The paper tries to use these three theoretical tools to analyse and evaluate the translation practice below from the perspective of a translator. The rules of three elements is consistent with the chart below. The chart is adapted from A Theoretical Framework for Translator Behavior Criticism. (Zhou Lingshun, 2014: 250) According to the chart, a translator can give the reasonable evaluation.

Three Elements	Translation		Translator Behavior	Subjective Evaluation
	Truth-Seeking	Utility	Rationality	
Scale(+/-)	+	+	+	Excellent
	-	+	+	Relatively Excellent
	+	+	-	Relatively Excellent
	+	-	-	Relatively Bad
	-	-	+	Relatively Bad
	-	-	-	The Worst

(Zhou Lingshun, 2014: 250)

3.2 Translator Behavior

3.2.1 Intra-translation Behavior

Intra-translation Behavior refers to the behavior of original text meanings recurring under the linguistic role and the behavior of adaptation to society under the social role.(Zhou, Zhao: not published)

3.2.2 Extra-translation Behavior

Extra-translation Behavior refers to the adaptation behavior to the original text of a translator according to the social needs. The adaptation behavior is the natural socialization behavior while the recreation behavior is the socializing behavior when the translator socialization is expanding out of the standard of the translation. (Zhou, Zhao: not published)

4 Case Analysis

4.1 Intra-translation Behavior

4.1.1 Liberal Translation

Although he had been shooting up on and off for almost ten years, Bennie knew almost nothing about this extraordinary heroin odyssey, nor did he know the details of the heroin's final voyage once it had been mixed with water and dissolved and injected into his veins.

Translation: Jinguan ta qianqianhouhou zhushe dupin yiyou jinshinian, dan benni dui zhehzhong hailuoyin de yiyangliudongguocheng reng yiwusuozhi, ta ye bu liaojie hailuoyin yidan yu shui hunhe de xijie, ta ban rongjie, zhushe ru jingmai, zuihou zai xueye zhong liudong.

Liberal translation is not limited by the form of the

sentence and is designed to completely express the meaning of the original text. As for the translation, the translator adds some lacking information and make the sentence look more complete and logical. At the same time, depending on three elements including degree of truth-seeking, degree of utility and degree of rationality (Zhou Lingshun, 2014:250). According to the relationship of these elements, the degree of utility of the translation is high and the degree of truth-seeking of the translation is high. Therefore, the degree of rationality of the translation is high.

Bennie started to hang out with his friends even late into weeknight hours, his cleverness ensuring he rarely got caught.

Translation: Benni shenzhi kaishi zai gongzuori shenye yu ta naxie hupenggouyou chuqu guihun, er tade xiaocongming zhibuguo nengrangta buzhuadao ba le.

The translation completely gets rid of the framework of the original text. However, it conveys the relatively complete information of the original text. Meanwhile, "hupenggouyou", "xiaocongming" and "guihun" these words are filled with derogatory sense and negative emotions. It is obvious that the translation completely expresses the meaning of the original text. If a translator replaces them with some neural words, its degree of utility will decrease. Thus, the degree of rationality of the translation is high.

4.1.2 Transliteration

Enrique was a star athlete and solid student at Balcones Heights High, whereas Carlos-who everyone called Flaco because he was all skin and bones-was much more gifted academically, showing an early mastery of writing and history.

Translation: Enlike shi baerkeneisigao gaozhong de yundongmingxing, jichu henzhashi, jinguan kaluosi, shoude pibaogu, renren jiaota fulake, dan ta feichang juyou xueshu tianfu, henzao bian zhanxianle zai xiezuo he lishi fangmian de tianfu.

Transliteration is to follow the pronunciation of the word and common especially in the translation of name, address and so on. For example, "Balcones Heights High", "Mosul", "Fort Benning", "Mercedes Garcia", and "Bradley" all employ the approach of transliteration and are respectively translated into "baerkeneisigao gaozhong", "mosuer", "zuozhiyazhou benning bao", "meisaidesi jiaxiya" and "buladelihao". As a matter of fact, there are no actual meanings in these translation. However, it is relatively proper to employ the approach of transliteration. The translation reaches the goal of degree of truth-seeking and rationality at least. Although transliteration will cause the problems of understanding to the target readers, the translation should be relatively excellent as a whole.

San Antonio was also a hub for "major league" gangs like the Mexican Mafia, Tango Orejons, and Texas Syndiate, which were involved in much of the drug trafficking in South Texas.

Translation: Shengandongniao yeshi moxigeheishoudang, tange aoleihongsi he dekesasixindijiadeng "dalianmeng" bangpaide jisandi, zhexiebangpai zai nandekesasizhou canyule xuduo fanduhuodong.

Compared with the translation above, Mexican Mafia, Tango Orejons, and Texas Syndiate can be identified with "major league" gangs. Because of the shortage of knowledge in the aspect, the translator, I had to adopt the approach of transliteration. From my perspective, the translation cannot reach any of three elements. It can be evaluated as the worst.

4.1.3 Domestication

He seemed determined to remain clean, the horrible memory of his last detox seared in his mind. But like so many other heroin addicts, Bennie found it easier to dream about the future than escape the past.

Translation: Ta juexin xixingemian, zuihouyici jiedu de kepachangjing reng fuxian zai tade nahaizhong. Danxiang xuduo qitade hailuoyinxishizhe, benni faxian mengxiang jianglai bi taobixianshi gengrongyi xie.

Newmark maintains the viewpoint that domestication is the freest translation and adopting the approach can reserve the character, plot and theme of the original text and the culture of the original language also can be transformed into that of the target language. (Zhou Ming, 2016:6) In my opinion, the translation in the novel also can reserve the emotions of the main character, Bennie. Especially, "remain clean" is translated into "xixingemian". The translator can have the feelings that Bennie wants to rebuild his normal life. But, at that time, he cannot control himself but restart injecting the drugs. Therefore, the translation reaches the goals of all three elements. It belongs to the excellent translation.

Monica was truly glad for Enrique, whom she knew was a good man, but she chastised herself

for not being more of a “military wife”. She had come to hate war, and she hated even more the long separations that were putting a strain on their marriage.

Translation: Monika zhenwei enlike gandao gaoxing, ta zhidao shige yingxiong, danyouyu zij jiang buzai shi “junsao” ershoudao zenan. Ta kaishsi taoyan zhanzheng, ta shenzhi gengtaoyan changqi fenju gei tamen de hunying dailai yali.

Similar to the translation above, the translation reserves the emotions of the main character, Monica. She loves her husband and is proud of him, but she hates wars and eagerly leaves him. Especially, “military wife” is translated into “junsao”. It complies with the habits of the target readers and make them have a better understanding of the novel. At the same time, the translation reaches the goals of three elements. It can be recognized as the excellent translation.

4.1.4 Literal Translation

Enrique always struck her as more of a straight arrow than a lot of her friends.

Translation: He tade xuduo pengyou xiangbi, enlike geng zhongcheng zhengzhi, zhezhong pinzhi xiyingle monika.

Literal translation refers to translate by the sequence of the original text and stay faithful the original text. As a matter of fact, the translation reserves the flavor of the original text. Meanwhile, it adheres to the standard of the three elements. Thus, it is the excellent translation.

By contrast, Bennie’s mother was almost hysterical when she viewed the body of her mijo, qinaide in whom she always had such great faith, even when he was disappointing her.

Translation: Xiangbijiao eryan, benni de mama kandao ziji erzide shitizhishi, jihu xiesidili, yinwei jishi zai benni lingta dashisuowang zhishi ta rengdui zijide erzi jiyu houwang.

Through the approach of literal translation, the target readers can catch the feelings that the mother is so sad for the death of Bennie and has a deep love for her child. Thus, the translation seizes the emotions of the character. It can be classified into the excellent translation.

Nor can they appreciate how powerful that craving can be, even after years of staying clean.

Bennie took in the dope that night, and the next morning he woke up and finally realized that he wasn’t just clever—he was self-destructively clever.

Translation: Shenzhi duonianlai yizhi buxishi dupin, tamen renghui juede zhezhong kewang feichang qianglie. Natianwanshang, benni jinbuzhu youhuo, youxishile dupin, diertian xinglaihou, ta cai yishidao zijiyidianer yebu congming, zhibuguo shanchang ziwohumie ba le.

From the translation, the target readers can understand the feelings of the character that he is helpless and cannot be in control of his addiction to the drugs. The translation reserves the flavor of the character. It can can be categorized as the excellent translation.

4.2 Extra-translation Behavior

4.2.1 Creative Translation

His two older brothers’ feelings lay somewhat in between those of their parents. Enrique, who left home when Bennie was about to start the third grade, had only heard bits and pieces about Bennie’s drug habit and arrest, but he was too involved with his own family in recent years to give a lot of thought to his youngest brother.

Translation: Tade liangge gege ganshou jieyu zhe liangzhe zhixin. Enlike, zaibennishang sannianji shi bianlijia, zhibuguo tingwen benni you xiduxiguan he beidaibu de zhiyanpianyu, bingqie jinxienian ta mangzhe chuli ziji xiaojiating de shi, yemeitaiguji zijide xiaodidi.

Creative translation refers to adding his own understanding of a translator to the translation. As for the translation, it expresses the conditions of Enrique and his sadness and sorrow. However, it violates the rule of degree of rationality. Thus it just can be judged as the relatively excellent translation.

4.2.2 Free Translation

One night, while cruising through the West Side with a friend who had already begun the

process of joining up with La Eme, Bennie was startled when his friend pulled up to a traffic light and shots rang out, grazing the car and shattering a window.

Translation1: Yitian wanshang, dang benniyu yigeyijing kaishiyu La Eme jiaowang de pengyou zai xiqu xunyou shi, dang benni de pengyou laqi jiaotongxinhaodeng bing xiangqi qiangsheng, fangmuchezi bing zasui chuanghu shi, benni

dachiyijing.

Translation2: Yitian wanshang, benni zai xiqu he yige yijing jiaru La Eme de pengyou xiahuangdang shi, tapengyou chaozhe jiaotongdeng chongqu, chuanlai yizhenzhen qiangsheng, xiade lushangde chezi luancuan, lian chezi dou zhensuile.

Translation1 adopts the approach of literation, and it makes the target readers feel obscure and cannot understanding the meaning. However, compared with translation1, translation 2 adopts the approach of free translation and the version is fluent in expression and lively in context. However, it violates the standard of degree of truth-seeking. Thus, it just can be categorized into the relatively excellent translation.

4.3 Non-translation

As was customary with large Mexican-American families, he had, in addition to his immediate family, two living abuelas, over a dozen tias and tios, and an even larger contingent of cousins.

Translation: Anzhao moxigeyi meiguoren dajaizu de guanli, chule zhixiqinshu, benni youliangge huozhede abuelas, shijige tia he tios, yiji gengduo de biaoqing.

The meaning of “abuelas”, “tia” and “tio” can be found and these words belong to Spanish. However, the scope of the meaning is so wide and cannot be properly expressed in Chinese. Thus, the translator keeps the original words unchanged, including MVK. However, the target readers maybe feel puzzled and the translation violates the standard of degree of truth-seeking. Thus, it just can be the relatively excellent translation.

He started moving down on the hierarchy of needs pyramid, his self-esteem and desire for human affiliation replaced by the daily grime of survival, anything to ward off the demons of withdrawal.

Translation:Ta kaishi cong xuqiu jinzita de dengjitixizong yilu xiahua, tade zizunxin he dui renleiguishude kewang wei rifuyiri de gouyan canchuan suoqudai, zheyiqie doushi zai taobi.

The translator omits the translation of the demons. However, it completely express the meaning. It violates the standard of truth-seeking. Thus, it just can be judged as the relatively excellent translation.

5 Conclusion

From the preparations before translation to proof reading of the translation, I understand two points that firstly, a translator should be well-equipped with bi-lingual competency; Secondly, a translator should be strict with the translation. Meanwhile, the translation report task can lay a solid foundation for my graduation design. According to the requirements of the journal, all Chinese translation are replaced with pinyin. If you want to have further understanding for my research, please email me in 1623325375@qq.com.

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