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中国官方记者招待会汉英交替口译策略之功能翻译研究

A Study of Strategies for Chinese-English Consecutive Interpreting at China's Official Press Conferences from the Perspective of the Functionalist Translation Theory

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Abstract

The research object of this thesis is Chinese-English (C-E) consecutive interpreting at China's official press conferences (COPCs). With the core elements of the Functionalist Translation Theory as the theoretical basis, this study employs the method of case analysis of the data collected for this project with a view to verifying and summarizing some coping strategies for C-E consecutive interpreters at COPCs. This thesis presents a brief introduction to the background, significance, objective, data description and methodology of the present study. Then it discusses the definition, history and features of COPCs, and some commonly encountered difficulties in interpreting on these occasions. In addition, a review of previous studies of this research object is presented. COPCs are, in essence, inter-cultural communication events with clear purposes. In this thesis, the Functionalist Translation Theory is elaborated with an emphasis on participants involved in these situations, translation briefs and rules underlying the theory. Meanwhile, an overview of the four representative figures as well as the development of the theory is presented. The method of case analysis is used to explore coping strategies for C-E consecutive interpreting from the perspective of the Functionalist Translation Theory. Each strategy is verified by the analysis of sufficient and convincing examples. All the examples analyzed in this thesis are taken from the transcripts of COPCs held in the last two years. This thesis argues that it is feasible and reasonable to employ the Functionalist Translation Theory in C-E consecutive interpreting at COPCs.

Key Words: the Functionalist Translation Theory; China's official press conferences; press conference interpreting; Chinese-English consecutive interpreting strategies

摘要

本文以中国官方记者招待会汉英交替口译为研究对象,在功能翻译理论的核心要素的指导下,采用基于语料的例证分析法,旨在证实并总结该场合的汉英交替口译策略。本文简述了本研究的背景、意义、目的、语料收集及研究方法,讨论了中国官方记者招待会的定义、历史和特点,并由此提出了该口译的难点。此外,对该研究对象的前人研究成果进行述评。从本质上来说,中国官方记者招待会是具有明确目的的跨文化交际活动。本文系统阐述了功能翻译理论,着重于该口译参与者、翻译纲要和功能翻译四大原则。同时概述了该理论的四大代表人物及发展历程。在功能翻译理论指导下,本文结合例证分析以探讨汉英交替传译口译策略。每一策略都由充足的实例验证而得出,同时本文中所分析的实例均为近两年中国官方记者招待会的转录文本。本文证实了功能翻译理论对中国官方记者招待会汉英交替口译的研究是合理可行的。

关键词: 功能翻译理论 中国官方记者招待会 会议口译 汉英交替口译策略

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Chapter One Introduction

1.1 Background of This Study

With the deepening of China's reform and opening up and the acceleration of globalization, interpreting plays a more and more important role in cross-cultural communication. As bilateral and multilateral cultural and economic exchanges increase at an unprecedented speed, press conferences at all levels in China have become a communication channel with the outside world as well as a window through which foreigners can look at today's China. In recent years, an increasing number of international and local press conferences covering various topics have been held in China. They have evolved into a tool for the Chinese government to build up its image and a channel to promote communication between China and the outside world. China's official press conferences (COPCs), such as the annual press conferences held during the sessions of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), have gained world-wide attention due to the significance of the topics covered and the authenticity of the messages conveyed. They are the most influential and prominent press conferences in terms of diversity of attendee composition, number of TV viewers as well as news value. Therefore, they have become a new area of research for scholars on interpreting studies. With such characteristics, COPCs are in essence inter-cultural communication events with clear purposes, which make them ideal objects of research in the framework of the Functionalist Translation Theory.

1.2 Significance and Objective of This Study

Previous studies of interpreting at COPCs mainly focus on the interpreter's role or culture-specific words from the perspective of the Interpretive Theory or the Adaption Theory. Studies addressing coping strategies are rare. Therefore, the author of this

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