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**Ideology and Translation: A Critical
Discourse Analysis Perspective**

从批评性话语分析看意识形态与翻译的关系

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SYNOPSIS

Traditional translators tend to focus on the linguistic ‘equivalence’ between the source text and the target text. Meanwhile, traditional translation researchers tend to concentrate on truthfulness or falsehood of translation by resorting to the old evaluative method of setting one translation alongside another and examining both in a formalist vacuum in most cases, which partly accounts for the fact that some translations are misjudged and their values are denied. The present writer argues that ideology, as one of many underlying factors which influence translation, is a necessary component that we must take into consideration during the process of translation and that of evaluation of translation.

This paper, through a series of linguistic, historical, sociological and comparative studies, probes into the nature and features of the relationship between ideology and translation from the perspective of critical discourse analysis (CDA). It is hoped that a new insight can be discovered into the root cause of inadequacy in translation studies on ‘equivalence’ and that it may prove to be of value for researchers who seek alternative explanations for mistranslation caused by factors other than linguistic competence.

This thesis is composed of six chapters including an introduction and a conclusion. Chapter One presents background information on the study of ideology and translation. The scope and purpose of this study, the methodology, and the organization of this thesis are also discussed.

Chapter Two provides an overview of CDA, which includes its development, theoretical origins, principles, major approaches and main objectives.

Chapter Three offers a detailed introduction to and an analysis of the concept ‘ideology’ in CDA, embracing its origin, definition and its close relation with CDA. In addition, some controversies about ideology and CDA have also been put forward for further discussions.

Chapter Four explores the intricate relationship between ideology and translation from a critical point of view. Beginning with some discussions of the concept ‘translation’, this chapter examines the importance and necessity of combining ideological analysis with translation studies from the perspective of CDA.

Chapter Five presents some findings from case studies. It analyzes the ideological components hidden in the original text and the target text by adopting three approaches of CDA: systemic functional linguistics (SFL), social-historical background analysis and intertextuality analysis. Highlighting the ideological manifestation in the original text and the target text, this chapter aims to help translators to rethink how to produce better translations and how to help readers to obtain a better understanding of the target text.

Finally, the concluding chapter presents a brief summary of the interwoven relationship between ideology and translation from the CDA perspective and calls upon translators and researchers of translation studies to attach more importance to the hidden ideology in original texts and target texts.

Key words: ideology; translation; critical discourse analysis

论文摘要

传统译者大多致力于在原语文本和译语文本之间求取最大限度的语言对等，忽视了原文中所隐藏的意识形态意义，从而不能完全再现原文的精髓。传统的翻译研究者在评论译作时，亦大多偏重于语言方面的形式对等，很少考虑原作中所隐含的意识形态意义和译者所处的社会历史背景，从而对有些译者和译作做出了不公正的评价。本文作者认为，要最大限度的再现原作的精髓，要对译作做出更公正的评价，译者与翻译研究者就应该考虑到意识形态这一因素。

为充分研究意识形态与翻译的关系，本文作者借鉴了批评性话语分析的研究方法。七十年代兴起的批评性话语分析法不但分析语言本身，更强调语言的产生和接受过程以及在这一过程中所隐含的意识形态意义和权利关系。本文尝试着借用该方法分析意识形态在原作中的体现和对翻译过程的操纵与影响，试图证明：若忽视意识形态的影响，译文将不能如实传达原作的意义；我们对译作做出的评价也将是不全面的。

本文共六章。第一章简要介绍研究本课题的原因、目的和本文的结构。第二章详细介绍了批评性话语分析法，囊括了其发展历史、理论基础、原则、主要分析方法和分析目标，是本文的方法论基础。第三章介绍了批评性话语分析中的意识形态理论，是本文的理论基础。第四章详尽探讨了意识形态与翻译的关系，分析了意识形态在翻译中的体现和对翻译过程的操纵，指出了将意识形态理论和翻译研究结合起来的重要性和必要性。第五章是本文的个案分析。作者应用批评性话语分析中的三大主要分析方法（系统功能语法分析，语篇体裁交织性分析，社会历史背景分析），结合翻译实践，分析了意识形态如何在原文中得到体现，译者如何利用翻译来体现自己的意识形态取向等问

题。第六章对本文的主要观点进行了总结，并呼吁译者和翻译研究者在翻译实践和理论研究中更多地关注意识形态的影响。

关键词： 意识形态； 翻译； 批评性话语分析

厦门大学博硕士论文摘要库

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Chapter One: Introduction

1.1 Background of This Study

Dating back to the Tang Dynasty, the study of translation has a long history in China. However, translation researchers seem to have never reached a consensus on how to achieve full ‘equivalence’ between the source text and the target text.

For a long time, researchers have focused their attention on language, including linguistic analysis and comparison of texts, whereas translators’ intentional or unintentional visibility (i.e., translators’ deliberate or unintended mistranslation of the source text) is frequently neglected in translation studies. As a result, numerous prescriptive translation theories have been produced. However, mistranslation still seems to be something that translators cannot eradicate. Some researchers, who have not made thorough investigations into factors influencing translators and translation processes, tend to judge translations by criteria derived from their empirical experience and pay much less attention to the fact that mistranslations of a pure linguistic kind are far fewer than those made due to factors of non-linguistic nature. By resorting to the old evaluative method of setting one translation alongside another and examining both in a formalist vacuum, they concentrate on truthfulness or falsehood of the translation, without a systematic analysis of the deep factors underlying a seemingly unfaithful version. What is worse, some scholars, lacking the academic spirit of tolerance and generosity, tend to sentence a

translation to death at first sight simply according to their empirical experience. As a result, some translations are misjudged and their value, social or artistic, is denied.

The writer of the present paper, however, argues that translation is never just about language alone. Just as Hatim and Mason [1] (P11) assert: ‘inevitably we feed our own beliefs, knowledge, attitudes and so on into our processing of texts, so that any translations will, to some extent, reflect the translator’s own mental and cultural outlook, despite the best of impartial intentions.’ Therefore, the present writer maintains that a seemingly faithful translation does not necessarily convey the spirit of the original text and an ‘unfaithful’ translation may sometimes be more socially significant than a faithful translation, and that ideology, as one of many underlying factors which influence translation, is a necessary part that we must take into consideration during translation process and translation evaluation.

This paper, through a series of cross-cultural, historical, sociological and comparative studies, probes into the nature and relationship between ideology and translation from the perspective of critical discourse analysis (henceforth CDA). It is hoped that a new insight will be discovered into the root reason of inadequacy in translation studies on ‘equivalence’ and that it may be of value for researchers who look for alternative explanations for mistranslations caused by factors other than linguistic competence of translators.

1.2 Scope and Purpose of This Study

In response to the above mentioned inadequacy in translation studies of the

relationship between faithful translation and the visibility of the translator, we attempt to introduce a new analytical method for translation researchers. This is an inter-disciplinary research involving theories of CDA, translation, sociology, linguistics and intercultural communication.

There are three objectives. First, we aim to introduce the method of CDA and the theory of ideology into translation studies, with a view to providing a new method for analyzing the translator's role and the existence of mistranslations in translation studies. Second, because mistranslations are often indiscriminately regarded by some scholars as a kind of intolerable insult and betrayal to the original text and because the social significance of intentional mistranslations is usually devalued and misinterpreted, the writer hopes to reduce such misunderstanding as much as possible by introducing CDA ideological analysis into translation studies. Third, this introduction to the analysis of the relationship between ideology and translation from the perspective of CDA is also intended to stimulate more interest among researchers in carrying out more innovative researches and explorations in the field of translation studies.

1.3 Methodology and Organization of the Present Thesis

In this thesis, three major research methods have been used in the analysis of the relationship among CDA, ideology and translation. The first method is literature review. Through an extensive reading of books and journals on translation studies, CDA, sociology, socio-linguistics, socio-cultural studies, anthropology and other relevant fields of study, the present writer is well acquainted with the popular or once-popular theories concerning translation. A good understanding of these

theories is of great help to the study which is going to be carried on in this thesis. Following that, we apply the method of CDA to the research of translation so that we can understand the subtle meaning under the surface structure of the original text, which is usually consciously covered by the original writer, and be clear about the reasons why some ‘mistranslations’ will be produced. Finally, by applying the approach of CDA and the theory of ideology to translation studies, we have successfully put the inter-disciplinary method into practice in the present study.

This thesis contains four chapters besides an introduction and a conclusion. Chapter Two provides an overview of CDA, which includes its definition, theoretical origins, major approaches, principles and objectives. Chapter Three offers us a detailed introduction to and an analysis of ‘ideology’, embracing its origin, definition and its close relation with CDA. In addition, some controversies about ideology and CDA have also been put forward for further discussions. Chapter Four explores the intricate relationship between ideology and translation. It is argued that, without making an ideological study of the original text, translators might make mistakes; and that, without an ideological study of the social-historical background which translators are involved in, we cannot understand many ‘mistranslations’. Chapter Five presents some findings from case studies, which analyze the ideological components hidden in the original text and the target text by adopting three approaches of CDA: systemic functional linguistics (SFL), social-historical background analysis and intertextuality analysis. This chapter aims to enable translators to produce better translation and to help readers to obtain a better understanding of the target text. Finally, the concluding chapter summarizes the interwoven relationship between CDA, ideology and translation.

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