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硕 士 学 位 论 文

释意理论指导下的口译教学研究

The Study of Interpreting Teaching under the Guidance of Interpretive Theory

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Abstract

The thesis focuses on the study of interpretive theory and its application in teaching. The thesis can be divided into two parts. The first is the theoretical part. The thesis starts with the investigation of theories of memory. Furthermore, it probes into the core concept "sense" in interpretive theory and two important models. The theoretical part prepares and supports the studies of the application of the theory in teaching and practice. In the second part of the thesis, the thesis discusses the application in different interpreting modes and different cultures. Additionally, the thesis also analyses the influence from new technologies in interpreting. In the end, the thesis concludes that the application of interpretive theory in China needs adjustments. Under the guidance of interpretive theory, students are encouraged to take comprehensive courses in memorizing, cognitive training, with and without notes training, and bi-lingual simultaneous training. The thesis is aimed to investigate the concepts and models in the theory, to look into the practical significance in interpreting teaching, and make some contributions to the cultivation of qualified interpreters.

Key Words: interpretive theory; sense; de-verbalization; interpreting triangular model; interpreting teaching

摘要

文章主体可以分为理论和实践两个部分。在理论部分,本文从与人的认知密切相关的记忆理论谈起,进而重点探讨了释意理论中的核心概念"意义",以及两个核心理论模型:口译三阶段模型和口译三角模型。通过理论探究,本文总结了释意理论的核心观点,并为后续的实践探究提供了理论支持。在实践的探讨中,本文重点探究了释意理论在不同类型的口译,不同国家的应用之间的相同与不同。也探讨了释意理论在新科技的影响下,对于现代教学的意义。最后得到结论,释意理论在中国的教学实践应用,应该在释意理论的指导下,做适当的调整。教学和实践的重心,应仍放在"意义"的表达,并且在教学过程中,要时刻注意学生记忆的训练,认知技巧的训练,笔记以及脱离笔记的练习,以及双语同传的练习等。这些教学实践的目的,是帮助学生更好的完成信息的提取,认知的拓展以及适应更多的市场需求。本文主要是想通过研究释意中,核心的概念和模型,产生探讨出对现代口译教学和实践的现实意义,从而为口译人才的培养和输出,起到一定的启发性的作用。

关键词:释意理论:意义:脱离源语外壳:口译三角模型:口译教学

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Introduction

Interpreting studies started in the 1950s in the West. Since then it has gone through four stages of development (刘和平, 2006; 肖晓燕, 2002). The first stage is from the 1950s to the 1960s when the study was barely at its infancy. The second stage is from the 1960s to the 1970s, with the progress in experimental psychology. The third stage is professional development stage from the 1970s to the middle of the 1980s when an increasing number of interpreting practitioners were involved in the study. The fourth and last stage is after the mid-1980s, with prosperous development in the interpreting field, leading to abundant research achievements. Among the four stages, the first stage is comparatively underdeveloped. The study results are mostly summaries of experience produced by several interpreters, rather than systematic theories (张吉良, 2008). Such the situation is changed during the second stage of development when experiential psychological study was applied to the study of interpreting. Danica Seleskovitch also put forward the interpretive theory of translation at that time. Inspired by the research findings in psychology and cognitive science, Seleskovitch combined achievements with her experience and created the interpretive theory of translation. The theory sees interpreting proper as a cognitive translation of source languages, and a communication activity to deliver messages (Seleskovitch, 1968). Such a proposition is the foundation and core argument of the interpretive theory. As time goes by, interpretive theory develops with new findings in linguistics, cognitive science, and experimental psychology, and information science. The thesis chooses the interpretive theory, as the study subject is that as one of the defining theories in

interpreting the theory is instructive and meaningful to modern interpreting study. The models in the theory, the three-stage model (comprehension, de-verbalization, re-formulation) and the interpreting triangular model, have guiding significance to contemporary interpreting teaching and cultivation.

The research approach in the thesis attempts to bridge "theory" with "practice". The "theory" part is composed of memory theory and interpretive theory. The thesis starts with the discussion of human memory since memory is the carrier of "sense" in interpretive theory. Understanding human memory and its functions prepares a further discussion of "sense" and how "sense" flows in interpretation. After the discussion of memory, the thesis penetrates into the study of interpretive theory, focusing on two core models in the theory: the three-stage model (comprehension, de-verbalization, re-formulation) and the interpreting triangular model. Based on the theoretical analysis, the thesis attempts to clearly explain concepts in interpretive theory and also discuss the significance and limitations of those concepts. After the theoretical analysis, the thesis transits to discuss the application of interpretive theory. The application includes both teaching application and application with new technologies. In teaching application part, the thesis explores different approaches that the theory applies to consecutive interpreting and simultaneous interpreting. Additionally, the thesis also compares with China interpreting environment with foreign interpreting environment, to critically study the application feasibility of interpretive theory in China. After discussing teaching practice, the thesis goes further to investigate the influence of new technologies on interpreting and interpretive theory. The thesis

discusses the benefits and risks that machine translation brings to human translation, and critically views the arguments from interpretive theory. In the practice research part, the thesis attempts to investigate the application of interpretive theory and its guiding significance in the Chinese market with all the technological influences.

The primary approach in the investigation in this thesis is a qualitative research with critical evaluations. The study methods include analysis, comparison and contrast, induction and deduction, visualization, and exemplification. By comparing with traditional structural linguistic theories, the thesis explains the revolutionary academic achievements of interpretive theory. Moreover, by analysing the thesis and core models in the theory, the thesis highlights the rationality and lists some points for debate in the theory. Then the thesis summarizes the guiding significance that the theory imposes on interpreting teaching in an inductive way. Furthermore, in the discussion of new technologies and machine translation, the thesis anticipates the relationship between machines and human translation in future based on reasonable deduction. Additionally, to illustrate arguments, the thesis introduces images and examples to improve the credibility of the arguments and made them readily understood.

The main structure is in line with the research approach. There are four chapters in the thesis.

The first chapter is the literature review. The thesis reviews the past studies and theories related to interpretive theory.

The second chapter is the study of memory, based on the three-store memory

model by Atkinson & Shiffrin (1968). The thesis looks into sensory memory, short-term memory and long-term memory respectively, and discusses their different roles in interpreting. Through the understanding of functions of memory, the thesis prepares to explain what is "sense" and how cognitive activities can influence "sense" in interpreting process.

The third chapter is oriented with "sense" in interpretive theory. First, the chapter explores the meaning of "sense" in the theory and verifies "sense" with its commonality with other linguistic terms such as "connotative equivalence" raised by Nida (1969) and "signified" brought up by Saussure (1980). Furthermore, based on the primary understanding of the concept "sense", the three-stage model and the interpreting triangular model are analysed, to develop a deeper understanding of interpretive theory. In the three-stage model analysis, the chapter explores those cognitive tools in interpreting, including mental supplements, cognitive inputs, synecdoche and notes. In the interpreting triangular model analysis, the chapter discusses the concept of equivalence relativity in interpreting, and critically reviews the triangular model. By the end, the chapter modifies the original triangular model, with highlights of interaction and cross-cultural communication characters of interpreting activities.

The fourth chapter is about the investigation of interpretive theory application.

There are two parts in application chapter. The first part is about teaching application.

In teaching application, the chapter first discusses the different application of interpretive theory in consecutive and simultaneous interpreting. In consecutive

interpreting, it focuses on the A language simultaneous interpreting and B language simultaneous interpreting. Moreover, it discusses the feasibility of applying the interpretive theory to China interpreting teaching. The second part is about application of the theory with new technologies. The chapter analyses the relationship between machine translation and human translation, and questions the claim from the interpretive theory that machines will not replace humans in interpreting. Also, the chapter explores current new technology advancements in interpreting such as corpus-based translation and speech-to-speech translation, and artificial intelligence translation. In the end, the thesis provides suggestions for applying new technologies to interpreting teaching.

To conclude, the thesis aims to understand the core concepts and models interpretive theory and their value for teaching practice. Based on that understanding, the thesis is aimed to make some contributions to the interpretation study and teaching methodology, and also provides practical suggestions for students to make progress with their interpreting skills.

Chapter One Literature Review

D. Seleskovitch is an experienced conference interpreter. In her doctoral dissertation Langage, Langues et Mémoire: Etude de Prise de Nots en Interprétation Consécutive in 1975, she first raised the idea of interpretive theory. However, some academics believe that the origins of the interpretive theory is in Seleskovitch's book L'interpréter dans les Conférences Internationales, Problèmes de langage et de Communication published in 1968 (刘和平, 2006). Even through there are arguments about the exact time of origins of the interpretive theory of translation, the theory was certainly initiated and pioneered by Seleskovitch. In the early adoption of the theory, Seleskovitch and her colleagues in École Supérieure d'Interprètes et de Traducteurs (ESIT, the Paris School) such as Marianne Lederer collaborated in developing interpretive theory, and successfully implemented the theory into teaching practice in ESIT.

The development of the interpretive theory of translation (referred as the interpretive theory in the thesis) is gradual. The theory covers both studies in interpretation and translation. In the beginning, the theory only focuses on the study of interpreting. After proposing the core principles and models in the theory, Seleskovitch and Lederer extend the theory to a broader range, including written translation. Moreover, Seleskovitch and Lederer have claimed in their work several

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