

A Study on English Translation of Chinese Nouns from the Perspective of Communicative Translation Theory

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Abstract: In recent years, with the rapid development of social economy, the communication and integration of countries around the world are becoming more and more frequent, and the output and input of cultural content are gradually increasing. In order to cross the language gap, better transfer our cultural information to foreign friends, but also to receive more advanced civilization ideas from western countries, language translation was born. Most western countries use English as a common language, and English translation becomes the core type of translation. All cultures in the world have their own unique heritage, customs and habits are quite different, it is not easy to fully communicate the local unique information resources to the people of other countries. This paper discusses and studies the English translation of TCM nouns from the perspective of communicative translation theory.

1. Introduction

We all know that traditional Chinese medicine is a unique heritage of Chinese medical culture. Different from western medical culture, the basic theory of traditional Chinese medicine is based on ancient Chinese philosophy and materialist dialectics, such as Yin and Yang five elements and eight diagrams, and is strengthened by integrating the essence of the development of religious civilization such as Buddhism and Taoism. As a result, Chinese medicine language is full of ancient Chinese cultural characteristics, and there are great differences with Western language culture. This brings great difficulty to English translation. How to overcome the understanding of these cultural differences through the correct method and convey some Chinese medicine theory knowledge to our foreign readers more vividly, clearly and clearly has become the most important topic for our translators at present [1].



Figure 1 History of TCM

2. Concept of Communicative Translation Theory

First put forward the theory of communicative translation, is the famous English translation theorist Peter Newmark (Peter Newmark), he pointed out that communicative translation is to strive to make the translation of the target text to the target language readers and the effect of the source language to the original language readers as close as possible. To put it simply, the translated translation must be "as usual ", more in line with the local people's language and cultural habits. What is different from semantic translation is that communicative translation only considers the target readers, and pays more attention to the understanding and reaction of the target readers when they receive the target text information, that is, the effect of information transmission. Communicative translation requires the translator to reconstruct the structure of the language and adopt the local language and culture to carry out the translation, while ensuring the smooth and authentic translation [2]. Because most of the target readers want to see the content of the translation is exactly similar to the things in their own culture and their own language, rather than the incomprehensible things and languages of foreign countries. The theory of communicative translation is a more convenient and applicable translation criterion, which is highly integrated, more effective and more in line with the communication needs of the contemporary international community. The theory of communicative translation puts forward many disadvantages of literal translation in semantic translation, and uses more colorful expressions to interpret the translation content more effectively, which facilitates the cultural transmission and also brings readers a more familiar way of receiving knowledge. It has to be said that this is a real cultural integration, providing absolute convenience for modern international exchanges.

3. The Importance of Translating Chinese Terminology into English

Traditional Chinese medicine belongs to the unique cultural treasure of our country. Although its medical theory is not as simple and straightforward as western medicine, it is an ancient discipline that can eradicate pathology. The charm of Chinese medicine is that it can solve the problem fundamentally, not just play the role of a fireman like Western medicine, where the fire to fire, but can not fundamentally solve the disease. The philosophy contained in TCM is also extremely profound, which is a high-end medical opinion according to the change of external environment and the change of four seasons to conform to the circulation of heaven. In recent years, with the continuous opening of international exchanges, many foreign medical enthusiasts have gradually come into contact with Chinese traditional medicine, deeply attracted by this magical theory, want to seek more information from the traditional Chinese medicine theory for a deeper understanding and cognition, which led to a large number of data translation work [3]. The Chinese medicine theory contains a large number of proper noun terms, these noun terms have a certain degree of artistic conception, if only want to rely on ordinary semantic translation methods to directly translate some of the Chinese medicine theory content, simply can not correctly describe the true meaning of our Chinese medicine knowledge to express, which will greatly reduce the spread of Chinese medicine theory. Therefore, our translators must pay attention to the details of these considerations, in the process of translating Chinese noun terms, strengthen the use of communication translation theory, only in this way can better carry out the world cultural exchange and dissemination. In the process of English translation, if we do not use the methods emphasized in the theory of communicative translation, we can not present a more correct interpretation of the content. If we translate interrogative and ambiguous sentences to our foreign readers, it is easy to misinterpret our knowledge of TCM theory and bring great obstacles to our readers' learning. At the same time, it is not conducive to the spread of our TCM culture. Therefore, our translators must give priority to the thinking logic habits of our foreign readers in the process of information translation.



Figure 2 Analysis of TCM

4. Approach to English Translation of Chinese Nouns from the Perspective of Communicative Translation Theory

4.1. English Translation of Terminology Derived from Religious Applications in Chinese Medicine

Religious culture has a long history in China. With the development of the society, some religious terms have been applied to the terminology of traditional Chinese medicine, such as "Zen", "Samadhi" and "No Life", which originated from Buddhism. According to the theory of communicative translation, the above-mentioned terms derived from Buddhism but applied in TCM nouns can be translated into "dhyana", "samadhi", "nirvana". This more tactful translation method can more vividly describe the true meaning contained in the article, and help foreign readers to further understand and accept the knowledge of TCM theory [4].

4.2. Terminology Derived from the Theory of Five Elements in Chinese Medicine

The theory of five elements of TCM is a regional language with strong local color in Chinese culture. Many western cultures have not been exposed to similar characters, but it is widely used in the terminology of TCM nouns. The five elements of "gold", "wood", "water", "fire" and "earth" can not only correspond to five colors and five accumulations, but also correspond to the internal organs of the human body. However, these noun terms are completely incomprehensible to western readers, and the words embodied by semantic translation can not convey TCM information correctly. Only by using the method of communicative translation can the medical meaning of these terms be displayed more vividly and vividly. The elements of the five elements of traditional Chinese medicine are actually referred to, but they are abstracted in the noun terms of traditional Chinese medicine. If we want to convey the meaning of the five elements correctly, we must stand in a relatively high angle to describe them.

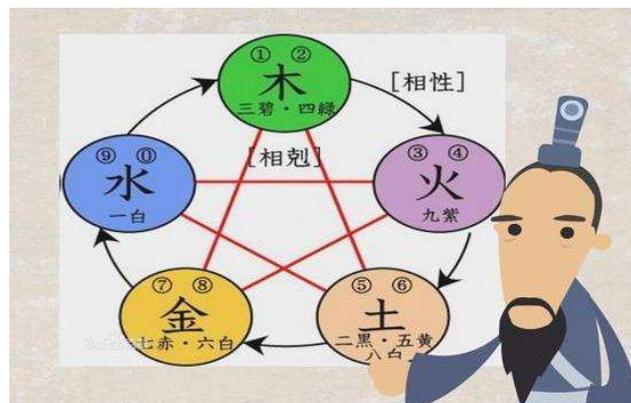


Figure 3 Five elements of Chinese medicine

4.3. Some of the More Complicated Terms of Chinese Medicine

China has five thousand years of history and civilization, Chinese culture is extensive and profound, the text is more numerous, among which some of the less commonly used complex and difficult to understand proper nouns have also been applied to the terminology of traditional Chinese medicine, such as "wind evil ", " dampness poison ", " removing blood stasis" and so on. The use of communicative translation can make the expressions of those terms more flexible and interesting, so that readers can understand the meaning they want to express.



Figure 4 Theoretical chart of TCM

4.4. Some Noun Terms with Significant Cultural Differences

There are some differences in local customs, cultural characteristics and religious taboos in all parts of the world. Some terms are common and common to us. If they are put into some foreign countries, they may become local taboo language. Only in this way can foreign readers accept the cultural information we want to convey from the heart, rather than because some taboos produce taboo psychology.

5. Concluding Remarks

To sum up, the role of communicative translation in the process of Chinese medicine translation can not be replaced by semantic translation method, and the effective treatment of Chinese medicine language and culture characteristics by communicative translation method can promote the content of Chinese medicine theoretical knowledge to be more clearly accepted and understood by foreign readers. Language is the main way of cultural communication, in order to better transfer and exchange the internal culture of their own country, we need to pay attention to the role of language communication, make good use of communicative translation theory, constantly improve the level of English translation, improve the quality of English translation, only in this way can better carry out the dissemination and communication of cultural content.

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