

Research on Metaphor in the Translation of English and American Literature

Xin Li

Yinchuan University of Energy, Yinchuan, Ningxia, 750001, China

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Abstract: Metaphor is a cognitive process. According to the similarities between the ontology and the metaphor, people map the metaphor to the ontology to better understand the essential features of the ontology through the characteristics of the metaphor. In English and American literature, metaphor is widely used as a rhetorical device. This paper has a comprehensive understanding of the theoretical concepts and characteristics of metaphor from various angles. It analyzes in detail the examples of verbs, nouns and adjectives that exist widely in English and American literary works, and deeply explores the methods of metaphor translation.

1. Introduction

In British and American literary works, metaphor has been widely used as a rhetorical device and has always been a research hotspot. Since the 1980s, some foreign scholars have begun to conduct multi-level and in-depth research on metaphor. The representative figures are Lakoff and Johnson. In contrast, domestic scholars have very little research on metaphor. The main representatives are Hu Zhuanglin, Shu Dingfang and Zhao Yanfang. Their research is limited to the metaphorical translation of poetics. Based on the concept of metaphor and its characteristics, this paper analyzes in detail the examples of verbs, nouns and adjectives that exist widely in English and American literary works and deeply explores the methods of metaphor translation.

2. Metaphor

According to the Longman Contemporary Advanced Dictionary, metaphor is “used to compare the escaping of a rhetoric created by two seemingly unrelated things.” It is the same that the metaphor is mapped to the ontology and the characteristics of the metaphor are used to better understand the essential features of the ontology. Metaphor is different from simile and does not need to be represented by the words such as “like” or “as”. Metaphor is a figure of speech that makes an implicit, implied, or hidden comparison between two things which are unrelated, but sharing some common characteristics. In other words, a resemblance of two contradictory or different objects is made based on a single or some common characteristics. Therefore, people start from the common point of the two things to better understand one through the characteristics of another so that expanding the scope of people's cognition and better understanding of another thing.

Metaphors are widely used in our everyday language. Literary works come from life but are higher than life. Also, there are lots of metaphors are also widely present in British and American literature. The following are examples of verbs, nouns, adjective metaphors and translations in English and American literature. (1) Noun metaphor is a common form of metaphorical expression. Through the connection between two things, one thing is used to more vividly express the essence and characteristics of another. For example, in the poem "To Dufu", William Wordsworth called Du Fu "a happy bird", "spring pride", "and you are hope, but love", "you are Blessed birds." In the poem "cuckold" symbolizes happiness and beauty. In Shakespeare's poetry, it depicts Du Fu: "There is also a rhododendron, depicting a vast number of joys; listening to Du Fu on every tree, laughing at the man who married him. Hey! Terrible voice, the heart of the husband's flesh is shocked." In this poem, Du Fu is not a beautiful symbol, but the author uses a witty technique. The metaphor of "cuckoo" is similar to the similarly pronounced "cuckold", which vividly depicts the psychological state of the husband's fear of humiliation. (2) Verb metaphors also appear widely in literary works.

Some are translated according to specific contexts, while others are verbally nominated for translation. For example, in "Pride and Prejudice", Elizabeth said to Darcy "I have never desired your good opinion, and you have certainly bestowed it most unwillingly". Wang Ke wrote it as "I have never been rare for you to lift, not to mention that you are very reluctant to lift me." The word "desire" is the meaning of desire, expectation, but in this sentence it is translated as "rare", "Image, vividly portrays Elizabeth's pride, arrogance, and strong self-esteem."

(3) Adjective metaphors. There are also a large number of adjective metaphors in English and American literary works. Sometimes they are nominalized and anthropomorphized during translation to better express the meaning of the original author. Also in *Pride and Prejudice*, I heard that Mr. Bentley, who is single, has such good conditions, Mrs. Bennett said: "A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year. What a fine thing for our girls!" "fine" is just an adjective. It has a beautiful and perfect meaning. The translator translates into the psychological desire of Mrs. Bennett to admire the daughters to marry a rich man. "Blessing" fully conveys what the original author wants to express. Metaphors such as prepositions and adverbs have also appeared in British and American literary works which are similar to nouns, verbs, and adjective metaphors and they are not mentioned as the key content in this paper.

3. Translation Methods of Metaphors in British and American Literature

Metaphors are also widely used in Chinese literary works. For example, ancient Chinese poets often use "moon" to represent "family reunion" and "thinking of feelings", "peony" for "famous wealth", and "green pine" for "strong and powerful". In contemporary Chinese literary works, metaphors can be seen everywhere through the words such as worms, ants, and dwellings, etc. Translation is a linguistic information transfer activity and uses a language form to re-present the practice of another language form. Due to the influence of different cultural backgrounds, customs, and educational backgrounds, people often have different understandings of the same kind of things. This requires translators to have rich knowledge of bilingual culture. In the translation of metaphors in British and American literary works, the following translation methods are generally used.

In Chinese and Western literary works, when the same metaphor has the same ontological understanding and the same way of cognition, the method of retaining the image can be used in translation. For example: "Even before they were acquainted, headmired Osborn in secret. Now he was his valet, his dog, his man Friday. (MW Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*)" It must have been translated like this: "Even in him and Osborne. Before he knew, he had secretly admired Osborne. Now he becomes his servant, his follower, his loyal servant Friday." Many people know that "Friday" is from Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*. It is the name of Robinson's loyal servant on the desert island. Here, the original author directly uses "Friday" to represent "he" to describe the identity and status of "he" at this time, and the admiration for Osborn. Among the readers in China, the image of "Friday" has long been deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. In view of the similarities between Chinese and Western readers about "Friday", it is necessary to translate it directly into "Friday" and add a "Front". The loyal servant makes the reader easy to understand and respects the meaning of the original author.

Due to cultural differences, people have different understandings of the metaphor and the ontological image. If the original image of the text cannot be preserved and there is no appropriate replacement in the target language, translators will have to abandon the metaphorical image and convey the original metaphor in a non-image language. In this way, the artistic conception or meaning of the original text will be weakened and there is a very high demand for the translators using his rich language skills and expression abilities to increase the appeal of the translation. For example: "To eat like a horse" is translated as "gobble." In the original sentence, the translator compared the way of eating to wolves and tigers, using metaphors, but there is no such thing as "ma" in the sentence, and it is not appropriate to translate it into "like a horse." Under the premise of respecting the original text, the translator used the ancient Chinese sentence form in translation, which is clear and simple.

Metaphor is a comparison between non-similar things, a modification or beautification of words,

a function of rich language expression, enhanced rhetorical effect, praise of closeness and blames attack, and thus is widely used in people's daily life, language communication and literature. In translating the literary works, when we translate metaphors in English and American literature, we can metaphorize some metaphors according to specific contexts, making their meanings clearer and more obvious. For example: Example 1: "The pen is mightier than the sword." which can be translated as "literary man is better than warrior." "The pen" is used in the sentence. In order to more vividly compare the power of the pen and the sword, the translator used the simile here, the "literature" takes place of "The pen", and the "warrior" instead of the "the sword" to make the reader easier to understand. Example 2: "All the world is a stage, and all the men and women just players." (Shakespeare: As You Like It) translated as "The world is the stage, everyone is an actor." World stage is a metaphor for the big stage, but also shows that the world is small. Everyone living in this world is an actor. They are using themselves. The words and deeds, dressing up performances to express themselves, composing life, beautifying the stage, enriching the world and the image concretely expresses the metaphorical meaning.

Metaphor is based on the similarities between the ontology and the metaphor, so that the expression of the ontology is more vivid. But as analyzed above, metaphor is euphemistic, which leaves a lot of difficulties for the reader while understanding the meaning of the original text. The simile is straightforward and makes it clear at a glance. Therefore, in the metaphorical translation of English and American literary works, the translator should also metaphorize some metaphors according to the specific context, so that readers can understand the meaning of the original text more easily. Example 1. "It was two thirty of a summer afternoon, and this hive of industry generally tended to slacken off at that that hour." In the summer, at 2:30 in the afternoon, this place that was originally a swarm of bees is also a bit better. (Translated by Weng Xianliang) The original text uses the metaphorical rhetoric "this hive of industry", which compares "industry" to "hive". However, when translating, Weng Xianliang metaphorically metabolized the metaphor and adopted the metaphorical sign "like" to portray the busy scene of the place more concrete and vivid, and highlighted it with the "Yuyuyou". Example 2. "Jurgis had to work in the hell of a fertilizer factory (Par: He had to work in a factory where conditions wereterrribly bad) Ejis had to work in a hellish chemical plant." "the hell of A fertilizer factory is the standard expression of metaphor, namely "A of B". In order to more vividly describe the working conditions of the chemical plant, the translator directly metabolizes the place and uses the phrase "hell-like" as the attribute to modify the chemical plant for the reader's understanding.

4. Conclusion

Metaphor is a kind of logical thinking activity. Through the commonality between the target language and the source domain, two seemingly unrelated things are linked through deep logic analysis. Metaphor is a cognitive process. When translating British and American literary works, the metaphorical image is rationalized and localized to transcend the cultural barriers between different languages realizing the parallel replacement of the metaphor and fully embodying the meaning of the original author and leaving the reader with unlimited imagination.

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