

A Study of Diplomatic English Translation from the Perspective of Relevance-Adaptation Theory

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Abstract: Diplomacy Involves Sensitive National Issues, National Interests, National Relations and Diplomatic Positions, Which Determine the Particularity of Diplomatic Translation. At the Same Time, Diplomatic Translation Also Has Translation Commonness. Translation Needs to Follow the Original Text and Convey It Exactly and Correctly. Grasping the Characteristics of Diplomatic Language is Conducive to the Study of Diplomatic Translation Techniques and Strategies. from the Perspective of Relevance-Adaptation Theory, This Paper Discusses the Adaptation Modes in Pragmatic Equivalent Translation and Social Pragmatic Equivalent Translation Respectively. It is Believed That the Translator Will Make Dynamic Adaptation in Both Language Structure and Context to Achieve the Goal of Pragmatic Equivalence. Whether Dealing with Cultural Image Diplomatic Translation or Non-Cultural Image Diplomatic Translation, the Translator Should Dynamically Adapt to the Language Context, Aesthetic Expectation and Acceptance Level of the Target Language Readers. Pragmatic Translation View Holds That Translation is a Dynamic Process of Adaptation and Selection to Context. the Essence of Translation is to Achieve the Best Connection among the Original Author, Translator and Reader through Ostensive and Inferential Methods.

1. Introduction

Diplomacy Usually Refers to a Country's Activities in International Relations, Mainly in the Form of Visits, Negotiations, Negotiations, Conclusion of Treaties, Issuance of Diplomatic Documents, Participation in International Conferences and International Organizations, Etc. One of the Hot Topics Discussed in Recent Years is Diplomatic Translation. the Discussion Comes Not Only from the Translation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, But Also from Universities and Research Institutions [1]. Diplomatic Translation is Also a Hot Topic for Students' Graduation Thesis. Diplomatic Translation Mainly Involves the Translation of Foreign Affairs Activities of National Leaders, Treaties, Negotiations, Diplomatic Documents and International Conferences. At Present, the Domestic Research on Diplomatic Translation Only Stays in the Static Research on Diplomatic Translation. They Either Simply Describe Common Strategies or Summarize Diplomatic Translation Strategies [2]. However, These Seem to Lack Dynamic Research. One of the Major Difficulties in Cross-Cultural Communication is That in Many Cases There Are Great Differences in the Quantity and Nature of Information Shared. from the Perspective of Translatology, in Order to Solve the Above Problems and Successfully Meet the Needs of Communication, Appropriate Translation Methods Should Be Selected Strategically [3]. in Recent Years, Many Scholars Have Discussed Pragmatics and Translation from the Perspectives of Presupposition, Politeness Principle, Conversational Implicature, Relevance Theory, Speech Act Theory, Conversational Analysis, Etc., and Have Achieved Certain Results. This Paper Intends to Explore the Adaptation in Pragmatic Diplomatic Translation from the Perspective of Relevance-Adaptation Theory.

2. Relevance-Adaptation Translation Theory

2.1 Relevance Theory and Adaptation Theory

The Speaker Will Express His/Her Utterance Information, While the Hearer Will Judge the Speaker's Utterance Information First, and Then Combine with the Information Knowledge Related to the Context Stored in His/Her Brain to Exert His/Her Cognitive Ability to Obtain the Context Assumption of the Utterance and Deduce the Speaker's Communicative Intention [4]. through Cognitive Explicitness and Pragmatic Inference, the Process of Achieving Contextual Effects with Minimal Effort in Order to Achieve Optimal Relevance. Translation is to Reproduce the Information in the Original Text in the Most Natural Way in the Recipient Language, First Reproducing the Meaning and Then the Style [5]. Language Has Variability, Negotiability and Adaptability. Variability is a Linguistic Feature That Limits the Possible Range of Choices, I.e. Language Has a Series of Selectable Possibilities and It Develops Dynamically. the Core Idea of Relevance Theory is the Optimal Relevance of Communication. in Other Words, in Order to Deduce the Speaker's Communicative Intention, the Hearer Needs to Maximize the Contextual Effect At the Expense of Minimal Cognitive Effort, and Finally Achieve the Core Purpose, and the Best Correlation between His Own Contextual Assumptions and the Speaker's Communicative Intention [6]. Thus, Translation Studies Have Shifted from a Single Code-Switching to a Pragmatic-Oriented, Diversified Study, Highlighting the Influence of Pragmatic Factors on the Translation Process. Relevance Theory, as a Newly Emerging Pragmatic Theory, Can Explain the Complex Code-Switching Phenomenon of Translation in the Ontological Sense and Reveal the Cognitive Relevance Nature of Translation Activities.

The process of language use is the process of continuous language selection [7]. This language selection process is carried out under the conscious or unconscious state of the language user, and may also be realized due to the internal needs of the language or due to the influence of external factors. It emphasizes the study of the translation process, regards translation as a communicative act that continuously carries out dynamic inference according to the context to achieve mutual understanding, and points out that optimal relevance is the basic principle that restricts translation [8]. That is, language users can make flexible changes from selectable items to meet the needs of communication. Newmark's communicative translation is roughly equivalent to Nida's concept of functional equivalence. He believes that "communicative translation attempts to produce an effect as close as possible to the effect of the original text on the target readers, and semantic translation attempts to convey the exact contextual meaning of the original text as closely as possible within the scope permitted by the semantic and syntactic structure of the target language [9]. This theory mainly focuses on how people make language choices in communication and provides an important theoretical basis for translators to choose translation strategies and techniques in translation.

2.2 Relevance-Adaptation Translation Theory

In recent years, some scholars have introduced relevance theory and adaptation theory into translation studies. This paper summarizes the significance and shortcomings of relevance theory in translation studies and adaptation theory in guiding translation, and attempts to combine the two theories and explore translation practice with relevance-adaptation model. That is, the success of translation mainly depends on whether the original author, the translator and the reader can achieve the best relevance, in other words, the translator seeks the best relevance from the express communication behavior of the original author in the translation process [10]. It can be seen that semantic translation focuses on the form and semantics of the original text, while communicative translation emphasizes functional equivalence. In order to facilitate communication, the translation can take into account many factors other than words. Under this theoretical framework, the context in translation activities can be linguistic context, situational context and cultural context. Language context mainly includes intratextual cohesion, intratextual cohesion and linear sequence. Interpretation process refers to the communication process between the translator and the source language author. This process is to find the connection in the source language, construct the context

assumption of the source language, and obtain the information intention, communication intention and the best context effect of the source language author. Then the cognitive effect is transmitted to the reader through the mutual understanding of the cognitive context of both parties, that is, the translator allows the reader to understand the original author's communicative intention with the least effort, thus realizing the purpose of cross-cultural and cross-language communication in translation.

3. Characteristics of Diplomatic Translation Language

3.1 Diplomatic Translation Language is Highly Political

Diplomatic translation involves diplomatic agreements, diplomatic documents, inter-state interest relations, territorial issues and cooperation issues reached with other countries, and issues related to the country's political, security, economic and military interests. Therefore, the problems in diplomatic translation should all be discussed under the branch of translation research, and only in this way can the research be more systematic. Diplomatic translation rises to the national political level and has a high degree of political sensitivity. Diplomatic translators should clarify the national position, grasp the translation skills of diplomatic language, and be cautious and accurate. Although diplomatic translation has its particularity, its research should still be carried out within the framework of translation studies, that is, to make diplomatic translation studies systematic. In the face of major international events such as hegemonism and power politics, one should have a clear political stand. When dealing with international issues and formulating specific foreign policies, we should not only adhere to principles but also pay attention to tactics and adaptability. The author of the original text expresses his communicative intention to the translator through the original text, while the translator infers the original author's communicative intention according to the context, language and relevance principle of the original text and finds the best relevance through inference. It will never shake when it is time to defend, nor will it be obstinate when it is time to improvise.

3.2 Strict Language in Diplomatic Translation

The translation of diplomatic agreements and documents involving inter-state interest relations, territorial issues and cooperation issues, as well as issues related to the country's political, security, economic and military interests, should proceed with caution. Diplomatic translators must carefully consider and accurately convey them. Through this process, the translator will realize the best correlation between his cognitive hypothesis and the communicative intention of the source language. The process of discourse production is the process of the translator's dynamic adaptation to the target readers. According to his own understanding of the original author's communicative intention deduced in the first communication process, as well as the translated language environment and his expectation of the translated readers, the translated readers, as listeners, should make corresponding inferences. There is no room for careless translation of diplomatic documents. The rigour of diplomatic language requires that the proper balance of diplomatic language must be in place and there must be no mistakes. The translator needs to be guided by the principle of optimal relevance, constantly make adaptive language choices in the process of transmitting the intention of the source language author, and consider whether it is related to the language context, social and cultural context and the translator's psychological motivation of the target language. And spend the least effort to meet the readers' expectation of cognitive effects, the translator will achieve the ultimate goal of translation validity, thus achieving the maximum convergence of validity to the target text and the original text.

4. Adaptation Model in Diplomatic English Translation from the Perspective of Relevance Adaptation Theory

4.1 Adapt to the Context

Since translation is a communicative activity, it must have its specific context. According to the

viewpoint of pragmatics, languages generated in different contexts have different pragmatic meanings. Therefore, in a living language, without situational context, words have no meaning. Cultural context is the cultural background outside the discourse, “it refers to the specific social norms and customs of a certain speech community. Translators should transfer the aesthetic feelings brought by cultural images in the original text to the target readers as much as possible through translation, and produce the same or similar effects among the target readers. According to the dynamic choices made by communicators who highlight their psychological consciousness, the main purpose of pragmatic research is to study the dynamic process of mutual adaptation between context and structural objects in language application practice under the influence of psychological consciousness. In diplomatic translation, we should choose the word meaning that is more in line with the context mode and logical relationship for translation. The choice of word meaning is an important step in translation and should be careful and accurate. Cultural context covers the history, culture, customs, social conventions, modes of thinking, moral concepts and values represented by each speech community. There are some self-evident things in one culture, but it takes a lot of effort to explain them in another culture. Under such circumstances, it is impossible to understand the real meaning of words if one is separated from the language environment.

4.2 Adaptation to Language Structure

On the basis of adapting to the context and thus correctly understanding the connotation of the original text, the translator must also adapt to the specific language structure, i.e. make adaptation at the language level, and select appropriate expressions that can fully express the explicit and implicit meanings of the original text for translation creation. Since there is no corresponding item in the cultural system of the target language reader or the item has a different textual status from that of the target language reader, translation difficulties occur when its function and meaning in the source text are transferred to the target text. Variability and negotiation are the basis and provide theoretical basis for translatability of translation. Adaptation is the purpose and result, which provides a reference for the selection of translation strategies and methods and has positive implications for the whole translation process. Because foreign languages have different expressions, they should be translated into expressions more in line with Chinese. Add or delete certain meanings before or after the words in the original text to make them more in line with Chinese norms. However, reducing words cannot reduce meaning, and adding words cannot increase meaning. Adaptation of language structure includes many choices of language: choice of language, code and style, choice of construction components of discourse, choice of different types of discourse and segments, and choice of construction principles of discourse. The so-called different text status means different values due to differences in ideology, usage or frequency of use. Adapted to the language context and aesthetic habits of Chinese readers, it not only vividly expresses the intention of the translator, but also brings poetic beauty to people.

4.3 Adapting to the Translator's Translation Motivation

In translation practice, the aim of translation is to transfer the source language culture to the target language culture without affecting the expression of the source language information. This communicative purpose can be understood as the translator's translation motivation, that is, when translating, the translator must evaluate the reader's interest orientation, cultural background, thinking habits, language acceptance ability, etc., so as to determine his own translation purpose and make corresponding adaptation. Under the guidance of optimal relevance, the translator uses rhetorical devices such as exaggeration and antithesis at the sentence level and adopts indirect translation strategies, which not only effectively conveys the diplomatic message and communicative intention, but also conforms to the Chinese context. Adaptation theory holds that in translation practice, the translator not only chooses the language form, but also flexibly adopts translation strategies according to the cognitive context of the reader, such as interpretation or annotation, substitution, supplement and omission, etc. After clarifying the purpose, the translator will adopt appropriate translation strategies and translation techniques to achieve the equivalent social pragmatic effect. For example, the translator's main purpose is to make the target readers

easily understand the original meaning. Because the implicit meaning caused by the communicators' shared knowledge, shared cultural background and present situational context cannot be expressed in form, many gaps are left in language form, which in turn need the hearers' shared knowledge, shared cultural background and situational context to speculate. Adapting to the reading habits and aesthetic expectations of the target readers, and using some illocutionary pragmatic information, the original diplomatic information intention and communicative intention are transmitted to achieve the same or similar contextual effects as the original.

5. Conclusion

Diplomatic translation involves the relationship between countries, rising to the political and national levels. Diplomatic translators should be both diplomats and translators. The position of the diplomatic translator should be clear, and a thorough analysis should be made of the policies, social systems and cultures of each country in the country and the world. Under the framework of relevance-adaptation translation theory, this paper mainly discusses the dynamic translation process of diplomatic translation. Diplomatic translation should first interpret the original diplomatic intention and seek the best connection with the original diplomacy, then make dynamic adaptation and make language choice. This paper explains that the adaptation model in pragmatic translation must emphasize that adaptation in pragmatic translation is dynamic adaptation, and they interact with each other and jointly affect the translator's translation behavior. Translation has the characteristic of cognitive relevance, and the essence of translation is the process of twice ostensive and inferential under the restriction of cognitive context. However, the process of translation is a process of continuous dynamic selection and adaptation according to language, culture and social background. The study of culture-specific items from the perspective of adaptation theory constructs a theoretical framework for translating culture-specific items and makes active and dynamic adaptation in the process of translation, thus realizing the ultimate goal of language communication in translation.

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