

A Research of Translation Issues of Jia Pingwa's Literary Works

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Abstract—Under the background of culture going-out strategy implemented comprehensively in our country, the method about how to promote the outstanding literary and art workers and cultural works of our country to an international level and make the excellent literary and art works of our country gain a foothold on the international stage has an important practical significance for carrying forward traditional Chinese culture. Jia Pingwa is known as a famous Chinese writer nowadays and we should attach enough importance to the translation work of his works.

Keywords—Jia Pingwa, Literature, Translation

I. INTRODUCTION

Jia Pingwa is one of important leading figures in the field of contemporary literature of our country and he plays a significant role of promotion for the development of China's contemporary literary career. Many people think that the contribution made by Jia Pingwa to China's contemporary literature is no less than that made by Mo Yan. However, the influence of Jia Pingwa's literary works in the world is very limited. Jia Pingwa has numerous works but the really going-out ones are very rare.

At present, our country comprehensively promotes the culture going-out strategy. The implementation of this strategy is not only our positive countermeasure for the foreign culture shock, but also an important link for the nationalization of Chinese traditional culture. Under the background of going-out strategy and powerful cultural country, promoting the translation work of Jia Pingwa's literary works to the level of internationally cultural exchange and transmission has a profound significance. As a native writer of Shaanxi Province, Jia Pingwa's works are full of profound Shaanxi national culture and characteristics of the times. Therefore, boosting greatly the translation work of Jia Pingwa's literary works plays an important motivational and facilitated role in promoting our country's culture to go to the world and demonstrating our country's national culture.

II. THE IMPORTANT SIGNIFICANCE OF GOING ABROAD OF JIA PINGWA'S LITERARY WORKS

With the continues development of economy and society, the wave of globalization has spread into every corner around the world and the global structure makes cultural and economic exchange among all countries in the world embark on a fast track of development. Any country cannot keep the long-term development in closed situations.

In recent years, especially since the reform and opening-up, foreign cultures have come into our country massively. We experience a complex cognitive process about how to deal with the foreign cultures. The attitude has been changed from original resistance to embracement of everything that is useful and essence absorption and dross discarding with a scientific and objective attitude in the later. To some extent, up to now, we have still kept a complex mind to treat foreign cultures. The source of this kind of complex mind is firstly our starvation of confidence in our own culture. How to change this situation? If our establishment of senses of confidence and pride in the Chinese culture with thousands of years' history is not merely an academic matter, it should be more ascended to the level of national cultural security. Many scholars have made theoretical researches and practical explorations for long in terms of this issue and they have achieved encouraging results in many aspects. The going-out strategy is made and also promoted under this situation.

In the strategic layout of cultural globalization nowadays, the cultural communication and exchange between countries is an important opportunity to show national cultural soft power of a country. Since ancient times, the attitude we deal with foreign cultures has been always relatively inclusive, whether in ancient times or in modern times. Since China suffered from humiliation in modern times, and the attitude was somewhat conservative in the level of cultural exchange. But from wide view of our country's history of development, China treats the communication and transmission among different cultures with extremely high pattern and soft attitude both in the Silk Road of ancient times and in the civilization of the Han and Tang dynasties.

Nowadays, the west is more developed than us in some aspects, whether their scientific and technological strength or economic power. Based on this point, some people call the profound heritage of our country's traditional culture in various questions. It is like this at home, and how do the foreign countries deal with Chinese culture? In the sixth plenary session of the seventeenth central committee, the guideline about building a culturally strong country and promoting our country's traditional culture to strengthen the future cultural construction is emphasized and obviously it is a policy orientation, namely make the traditional Chinese culture greatly revitalized, make excellent Chinese culture go abroad truly and make Chinese literature have a place in the world literary again, which have an important strategic significance for promoting the cultural confidence of citizens of our country and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Among these, the translation work of good literary works is the important link in the entire system. Only the relevant

translation work of literary works is done well, can the cultural connotation and expression of emotion showed in the excellent works be really felt by readers, can these works really be allowed to play the role of cultural guidance, and can these works be worked as the basis to show China's cultural soft power.

III. THE TRANSLATION OF JIA PINGWA'S WORKS ABROAD

Currently although the Chinese-English translation work of Jia Pingwa's literary works has been carried out, the works are translated in extremely limited quantities. At present, in English speaking countries, the number of English version of Jia Pingwa's literary works is fewer than one-tenth of the total number of his works. According to the statistical data, in the Jia Pingwa's works that have been translated into English and also been published abroad by the end of June of this year, there are about 10 essays, about 30 short stories and only two novels *Old Castle* and *Turbulence* going abroad. The translation work of Mr. Jia Pingwa's full-length novel *The Abandoned Capital* is underway. *Chinese Literature* established by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country is the earliest one to start to carry out the translation work of Jia Pingwa's works. It is not only an important national publication of our country, but also the symbolic magazine publication of Chinese literature to be the first one to recommend Chinese works to develop abroad after the founding of the People's Republic of China. In general, this publication has an important significance for the promotion of translation work of Jia Pingwa's works and makes great contributions to the recommendation of Jia Pingwa's literary works. The publication has translated Mr. Jia Pingwa's more than 10 novelettes and short stories in total one after another and the works which are representative and also have achieved good results are Mr. Jia's *My Little Peach Tree* and *The Song of the Forest*, etc.

The editor in chief of *Chinese Literature* (Yang Xianyi) advocated fully publishing the English version of series of books of "Panda" in 1981 and the series would translate excellent works published in *Chinese Literature* (not published books) and then collect the translation versions to publish them. Besides, the series also include some new translated works. The series of books publish Jia Pingwa's collection of essays *Old Xian: Evening Glow of An Imperial City* and the work *The Heavenly Hound*, etc.

Another promotion channel for the English translations of Jia Pingwa's works is that the translations are published by overseas publishing houses. And these English translations are translated and arranged to be published by some Chinese linguists and Chinese scholars abroad. The translation versions published abroad are mainly some representative novelettes and short stories and essay writings (Jia Pingwa's work *A Family Chronicle of A Wooden Bowl Maker* published in 1998 is a representative one). In addition, there are also some works in Chinese and English version whose publication some Chinese translation scholars participate in, such as Mr. Jia's work *The Country Wife*.

IV. RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES FOR TRANSLATING JIA PINGWA'S WORKS

A. *The Government should Increase Investment and Publicity for the Going-Out Plan of Jia Pingwa's Literary Works*

Translating these literary works into English versions is the difficult point of the entire work currently. The two points about how to realize the perfect cohesion and transition between Chinese and Western cultures and how to promote the unobstructed communication and exchange between Chinese and Western cultures are the important tasks to make English translations of Chinese literary works. If the excellent Chinese culture is really expected to succeed in going-out abroad and marching towards the world literature and then cultural power strategy can be advanced orderly, the issue firstly needing to be solved is to strengthen the quality and level of our country's translation work so that the bottleneck of Chinese-English translation can be overcome. For the moment, there are a lot of students who are major in English in various major universities and colleges and among them, the talents having good English translation ability are in very sufficient numbers, but the experts really having higher ability to translate from Chinese to English are rare and the talents having translated influential works are even fewer. The translation work from Chinese to English is very hard and it needs to cost too much man and material power. Even after a series of efforts, the works formed not always can be published successfully abroad and all of the preliminary work and paid are more likely to be wasted. It is a kind of predicament. To really change this situation in a sense firstly needs the government to strengthen the cultivation of high-quality talents for the translation from Chinese to English in our country, and also to invest more capital and make effective policies to support the successful implement of translation work from Chinese to English comprehensively. Only the government's support and advocacy can encourage more translation talents to participate in the translation work with positive enthusiasm, lay a solid talent foundation for translation of excellent cultural works, and promote Chinese excellent literary works to go abroad and stand in the world literature as soon as possible.

B. *Strengthen the Cooperation between Chinese and Foreign Translators*

Because Jia Pingwa's writing style reflects the folk customs of northern Shaanxi, and his works are full of rich local cultures and the literary style has distinct dialect characteristics, it's more difficult to understand the inherent meaning of texts for the translation scholars who are not familiar with the dialect culture and Shangzhou folk culture. So it's also a difficult point for translation task to explore correct English expressions. To truly promote the translation level of Jia Pingwa's works in a sense, the translation experts should firstly be more familiar with Shangzhou culture and know about Jia Pingwa's work style well. Besides, the translators must have good translation ability for the English language and practical experience. It's really true that the talents equipped with qualities in these two aspects at the same time are fewer, which is also the important factor for restriction of publication of Jia Pingwa's literary works abroad. If the misunderstanding of cultural differences caused by improper translation is expected to be really eliminated and the English versions of Jia Pingwa's literary works can be expected to faithfully take the original meanings of works back, the best countermeasure is to strengthen the cooperation between translators at home and abroad. In the process of translation work, the translator should not only pay attention to the expressions of the native culture, but also respect the reading habit of English-speaking countries and readers abroad and make foreign

readers can better accept Jia Pingwa's literary works. This kind of Sino-Western combination of text translation model is very helpful for subsequent editing and proof-reading work and also more efficient and targeted and it also plays a role in promoting actively the publication, dissemination and circulation of Jia Pingwa's literary works.

C. Strengthen the Efforts on Publicity of Mass Media

Except the above strategies mentioned, we also should think about that how to boost the popularity and generalization of Jia Pingwa's literary works abroad. As for this point, it's not enough to just rely on the support of the government and the improvement of quality for translation versions, and the good works won't be known to the public if they have no effective promotions though they are excellent. We need to use mass media completely and efficiently to strength the publicity work of translation versions of Jia Pingwa's literary works, enhance the degree of circulation for perusal by the means of film and television works, the public speech and the advertising video, etc., intensify the level of recognition of overseas readers to his works and make the western countries more comprehensively know about the value and charm in the three-dimensional way of Jia Pingwa's works. In terms of the specific publicity work, it can fully borrow from the publicity way of Mr. Mo Yan's works as a reference. The main reason why Mr. Mo Yan's works are greatly attached attention and widely praised by western media is that his many classical works have been brought to the big screen and the overseas spectators can't help producing the motivation of reading Mo Yan's works through the ways of film watching. At the same time, the film and television works are also more helpful for spectators to understand comprehensively inherent meanings of works written by the author and have a visualized impression about the characters and the scenes story happen in the work and promote the readers' understanding about the meanings of the work. Mo Yan's work *Red Sorghum* is such a good typical example. The film won the Golden Bear award at the Berlin film festival in 1988. The success of the film production sharply increases Mr. Mo Yan's popularity abroad and then appeals to the attention of scholars to his literary works.

V. CONCLUSION

Jia Pingwa is one of the writers whose writing style is full of national customs and regional characteristics in China's modern literary world. His writing style with the local features has a guidance significance and enlightening value both for Chinese modern literature and the world literature. Jia Pingwa's literary works have a great significance for China's culture going-out strategy and powerful cultural country construction strategy. Enhancing the efforts of studying the translations of Jia Pingwa's literary works is not only helpful to make the literary works of Jia Pingwa go out to the world, but also helpful to promote Chinese culture and establish national cultural confidence at the same time.

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