

A Contrastive Study on English Translation of LI Qingzhao's Shengshengman under the Evaluation Theory attitude System

Jiuhua Wang, Shude Zhang*

Guangxi University of Science and Technology, Guangxi, China

Abstract

Evaluation theory is an extension and development of systematic functional linguistics. The attitude system is the core part, which contains three subsystems: emotion, judgment and appreciation. From the perspective of evaluation theory and the attitude system using evaluation theory, this paper analyzes the realization of the four translations of Li Qingzhao's masterpiece "Shengshengman" at the attitude level, discusses how to realize its evaluation significance through comparison, tries to identify the advantages and disadvantages of translation in relevant processing from this perspective, and brings enlightenment to translation practice through this means, and improves the applicability of evaluation theory in translation research and practice. Therefore, from the perspective of evaluation system, it is concluded that it provides better evaluation standards and a more objective theoretical framework for translation system and practice to express translation.

Keywords

Translation; Evaluation Theory; Attitude System; Shengshengman.

1. Introduction

Poetry is a brilliant treasure in the history of Chinese culture, and it deeply attracts readers at home and abroad with its beautiful imagery, condensed language, and rich emotions. With the continuous strengthening of cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries, people have paid more and more attention to the external dissemination of China's excellent traditional culture, especially poetry, the quintessence of classical literature. As the highest achievement of Chinese classical poetry, Tang poetry occupies an important position in Chinese classical poetry, and Li Qingzhao is an outstanding representative of it. Li Qingzhao is a famous female lyricist of the Song Dynasty, a representative figure of the Wanyo school, and "Shengshengman" is his masterpiece. Many domestic and foreign scholars have conducted various studies on it from different angles, including translation, translation comparison, etc., and have always been favored by translators, among which the English translation is Lin Yutang, and the translation of Yang Xianyi and his wife, Xu Zhongjie and Xu Yuanchong is particularly representative. But few scholars combine evaluation theory with poetry translation. Under the framework of the attitude subsystem of evaluation theory, this paper selects four different English translations of "Shengshengman" as corpus, in order to discover how Du Fu's poetry transmits thoughts and emotions through evaluation resources, and how different translators realize evaluative meaning in the translation.

2. Application of Evaluation Theory in Translation Studies

2.1. Evaluation Theory and Translation Studies

Since Jim Martin formally proposed evaluation theory in 2000, evaluation theory has received a lot of attention in the field of research. Based on systematic functional linguistics, Martin et al. use evaluation theory to clarify the speaker's views and behaviors on things, and divide them

into three subsystems: attitude, intervention and gradation, of which the attitude subsystem is the core, which is composed of three subsystems of emotion, judgment and appreciation. The study of the meaning of attitudes in discourse has always been the focus of translation studies, so it is necessary to introduce evaluation theory into translation studies.

2.2. Applied Research on Attitude Systems in Evaluation Theory

Evaluation theory is an extension of interpersonal functions in systematic functional linguistics, which consists of three subsystems: attitude, intervention, and extreme difference. It is a lexical grammar framework for studying the views expressed by speakers and authors on certain good and bad parameters, of which the attitude system is the core part and contains three subsystems of emotion, judgment and appreciation. Emotion is related to people's innate emotional response to the world, judgment is to evaluate human behavior according to different criteria, appreciation is the aesthetic and value evaluation of things and phenomena. These three subsystems can be divided into different types, and all attitudinal resources belong to positive or negative, explicit or implicit categories. At present, evaluation theory is mainly used in discourse analysis in China, and from the perspective of text, it is mostly limited to news media, advertising, business, etc. In contrast, the research results of the combination of evaluation theory and translation are not rich, and they rarely involve literary genres, especially poetry translation. On the basis of comparing the use and distribution frequency of emotions, judgments, appreciation resources and their subtypes of different translations, the similarities and differences and the reasons for the differences in the realization of evaluation resources at the same time are explored, so as to provide a measure for the quality evaluation of translations.

3. Translation and Analysis of Attitudinal Resources in Shengshengman

3.1. Searching and Searching, Cold and Cold, Miserable and Miserable

Lin's translation: So dim, so dark, / So dense, so dull, / So damp, so dank, / So dead!

Yang's translation: Seeking, seeking, / Chilly and quiet, / Desolate, painful and miserable.

Xu's translation: I have a sense of something missing I must seek. / I feel lonely.

Xu's translation: I look for what I miss; / I know not what it is. / I feel so sad, so drear, / So lonely, without cheer.

Analysis: The words that express emotions and appreciation are "cold and cold, miserable and miserable".

3.1.1. Analysis 1

Lin uses "So dim, so dark, so dull, / so damp, so dank, / so dead!" "Dim" and "Dark" indicate that it is getting late, "Dense" and "Dull" show a thick, unsearchable sadness and loss, then "Damp" and "Dank" render a cold and miserable atmosphere, and finally "Dead" pushes to a climax, reflecting the lyricist's desperate and helpless, desolate and painful heart. The words are concise and rich in content.

3.1.2. Analysis 2

Yang uses "Chilly and quiet, Desolate, painful and miserable" to vividly show the changes in the lyricist's emotions, from the surface to the inside, layer by layer.

3.1.3. Analysis 3

Compared with other people's translations, Xu used "lonely" to express an emotional attitude, translated too simply, did not experience the original expression, and lost the artistic conception of the original word.

3.1.4. Analysis 4

Xu uses "know not, so sad, so drear, / So lonely, without cheer." It seems to be too straightforward, although the emotion is expressed, but it lacks the euphemism and hazyness of the original word, and it is not accurate enough.

3.2. When it's Warm and Cold, It's Hardest to Rest

Lin's translation: The weather, now warm, now cold, / Makes it harder/ Than ever to forget!

Yang's translation: Even when it's warmer there is still a chill, / It is most difficult to keep well.

Xu's translation: Even the weather has proved most unkind. / It is warm, but abruptly it turns cold again. / An unbroken rest-most difficult to obtain.

Xu's translation: How hard is it / To keep me fit / In this lingering cold!

Analysis: The words that express emotion and appreciation are "warm, cold, hardest". Warm, several of them used warm/warmer.

3.2.1. Analysis 1

Lin translates "cold" as "cold" and most difficult to translate as "harder." However, "the most difficult to translate the information" into "the most difficult to forget", which is quite different from the meaning of the original word, and the original grade is lower than the original evaluation value.

3.2.2. Analysis 2

Yang translates "cold" as "chill", and the most difficult to translate as "difficult", which presents the artistic conception and emotional attitude of the original word more completely.

3.2.3. Analysis 3

Xu's words are almost identical to Lin's, but the translation, although understandable, is not subtle enough.

3.2.4. Analysis 4

Xu adjusted the word order of the original words, "lingering cold" pointed out "still cold", but did not indicate "first warm", the expression was lacking, and the original information was lost.

3.3. Three Glasses and Two Light Wines, How Can He be Defeated and Come Late?

Lin's translation: How can a few cups of thin wine/ Bring warmth against/ The chilly winds of sunset?

Yang's translation: Three or two cups of light wine, / How can they ward off the strong morning wind?

Xu's translation: Three cups of thin wine would utterly fail- / To cope with the rising evening gale.

Xu's translation: By cup on cup/ Of wine so dry/ Oh, how could I/ Endure at dusk the drift/ Of wind so swift?

Analysis: The words that express emotion and appreciation are "light, urgent".

3.3.1. Analysis 1

Xu translates "light" as dry, and the words used are slightly lower than the evaluation value of the original text. Lin and Xu are translated as "thin", which is slightly better and Xu in terms of wording, and has a certain artistic conception. Yang translates as "light", which is more in line with the evaluation value of the original text.

3.3.2. Analysis 2

Xu translates "urgent" as "swift" and Lin translates as "chilly", both of which are lower than the original evaluation value. Xu translates as "rising", which does not conform to the original

evaluation. Yang translates as "strong", which is very close to the emotional value of the original text and is more in line with the evaluation value of the original text.

4. Detailed Analysis of the Translated Case

We can see that the attitude system expression of the four translations is not very different, the four translators have little difference in understanding of the original text, but the expression is different, among the four translations, the expression of Yang Yi's attitude is the best achieved, followed by Xu translation, Lin translation, Xu translation, and poetry translation often integrates many factors, it is difficult to take into account many factors when translating, resulting in inconsistent attitude realization, with evaluation theory as a theoretical support, it avoids our subjective sentiment to evaluate the translation. However, the evaluation scale is not the same, some of the meaning of attitudes is expanded, some are reduced, and even some of the meaning of attitudes is not realized in the translation. Specific differences are manifested in the following aspects: increasing or decreasing, changing the category of attitudinal resources, increasing or decreasing the voice, and showing implicitness. From the perspective of the realization of evaluation resources, Xu Yuanchong's translation is better completed and closer to Li Qingzhao's emotional attitude and values. Factors such as translator subjectivity, translation motivation, linguistic and cultural distance, and method of translation may be the main reasons for differences in translations.

It can be seen that at present, we have not discussed much and insufficient research on the attitude system itself in the practice of poetry translation, and we are more inclined to the study of language itself. There must be certain problems with the equivalence of information between the original attitude and the translation attitude, the background and mood of knowledge and culture are different, and the understanding of different levels of meaning of the original text will produce translations with different attitudes. The subjectivity of the translator accounts for most of the factors, which will lead to deviation from the evaluation value of the original text, and the intervention and intervention of the translator's attitude should be avoided as much as possible. However, I believe that the translator's body is only one of the reasons for non-conformity or deviation, and it can be analyzed from the aspects of language and culture itself and audience, such as the attitude system also involves sociology and psychology, and how to standardize objectively can be further explored.

5. Conclusion

Appreciation resources account for the majority of the attitude resources of the original and translated poems, and the attitude resources are mainly negative explicit resources, which reflects the style of Li Qingzhao's poetry that is somber and abrupt realism. On the one hand, it shows that poetry belongs to the category of aesthetics and allegory in the scene; on the other hand, it also shows the poet's feelings of worrying about the country and the people and his critical attitude towards society. From the perspective of the realization of the original attitude meaning, the evaluation meaning of most attitude resources has been reconstructed in various English translations.

This paper uses evaluation theory to conduct a comparative study of the English translation of Li Qingzhao's poetry, which provides a new perspective for the study of poetry to English translation. In addition, the comparative study of translations from the perspective of evaluation theory also provides a new research approach for translation equivalence research, and provides an effective basis for evaluating the theory to guide translation practice and analyze the quality of translations. At the same time, combined with the attitude system, the difference in resource distribution under the intervention system and the gradation system is also worth in-depth discussion. And evaluation theory and practice are inseparable, evaluation

theory is also the category latitude of logical thinking, so in discourse translation, how to figure out how to build a complete and corresponding relevant corpus is very important and worth thinking. At the same time, the relationship between the standard issue of evaluation and the meaning of evaluation to the meaning of describing attitudes can be studied in more depth. As well as the expression of attitude is mainly reflected in attitude words, but the grammatical factor cannot be ignored, we can further explore the consistent use of grammatical structure for attitude expression when analyzing evaluation theory.

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