

The Translator's Responsibilities and Roles within the Analysis-Synthesis Translation Mode- History of Chinese Journalism as the Case

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Abstract: Concerning analysis-synthesis translation mode, this paper discusses the translator's responsibilities and roles as the subject in the translation practice based on the mistranslations of Ge Gongzhen's History of Chinese Journalism. Missionary J. S. Roberts believed that translation was the logical combination of two processes—— analysis and synthesis. The analysis process is characterized by understanding. It emphasizes translators' accurate understanding and professional analysis of the source text, while the synthesis process focuses on the transformation of language and culture. The two processes are dependent, forming the whole process of translation altogether. As the indisputable subject of translation, the translator should assume his own responsibilities in the two processes and conform to the certain principles to produce accurate and professional translation texts. The translator should be responsible for the facts and professional academics in the analysis process, and language and culture and translation itself in the synthesis process, playing the role of a reviewer, communicator and translator to realize the value of himself and the translation practice.

Keywords: Analysis-synthesis translation mode; translator's responsibilities; translator's roles; History of Chinese Journalism

1. Analysis-Synthesis Translation Mode & Translators

At the Shanghai Conference of China-based Protestant Missionaries held from May 10 to 24, 1877, J. S. Roberts, Shanghai-based missionary sent by the American Presbyterian Mission, presented his paper "Principles of Translation into Chinese". Robert stated that the process of translating foreign languages into Chinese could be divided into two mental activities of the translator, namely "analysis" and "synthesis" within the systems of the two languages, in which translators should convert the idioms in the two languages. Translation is essentially the two processes of analyzing and synthesizing by the translator. The process of analysis is comprehending, splitting, and re-constructing the original text in the brain, while synthesis is the use of various translation strategies and translation skills to produce the final achievement. Generally speaking, the two processes are not mutually exclusive, but closely interrelated. From analysis to synthesis, translation, as well as the cognition of translators deepen and the translation process can only be successfully completed when the two processes move in an orderly and coordinated manner.

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Translator stands the center in translation activities. The translator works as the "subject engaging in translation" (Xu Jun, Mu Lei, 2009: 190). He "dominates the translation process" (Hu Gengshen, 2014(1): 29), and "plays a pivotal role in the translation process" (Xu Jun, Mu Lei, 2009: 109). That is to say, the translator, as the most important subject in translation, must play his own role, making good use of his own ability to understand, analyze and transform to control the whole process of translation and coordinate other elements involved in the translation process, so that the translation process can be completed smoothly and the translation text can be correct, accurate and fluent, consistent to the requirement of translation so that the translation process would be of value. With this, the translator is the master and manipulator of translation activities. Correspondingly, the translator must assume his own responsibilities in the two processes of analysis and synthesis. In the process of analysis focusing on understanding, translators should be responsible for the facts and professionalism, working as a supervisor. While in the process of synthesis about transformation and generation, translators should pay more attention to language, culture and translation itself, playing the roles of communicators, transformers and translators. Since translation is a dynamic combination of analysis and synthesis, translators must always bear in mind their own responsibilities, play relevant roles well, and accurately exert their "translator subjectivity" (Xu Jun, Mu Lei, 2009: 190). Only then can we handle the relationship between the translation and the original text, objective facts, and readers, and present a "correct", "accurate" and "professional" translation to realize the value of translation and ourselves.

History of Chinese Journalism was transcribed by Ge Gongzhen(1890-1935), founder of Chinese journalism. It was published by the Shanghai Commercial Press in November 1927. Since its first release, 18 editions have been reprinted to date. *History of Chinese Journalism* established the academic status of studies of history of Chinese periodicals for the first time, laying a foundation for the relevant research, embracing great historical and academic significance. In the book, Ge Gongzhen tried to translate the names of some periodicals, but due to the lack of relevant information about Ge Gongzhen and the lack of professional awareness of translation, he failed to establish his roles and status as a translator, nor did he shoulder the responsibilities as a translator. As a result, a large number of mistranslation cases could be seen in his translation, which have still not been solved systematically and have been communicating among the scholars. On the basis of the mistranslations in *History of Chinese Journalism*, this paper discusses the translator's responsibilities and roles within analysis-synthesis translation modes, aiming to provides an important reference for the follow-up research in the relevant field.

2. Analysis: Supervisor for Facts and Professionalism

The process of analysis is the initial process of translation, which refers to an important activity of translators' comprehending, analyzing and summarizing the source text, and conducting in-depth thinking on this basis. Therefore, the facts and professional information contained in the source text stand the main objects for translators. And translators needs to be responsible for the objective facts and professionalism, and become a supervisor of facts and professionalism. To ensure the correct and professional translation.

2.1 Factual and Historical Responsibilities

The facts refer to factual materials that exist objectively and will not changed with human factors. The facts are relatively stable and are the basis for the existence of the substance. In translation, the facts are an important material and basis for translation and an important criterion for commenting on the quality of translation. This requires the translator to be responsible for the realities or historical facts, shouldering their factual and historical responsibilities to ensure that the

translation is absolutely correct and in line with the facts or history. Otherwise the credibility of the translation will be greatly reduced.

History of Chinese Journalism is a monograph on the history of periodicals, which recorded the development of Chinese periodicals and was of great value in the study of journalism history. In the compilation of such a monograph, the collection and arrangement of historical materials is foundational and very important. Sufficient and accurate historical materials can lay a good foundation for the compilation of historical monographs so as to increase the credibility of it. Similarly, the comprehensiveness and correctness of historical materials also directly determine the effect of translation activities. The translator takes "faithfulness" as the first principle. Historical data directly determines whether the translator can correctly understand and convert the information correctly. Correct historical data guarantees the correctness and credibility of the source text, ensuring fundamentally the correctness of the translation text. While errors in historical data will make the overall translation activity in trouble from the beginning, leading to mistranslations and misunderstandings of the readers.

Therefore, as the subject of translation, translators must shoulder their historical responsibilities, understanding relevant historical information, respecting the history, and presenting authentic and credible historical materials to readers. However, in the translation of *History of Chinese Journalism*, Ge Gongzhen did not follow this principle, whose translation text showed a lot of errors that were inconsistent with historical facts. The errors can be reflected in the mistranslation of the titles of periodicals and the confusion of several periodicals. The mistranslation of the titles of periodicals means that Ge Gongzhen did not refer to the relevant historical records to accurately translate the titles of periodicals. In translation, he directly conducted translation on the basis of his own understanding, leading to mistranslation. Ge Gongzhen stated that "looking for a so-called modern periodical in our country, we have 察世俗每月统记传 (*Chinese Monthly Magazine*) published in Malacca" (Ge Gongzhen, 1927: 64). But according to Roswell S. Britton's *The Chinese Periodical Press: 1800-1912*, 察世俗每月统记传 should be translated as A General Monthly Record (Ch'a-shih-sh Mei-yueh T'ung-chi-ch'uan) (Roswell S. Britton, 1966:18). Ge Gongzhen lacked relevant historical materials, and only used the attributes of the news as the title according to his own understandings, resulting in mistranslation.

The confusion of several periodicals is a translation error caused by wrongly mixing the titles of periodicals that really existed in history. Ge Gongzhen recorded that "*Daily Press* (德臣报) was published on October 1, 1857, ... Ges. M. Ryden served as publisher and editor". However, according to the history, *Daily Press* should be translated as 孖刺报 or 孖刺西报, and 德臣报 should be *China Daily*. Ge Gongzhen did not systematically sort out the relevant historical materials, nor did he have a deep understanding of the properties and distribution records of the two periodicals, leading to his confusion of them.

Translators and researchers must grasp the rules of running principles and historical facts of foreign periodicals in different languages in China. In particular, they need to systematically study the major periodicals and workings in foreign languages that recorded the activities foreigners in China and Chinese social conditions and their research achievements. With this, translators could have a scientific and logic system of history, constructing their subjective roles in translation, which will help them to carry out the historically correct translation and realize their values.

2.2 Professional and Scholastic Responsibilities

The professional and scholastic responsibilities require translators to be responsible for the professional fields involved in the text. Therefore, translators must master certain professional

knowledge, possess relevant cognitive structure and qualities so as to produce professional translations, contributing to the development of certain researches and studies.

As a pioneering work in the history of Chinese periodicals, *History of Chinese Journalism* has a self-evident professional academic status and significance. As the translator of this book, Ge Gongzhen should unavoidably take the responsibilities for ensuring the professionalism of it to correctly guide readers and the development of academics for the following scholars. However, "History of Chinese Journalism" failed to correctly and rigorously treat the journalism as an academic field, which was closely related to the immature development and imperfect system of journalism of China at that time. The specific manifestation is that the wrong positioning of the periodicals leading to the great inconsistency with the context. Titles of periodicals are a highly condensed connotation of the reports and dissemination scope, target readers, positioning and publishing purpose, etc. In translating the titles of periodicals that have not yet been agreed upon, translators must carefully scrutinize in conjunction with the professional knowledge of journalism, otherwise the translation methods or even the professionalism of the text will not be questioned. Ge Gongzhen wrote, "*The Canton Miscellany* (广东杂志) was published in 1831, in which he translated *The Canton Miscellany* to 广东杂志. *The Canton Miscellany* is not a magazine, but a periodical. The "miscellany" in the title means that the periodical is rich in content, including multiple focuses, reflecting the positioning. And with regard to the etymology of "magazine" (Campbell et al, 2015: 311) and the historical evolution of British and American magazine industry (Campbell et al, 2015: 311-336), magazine is a medium that originated from periodicals but was different from the books and periodicals with its own attributes. Magazine is the regularly issued printed matter, usually with a fixed title, numbered in the order of volume, issue or year and month, and the format and format of each issue are basically the same" (Johnson, Prijatelj, 1999: 23). Although "periodicals and magazines were mixed earlier...(they were) collectively referred to as 'periodicals'. But from the 18th century, they began to separate in a clear way. And for China, the era of their mixing ended up till to the Revolution of 1911" (Cheng Manli, Qiao Yunxia, 2013: 54). With regard to this, magazines and books, as well as periodicals are different in nature, contents, positioning, collecting and writing methods, and dissemination methods. Ge Gongzhen's translation completely confused the boundaries between "magazine" and "periodicals", which will mislead the readers and the development of journalism studies.

The mistranslation of "O Macaista Imparcial" in *History of Chinese Journalism* and its spread have become another representative of its inaccurate translation in this kind. Ge Gongzhen stated that "*O Macaista Imparcial* (帝国澳门人) was published on June 9, 1836, which was banned by the government in 1838". But according to "*the Chinese Repository*", the periodical once published an exposition on religious topics as follows "some readers may want us to condemn it. And we choose not to comment, although our silence does not mean we agree with them. We believe that, by 'lighting' yourself rather than being a debater, we can better position us, as other the 'lamp stand and oil' claimed by other periodicals are indeed reliable and we will benefit from this in the near future" (*The Chinese Repository*, 1836: 152-153). This exposition fully explains the purpose and philosophy of "*O Macaista Imparcial*" as an independent periodical. The statement clearly pointed out that "the periodical has no affiliation with any party, but only respects the law" (*The Chinese Repository*, 1836:153), indicating that the periodical did not have any political attributes. In the history of Chinese and foreign periodicals, words such as "帝国 (empire)" will never appear on the title and first issue of any periodicals that advertised itself as an independent one. And the title of "*O Macaista Imparcial*" can by no means be "帝国澳门人", but "澳门土生公正报".

Translators must have professional awareness, so that they can analyze the source text from a professional perspective to fully understand the professional attributes of the source text, understand

the purpose of the translation, and ensure the accuracy and professionalism of the translation. This requires translators to have basic professional knowledge and awareness system, understand the development process of the profession, and "learn from the past to the present", so that the translation can inherit the context of professional development, and at the same time meet the needs of the contemporary professional and academic circles, and break the "gap" of time and space of the profession. In this way, translators can choose appropriate vocabulary and translation methods according to professional norms and requirements, and complete translation work accurately.

3. Synthesis: Communicator of Language and Culture and Translator

The synthesis process is the most important part of translation, in which the translator converts the source text on the basis of the previous process, so that the translation can be finally realized and completed. The main features of this process are "transformation" and "generation". Therefore, the main task of the translator in the synthesis process is to convert language symbols, and produce translation text combining scientific and correct translation methods. The objects of translation in this process mainly include language symbols and translation itself, which means that the translator, as the main body of translation, must be responsible for language and culture in the process of analysis to serve as the communicator of language and culture, and at the same time stands the main role to coordinate the entire translation process to ensure the generation of the translation text.

3.1 Language and Cultural Responsibilities

Language symbols and their texts are the most important carriers in translation process featured by language conversion. Translation is the process of "interpreting linguistic signs in other languages", as well as "the replacement of textual material in one language (source language) with equivalents of another textual material in a different language (target language)" (Catford, 1965: 20). While language symbols and their texts are produced in specific cultural backgrounds. "Language is not only a part of culture, but also reflects and expresses culture" (Yang Shizhang, 2020: 45). And "language, as a symbolic system, reflects, records and maintains national cultural information at all levels (especially the lexical level and the idiom level)" (Catford, 1965: 20). That's to say, language and culture are the most basic elements of translation and the very basic qualities of translators.

Translators must respect the basic norms of the source language and target language and the corresponding culture and go deep into the relevant language context and cultural background. Ge Gongzhen "did not go abroad at that time...he studied foreign languages by himself, and became the first person in China who fully grasped the current status of journalism studies in the world (who can read Japanese, German, and English)" (Cai Fei, 2017: 92). However, Ge Gongzhen did not accept systematic foreign language studies, and showed great insufficiency in his writings and translations which highlights accurate writing and proper translation skills. The foreign periodicals included in "History of Chinese Journalism" and the foreign languages involved far exceeded Ge Gongzhen's ability. Thus, Ge Gongzhen failed to fully understand the cultural background and traditions of foreign countries with his self-study experience, resulting in mistranslations, omissions, or even misreadings in his translation practice.

Ge Gongzhen's failure in his language and cultural responsibilities were firstly reflected in the violation of the source language norm, manifested in the misunderstanding of the source language's phonetic system, alphabet system, lexical system and grammatical system. Phonetic system is the basis of languages. Each language embraces their own phonetic systems. Translators must base their work on the correct phonetic system of the source text, in particular in their usage of transliteration. Under no condition can translators. Any arbitrary use of transliteration, like basing the translation on the phonetic system of their mother tongue or the language that is not the source language, will lead to mistranslation and deviation. "Among them, 布乃雅(Bleyer), 哈润登(Harrington) and 弗润开宝

(Frankenberg) are the most important representatives.” In this case, Ge Gongzhen employed transliteration to translate the three names. However, the three names are all in English. Combined with the English phonetic system, the first syllable "Ble" in "Bleyer" does not have the pronunciation of “乃(nai)”, and its pronunciation is more similar to “莱(lai)” in Chinese, and the last syllable "er" in "yer" is not consistent with “雅 (ya)”, it should be “尔 (er)” in Chinese, so the correct translation should be “布莱尔”. Similarly, the pronunciation of the second syllable "rring" of "Harrington" and the Chinese word “润 (run)” is also completely different in their pronunciations, particularly inconsistent in their vowels: i and u. The correct translation should be “哈林顿”. For the third name, the syllable "an" in "fran" of "Frankenberg" is completely inconsistent with the final "un" contained in the Chinese word “润 (run)”. And the inconsistency can also be noticed in "kem" and “开 (kai)”, the "er" in "berg" and “宝 (bao)”. The correct translation should be “弗兰肯贝格/弗兰肯伯格”. These three mistranslations of names are all due to the fact that the translators themselves are not familiar with the phonetic system and pronunciation habits of the source language, on which condition they translated them completely according to their own speculation and the pronunciation of their native language, which naturally leads to translation errors and the translation is out of touch with the source text.

Writing system refers to translation errors caused by unfamiliarity with the writing system of the source or target language. The writing system is the most basic in language use. Due to the different nature of languages and historical and cultural background, there are great differences in the writing system. Even for the language belonging to the same writing system, there will be deviations in the specific use. The translator must master and understand the writing system of the language to ensure the correctness of his translation. "The so-called periodicals in our country... equal to Journal, Nouvelle, Couriur, Mesager in France, Giornale in Italy, and Газета in Russia". In this case, Ge Gongzhen introduced the corresponding words in various languages for “报” in Chinese. But in fact, “J”, “K”, “W”, “X”, “Y” do not exist in Italian language. These letters are borrowed, which means that by no means can they be used to describe a native word. Gou Gong Cheng's translation is fundamentally invalid and the correct corresponding word for “报” in Italian should be “Giornale”. Ge Gongzhen was unable to understand Italian and was not familiar with the writing system, which led to a mistranslation.

Lexical systems are translation errors caused by unfamiliarity with the meaning and usage of words in a language. Vocabulary is the basic element of a language, but the meanings of vocabulary and its specific meanings are different among languages. Translators must be familiar with the meanings and usage of specific vocabulary in order to ensure the rationality and correctness of translation. “凡稍研究报纸之共通历史者，必知有所谓口头报纸(spoken newspaper)”. In this case, Ge Gongzhen employed literal translation and translated “口头报纸” into “spoken newspaper”, but “spoken” in English means “uttered through the medium of speech or characterized by speech; sometimes used in combination”, it implies that something is directly produced by people’s mouths, but “口头报纸” refers to the periodicals spreading information by means of people’s mouths, not produced by people orally, and there is a big deviation from the meaning of “spoken”. According to the context, the correct translation should be “oral newspapers (periodicals)”. Ge Gongzhen did not correctly distinguish between “spoken” and “oral” in English and employed the inappropriate vocabulary, leading to mistranslation.

Grammatical system is a mistranslation caused by misunderstanding of the grammatical structure and system of a language. Language is composed of vocabulary, in which grammar also participates, serving as the bridge to connect words to form the sentence and even the language system. Therefore, the translator must be familiar with and understand the grammatical structure of

the language to ensure a reasonable and smooth translation. "*A Abelha da Chine* (蜜蜂华报) was published on September 12, 1822 (the first year of Daoguang Emperor)". In this case, Ge Gongzhen adopted "word-for-word" translation method. Although this translation realizes the equivalence of meaning, ensuring that every word in the source text corresponds to the translation, in fact "*A Abelha da Chine*" is written in Portuguese, and its grammatical structure is like "article + noun + preposition + noun". In it, "da" is a preposition without actual meaning, only to express the relationship of belonging: the former noun belongs to the latter noun, but this structure does not exist in Chinese. In Chinese, we use "的" to express the relationship of belonging, and the noun after "的" belongs to the noun before, which is just the opposite of Portuguese. According to such language structure, the translation of "*A Abelha da Chine*" should be "中国蜜蜂报", not "蜜蜂华报". Ge Gongzhen misunderstood the grammatical structure of Portuguese and made the mistranslation.

Cultural errors refer to translation errors caused by unfamiliarity with the cultural background of the language. Culture is also an important factor in translation. The formation of language is inseparable from a specific cultural background. Language emerges from culture and reflects the characteristics of the culture. That is to say, the most foundational feature of language is culture. Thus, without full and sufficient understanding of the culture hidden behind language, translators cannot understand the essence of language, and the language change cannot be realized. "又如一九〇一年在刚萨司(Kansas)创刊之 Daily Capital, 将星期日之宗教演说.....". Ge Gongzhen transliterated "Kansas" as "刚萨司". Kansas is actually the state of Kansas in the United States, and the official translation for it should be "堪萨斯". Ge Gongzhen lacked understanding of the basic geographical and cultural conditions of the United States, and used the transliteration method to translate proper cultural terms without detailed research, resulting in a mistranslation.

Translators must respect the language and cultural background involved in translation, and complete translation tasks in strict accordance with language and cultural norms, on the basis of respecting the pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, writing format and cultural characteristics of the language, so as to produce accurate translations with the appropriate translation methods and skills.

3.2 Translation Responsibilities

The responsibilities for translation require that the translator, as the subject of translation, should master scientific translation methods, and construct the translation awareness so that they can follow the basic principles and norms of translation studies and select appropriate translation methods according to the purpose of translation to produce the loyal, fluent and artful translation.

First of all, "History of Chinese Journalism" did not comply with the professional norms of translation studies and the relevant translation methods. Ge Gongzhen, as the translator, misused the transliteration method several times. Transliteration is a translation method that substitutes sound for meaning. With transliteration, the translator conducts translation directly according to the pronunciation of the text in the source language. Such a method often leads to the loss of meaning. Therefore, translators should keep cautious, in particular in translating the words with specific meanings and orientations. In History of Chinese Journalism, Ge Gongzhen wrote "Roswell S. Brittan(布立登) as the teacher". Roswell S. Brittan is a famous expert in sinology studies in the United States, paying great attention to the Chinese culture. With such an identity, Roswell S. Brittan had his own Chinese name, "白瑞华", instead of "布立登". Ge Gongzhen's use of transliteration method, while ignoring Brittan's cultural and identity background as an expert in sinology and historian of periodicals led to the mistranslation and such a translation tended to leave readers confused.

Second is the misuse of free translation in "History of Chinese Journalism". Free translation is based on the general idea of the source text. Thanks to this, it often leads to the loss of the form and

complete meanings of the source text, so that translators must combine with the specific needs and contexts. "Following the "继《察世俗每月统记传》而起者，为《特选撮要》（原名 *Monthly Magazine*），发刊于巴达维亚（Batavia）”。In this case, Ge Gongzhen translated “特选撮要” to “Monthly Magazine” with the method of free translation. In translation, Ge Gongzhen selected "monthly “ to reflected the publishing cycle and “magazine” to manifest the nature of such a publishing material, implying the general idea and features of it. But in this case, each word in “特选撮要” has its specific meanings, serving as important factors for readers and itself as a periodical. “特选” shows that the periodical contains carefully selected information, and “撮要” emphasizes the importance of all the published reports and texts. With such an implication, the correct should be “A Monthly Record of Important Selections”, which is more loyal to and consistent with the purpose and characteristics of the periodical.

Translators must have professional knowledge and literacy of translation studies, so that the translation can meet the needs and realize its own value. This requires the translator to have the necessary translation literacy, understand the system and concepts of translation, and have the correct translation awareness, so as to be able to choose translation methods correctly and appropriately from the perspective of a professional translator and scientific translation studies, and use translation skills skillfully to complete the translation task.

4. Summary

In a word, translation is a combination of two sub-processes of analysis and synthesis, and as the undisputed subject of translation, the translator needs to take his own responsibilities. The translator should give full play to their own subjective role, and produce correct, accurate, smooth, reasonable and professional translations. This requires that the translator must coordinate other participating factors in the two processes and coordinate the whole process of translation. In the process of analysis, translators must be responsible for the facts and history, professional academics, and play the role of reviewers and gatekeepers of historical and professional knowledge, so as to ensure the correctness and professionalism of translation from the very beginning. And in the synthesis process, the translator should be responsible for the language and culture and the translation itself, to ensure the correct and reasonable conversion of different languages and the output of culture, for which translators should play the roles of communicators and translators, so as to guarantee the generation of translations, and to realize the value of translation and themselves.

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