

Original text

A Survey of Eco-translatology

Eco-translatology first be proposed as a translation study from an ecological perspective by Hu Gengshen in 2001 which not only involves the elements of translatology, but also explore ecology to form an interdisciplinary study. Ecological translation studies focus the relationship between the translator and the external environment related to translation and emphasize the connection between the two aspects of translation—the translation ecology and the translator’s adaptation. The translation ecological environment not only includes the language environment, but also covers the social, cultural, literary and other aspects of the original and translated environment. More specifically, the translation ecological environment refers to “the world constituted by original text, source language and target language, namely, the interconnected and interactive whole of language, communication, culture, society, author, reader and consigner” (Hu Gengshen, 2008:13).

As the main professionals and participants of translation practice, translators should play a central role and occupy a dominant position in the “translation process” and “translation operation stage” (Hu Gengshen, 2014: 87). On one hand, translators should adapt to the multi-factor ecological environment; On the other hand, as the translator is also a member of the ecological environment, he/she has the autonomy to choose, and the translation is the result of his/her choice. In other words, it can be concluded that “the environment chooses the target text, and the environment restricts the target text”, i.e., “the relationship between the translator, the translation version and the translation strategy”. In the stage of translation operation, “the translator has been able to reflect or implement the choice of the target text on behalf of the translation ecological environment”. (Han Wei, 2013:124) In this way, the translator’s selection process includes not only the equivalence strategy in the linguistic environment, but also the adaptation strategy in the non-linguistic ecological environment.

Transformation from the Cultural Dimension

Culture is another crucial aspect in the process of translation and can influence or even constrain translation to a certain degree. (Munday 2006:127) Culture has a large domain influences language in many perspectives. Translation is not only to reproduce ST in TL but also introduce a foreign culture to domestic reader and vice versa. Literary translation can keep the style of original language and culture in a better way, but in some cases lack of language equivalence would hinder the readers’ better understanding of the original context. Literary translation plus annotation would be a suitable choice for such cases. Such combination of translation methods is also in line with Hu Gengsheng’s idea, “The translators should not only pay attention to the cultural transformation of the source language, but also adapt to the whole cultural system.....pay attention to the transmission of bicultural connotation” (Hu, 2004:136)

Edited text

A brief overview of eco-translatology

In 2001, Hu Gengshen proposed eco-translatology as a new perspective in Translation Studies that covers two fields – translatology and ecology. Ecological perspectives focus on the relationship between the translator and the external environment related to translation and emphasize the connection between translation ecology and the translator's adaptation. The translation ecological environment specifically refers to “the world constituted by the original text, source language, and target language, namely, the interconnected and interactive whole of language, communication, culture, society, author, reader and consigner” (Hu, *An Approach to Translation* 13).

Translators play a central role and occupy a dominant position in the “translation process” and “translation operation stage” (Hu, *Eco-Translatology* 87). On the one hand, translators should adapt to the multi-factor ecological environment; on the other, as the translator is also a member of the ecological environment, he/she has the autonomy to choose, and the translation is the result of such choices. In other words, “the environment chooses the target text, and the environment restricts the target text,” namely “the relationship between the translator, the translation version and the translation strategy” (Xu 33). In the translation production operation stage, “the translator has been able to reflect or implement the choice of the target text on behalf of the translation ecological environment” (Wei 124). As such, the translator's selection process includes the equivalence strategy in the linguistic environment and the adaptation strategy in the non-linguistic ecological environment.

Transformation from the cultural dimension

Culture is another crucial aspect of translation and can influence or even constrain translation to a certain degree (Munday 127). The purpose of translation is to render a source text into a target language, but also to introduce a foreign culture to the domestic readers. Literary translation can keep the style of original language and culture better, but in some cases, lack of language equivalence may hinder the readers' understanding of the original context. In such cases, literary translation accompanied by annotation would be a suitable choice. Such a combination of translation methods is also in line with Hu's suggestion to “not only pay attention to the cultural transformation of the source-text language, but also to adapt the entire cultural system [...] to which the language belongs and, in the translation process, to pay attention to the transmission of the connotation of bilingual culture” (*An Approach to Translation* 136).