Misreading and Reconstruction of English Translation of Chinese Children’s Literature

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Abstract: Chinese literature is divided into many parts, its children’s literature is also an important component, in order to let the children can obtain the better understanding in the English study, as well as let the Chinese children’s literature go out. Therefore, the translator plays an extremely important role in the process of English translation, but in the current situation of Chinese children’s literature, misreading and reconstruction can be seen, some misinterpretations are actually extensions and recreations of the original text, which contain the translator’s own cultural thoughts and ideas. The so-called misinterpretations can help the reader to understand the content and ideas of the text deeply, therefore, it is beneficial for children’s learning and development to reconstruct the misreading in the English translation of Chinese Children’s literature.

Keywords: Chinese Children’s Literature; English Translation; Misreading and reconstruction

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It is well known that the transformation of two languages is not only a change of form, but also the circulation and transmission of cultural values, there are many differences in aesthetic taste and knowledge structure, which will lead to different understanding of the original text. This phenomenon is called misreading. In fact, this

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shows the cross-cultural awareness in the process of translation of Chinese children’s literature. Although this phenomenon is called misreading, it can help children to understand the content of literature on the basis of misreading, and in the process of creation and reconstruction, it improves the readability of the translation for children, so it is acceptable. There are many outstanding children’s literature works in China. This paper, taking Ye Shengtao’s the traveler as an example, discusses the misreading and reconstruction in the English translation of Chinese Children’s literature works.


There are obvious differences between Chinese and Western culture and thinking, and this is also reflected in literary works. When Chinese people are faced with compliments from others, they will first negate the compliments from others in a modest way, however, Westerners take it for granted when others praise them, so the process of misreading and reconstruction in English translation of Chinese Children’s literature is actually to transform Chinese modesty into acceptance in western consciousness, allowing children to be exposed to more foreign cultures from an early age can help them broaden their horizons and improve themselves. And with the improvement of the country’s cultural soft power in recent years, it has become one of the main tasks today to push forward Chinese culture to go abroad, the misreading and reconstruction of Chinese children’s literature English can not only make corresponding changes for the imported literature works, but also strengthen the outstanding children’s literature works in China to go abroad, in this process, the translator needs to create the original content reasonably under the control of the original content, and can not fabricate the story plots which do not conform to the content of the article according to his imagination, to enable Chinese children’s literature to be widely accepted and disseminated internationally, but this still faces many difficulties and challenges, the translator’s own mastery of the Chinese and Western cultures and the free transformation in the process of translation play an extremely important role. It can be concluded that the translator is the key to the misreading and reconstruction in the English translation of Chinese children’s literature.

In the form of a fairy tale, the traveler’s observations and feelings along the way serve as a clue to the story of a traveler who lives on a distant planet, according to Mr. Ye Shengtao, he has been to all the planets, but the earth has not been, so he took a spaceship to the earth, the Earth people are very happy, called him a VIP. But he did not understand the meaning of “poor”, in constant contact with and discussion of the meaning of poor in the process of expressing the ideas and values inherent in Chinese society, and then the traveler is trying to figure out how to make the Earth people not poor, in this series of stories expressed to friends and guests to be sincere enthusiasm, in order to be able to get friends and guests help, while learning the skills of high-tech, the truth of the dream. Let children experience the good qualities of “sincerity” and “mutual help” from an early age; however, children in many Western countries do not know much about the concept of poverty, therefore, the value of misreading and reconstruction in the process of English translation of Chinese children’s literature is reflected in this. By translating Chinese literary works into their language in the form of Western thinking, we can help them understand the cultural value and connotation of our country, as we all know, any country without culture can not survive in the society for a long time, so the misunderstanding and reconstruction in the English translation of Chinese children’s literature can also promote the friendly communication between the two countries. In a different way, it reflects the differences between the development of children under the influence of Chinese thought and that of Western children, but whatever the differences are, sincerity and mutual assistance will always be indispensable in the future development of children.

The misreading and reconstruction of the English translation of Chinese Children’s literature tests the translator’s ability to transform the two languages, cultures and thoughts, and also reveals whether the translator has a full understanding of the national conditions of other countries and the children’s personalities and psychological thoughts, it is the essential value of the translator in the process of misreading and reconstruction to adapt and re-create the original text into their own language on the basis of controlling the content of the original text and combining the differences between different cultures.

Children are full of curiosity about the unknown world, they have not been exposed to the worldly wisdom, therefore, to let them understand some easily neglected feelings in daily life through literary works can help them develop a comprehensive view of things in their future life and development, and promote the
outstanding children’s cultural works of our country to go out, it is the concrete measure that the translator’s whole industry responds to the National Development Demand and accelerates the improvement of the soft power of culture. In fact, mis-reading in the English translation of Chinese children’s literature is to some extent a creative adaptation and expansion of the original text on the basis of not affecting the content of the deep understanding of this article. No matter what kind of adaptation, no matter how long the adaptation is, it will result in a translation that is not 100% the same as the original, so it is understandable to call it a misreading, but the literary work after the translator misreads and reconstructs is not a brand-new literary work.

3. Translator’s Attention in English Translation.

Children are in the early stages of their development, and their development in thought, vision and receptivity is extremely rapid, so it is children’s Children’s literature that faces the audience, when translating, the translator should also keep updating his understanding of children, and go deep into the children, whether they are native or foreign children, in the process of misunderstanding and reconstruction of English language in Chinese Children’s literature, only by translating the original works into a form acceptable to children, so that children can really enjoy literature and literary reading, this is the intrinsic value of the translator’s work. Therefore, it is necessary for the translator to keep in touch with children, to know what they really think, and to ensure that the mental characteristics and real learning needs of children can be taken care of in the English translation. To get the best children’s literature out of the country.

4. Conclusion

In a word, the misreading and reconstruction in the process of transliteration of Chinese children’s literature is actually a change in the intrinsic cultural value of transforming Chinese thinking into Western thinking, or Western thinking into Chinese thinking, relying solely on text control to translate text content will inevitably result in children reading literary works, just as there are literal translation and free translation in the process of learning classical Chinese, this is equivalent to the use of free translation to help children understand the contents of literary works, the translator in the process of translation does not adhere to the surface of the text in the control of translation, but in the original grasp and understanding of the whole will be expressed in the meaning of the text into a way of expression in line with their own thinking.
Works Cited
