

The Chinese Translating Narrative of Arrow to the Sun

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Abstract. Arrow to the Sun, a children's book by Gerald McDermott, is a vivid adaptation of an Indian legend through semi-abstract geometric shapes. With its characteristic shapes, colors and styles, the work shows the beauty of the customs of a rich culture, allowing readers to deeply feel the charm of folk stories. Based on the translation narratology theory of Mona Baker, this paper takes the Chinese translation of Arrow to the Sun as the research corpa to make an in-depth analysis of several translation versions. This paper summarizes the content and features of translated texts and expounds the application of Mona Baker's narratology in translation practice. Nowadays, Chat GPT(Generative Pre-trained Transformer) is a natural language processing model. In the field of translation, with the increasing enrichment of data, it has realized real-time multi-language translation and global communication, but it still faces technical challenges in special fields. By comparing the source language and the target language, this paper analyzes the four different Chinese translation languages translated by Wang Feizhou, Hellen He, Chat GPT, etc., aiming to deal with the strategic choice of story plot, characterization and language style, so as to combine the new translation technology, and make a breakthrough in the innovation level of cross-cultural translation communication by choosing strategies in handling the story plot, characterization and language style, to maintain the narrative quality of the original text and make the translation more in line with the reading habits of Chinese readers. This paper also explores how the translator deals with cultural factors in the translation process to ensure the cultural accuracy and readability of the translation. By examining the practical research, this paper attempts to enhance the accumulative foundations for the narrative development of children's literature translation, and to provide a new perspective and thought for translation understanding.

Keywords: Children's Literature; Translation Art; Narratology

1. Analysis of Cultural Differences



Figure 1: Network analysis of Chinese literature cross-reference on children's literature translation by CNKI

Cultural differences are often reflected in different narrative styles and emphases. Professor Zhou Jisheng from Ocean University of China translated works are the expansion and adaptation of

the original text, emphasizing the constructibility of narrative, which not only describes the reality, but also participates in the construction of the story plot:

金箭的种子，在姑娘的肚子里生根发芽，渐渐长大，九个月后，一个小男孩儿呱呱落地了。很快，孩子长大了，又结实又活泼又帅气。妈妈给他取了个名字，叫“阿劳”，就是“箭”的意思。

.....

“我们有一位祖先是太阳神的儿子，我们的血管里又太阳神的血！”

1.1 Translation Art of Arrow to the Sun

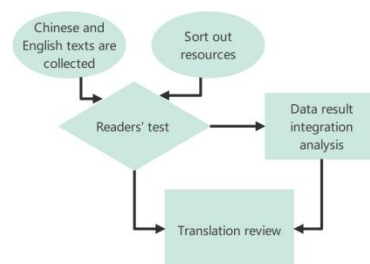


Figure2: Steps of evaluating English translations of children's literature

The translation art of "Arrow to the Sun" reflects the translator's exquisite understanding and subtle treatment of the original work. Through careful translation skills and artistic grinding, this work has gained new vitality in cross-cultural communication and brought rich reading feelings to readers at home and abroad.

1.2 Translation Narratology by Mona Baker

Dedicated to the integrated study of narrative theory and translation, Mona Baker conducts sentence-by-sentence comparative analyses of source and target texts, employing four constructive strategies: spatial construction, selective use of textual materials, indexicality, and repositioning of participants (Lai Qiwen, 2023). This involves selecting and translating materials based on the context of Western readers, and engaging in selective construction through means such as restructuring, abridging, and augmenting content (Li Xiaoling, 2016). Mona Baker's narratology provides an analytical framework from three aspects: cultural representation, content narrative construction, and emotional style.

1.3 Narratology of Children's Literature

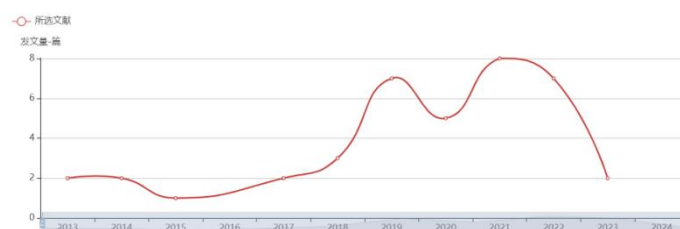


Figure 2-3: The number of Chinese literature combining children's literature translation and narratology in CNKI

Children's literature translation is the re-creation of the original work. Among them, translators should not only consider the language conversion, but also pay attention to the cultural context, story context, character archetypes and other elements of the original work. The core concepts of narratology include narrator, narrative perspective and narrative time, which provide a powerful analytical method for children's literature translation.

2. Contrastive Analysis of Translation

This paper conducts a questionnaire survey for English majors and non-English majors with high school English background. It encourages college students to understand, summarize and score different versions of the picture book *Arrow to the Sun* translated by Wang Feizhou, He Chongben, the author and Chat GPT.

Question 1: Please choose the Chinese translation that you think is the most scientific and smooth; and the higher the score, the higher the recognition:

Original: *Arrow to the Sun*

The average score of the matrix questions: 3.59

Question/Option	very dissatisfying 1	dissatisfying 2	general 3	satisfying 4	very satisfying 5	average score
①Wang Feizhou: 飞向太阳的箭	13(9.42%)	13(9.42%)	44(31.88%)	22(15.94%)	46(33.33%)	3.54
②Helen He: 射向太阳的箭 一个普韦布洛地区的印第安的传说	7(5.07%)	10(7.25%)	33(23.91%)	25(18.12%)	63(45.65%)	3.92
③Chat GPT: 箭射向太阳	12(8.7%)	31(22.46%)	35(25.36%)	22(15.94%)	38(27.54%)	3.31
小计	32(7.73%)	54(13.04%)	112(27.05%)	69(16.67%)	147(35.51%)	3.59

Among them, Wang Feizhou's translation is the most common in the book market, and the subject and verb changes in the three translated versions are worthy of study. In the multiple versions of the title "*Arrow to the Sun*", Wang Feizhou's translation (hereinafter referred to as "①") uses the attributive + noun structure, translating the preposition "to" into a non-predicate verb as the attributive "飞向太阳的", "飞(flying)" reproduces the protagonist's mood of impatient to see his father and the "speed" of going to the sun. Hellen He's translation is the most popular among students. "飞(flying)" turns into "射(shooting)", which euphemistically explains that the action is done with the assistance of others. It adds background knowledge on the basis of the original meaning of the title, achieves "thick translation", and increases the depth of the text. The structure of Chat GPT translation is in the form of "subject + predicate + object", highlighting the "太阳(sun)", there is a sudden stop in the reading experience.

3. Summary

In the process of narrative construction of *Arrow to the Sun*, translators need to overcome the challenge of comprehensively considering readers' reading habits and acceptance ability (Ren Dongsheng, Li Pan, 2024), This will enrich the practical connotation of translation theories with Chinese characteristics (Xu Derong, An Fengjing, 2024). It should accept the research strength of related disciplines with an open attitude, and form a "children's literature community" of disciplines (Zhu Ziqiang, 2015). To promote the exploration of the essence and rules of children's literature translation, and to improve the effective development of narratology and children's literature translation practice in the future.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Professor Guo Cui, Emeritus Supervisor of Qingdao University, for guiding the comparative analysis of the translation.

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