

Analysis of Graduation Thesis for Master's Degree in English Translation

-- Taking Guangxi University of Science and Technology as an Example

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Abstract

In 2007, in order to meet the development needs of socialist modernization, the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council and the Ministry of Education approved the establishment of Master of Translation and Interpreting (MTI) in China to cultivate advanced translators with professional interpretation and translation capabilities. Today, more than 200 colleges and universities have set up this major, which has cultivated a large number of translation talents for the society. This paper takes the recent five years of Guangxi University of Science and Technology's English translation master's degree thesis as the research object, and conducts analysis from the aspects of topic selection, theory, and case analysis. The research found that these papers have problems such as too simple topic selection, insufficient Chinese-English translation, insufficient integration of theory and practice, and insufficient case analysis. In order to solve the above-mentioned series of problems, corresponding measures can be taken from the three aspects of tutors, schools and students to improve the writing quality of students' dissertations.

Keywords

English for Science and Technology; Guangxi University of Science and Technology; Translation Practice.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background Research

As of June 2022, China has 264 master's degrees in translation majors, exporting many outstanding translation talents to the market every year. With the vigorous development of the MTI profession, translation education has also received different degrees of attention. MTI is a professional master's degree, and practical ability is the foremost. Mackenzie pointed out that in order to make students adapt to the translation market, universities should focus on cultivating and honing students' translation practice ability. Guangxi University of Science and Technology established a master's program in translation in 2014, and began to recruit English translation graduate students in 2015. Up to now, it has trained more than 100 translation masters. The practice teaching of translation major is different from the practice of traditional foreign language major teaching. The practice teaching emphasizes the organic combination of practice and classroom. After receiving on-campus professional education under the school-enterprise cooperation practice platform, the master of English translation will be led by the company to carry out relevant internships for no less than 6 months. This will help students better combine knowledge with practice, improve the overall quality of learning, and make adequate preparations for going out of the campus and into the society.

1.2. Research Significance

With the continuous improvement of the level of trade facilitation between China and the countries along the route, ten categories of talents, including language, financial management, law, education, finance, cultural industry, civil engineering, tourism management, e-commerce, and modern logistics, have become the most urgently needed talents. Those compound talents who not only master the knowledge of finance and engineering, but also have a higher foreign language level are the scarce talents. English translation of science and technology is facing difficulties. Translators need to continuously improve their professionalism and guide their translation practice with translation theory. Translation practice is the only criterion for verifying the accuracy of translation theory. Translators need to grasp the relationship between translation theory and practice, based on the cultural differences between subjects, and carry out personalized interpretation of text grammar and syntax to truly meet the understanding needs of readers.

Guangxi is adjacent to Southeast Asia, and the scale of foreign trade and economic development is getting bigger and bigger. This requires that all units in Guangxi not only have higher requirements on the language level of foreign language talents, but also require them to combine language with future practical work skills, business ability and international background. In addition, Guangxi University of Science and Technology, as the only university in Liuzhou, an important industrial city in Guangxi, undertakes the task of delivering compound talents to international cooperative enterprises such as LIUGONG, DFLZM. This requires that the master students of English translation should formulate training plans for such practical needs, that is, to design a reasonable training course plan for students to improve English application ability, business practice ability, and cross-cultural communication ability.

1.3. Research Purpose

The reason why language translation exists is to shorten the distance between countries and promote exchanges between countries. Language translation breaks the boundaries of time and space, enabling communication between different countries and regions. In the context of globalization, the importance of translation is self-evident, and translators undertake more important tasks. In the process of translation, translators not only need to restore the literal meaning, but also need to grasp the deep meaning of the text. Different countries and regions have different cultural characteristics and different cultural environments, so English translation is relatively difficult. This paper analyzes the 66 translation practice reports of Guangxi University of Science and Technology collected by CNKI and 12 translation practice reports provided by tutor in the past five years. This paper cuts through many aspects of the research materials, finds out the deficiencies, and analyzes the reasons and puts forward suggestions. This paper hopes to provide some ideas for the writing of English translation master's thesis, so as to improve the writing quality of students' dissertation.

2. Analysis of Translation Practice Reports

2.1. Topic Selection and Theoretical Application Analysis

This paper takes English translation master's degree thesis as the research object. Topic selection and theoretical application analysis play a decisive role in the writing of the thesis.

2.1.1. Analysis of Selected Topics

At present, the School of Foreign Languages of Guangxi University of Science and Technology cooperates with some related enterprises to train postgraduates majoring in English. Under the leadership of the leaders in charge of the college, relying on the background resources of related enterprises, the two sides of the school and enterprise signed a cooperation agreement. Because most of the internships of English translation graduate students in Guangxi University

of Science and Technology are in Liugong, Liuqi and other vehicle manufacturing companies. Therefore, judging from the graduation practice report, the topics of the practice report are the translation of texts such as automobile maintenance manuals and loader reports, which is also in line with the research direction of the school-based major.

2.1.2. Theoretical Application Analysis

Most of the translation practice reports in the past five years are based on translation skopos theory, domestication and foreignization of translation, and functional equivalence theory. However, in 2021, ecological translation theory will be widely used in the practice reports of graduates of Guangxi University of Science and Technology. Although the theory is relatively new, too concentrated a single choice can also make the practice report of the whole college appear monotonous. Another problem is that in some translation practice reports, theory and practice are not closely integrated.

2.2. Analysis of the Translation Process

From the sample selected in the past five years, the translation process of all English translation master's students is divided into pre-translation, while-translation and post-translation. The translation process is a process of inputting the textual information of the original text, further processing and encoding the output. In this process, the translator must also ensure that the output of the translated text is nearly identical to the meaning expressed in the original text. The translation process in the translation practice report studied in this paper mainly includes three steps; the first step is pre-translation preparation, the second step is While-translation, and the third step is post-translation after the translation is completed.

2.2.1. Pre-translation

Before translation, pre-translation preparation plays a very important role in orderly translation, and whether the pre-translation preparation is sufficient also determines the completion of the final translation.

2.2.2. While-translation

The process of translation is to analyze the connotation of the original text through the surface. The most important thing in translation is to grasp the thought of the original text. What is important is the equivalence of content, not the consistency of some appearances. In the process of translation, the translator needs to think carefully, cut the surface layer of the words, pay attention to the inner core value of the words, and show the inner level of its radiance. In order to convey both the inner meaning of the original discourse and the original information to the readers of the translation. Translators should use contemporary words when translating, even if the works they translate are not contemporary works, so as to make the translation more suitable for the readers. Easy to understand.

2.2.3. Post-translation

Post-translation is an important link to ensure that the translation conforms to the language habits of the target language. so, a good translation is inseparable from proofreading. Proofreading is the main way to improve the quality of Chinese-English translations. The proofreading process requires the translator to be serious and responsible, and to grasp the accuracy of some details. Proofreading is very important. The translations in the selected translation practice report are generally subject to multiple proofreading, which covers self-review, peer-review, tutor-review and self-review. These steps require the translator to grasp the features and content of the original text, and also require the output of the original text to be as complete as possible. At the same time, there are certain requirements for the quality of translation. Translators need to further review their own translations, as well as polish and revise them.

2.3. Analysis of Example Sentences

This paper mainly analyzes the selected translation practice reports from the lexical level, rhetorical components of phrases, and grammatical characteristics.

2.3.1. Lexical Level

Vocabulary is the most basic unit of text. In the translation process, the proper handling of vocabulary will directly affect the translation quality of sentences, paragraphs and even the entire article. In the selected translation practice process, vocabulary translation is a major problem. These problems mainly focus on too many terms and too many professional terms with missing and redundant meanings.

2.3.1.1 Too Many Terms

Science and technology texts have strong professionalism and practicality. The specific vocabulary system formed accordingly is mainly composed of professional terms. Most of these terms are exclusive words in the automotive field and have their fixed meanings. For example, the translation of some parts vehicle, such as Gear, Piston, Solenoid Valve, etc., corresponds to specific vocabulary. Generally, in the auto repair industry and automobile manufacturing enterprises, the use of professional English requires a large number of these special words.

2.3.1.2 Absence and Redundancy of Word Meaning

There is also such a part of vocabulary in English, and if it is fully translated, it will cause lack of meaning and redundancy.

Example 1:

Original text: Risks arising from business interruptions due to fire in production facilities or at suppliers are also appropriately covered with insurance companies of good credit standing.

Analysis: In the original translation, the translator directly translated “cover” as “覆盖”, but during the translation process, which literally doesn't make sense.

Example 2:

Original text: The outflow from investing activities exceeded the inflow from operating activities by 2312 million in the financial year 2021.

Analysis: When translating, the translator directly translates “Outflow” in the text as “流出”, but such a vague translation will make readers confused and make readers not understand what outflow is.

2.3.2. Phrase Modifiers are Complex

Phrases are linguistic units in text. In the translation process, the proper handling of phrases will directly affect the translation quality of sentences, paragraphs and even the entire article. However, in most translation practice, the author found that the vocabulary translation in the selected samples is debatable. These problems mainly focus on the complex problem of modification components of participle phrases and prepositional phrases.

2.3.2.1 Participle Phrases have Complex Modifiers

Participle phrases, as modifiers, have complex meanings and flexible collocations. When translating from English to Chinese, in order to achieve sufficiency in the translation, it is necessary to pay attention to the translation of participle phrases.

Example 3:

Original text: Despite the challenging conditions currently facing the automobile industry which also resulted in the BMW Group adjusting its outlook for the year in September, the stock nevertheless outperformed the market as a whole in the third quarter.

Analysis: There are three present participles of “challenging, facing, adjusting” in this sentence. Looking at it individually, there is no problem with the translation of each word, but there is a logical inconsistency in the integration of the sentence.

2.3.2.2 Complex Components of Prepositional Phrases

In most translation practices, prepositional phrases often appear in the text. If a complete translation is performed, it will cause improper word order and logical confusion.

Example 4:

Original text: With effect from October 2018, the Supervisory Board appointed Dr Andreas Wendt to the Board of Management as member with responsibility for Purchasing and Supplier Network.

Analysis: The main component of this sentence is “the Supervisory Board appointed Dr Andreas Wendt to the Board of Management as member”, and there are many participle phrases. During the translation process, various modifiers need to be integrated together to make it in line with Chinese language habit.

2.3.3. Syntax Features

2.3.3.1 More Use of Impersonal Tone

Automotive English is specialized in the production, sales and other services of the automotive industry. Therefore, when describing in English, it is generally more objective and more accurate. This is similar to the explanatory text, so in the expression, use the impersonal tone. For example, in the introduction of a car, in acceleration, it can meet the requirement of 100 meters acceleration in five seconds can be translated into 在加速中, 可以满足五秒内百米加速的要求. Such language expressions are more common in automotive English, which further emphasizes the professionalism of automotive English.

2.3.3.2 Getting Used to Passive Voice

In automobile English expression, many language expressions are carried out from the third person, expressing more real and objective viewpoints and attitudes. For example, this protection system, known as the anti-lock systems designed to protect the vehicle from tire locking in case of emergency braking Design to avoid tire locking when braking.

2.3.3.3 More Use of Non-Predicate Verbs

In automobile English translation, in order to express more precise and concise, the non-predicate forms of some verbs are also widely used. These non-predicate forms are more diverse, including gerunds, indefinite verbs, etc. For example, the function and principle of the ignition switch are introduced. The ignition switch, the switch of an automobile ignition system (usually using a key), is free to turn on or off the main circuit of the ignition coil. The ignition switch also It is the switch of the car ignition system (usually using a key), which can freely open or close the main circuit of the ignition coil.

3. Countermeasures to Improve the Quality of Master's Thesis in Translation

In response to the macro-level problems found in this survey, this paper attempts to propose the following countermeasures:

3.1. Tutors Strengthen Their Guidance to Students

Tutors play an important role in students' dissertation writing, and their research directions, daily assignments, and projects will all have an impact on students. In order to improve the quality of students' dissertations, the following suggestions can be done. (1) Establish a two-way topic selection mechanism. Based on the interests of students, make full use of the unique

resources of characteristic colleges and universities to strengthen the guidance of their topic selection. (2) Instruct students to understand the purpose and requirements of dissertation writing, including theoretical study, understanding, selection, combination with cases, and sorting out the logic and structure of the dissertation. This requires tutors and other teachers to jointly cultivate students' writing thinking, and guide students to focus on the content of training their translation ability. (3) Tutors should be able to put forward targeted guidance suggestions, including course study and thesis writing. In order to understand the students' foundation and study habits earlier, so that students can prepare for thesis writing as soon as possible; (4) Establish a writing supervision mode of "student-student cooperation" to improve the quality of the thesis.

3.2. Give Full Play to the Characteristics and Advantages of the School

Taking the Master of Translation at Guangxi University of Science and Technology as an example, the school infiltrates the students' learning process through professional guidance, scientific research projects, etc.; through improving the characteristic curriculum system and building professional teams, it creates unique talents that are different from other comprehensive universities. The internship at Guangxi University of Science and Technology is mainly in cooperation with automobile companies. A large number of excellent teaching resources are used to popularize and supplement scientific and technological knowledge for students, and at the same time, they are combined with translation to create high-quality talents who both understand scientific and technological knowledge and translate scientific and technological texts. After completing the on-campus study, the school will send students to local enterprises to fully integrate theory and practice during the internship period of several months.

3.3. Students Should Strive to Improve Their Academic Ability and Practical Ability

Students should make full use of the cooperation projects between characteristic colleges and off-campus platforms, first experience short-term on-campus internships, and then gradually transition to off-campus long-term internships. In the process of on-campus study, students should understand the actual situation of market translation refinement needs, work content, etc., so as to better integrate into formal internship work. The school counts any internship projects or activities students participate in after school as internships, gradually leading them into real work situations. In addition, students should actively understand the actual needs of translation work under the real market orientation, cultivate their own important translation skills, and explore suitable translation modes and methods. Make up for the shortcomings as soon as possible according to your own situation, connect the writing of the dissertation with the translation work in the future, and improve the depth and professional level of translation practice. Students should spontaneously have a certain understanding of the topic selection, framework, content and format of the translation practice report, so as to lay a solid foundation for the writing of the graduation thesis for the English translation major in the future.

4. Conclusion

Qualified translation practice must be based on the translator's comprehensive understanding of the text, and a targeted and profound reflection on the article. An excellent translation practice report is to combine the theoretical knowledge learned, put forward new and insightful translation methods after reflection, and apply them to case analysis, so as to provide reference and reference for the same type of translation practice. The quality of master's thesis in translation is closely related to the education of master's in translation. Therefore, the topic selection, theory application and case analysis selected in this paper have certain value.

However, this paper only selects one characteristic college and analyzes only three aspects, which has certain limitations. In the future, the author will expand the research object and study other structures of the paper, such as abstract, conclusion and references.

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