An Analysis of the Embodiment of Chinese Tea Culture in English Language and Literature Translation

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Abstract: China’s tea culture has a long history. From the Silk Road to the Ancient Tea-Horse Road, the unique charm of tea has affected all parts of the world. With the increasing frequency of trade exchanges between China and the West in recent years, tea culture has also had a profound impact on the literary field of trade areas. This article first analyzes the differences between Chinese and Western tea cultures, and then discusses the principles that China's tea culture should follow in the process of English translation, so as to allow China's tea culture to be more accurately spread to English-speaking countries, and to further promote the world's multicultural exchanges. Let more people understand the tea culture of our country and experience the cultural charm of it.

Keywords: the Chinese tea culture; English literature; translation; reflect

1. Differences between Chinese and Western tea culture

In today's society, whether it is in China or foreign countries, people have tea in their daily lives, but the same raw materials, through local living habits and cultural influences, have extended cultural concepts that are very different from my country's tea culture. First of all, in terms of the way and habits of drinking tea, the Chinese people pay attention to fresh and elegant tea, and pay attention to the original taste of tea, mainly the way of brewing with water, which is simple and not simple. This way is also humble and low-key with Chinese people. Echoing traditional ideas. However, in European and American countries, the main purpose of drinking tea is to promote digestion because the eating habits are mostly meat-based, so they pay attention to the taste of tea and think that the strong taste is good tea. This is a manifestation of Western pragmatism. Secondly, the taste of tea drinking environment is different. Chinese people like to be close to nature when drinking tea, and pay attention to the concept of harmony between man and nature. The simpler and more simple it is to reflect the true meaning of tea. In European and American countries, tea was a luxury in the early days, mainly concentrated in the upper class. It was a symbol of identity and status. Therefore, although the environment of drinking tea is also emphasized, it advocates an elegant and luxurious environment. Finally,
the change of tea culture in modern society. My country’s current society’s understanding of tea is basically the same as that of traditional tea culture, but it is closer to people’s lives and pragmatism is stronger. With the acceleration of the pace of life in European and American countries, tea has become more of a refreshing functional drink like coffee, making American tea culture more convenient and efficient. The content of self-cultivation in its culture and practical applications are presented. A kind of contradictory manifestation of mutual opposition and mutual influence.

2. Principles that should be followed in translation of tea culture in English works

Literature comes from life but is higher than life. It is a sublimation and reflection on the content of life. Regarding tea culture, there are many expressions about tea in English language and literature works, mainly in Britain and the United States. Modern scholars can study and think about the lifestyles, behavioral concepts, and ideas of people in Britain and the United States based on these literary works. Therefore, when translating these works about tea culture into Chinese, in addition to mastering the necessary translation skills, it is also necessary to have an in-depth understanding of the country’s culture and translate it from the perspective of cultural understanding to promote the exchange of tea culture at home and abroad.

2.1 Understand the nature of translation

To do a good job of translation of English language and literature, in addition to having a solid basic theoretical knowledge, the most important thing is to understand the nature of translation. To put it simply, translation is not a purely technical work of converting one type of text into another. It is a need to understand the cultural background, cultural connotation, and the author’s living environment of the article. It is the need to carry out a deep level of literary work. The cultural change is a kind of cultural exchange and inheritance. If you pay too much attention to the interpretation of grammar and word meaning in the translation process, and ignore the understanding of the cultural connotation of the article, you may fall into an endless loop, which will eventually cause the translated work to distort or misinterpret the author's intention.

Therefore, in the process of translating foreign tea culture works into Chinese, one should first understand the author’s cultural circle, and should not be limited to the simple conversion of literal symbols in the work, and deeply understand the differences and differences between the author’s country and Chinese culture. Come to carry out cross-cultural exchanges, bring better foreign tea cultural works to Chinese people, and experience the charm of exotic tea culture.

2.2 Pay attention to in-depth understanding of culture

A good translation should pay attention to cultural understanding. The so-called cultural understanding means that in the process of translating a foreign language into Chinese, it is necessary to have a deep understanding of the cultural differences of the foreign language, respect the original text itself, and not deliberately distort or over-interpret it. Taking English language as an example, in the process of Chinese translation, we must pay attention to establishing a good cultural ecology. When translating works related to tea culture into Chinese, it should be based on other works of the same kind. When translating dissent words in the article, the most reasonable analysis should be made in combination with the context. Therefore, when translating the language and literature related to tea culture into Chinese, specific problems need to be analyzed in detail, in order to describe the content to be expressed more accurately, and prevent readers from misunderstanding the content of the article.

3. Concluding remarks

To sum up, although tea culture originated in China, with the development of global trade, tea culture has spread all over the world, forming an alternative tea culture with local cultural characteristics. The rich connotation of tea culture is enormous. The influence of Britain and the United States and other English-language countries have left a strong mark in their literary development. It is not good that English literature works have the shadow of tea culture. In order to better understand the development of foreign tea culture and promote diversified cultural exchanges, in the process
of translating related works, in addition to mastering basic translation skills and writing characteristics, you should also have a deep understanding of the cultural circle where the work is located. Only by grasping the cultural connotation that the author wants to express can better promote the exchange and integration of Chinese and Western cultures.

References