Original Research Article

Text Analysis of the English Version of 2016 Government Report From the Perspective of the Manipulation Theory---Based on AntConc

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Abstract: The government report, as a kind of political text, is authoritative and scientific involving social, political, economic, cultural and other aspects. That's why the translation of it is particularly important. Based on the basic functions of the AntConc which is a kind of corpus retrieval tool, this paper provides a text analysis of the English version of the 2016 government report from the perspectives of ideology, dominant poetics and patronage of the manipulation theory which belongs to the cultural school. On the one hand, it can prove the feasibility of the combination of translation theory and computer-aided translation software. On the other hand, it can verify the auxiliary effect of AntConc on text analysis and provide a new angle of view for future relevant research and thesis writing.

Keywords: The 2016 government report; AntConc; The manipulation theory; Text analysis

Introduction

With the development of interdisciplinary research, there are increasingly close ties between different disciplines and some practical results have been achieved. Today, computer-aided translation software has played an important role in the discipline of translation and translation studies. The corpus provides an empirical tool for textual analysis and research, which can quickly grasp the core framework of the text and highlight the text features based on the powerful functions of statistics and analysis. AntConc, as a tool of corpus retrieval, is a convenient and effective tool for text analysis.

Therefore, this paper will make a text analysis of the English version of the 2016 government report from the ideology, the dominant poetics and patronage of the manipulation theory based on the basic functions of AntConc, which is also the uniqueness of this paper[1].

1. The Manipulation Theory

The manipulation theory which belongs to the cultural school of translation studies originated in the 1970s. The word "manipulation" was first used by Theo Hermans in translation studies who put forward the view that "translation is manipulation". The core idea is demonstrated in his sentence of "From the point of view of the target literature, all translation implies a manipulation of the source text for a certain purpose.[2]"

Andre Lefebvre, as the main representative of the manipulation school, put forward the manipulation theory in his representative work *Translation , Rewriting and the Manipulation of Literary Fame*. He considers translation as a rewriting or manipulation of an original text. What's more, he views that the functions of translation are dominated by three main factors: ideology, dominant poetics and patronage. This translation theory is mainly aimed at the studies on literary translation.

Non-Marxist critics tend to use "ideology" loosely to refer to ideas, values, conceptions and assumptions whether cultural or political that are related to power and authority of persons or institutions in a specific society. Lefevere himself defines "ideology" as world view and what society should be. Lefevere considers poetics as what literature should be. Lefevere views patronage as something like the powers (persons, institutions) that can further or hinder the reading, writing and rewriting of literature.

2. AntConc and its Advantages for Text Analysis

AntConc, a corpus retrieval tool, is a useful tool for text analysis with multiple basic functions such as single search, multiple search, category search and retrieval within the specified range. The Concordance, Concordance Plot, File View, Clusters, Word List and Keyword List are basic and very important retrieval functions, which are also employed in this paper.

After the installation of AntConc software, double-click the icon to run. The operation is as the following steps. First, click the "open file" in the "file" menu and select the corpus to be opened; Then, type the word to be retrieved in the search term column, such as "development"; Then, set the number of words which will appear later in the column of search window size; Finally, click the button of "start" to start the search.

The functions of the basic tools of AntConc are as the followings. Concordance Plot tool can show the position of the search

results in the target language through bar code. File View tool can view the original text. Cluster (N-Gram) tool can search the word clusters according to the retrieval conditions. Word List tool can generate vocabularies for text analysis. Key Word tool can retrieve some unique words compared with the reference corpus to get the characteristic words of the corpus.

AntConc is easy to operate and highlight the linguistic features, which can not only analyze the long text to find out the main content involved and text features, but also compare the texts, including double text and multi-text with specific data and examples to highlight the characteristics of contrast texts, facilitating the comparative analysis and research to come to an final conclusion. AntConc provides convenience and efficiency to researchers and also provides a new perspective for corpus research and application of corpus for aided study. Therefore, as a tool of corpus retrieval, AntConc plays an important role in the text analysis of different types.

3. Text Analysis of the English Version of 2016 Government Report

The 2016 government report is a typical political text. It is an official text published by the Chinese government with aim to demonstrate China's current national conditions and development of the situation to the foreign language readers in the year of 2016, which is a kind of information output and also a kind of external publicity. It is inevitable for the 2016 government report to be influenced or manipulated by the three factors of the manipulation theory as a typical text type[3].

Therefore, the following analysis is mainly supported by the search results of AntConc including the pictures and exact data in terms of the three main manipulative factors mentioned above: ideology, dominant poetics and patronage.

3.1 Manipulation by Ideology of Collectivism

The 2016 government report covers all aspects, which have obvious Chinese characteristics. So the translation is bound to be influenced by Chinese ideology. As China is a socialist country and a country that advocates collectivism, its English version of translation must reflect the ideology of collectivism with Chinese characteristics. With the help of AntConc, this phenomenon can be seen everywhere in the English version of translation in the 2016 government report[4].

Based on the search results of AntConc's Concordance, it is obvious that "we" appeared 420 times in the full text, "our" appeared 61 times and "us" appeared 9 times, which means these words are frequently used in the translated text. As we all know, the government report is a political text being a more formal and serious type, but the subjective words with typically collective consciousness such as "we" with the highest frequency have appeared many times in the English version, which indicates that the English version is definitely influenced by Chinese ideology of collectivism. In fact, there is no such word as "we" in the original text, but it appears in the translated text such as "**we** maintained stable growth" and "**We** should work to maintain a medium-high rate of growth". Both of them start with the subject word "we" and there are various similar examples which exist between the original and the translated. Because of the implied ideology of collectivism in the original text, under its influence, there naturally appear the words like "we" with the expression of the ideology in the translated one[5].

3.2 Manipulation by Dominant Poetics

Dominant poetics includes two aspects, namely the literary techniques including themes, subject matters, background and other aspects as well as the literary functions, which are demonstrated by two different forms of expressions.

With the help of AntConc, this paper analyzes the English versions of the 2016 government report based on these two forms of expressions including wording and sentence patterns to prove that the translators are manipulated by dominant poetics in certain social contexts with aim to make the translated text more understandable and acceptable in the target language. When come to the rewording and sentence pattern in the language of English, the typical feature is the use of nouns, logical junctions and passive voice especially in the formal and serious text.

Chinese is a kind of language piled with word by word, phrase by phrase or sentence by sentence and the whole sentence is connected by the meanings while English is a formative language connected by different conjunctions to reflect the obvious logical relationship among the sentences, which is also the typical characteristic of English as discussed before. That's why the translator adopted the translation method of "Domestication" by using various types of conjunctions to reflect the implied logical relationship in the Chinese text.

According to the search result, the logical conjunctions such as "and", "that", "which" are frequently used, of which "and" appeared 1074 times. The search result has proved the translator prefers to the use of logical conjunctions to comply with the typical feature of English language having a clear logical relationship, which is just the opposite of Chinese. And there are various related examples in the English version such as "Innovation is the primary driving force for development and must occupy a central place in China's development strategy, **which** is why we must implement a strategy of innovation-driven development". Actually, the whole Chinese sentence consists of three different short phrases without obvious logical relationship, however the translator adds the typical logical junction of "which" to make the implicit logic explicit. Thus, in order to make the translated text well understood by the target readers, it is reasonable or a must for the translator to make use of different types of connectives to show the logical relationship implied in the original sentence[6].

In addition, another typical feature of English is the frequent use of nouns and passive sentences which help to reflect the formal style and objectivity of the content of a formal and serious text. So the translator chooses to translate Chinese preferring the use of verbs and active voice into English preferring the use of nouns and passive voice in order to comply with the writing rules of target language. The passive voice and nouns are found everywhere in the English version.

The search result based on AntConc proves that there are definitely a large number of nouns existing in the English version. Meanwhile, the passive voice of different tense is also very frequently used while there are various verbs and few passive voices in the original text. That is to say, there are a variety of translation shift from one word class to another one between Chinese and English.

3.3 Manipulation by Patronage

Patronage, as an important factor in the manipulation theory, refers to the various powers (people or institutions) that promote or prevent the literary reading, writing or rewriting. As the 2016 government report is a political text, the patronage or manipulator behind it is clearly the Chinese government who requires the politically sensitive, faithful, formal translation with attention to the accurate and rigorous use of words. What's more, the original text cannot be deleted arbitrarily. Through the AntConc-based retrieval, the overall characteristics and the ratio between word types and word tokens can prove the manipulation of the English version by the patronage behind it[7].

Based on the word list function of AntConc, the conjunction word of "and" is the most frequently used in the English version. Moreover, among the most frequently used words, namely the top-ranking words in the above form are almost the conjunctions, prepositions, pronouns, articles, nouns, which means the overall style of translation is more formal and serious. Besides, the terms of high frequency such as "development" and "government" prove the translated contents are in line with the official demands of the patronage. That is to say, the Chinese government requires the official, formal and strict translated text[8].

In addition, the ratio between word types and word tokens in the specific corpus, to some degree, reflects the change of words. The higher the ratio is, the larger the vocabulary is. On the contrary, the smaller the range of vocabulary is, the less the lexical change is. Thus, the ratio is an important reference in the text analysis. In the English version of the 2016 government report , the word tokens is 16959 referring to the total words of the full text while the word types is 2643 referring to the non-repetition words, so the ratio between the word types and word tokens (2643/16959) is about 0.1558. According to what discussed before, the lower the ratio is, the less the smaller the vocabulary is[9]. Such a low ratio also reflects the fact that the English version of the 2016 government report is not flexible in the use of vocabulary and focuses mainly on certain topics, which shows that the translation is faithful to the original text and pay attention to the accuracy of words under the manipulation of the Chinese government[10].

4. Conclusion

This paper combines the theory of literary translation with AntConc as a corpus-based retrieval tool to provide a textual analysis of English version of the 2016 government report.

It not only broadens the scope of application of this theory, but also proves that computer-aided software plays an important role in translation and translation studies which not only helps improve the efficiency of translation, but also enhances the depth of research, providing a new perspective for more types of research and thesis writing.

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