

Literature Review of News Translation

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Abstract: News translation involves extensive topics, playing an important role in culture transmission and the construction of the national image. As scholars continue studying news translation, the article, based on the previous studies, further reviews the research actuality and progress of news translation in China from 2016 to 2021, hoping to give a reference for relevant researches.

1. Introduction

Through recreating the news, news translation attaches a great importance in conveying information and transmitting culture. From 1979 to 2015, scholars conducted comprehensive studies on news translation and found that it has expanded and made breakthroughs at various research levels. For instance, it initially owned single medium form and lingual translation, while it now develops different transmission medium and realizes transformations of multi languages [1]. However, news translation still fails to form its own theoretical system. The research methods still rely on what Huang Qin referred to as "empirical" commentary, and the stylistic features still focus on "how to translate" [5].

Therefore, this article reviews the relevant literature on news translation research in China from 2016 to 2021, in order to further clarify current research hotspots, identify and track cutting-edge trends. Besides, the article continues the classification on news translation research of previous studies, uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods to organize the internal and external aspects of news translation separately, and proposes relevant suggestions for existing problems, hoping to provide a reference for the research in the related fields.

2. Analysis on the research progress

2.1 Analysis of journals and quantities

The author input "news translation" as the main keyword and searched the articles published from January 1st, 2016 to December 31st, 2021 on CNKI (China National Knowledge Infrastructure), and she retrieved a total of 634 journal articles. To ensure the authenticity and comprehensiveness of the research results, the author read through each retrieved article and removed 16 papers that were irrelevant to the study of news translation, resulting in a total of 618 papers. The distribution of these papers is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: The publication situation of news translation articles

Journals	The year of publication						Total	Percentage
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		
News Journal	34	29	34	50	40	16	203	32.85%
Foreign Language Journal	14	7	15	16	15	16	83	13.43%
Translation Journal	3	3	1	2	0	2	11	1.78%
Education Journal	14	9	15	8	8	3	57	9.22%
Others	48	64	43	36	40	33	264	42.72%
Total	113	112	108	112	103	70	618	100%

In the past six years, there have been four characteristics in terms of publication and quantity of news translation research: (1) The number of papers has shown a steady increase. Over the past decade, the number of papers on news translation research published each year has been around 100, which is relatively stable. Overall, the research interest in news translation remains high. (2) The number of news translation papers published in news journals has increased significantly, and there are more types of related journals. This reflects the interdisciplinary nature of news translation research, with a greater emphasis on the “news” aspect. News journals have a high level of attention to news translation research papers. (3) The quality of papers has improved, but there is still a problem. Papers published in journalism and translation journals is mostly in core journals and has high reference value. However, only 60 papers are published in the core journals of Peking University and CSSCI, and general publications still make up the majority. (4) The relative papers of news translation published in educational journals has increased, although mostly in general publications, indicating that the “news translation” discipline has received attention from the education industry and translation will become more specialized in various disciplines.

2.2 Analysis on contents and qualities

In addition, based on the previous studies about the thematic division, the author used the method of Liu Xiaoyan and Si Xianzhu to categorize the 618 literature in the past six years into two main categories: “internal category” and “external category”. The internal category focuses on the ontology of news translation research, including “translation theory”, “news stylistic features” (vocabulary, syntax, rhetoric, punctuation, title translation, discourse translation, lead translation), “principles of news translation”, and “reviews of news translation”. The external category is about the relationship between news translation and other conditions, including the themes of “combining news translation with translation technology”, “factors affecting news translation” (ideology, cross-cultural factors, translator subjectivity), “criticism of news translation”, “teaching of news translation”, and “book reviews on news translation”.

2.2.1 Internal Category

Table 2 shows that in the past six years, research on news translation has mainly focused on the ontology of news translation. According to the table, theoretical discussions mainly involve cross-cultural (55), skopos theory (37), ecological translation studies (26), functional translation theory (22), communicative translation theory (15), communication studies theory (15), context theory (10), relevance theory (7), critical discourse analysis perspective (6), intertextuality theory (4), variation

translation theory (3), text type theory (2), semiotics theory (1), and subject-predicate position theory (1), among others.

Table 2: The ontology of news translation research

Study Themes	Total	Percentage
Translation theory	212	34.3%
news stylistic features	209	33.82%
principles of news translation	12	1.94%
reviews of news translation	11	1.78%
Total	444	71.84%

In addition, many new theoretical perspectives have also been added, mainly including Mona Baker's narrative theory, Toury's translation norms theory, acceptance theory, aesthetic linguistics theory, equivalent translation theory. Based on Mona Baker's narrative construction theory, Luo Shujun and Liu Zhuoyan analyzed the narrative construction of news translation from the perspectives of vocabulary, discourse, and narrative [4]. Wang Meng proposed that sentence structure adjustments, such as part-of-speech conversion, ellipsis, amplification, and annotation, should be used in news translation to adapt to readers' reading habits, based on Toury's translation norms theory [8]. When translating financial news, translators should not only consider the professionalism of the translation, but also the specific expectations and acceptance effects of the target readers, based on acceptance theory. Lin Qing pointed out, based on innovation diffusion theory, that when translating news hot words, direct translation or transliteration can be used to spread Chinese vocabulary and improve China's international image and influence [2]. When translating English-Chinese scientific and technological news, attention should be paid to aesthetic choices such as symbols, discourse, communication types, and speech acts, to enhance readers' interest in the target language, based on aesthetic linguistics theory. Based on equivalent translation theory, Wang Haijiao believed that news translation should fully consider linguistic differences and choose appropriate methods such as paraphrasing or summarizing to express the main content and core ideas of the original text clearly [9]. Li Shuang and Du Jingbo analyzed the Chinese-Japanese title translation instances in the Japanese edition of China Daily based on Jakobson's equivalent translation theory, and pointed out that as precise vocabulary as possible should be used in Chinese-Japanese news title translation to achieve the effect of expressing equivalent meanings [3].

In addition to the study of news translation skills and methods, scholars have also paid attention to the problems and related improvement suggestions of website news translation in the new media era. Some scholars believe that there are certain problems in the English website news translation of universities, such as Tsinghua University and Zhejiang University. To name some existing problems in the website news translation, word-by-word correspondence between Chinese and English is too rigid, and the translated text on the website is redundant and subjective. In response to these problems, scholars have suggested that website news translation should be creatively translated while ensuring the objectivity of the news. Specific changes can be made to the title, lead, and summary to express the core content of the news, and redundant and unimportant information can be deleted. Paragraph information can be changed to highlight the key points of the news. In addition, by analyzing and reorganizing the original information, the website can truly establish itself, integrate Chinese and foreign cultures, and tell the story of Chinese universities well. Finally, translators can focus on the readers, maximize the necessary information, add, delete, or explain information based on the different purposes of different text types, making the translated text on the website concise, highlighting the key points, and meeting the needs of foreign audiences for Chinese information and their thinking habits.

The problem of single language form has been significantly improved. The study of news

translation in minority languages has grown rapidly in terms of quantity and scope, with Tibetan and Mongolian news translation being particularly prominent. From 2012 to 2015, there were 3 Tibetan, 1 Mongolian, 4 Russian, 2 German, and 1 Japanese news translation. However, in the past six years from 2016 to 2021, the number of news translation studies in minority languages has increased to 101, with 30 Tibetan-related and 24 Mongolian-related news translation literature. In addition, there were 17 Russian, 11 Japanese, 8 German, and 7 Korean news translation studies, as well as 4 Uyghur news translation studies.

2.2.2 External Category

Table 3: News translation and other conditions

Study Themes	Total	Percentage
The application of translation technology	34	5.50%
Effecting factors of news translation	61	9.87%
News translation teaching	17	2.75%
News translation criticism	34	5.50%
Book review of news translation	28	4.53%
Total	174	28.16%

According to the analysis of the Table 3, the number of literature related to the combination of news translation and translation technology has increased significantly. Corpus is crucial for studying the specific language features of bilingual news and the extended news translation strategies and methods. From 2000 to 2015, there were only 10 corpus-based news translation studies, while in the past six years, there have been 28 corpus-based news translation studies. In addition, news translation studies combined with translation technology in the past six years also involve pre- and post-editing of machine translation, machine-assisted translation, and translation project management. Through pre-editing, translators can improve the accuracy of machine translation while familiarizing themselves with common machine translation errors. Post-editing machine translation results can ensure the quality of the translated text by checking the accuracy of professional terms, adjusting the different order of Chinese and English comments, being highly sensitive to and flexible with the ideological and stylistic conflicts. In addition, the timeliness of news translation is particularly important. Although neural network machine translation can quickly produce translated text, the quality of the translated text for news hot words and characteristic words processed by machine translation needs to be improved. Therefore, incorporating the meaning of words into the connotation of the times through post-editing is crucial to ensure the accuracy and fluency of the translated text. For large-scale translation tasks, relevant technologies for translation project management are essential. Sun Yi achieved high-quality translations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs news by applying efficient project management theories, establishing and updating terminology and memory banks, and coordinating communication among project stakeholders [7]. It can be seen that project management is efficient and productive in handling large, collaborative translation tasks involving multiple people and items.

The news genre itself involves differences in the ideological orientations of the source and target countries, so news translation usually adopts the strategies of compilation or paraphrasing, highlighting the subjectivity of the translator in news translation. "Translator", "interpreter", and "reader" are frequent words in the search results for news translation. Foreign news is an important window for showcasing a country's image. Therefore, in the process of news compilation, the focus should be on "putting ourselves first" and serving the construction of the country's image [6]. Xu Ying used a year's worth of news compilation materials on the South China Sea issue as an example to demonstrate the addition, deletion, and modification of modal verbs, the localizing of international

news, and the compilation of news that conforms to the values of the target language audience and society [10]. However, regardless of the type of text being translated, the focus is on translation, so the most basic "trust" in translation cannot be lost. Zeng Chuansheng and Zhu Guangjie pointed out that although cultural filtering issues such as context filtering, translator subjectivity filtering, and sponsor cultural filtering are inevitably involved in news translation, news translation should still focus on respecting the facts of the original events and enabling the target language readers to have a reading experience similar to that of the source language readers [12]. Therefore, adhering to the fidelity of news is the core of news translation.

In terms of news translation teaching, the task-based teaching model is extremely important. In course learning, teachers can prioritize students' psychological needs, highlight the students' subjective position in the classroom, and through "input, memory and output", teachers could cultivate students' interest in reading related news. "Sufficient input leads to an easy output", and students can practice paraphrasing similar English texts. Finally, students can compile news using Western ways of thinking, language habits, and writing styles, so that the translated news can be understood by foreign audiences. In addition, through student feedback on the learning situation, teachers can adjust the teaching content, explore new teaching models, and combine theory with practice to make learning enjoyable.

There are generally fewer critical literature on news translation. In addition to studying mistranslation and correction in news translation, there are also issues with Chinese-Tibetan broadcast news translation. For example, in Tibetan broadcast television news, there are often problems with inconsistent standardization of place names and misinterpretation or mistranslation of place names, which can prevent ethnic minorities from understanding the location and relevant dynamics of events, and reduce the quality of news information dissemination. Moreover, translation criticism theory is mostly guided by critical discourse analysis, analyzing the translation of political discourse news, with a single theme. Due to the different positions and interests of various countries, there is often hidden ideological meaning behind news discourse. The choice of translation by the translator also reflects a certain national ideology. For news headlines related to China, translators should effectively ensure the accuracy of the translation of reports related to China with "order" and "quality". When conducting news translation, translators should maintain ideological sensitivity and effectively convey ideology, so that target language readers can receive the correct ideology that conforms to their own national interests behind the discourse.

3. Conclusions

Looking through the research on news translation from 2016 to 2021, progress has been made in both the internal and external aspects of news translation. There is no longer a single focus on the language and media of news translation. Instead, there is a greater emphasis on the translation of small languages, such as Chinese and Tibetan, and the translation of web news. In terms of translation technology applications, in addition to research on news translation based on corpora, more translation technologies, such as machine translation, machine-assisted translation, and project management, have been applied to news translation research. Scholars are also paying more attention to the influence of ideological and cultural factors on news translation research, and as a result, there is greater focus on the principles of news propaganda in translation. The forms of translation criticism for news translation have increased, and there is a growing reflection on Chinese-Tibetan translation work.

However, the research topics and theoretical framework of news translation lack innovation. Firstly, in terms of research topics, most papers still focus on the theory of news translation and the stylistic characteristics of news translation, with less research on news translation criticism, the integration of

news translation and translation technology, and systematic teaching methods for news translation. Secondly, domestic news translation theory has not yet become systematic, and most studies still rely on foreign translation theories for guidance. They are summary descriptions based on experiential and scattered translation examples, lacking a systematic macro-theoretical research [11]. Finally, the teaching of news translation is still weak. It involves two subjects, English and journalism, and only suggests that task-based teaching can be implemented, but there is no specific classroom practice.

Therefore, this article proposes the following suggestions: firstly, future research on news translation should establish an independent local news translation theory system, emphasizing ideological and cross-cultural factors, and making good use of news translation strategies to strengthen the theoretical construction of news translation. Secondly, deepen the research on the combination of translation technology and news translation, and explore the application of translation technology in the field of news translation to promote continuous improvement in research. Finally, strengthen disciplinary integration, enhance English major students' knowledge of journalism, and value the training of news translation talents.

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