

## Research on the Effectiveness and Adaptability of Chinese Philosophical and Cultural Thought to English Translation

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**Abstract:** English translation, as an important bridge for cross-cultural communication, is of great significance in promoting the communication and understanding between Chinese and Western cultures. English translation faces many challenges in practice, such as language differences and cultural barriers. The influence and inspiration of Chinese philosophical and cultural thought on English translation are manifold. To improve the effectiveness of English translation from the use of Italian translation, contextual understanding and dynamic reciprocity, to enhance the adaptability of English translation from eclecticism, imagery conversion and functional reciprocity, to combine Chinese philosophical and cultural thought with English translation practice, to give full play to the guiding role of Chinese philosophical and cultural thought, to explore and summarize the experience and laws of translation practice, to improve the level and quality of translation, and to make greater contribution to the promotion of Chinese and Western cultural exchange and understanding between Chinese and Western cultures.

**Keywords:** Chinese Philosophical and Cultural Thought, English Translation, Effectiveness, Adaptability.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

As an important bridge for cross-cultural communication, English translation is of great significance in promoting the communication and understanding between Chinese and Western cultures. However, English translation faces many challenges in practice, such as language differences and cultural barriers. Language difference is one of the biggest challenges facing English translation. There are differences in phonetics, vocabulary, grammar and so on between different languages, which makes it inevitable that English translation will have some losses and deviations in the

conversion process. Secondly, cultural barriers are also an important challenge for English translation. Each language contains its unique cultural background and values (Banks & David, 2018), and translators need to convert between different cultures, which may lead to the loss or misunderstanding of some cultural information. In order to overcome these challenges, translators need to have a solid language foundation, rich cultural knowledge and good translation skills. They need to preserve the phonetic, lexical and grammatical features of the source language as much as possible in the translation process, and at the same time convey the cultural information and connotations of the source language as much as possible. Only in this way can accurate translation and effective communication be realized in the true sense.

The influence and inspiration of Chinese philosophical and cultural thought on English translation are manifold. First of all, Chinese philosophical and cultural thought emphasizes the meaning and function of language, which is not only a way to express thoughts, but also a tool for establishing relationships and communicating emotions. This view of language has a revealing effect on English translation, reminding translators to pay attention to the function and meaning of language, and to convey the meaning and emotion of the original text in the target language as much as possible. Secondly, Chinese philosophical and cultural thought emphasizes the influence of context on the meaning of language, and believes that the meaning of language is produced in a specific context. In English translation, translators need to deeply understand the context of the original text and grasp the use of language in different contexts, so as to accurately transform the source language into the target language. This contextual view has a guiding effect on English translation, reminding translators to pay attention to the change of meaning of language in different contexts to avoid misunderstanding or mistranslation. Third, Chinese philosophical and cultural thought emphasizes the inheritance and development of culture. In English translation, translators need to pay attention to the transmission and communication of culture and retain the cultural characteristics and imagery of the source language as much as possible so that readers of the target language can better understand and accept them. This cultural outlook is instructive for English translation, reminding translators to pay attention to cultural transmission and communication to avoid cultural misunderstanding or cultural distortion. Finally, the holistic view in Chinese philosophical and cultural thought requires holistic thinking in the translation process, grasping the process and result of translation comprehensively from macro to micro.

Translators need to consider the purpose of translation, the needs of the target readers, the language style, the cultural background and other factors, so that the translation as a whole meets the requirements and goals of translation. This holistic view has a guiding effect on English translation, reminding translators to pay attention to the wholeness and unity of translation and avoid local distortion or overall disharmony (Gys-Walt, 2018).

Chinese philosophical and cultural thought plays an important role in improving the effectiveness and adaptability of English translation. On the one hand, Chinese philosophical and cultural thought contains rich wisdom and profound insights, which can provide unique inspiration and guidance for English translation; on the other hand, English, as a global language with wide dissemination and application value, can provide a better dissemination platform and communication channel for Chinese philosophical and cultural thought. To improve the effectiveness of English translation from the use of Italian translation, contextual understanding and dynamic reciprocity, to enhance the adaptability of English translation from eclecticism, imagery conversion and functional reciprocity, to combine Chinese philosophical and cultural thoughts with English translation practice, to give full play to the guiding role of Chinese philosophical and cultural thoughts, to explore and summarize the experiences and laws of translation practice, to improve the level and quality of translation, and to make greater contribution to the promotion of Chinese and Western cultural exchange and understanding between Chinese and Western cultures.

## 2. TRANSLATION THOUGHT IN CHINESE PHILOSOPHY AND CULTURE

The translation ideas in Chinese philosophical culture are mainly reflected in the linguistic view, contextual view, cultural view and holistic view. These ideas have had a positive impact on both the practice and theory of English translation, providing important guidance and inspiration for translators.

### 2.1 Linguistic perspective

Chinese philosophical and cultural thought emphasizes the function and significance of language, and considers language an important tool for expressing ideas, communicating culture and establishing relationships.

This view of language is reflected in English translation, where translators need to focus on the function and purpose of translation and convey the meaning and message of the original text as much as possible.

Specifically, the first is to emphasize the meaning beyond words. Chinese philosophical and cultural thought emphasizes the extra-linguistic meaning of language expression, believing that language is not only a simple symbol, but also a carrier for expressing emotion, meaning and culture. In English translation, translators need to pay attention to the depth and meaning of language expression, and convey the meaning beyond words of the source language as much as possible (Karsten, 2019). Second, it emphasizes contextual understanding. Chinese philosophical and cultural thought emphasizes the influence of context on linguistic meaning. In English translation, translators need to deeply understand the context of the original text and grasp the use of language in different contexts, so as to accurately transform the source language into the target language. Thirdly, cultural transmission is emphasized. Chinese philosophical and cultural thought emphasizes the inheritance and development of culture. In English translation, translators need to pay attention to cultural transmission and communication, retaining the cultural characteristics and imagery of the source language as much as possible, so that readers of the target language can better understand and accept them.

The view of language in Chinese philosophical and cultural thought has an important influence on English translation. Translators need to pay attention to the depth and meaning of language expression, accurately grasp the context and cultural characteristics, so as to accurately transform the source language into the target language. Such a translation can better convey the meaning and information of the original language and promote the communication and understanding of Chinese and Western cultures.

## 2.2 Contextual perspective

Chinese philosophical and cultural thought focuses on the understanding and use of context, believing that the meaning of language is produced in a specific context. In English translation, translators need to deeply understand the context of the original text and grasp the use of language in different contexts, so as to accurately transform the source language into the target language.

Specifically, the first is to pay attention to the language context. Linguistic context is the specific environment in which language is used. In the process of translation, translators need to understand the linguistic context of the original text, including the overall style of the text, the

regional characteristics of the language, the author's intention and so on, so as to choose appropriate words and expressions in the target language. Second, pay attention to the social and cultural context. The socio-cultural context is the social environment in which the language is used. Translators need to understand the social and cultural context of the original text, including history, culture, customs, values, etc., so as to grasp the meaning and use of language in a specific social and cultural context (Noble, 2023). Third, pay attention to the linguistic meaning. Pragmatic meaning refers to the special significance of language in a particular context. Translators need to understand the pragmatic meaning of the original language, including extra-linguistic meaning, implication, metaphor, etc., so as to accurately express the pragmatic meaning of the original language in the target language.

The contextual view in Chinese philosophical and cultural thought has an important influence on English translation. Translators need to deeply understand the context of the original text and grasp the use of language in different contexts, so as to accurately transform the source language into the target language.

### 2.3 Cultural perspectives

Chinese philosophical and cultural thought emphasizes the inheritance and development of culture, and considers culture to be an important manifestation of national spirit and social progress. In English translation, translators need to focus on cultural transmission and communication, preserving the cultural characteristics and imagery of the source language as much as possible, so that readers of the target language can better understand and accept them.

Specifically, the first is to emphasize the transmission and promotion of cultural traditions. Chinese philosophical and cultural thought holds that culture is an important manifestation of national spirit and social progress. In English translation, translators need to focus on the transmission and communication of culture, preserving the cultural traditions and uniqueness of the source language as much as possible so that readers of the target language can better understand and accept it (PAUL, 2020). Second, it emphasizes the importance of cross-cultural understanding. Chinese philosophical and cultural thought emphasizes the importance of cross-cultural understanding.

In English translation, translators need to have a deep understanding of the differences and connections between different cultures, including values, history, customs, etc., so as to accurately convey the cultural

information of the source language. Thirdly, the significance of cultural exchange is emphasized. Chinese philosophical and cultural thought emphasizes the significance of cultural exchange. In English translation, translators need to focus on cultural exchange and interaction, convey the wisdom and essence of different cultures through translation, and promote the exchange and understanding of Chinese and Western cultures.

The cultural view in Chinese philosophical and cultural thought has an important influence on English translation. Translators need to pay attention to cultural transmission and communication, and retain the cultural characteristics and imagery of the source language as much as possible, so that readers of the target language can better understand and accept them.

#### 2.4 Holistic perspective

Chinese philosophical and cultural thought emphasizes overall harmony and unity, believing that everything is interconnected and interacts with each other. In English translation, translators need to focus on the grasp of wholeness and organically connect the various elements of the translation process so as to realize the overall harmony and unity.

Specifically, the first emphasizes overall harmony and unity. Chinese philosophical and cultural thought emphasizes overall harmony and unity (Principe, 2019). In English translation, the translator needs to consider the overall harmony and unity, so that the translated text can maintain harmony and unity in the whole and achieve the organic integration of the whole and the parts. Secondly, the interrelationship between the whole and the parts is emphasized. Chinese philosophical and cultural thought believes that the whole and the parts are interconnected and interact with each other.

In English translation, translators need to consider the interrelationship between the whole and the parts, so as to keep consistency in the translation as a whole, and at the same time highlight the characteristics and significance of the parts. Third, it emphasizes the overall thinking of the translation process. The holistic view of Chinese philosophical and cultural thought requires holistic thinking in the translation process, grasping the process and result of translation comprehensively from macroscopic to microscopic. Translators need to consider the purpose of translation, the needs of the target readers, the language style, the cultural background and other factors, so that the translated text as a whole meets the requirements and goals of translation.

The holistic view in Chinese philosophical and cultural thought has an important influence on English translation. Translators need to start from

the whole and grasp the process and result of translation comprehensively, so as to keep harmony and unity in the translation as a whole, and to achieve the organic integration of the whole and its parts. Such a translation can better convey the meaning and message of the original text.

### 3. THE ENHANCEMENT OF CHINESE PHILOSOPHICAL AND CULTURAL THOUGHT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION

#### 3.1 The Use of Intentional Translation

Intentional translation refers to translating with the linguistic rules of the target language according to the inner meaning of the original text rather than the surface form. Intentional translation can ensure that the translation conforms to the expression habits of the target language, while retaining the spirit and meaning of the original text. In Chinese philosophical and cultural thought, Italian translation is an important translation strategy.

In English translation, the use of Italian translation is reflected in many aspects. For example, when translating words or expressions with rich cultural connotations, the translator needs to deeply understand the context and situation of the original text, and then translate with the corresponding expressions in the target language. This kind of translation not only conveys the basic meaning of the source language, but also takes into account the cultural background and expression habits of the target language, making the translation closer to the readers. F

or example, in Chinese culture, the dragon is regarded as a sacred animal, symbolizing power, wisdom and good fortune. However, in Western culture, the dragon is often depicted as an evil creature. In this case, the translator needs to understand the inner meaning of the original text, rather than simply translating it literally. Through Italian translation, we can translate "dragon" as "Chinese dragon" to avoid misunderstanding.

In addition, in the process of Italian translation, the translator also needs to pay attention to maintaining the emotional color and cultural characteristics of the original text. By deeply understanding the cultural background and emotional expression of the original language, the translator can find the corresponding expression in the target language as much as possible, so that the translation not only conveys the original meaning of the source language, but also preserves the mood and flavor of the original language.

Intentional translation is one of the important applications of Chinese philosophical and cultural thought in English translation. By deeply understanding the inner meaning, emotional color and cultural characteristics of the original language, the translator can make the translation closer to the expression habits of the target language, while retaining the spirit and meaning of the original language.

### 3.2 Understanding of context

Context refers to the specific environment in which a language is used, including the context within the language, the physical environment outside the language, and the social and cultural background. In Chinese philosophical and cultural thought, contextual understanding is regarded as an important factor in the translation process.

In English translation, accurate understanding of the context of the original text is crucial for translation. Translators need to understand the intrinsic meanings of words and sentences through the context, and at the same time take into account factors such as the emotional color of the original text, the cultural background and the social environment. Only with a comprehensive understanding of the context of the original text can an accurate and vivid translation be produced. For example, when translating a text with emotional color, the translator needs to deeply understand the emotional expression of the original text in order to find the corresponding expression in the target language. If the translation is simply based on the literal meaning, it may make the translation lack the emotion and flavor of the original text.

In addition, when translating texts with cultural characteristics, contextual understanding is more important. Since the same words may have different meanings and expressions in different cultural contexts, the translator needs to avoid misunderstanding by fully understanding the context of the original text. For example, in Chinese culture, "red" is usually regarded as an auspicious and happy color, while in Western culture, "red" is often associated with violence and bloodshed. Therefore, when translating texts involving the color red, translators need to understand the cultural background and emotional expression of the original text, so as to make the translated text conform to the expression habits of the target language, while retaining the cultural characteristics of the original text.

Contextual understanding is an important aspect of Chinese philosophical and cultural thought in English translation. By deeply understanding the context, physical environment and social and cultural background of the original text, the translator can make the translation



more accurate and vivid, while retaining the emotion and flavor of the original text.

### 3.3 Dynamic equivalence

Dynamic equivalence is a concept put forward by Eugene A. Nida in translation theory, which refers to the fact that the role played by the translated text on the receiver of the translated text is roughly equivalent to the role played by the original text on the receiver of the original text. That is to say, the translation should enable the readers of the translated text to understand the translated text in the same way as the readers of the original text understand the original text, so that the readers of the translated text can get the same feelings and reactions as the readers of the original text.

In English translation, dynamic equivalence is an important translation strategy. Translators need to consider the target readers of the translated text, understand their culture, language and cognitive styles, so that the translated text can conform to their reading habits and comprehension styles (RUTH & ADRIAN, 2020). At the same time, the translator also needs to understand the context and cultural background of the original text, so that the translated text can retain the emotion and flavor of the original text. For example, when translating a text with humor or irony, the translator needs to deeply understand the humor or irony of the original text in order to find the corresponding expression in the target language. If the translator simply translates according to the literal meaning, the translated text may lack the humor or irony of the original text, and the reader may not be able to understand the deeper meaning of the original text.

In addition, dynamic equivalence is also very important when translating texts with cultural characteristics. Since the same words may have different meanings and expressions in different cultures, the translator needs to make the translated text retain the original meaning and flavor in the cultural context of the target language through dynamic equivalence (Sami, 2020).

Dynamic equivalence is a translation strategy that aims to make the role of the translated text to the receiver of the translated text roughly equal to the role of the original text to the receiver of the original text. By deeply understanding the context and cultural background of the original text and considering the target readers of the translated text, the translator can make the translated text more accurate and vivid, while retaining the emotion and flavor of the original text.

#### 4. THE ENHANCEMENT OF CHINESE PHILOSOPHICAL AND CULTURAL THOUGHT ON THE ADAPTABILITY OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION

##### 4.1 Compatibility

In English translation, "all-embracing" (all-embracing) refers to the integration of knowledge, cultures and viewpoints of different fields and natures in order to realize a more comprehensive and integrated translation effect. In the process of translation, due to the linguistic and cultural differences between the source language and the target language, the translator needs to retain the context, cultural connotation and linguistic characteristics of the source language as much as possible in the translation process, and at the same time, take into account the acceptance and comprehension ability of the readers of the target language. In order to realize the "eclectic" translation effect, translators need to have a broad knowledge background and cross-cultural vision, and be able to deeply understand the differences and connections between the source language and the target language, and integrate them organically (Vitaliy, 2018). For example, when translation involves knowledge in multiple fields, translators need to integrate knowledge from different fields to achieve a more comprehensive and integrated translation effect. Another example is that when translating content involving cultural differences, translators need to combine the cultural connotations and characteristics of the source language with the cultural background of the target language in order to achieve a more accurate and closer translation effect to the original text.

"Eclecticism" is an important principle in English translation, which requires the translator to have a broad knowledge background and cross-cultural vision, and to be able to integrate knowledge, cultures and viewpoints of different fields and natures in order to realize a more comprehensive and integrated translation effect.

##### 4.2 Imagery transformation

In the process of English translation, imagery conversion refers to converting the imagery of the source language into the corresponding imagery of the target language in order to preserve the mood and flavor of the original text. This kind of conversion is of great significance for translation, especially when translating texts with rich cultural connotations.

In the process of English translation, imagery conversion can be realized

through various methods. First, the imagery of the original text can be conveyed through interpretation and description. This method is suitable for those cases where the corresponding imagery cannot be found in the target language. Second, the imagery of the original text can be transformed by using similar or related imagery. This method allows the reader of the translated text to better understand and accept the original text's imagery. In addition, the imagery of the original text can be transformed by creating new imagery. This method is suitable for those cases where there is no direct counterpart of the imagery in the target language.

In addition, imagery conversion needs to pay attention to the following points. First, a deep understanding of the imagery and cultural context of the original text is needed to ensure that the converted imagery can retain the original context and flavor. Secondly, the expression of the target language and the acceptance level of the readers need to be taken into account to ensure that the translation is fluent and easy to understand. Finally, it is necessary to keep the converted imagery consistent with the imagery of the original text in terms of meaning and emotion to avoid ambiguity and misunderstanding.

Imagery conversion is an important part of the translation process. Through the skillful use of a variety of methods, the conversion of imagery between different languages can be realized, the mood and flavor of the original text can be preserved, and the readers of the translated text can better understand and accept the intention of the original text.

#### 4.3 Functional equivalence

Functional equivalence is a concept of translation, which means that in the process of translation, the translated text should realize the same function as the original text, rather than simply copying the form and content of the original text. Functional equivalence emphasizes the "effect" of translation, i.e., the translated text should produce the same effect as the original text in the readers, including language, culture and style. Therefore, functional equivalence requires the translator to understand not only the form and content of the original text, but also the cultural background and linguistic style of the original text in order to ensure that the translated text can produce the same effect as the original text.

The theory of functional equivalence was put forward by Eugene A. Nida, a famous American linguist and translation theorist. According to Nida, translation should aim at "functional equivalence", that is to say, the translated text should realize the same function as the original text as far as possible in terms of language, culture and style, etc. In order to realize

functional equivalence, the translator should realize the same effect as the original text. In order to realize functional equivalence, translators can use various methods in the translation process, including conversion, compensation, omission, addition and adaptation. These methods can help the translator adjust the form and content of the translated text to achieve the same effect as the original.

Functional equivalence is an important concept in translation, which emphasizes that the translated text should achieve the same function as the original text, rather than simply copying the form and content of the original text (Yuanqiong & Natalia, 2017). In order to achieve functional equivalence, translators need to deeply understand the cultural and linguistic background of the original text in the translation process and use a variety of methods to make adjustments to ensure that the translation can produce the same effect as the original text.

## 5. THE PATH OF CHINESE PHILOSOPHICAL AND CULTURAL THOUGHT TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND ADAPTABILITY OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION

The path of Chinese philosophical and cultural thought to enhance the effectiveness and adaptability of English translation can mainly be carried out in the following aspects:

Enhancing cross-cultural awareness. Chinese philosophical and cultural thought has unique values, worldviews and ways of thinking, which are areas that need special attention in the translation process. In order to better convey such ideas, translators need to have a high level of cross-cultural awareness, familiarize themselves with the differences between the two cultures, and minimize misunderstandings and conflicts.

Strengthen language skills and translation skills. English translation requires a solid foundation in English and good translation skills. Chinese philosophical and cultural thoughts are often more profound, and need to be properly transformed and adjusted in the translation process so that the target audience can better understand and accept them.

Research on Chinese philosophical and cultural thought. In order to better translate Chinese philosophical and cultural ideas, it is necessary to conduct in-depth research on these ideas. By studying and researching relevant literature, classic works and so on, we can better understand the connotation and characteristics of Chinese philosophical and cultural thoughts, so as to translate them better.

Refer to other translated versions. In the process of translation, you can refer to other literature or materials that have been translated into English, and learn experiences and lessons from them. By comparing the translations of different versions, one can better understand the treatment, advantages and disadvantages of different translators, so as to better perfect one's translation.

Consider the needs and cultural background of the target audience. Translation needs to consider the needs and cultural background of the target audience. For the translation of Chinese philosophical and cultural ideas, it is necessary to consider the cognitive habits and aesthetic orientation of the target audience so as to better adjust the translation strategy and improve the adaptability and effectiveness of translation.

English translation requires cross-cultural awareness, a solid foundation in English and good translation skills, as well as in-depth study of relevant literature, reference to the advantages and disadvantages of other translations, and consideration of the target audience's needs and cultural background in order to better improve the effectiveness and adaptability of translation.

## 6. CONCLUSION

Through an in-depth study of Chinese philosophical and cultural thought and English translation, it is found that Chinese philosophical and cultural thought has a positive influence on the effectiveness and adaptability of English translation. Chinese philosophical and cultural thought emphasizes the meaning and function of language, which helps translators better convey the meaning and emotion of the original text. At the same time, Chinese philosophical and cultural thought emphasizes the influence of context on linguistic meaning, which helps translators accurately grasp the use of language in different contexts in English translation. In addition, Chinese philosophical and cultural thought emphasizes the inheritance and development of culture, which helps translators better retain the cultural characteristics and imagery of the source language in English translation. Finally, the holistic view in Chinese philosophical and cultural thought requires holistic thinking in the translation process, which helps translators better grasp the wholeness and unity of translation. However, this study mainly focuses on the effectiveness and adaptability of the linguistic level and the cultural level, and fails to comprehensively consider the influence of other factors, such

as translation strategy and translation purpose. Future research can deeply explore the effects of different translation strategies and purposes on effectiveness and adaptability. In addition, the effectiveness and adaptability of Chinese philosophical and cultural thought in other languages can be further explored to reveal its guiding role more comprehensively.

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