

Research on the Translation Theories and Practice of Reform Scholars in the Late Qing Dynasty

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Abstract. The Reform Scholars' translation activities in the late Qing Dynasty occupies an important position in the translation development history of China, they made enormous contribution to the translation development history of China, no matter Reform Scholars' choice of translation books or the social function of the translation books written by them, both Reform Scholars' translation theories and practice have extremely important value, and show the feature of particular progressiveness of the times. This paper starts with the translation activities of Reform Scholars in the late Qing Dynasty to analyze translation theory and practice, and specifically explores the contributions of Reform Scholars' translation activities on the translation development history of China, hoping to provide some support and reference for the research on the translation development history of China.

Introduction

In the long Chinese translation development history, Reform Scholars in the late Qing Dynasty is always a special group, their translation theories and practice is an important part of Chinese translation field, which greatly promoted the progress of Chinese translation history, and plays an extremely important role in Chinese translation history. In the Chinese translation history, Reform Scholars first drew lessons from foreign translation theories and put forward systematic translation theory with Chinese cultural characteristic, and this theory once became the main part of Chinese translation history, closely integrated Chinese translation work with saving China through culture, which made the translation works of Reform Scholars and the one influenced by Reform Scholars' translation thoughts had obvious features of saving nation and social sciences, really had breakthrough the limitation of "traditional Chinese values aided with modern Western ideology" in the Westernization Group's traditional ideology, and first put forward translation criterion problem in Chinese translation theory research, which had a great influence on the development of Chinese translation theory and practice. Therefore, the research on the translation theories and practice of Reform Scholars in the late Qing Dynasty in this paper has a practical significance, can provide important reference criterion for people to better understand and analyze Chinese translation development history.

Translation activities of the Reform Scholars in the late Qing Dynasty

The late Qing Dynasty was turbulent, since The First Opium War in 1840, China gradually entered into the semi-colonial and semi-feudal society, foreign politic and economic culture gradually permeated into our society, which made Chinese people be influenced by Western politic, economic and cultural thoughts day by day when they accepted traditional cultural thoughts, Chinese people's cognition on politics problems was strengthened gradually, which gradually aggravated the social

and political crisis on a certain extent. After The First Opium War, as a vanquished country, China had to begin to accept Western culture, and influenced by Western political thoughts, Western culture gradually widely spread in our society, in the late Qing Dynasty, the introduction and learning of foreign ideas gradually appeared, and rapidly entered into the fast development period. After the failure of The Second Opium War, Chinese society gradually realized the advancement of Western politics, economy, society and social construction, and had a more profound cognition on own backward, for the sake of national construction, government officials of the late Qing Dynasty also gradually contacted with Western advanced cultural thoughts, on the basis of improving their own ideological understanding, the westernization movement was implemented smoothly, translation of Western literature became popular. If we say the defeat of two opium wars stimulated the disruptive change of the culture construction in our country that the development of reforms such as westernization movement and Hundred Days' Reform stimulated Chinese culture begin to present different trends, while in this process, the Reform Scholars' translation activities had a decisive influence on the introduction of western culture and the reform of Chinese culture and Chinese society, it not just laid a solid foundation on the development of late Chinese translation, but also stimulated the greater progress of China's social construction, laid a solid foundation for the strengthen of China's comprehensive power^[1]. Especially with the comprehensive advancement of westernization movement, China's economy and cultural construction gradually entered a new development stage, while the participators of the westernization movement once tried to adjust this cultural change, which caused that the translation activity generally took natural and scientific books as main content. While with the outburst of the Sino-Japanese War, the corruption of the Qing Dynasty became deeper and deeper, western powers began to carve up China, which caused some adverse effects on the harmony and stability of Chinese society. Under this social background, Chinese intellectuals gradually realized the knowledge reform cannot drive the country become thriving and powerful, only comprehensively carry forward the political reform on the basis of knowledge reform, can stimulate the nation construction make greater achievements, and then improve the comprehensive national strength. On this basis, the Hundred Days' Reform and the Modernization Movement appeared successively, under the influence of reform thoughts, some intellectuals began to advocate to learn from the western society, comprehensively analyze the political thoughts of the western society, to support the political improvement and the open of political power, and then truly break through the constraint of feudal ideology, and truly change China's social structure. Though the Modernization Movement failed at last, analyze from the political level, it has an irreplaceable function on China's political construction and social development, and under the influence of this political activity, Chinese translation gradually got a good development, under the influence of the Eight-Power Allied Forces' aggression against China, China truly implemented political improvement and practice in the social construction, the translation of domestic scientific books also got a certain development, which has a boost on the reform of Chinese translation history.

Translation theory and practice of Reform Scholars in the late Qing Dynasty

Chinese translation has a development history with thousands of years, and as early as the beginning of the Christian era, translation began to appear, in the long development history, the development of translation practice far surpassed the research on translation theory. Until the end of the 19th century, under the influence of western cultural thoughts, Reform Scholars of the late Qing Dynasty in China first put forward relative systematic translation theory in Chinese translation history, which laid a solid foundation for the development of translation theory study, and provided corresponding support and guidance for translation practice. In researches on China's translation history, many people thought that translation practice and translation theory in the late Qing Dynasty had an intimate connection, through scientific analysis on this connection we can find that during the development history of the translation in the late Qing Dynasty, Reform Scholars' thoughts played an important

role. Among the Reform Scholars' translation theories, Ma Jianzhong explicated the translation standard in the research for the first time, and appropriately put forward the thought of "good translation". Based on this issue, Gao Fengqian, Liang Qichao, etc. also made more detailed research, and put forward that insisting the thought of translation^[2]. Yan Fu put forward the translation requirements of "faithfulness", "expressiveness" and "taste" on the basis of translation development requirement and the chase for aesthetic nature and artistry of translated text, and sticking to the original translation thought; which had a great influence on the development of China's translation cause. Based on this, during this period, translation had been relatively extensive developed with the support and study of numerous translators and obtained a certain development effect. In the choice of translation books, Reform Scholars criticized the translation activities of the Westernization Group, they thought this kind of translation thought has a certain one-sidedness, which was not good for the optimized development of translation activities. Reform Scholars advocated the organic combination of translation activities and saving nation activities, which stimulated translation groups undertook the mission of political groups at the same time, they translated some books on Western constitution, politics construction and economic construction, to provide corresponding theory support for nation-building. For example, Yan Fu's translation of the representative work of western economics and law s had a certain positive influence on China's political, economic and social development. In addition, relevant participants of the Modernization Movement also positively created newspapers and periodicals, translated articles on foreign newspapers and periodicals, at the same time with analyzing western public opinions, they also provided corresponding support for the development of China's public opinions. This shows that during this period, Reform Scholars' translation theories and practices had a huge impact on China's social construction, and stimulated their translation works to be accepted widely, finally promoted translation activities develop to the climax^[3]. But strictly speaking, the functions of Reform Scholars' translation theories and practices are much more than this, their translation works generally had strong social influence, which gradually changed the backward thoughts of Chinese people at that time, had a great impact on providing theory support for China's economic and social construction, even some of their translation works were handed down, which had a specific influence on the ideological education of current social mass. In short, Reform Scholars' translation kept attention on the efficiency of the translation works at the same time with strengthening readability, which had a certain influence on the spread of western culture in China, we even can say that it is the Reform Scholars' translation theory and practice laid a solid foundation for Chinese social mass to know the more advanced science and technology, also stimulated the translation history had a greater effect in the new age.

The function and value of Reform Scholars' translation theories and practices on China's translation history

Reform Scholars' translation theories and practices firstly explicated the guidance of theory on practice, it had a great contribution on the development of Chinese translation cause.

Reform Scholars' translation theories and practices firstly welcomed the highlight of Chinese translation history

In the late Qing Dynasty, Chinese society was turbulent, therefore, translation not just promoted the cultural transmission but also had a certain influence on China's nation thought, which made the social function of translation had made full play. For the novel translation, Reform Scholars' translation achieved important result, especially the translation of Japanese novels, even developed to the world's highest. Meanwhile, because the Modernization Group was not just a political group, on a certain degree, they represented advance thoughts at that time, therefore, they advocated to use western advance culture for studying, on the basis of translation on a great deal of western books and Japanese books, they made a development on China's nation strength^[4]. In 1898, after experiencing escape, Liang Qichao introduced Japanese political novels into China, and under this call, numerous

young scholars took part in the translation of Japanese literature, and study in Japan began to appear, which laid a foundation on the further development of Chinese translation on a certain degree. Meanwhile, Reform Scholars' translation theory and practice also stimulated novel translation gradually developed to the peak. During this period, political novel was main translation objective, it not just had features of novel, but also can analyze and sneer current political situation on a certain degree, which made novel translation became the primary content of translation activities. At the same time, under the guidance of Li Shu, translation of European and American novels also obtained some development, which greatly broaden people's horizon. Such as Lin Shu's classic translation work *Black Slaves Appeal to Heaven*, warn the future of the yellow race through the statement of Black people's life, stimulated people to form a more profound understanding on invasion, independent, and democratic thought, also had an important function on promoting the development of Chinese translation history.

Reform Scholars' translation theories and practices had an important influence on the spread of translation achievements

Firstly, the Modernization Group carried out corresponding translation practices on the basis of their own theory guidance, which stimulated the wide spread of translation works on a certain degree. Influenced by the failure of the Reform Movement, the representatives of the Reform Movement were punished strictly, while at the beginning of the 20th century, Zhang Jiyuan began to host the press work, which provided specific support for the spread of translation works. Secondly, the Modernization Groups positively created specific translation organization, which had an important place in China's translation history. At the same time, Kang Youwei, Liang Qichao, etc., also positively created the society for strengthening China, and led part of people created translation office on this basis, which provided a strong support for the spread of translation works.

Reform Scholars' translation theories and practices stimulated the mature of Chinese translation theories

Reform Scholars' translation theories and practices created good condition for the development of modern Chinese translation cause on a certain degree, which made modern Chinese translation obtained good achievements. Reform Scholars first put forward the translation standard and choice of translation books, which aroused the public's deep thinking on the development of translation works, which made the translation works be spread widely^[5]. Meanwhile, under the influence of Reform Scholars' translation theories and practices, part of scholars followed them, which stimulated the further development of Chinese translation work, also had an important influence on the deep spread of Chinese translation works.

Conclusion

Reform Scholars' translation theories and practices obtained great achievement in its long development progress its important translation thought at that time was not only accepted by people at that time, though long term of development, it still has education value and guidance meaning on nowadays society, also has a specific meaning on the development of Chinese translation cause. Therefore, in order to get greater achievement on translation in the new time, it is necessary to fully analyze and study Reform Scholars' translation theories and practices, thus to make correct guidance for modern translation work and provide good support for the construction of modern translation cause.

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