

“THE LITERARY STYLE IN TRANSLATION: SPECIFIC FEATURES AND DIFFERENCES”

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Abstract. This article explores the complexities of literary style in translation, focusing on how linguistic, cultural, and aesthetic elements influence the rendering of a text from one language to another. It examines key theoretical frameworks and methodologies, including the concepts of fidelity and creativity, and the role of the translator as both a mediator and creator. Case studies of renowned translations across various literary genres illustrate the challenges translators face in maintaining the original author's voice while adapting to the target language's norms and sensibilities. The article argues that a successful translation is not merely a linguistic exercise but an art form that demands a deep understanding of both source and target cultures. Ultimately, it posits that the negotiation of style in translation enriches the literary landscape and fosters cross-cultural dialogue.

Key Words: Tone and voice, the translator's voice, key components of literary style.

Аннотация: В этой статье рассматриваются сложности литературного стиля в переводе, с упором на то, как лингвистические, культурные и эстетические элементы влияют на передачу текста с одного языка на другой. В ней рассматриваются ключевые теоретические основы и методологии, включая концепции верности и креативности, а также роль переводчика как посредника и создателя. Практические примеры известных переводов в различных литературных жанрах иллюстрируют проблемы, с которыми сталкиваются переводчики при сохранении голоса оригинального автора и адаптации к нормам и особенностям целевого языка. В статье утверждается, что успешный перевод — это не просто языковое упражнение, а форма искусства, требующая глубокого понимания как исходной, так и целевой культуры. В конечном счете, в ней утверждается, что согласование стиля в переводе обогащает литературный ландшафт и способствует межкультурному диалогу.

Ключевые слова: Тон и голос, голос переводчика, основные компоненты литературного стиля.

Introduction. Translation is a complex process that transcends mere word-for-word conversion; it is an art form that involves the interpretation of meaning, context, and tone. Literary style in translation is particularly significant as it shapes the reader's

experience and perception of the original text. This article explores the nuances of literary style in translation, examining specific features, challenges, and the implications of stylistic choices on the fidelity and reception of translated works.

Understanding Literary Style

Literary style encompasses the author's unique voice, which includes elements such as diction, syntax, figurative language, and rhythm. These components work together to create an emotional resonance and aesthetic experience that engages readers. In translation, preserving this style is crucial, as it reflects the author's intent and cultural context.

Key Components of Literary Style

“Diction”: Word choice is pivotal in conveying tone and mood. Different languages often possess unique connotations, and a translator must navigate these subtleties to maintain the original's impact.

“Syntax”: The arrangement of words and phrases affects the flow and rhythm of a text. Translators may face challenges when the syntactic structure of the source language differs significantly from that of the target language.

“Figurative Language”: Metaphors, similes, and other figures of speech contribute to the richness of a text. A translator must decide whether to preserve these devices in their original form or adapt them to resonate more with the target audience.

“Tone and Voice”: The overall tone—be it humorous, ironic, or solemn—must be faithfully represented. This requires a deep understanding of both the source and target cultures to avoid misinterpretations.

Specific Features of Literary Style in Translation

Cultural Context

One of the most significant challenges in translating literary style is the cultural context that informs it. Literary works often reflect the values, beliefs, and historical nuances of their origin. For instance, idiomatic expressions may carry weight that is not easily translatable. A translator must find equivalent expressions or risk losing the text's original flavor.

Register and Formality

The level of formality or informality in a text can be difficult to replicate. Different languages have varying systems of formality, which can affect how characters and situations are perceived. In some languages, using formal address can signify respect or distance, while in others, it might convey a lack of intimacy. Translators must be attentive to these nuances to maintain the intended relationships between characters.

Syntax and Structure

The structural differences between languages can lead to significant changes in literary style. For example, the use of long, flowing sentences might be appropriate in

one language but could feel cumbersome in another. A translator may choose to break up sentences to achieve a similar effect, altering the text's rhythm and pacing.

Figurative Language and Imagery

Metaphors and imagery often do not translate neatly due to cultural differences. For example, a metaphor that resonates with a Western audience may not have the same impact on an Eastern one. Translators must either find culturally relevant equivalents or risk diluting the text's power.

Tone and Emotion

Maintaining the emotional tone of a literary work is crucial. Subtle shifts in language can lead to vastly different interpretations of characters' intentions or the narrative's mood. For instance, a seemingly neutral word in one language might carry a connotation of sarcasm or warmth in another. A skilled translator will navigate these subtleties to preserve the author's emotional intent.

Challenges in Translating Literary Style

Fidelity vs. Adaptation

A central dilemma in literary translation is the balance between fidelity to the source text and the necessity of adaptation for the target audience. Translators often face the question: should they stay true to the original style or adapt it to ensure readability and resonance with the new audience? This choice can significantly impact the translated work's literary style and reception.

The Translator's Voice

The translator's own voice inevitably influences the final product. Some translators strive to be invisible, allowing the author's style to shine through, while others embrace their own stylistic choices, which can lead to innovative interpretations. This raises the question of authorship and the role of the translator as a co-creator of the text.

Reader Expectations

Different cultures have varying expectations regarding literary style. A translation that deviates from these norms may be met with criticism or confusion. Understanding the target audience's literary preferences is vital for a successful translation, as it informs the stylistic choices made by the translator.

Case Studies

Example 1: Gabriel García Márquez's "One Hundred Years of Solitude"

In the English translation of García Márquez's masterpiece, the translator faces the challenge of preserving the lush, magical realism that characterizes the original Spanish text. The use of hyperbaton, a stylistic feature common in Spanish, can be difficult to replicate in English without sacrificing clarity. The translator's choice to adapt certain metaphors and idioms showcases the delicate balance between fidelity and readability.

Example 2: Haruki Murakami's "Norwegian Wood"

Murakami's use of colloquial language and cultural references poses a unique challenge in translation. The translator must navigate the subtleties of Japanese culture while ensuring that the emotional undertones of the characters are effectively conveyed. The choice to retain certain Japanese terms alongside explanations demonstrates the translator's effort to preserve the original style while making it accessible to a global audience.

Conclusion. Literary style in translation is a multifaceted and dynamic process that requires careful consideration of various elements, including cultural context, diction, syntax, and tone. Translators play a crucial role in bridging the gap between languages and cultures, and their choices can significantly affect the reception of a literary work. As the landscape of global literature continues to evolve, the art of translation remains an essential endeavor that enriches the reading experience and fosters cross-cultural understanding. Balancing fidelity to the original text with the needs of the target audience is a challenging yet rewarding aspect of literary translation that ultimately contributes to the richness of world literature.

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