

Exploring the aesthetic value in the translation of British and American literature

Zhang Junfang^{1, a}, Liu Yongqi^{1, b, *},

¹University of Jinan, No. 336 Nan Xin Zhuang West Road, Jinan City, Shandong Province, 250022, China
a.zhangjunfang_425728@outlook.com, b.yongqidec05@126.com

***Corresponding Author**

Abstract: In literary studies, appropriately translating British and American literary works essentially involves the translator's close reading of the text to interpret and express the original work's creative emotions, literary value, artistic conception, and aesthetic connotations. Then, it is about perfectly presenting these elements in another language, which is a process of secondary presentation of the aesthetic value of literary works. Therefore, studying the aesthetic values manifested in the translation of British and American literature can help readers form a deeper understanding of literary works and has a corresponding positive impact on the advancement of literary translation, which has certain theoretical value and practical significance.

Keywords: British and American Literature, Translation, Aesthetic Value

1. Introduction

In the study of British and American literary works, the process of translating these works is not merely a simple conversion of words but requires the translator to understand the creative background and cultural context of the works before translating. This deeper understanding allows for a more profound comprehension of the work's essence and the spiritual ideas it conveys. On this basis, the translator engages in a secondary literary creation using another language. In the translation of literary works in China, modern Chinese is used to convey the authentic British and American literary works to readers. In this process, not only is the original author's creative spirit perfectly presented, but inevitably, some of the translator's subjective ideas are also integrated. Therefore, the translator's own literary aesthetic abilities also influence the quality of the translation to a certain extent. To further improve the quality of British and American literary translations in our country and to express the aesthetic value in translation in today's society, translators should deeply understand and grasp the aesthetic value of the literary works themselves and the aesthetic ideas that the translation work can convey.

2. The intrinsic value of British and American literary works

Literature embodies the integration of art and emotion to a certain extent, serving as a textual transformation of the prevailing social form, possessing a unique beautifying function. It is the product of the scientific and artistic processing of social and human values in the spiritual realm by literary and artistic creators [1]. Throughout the historical process of the evolution of world literature, British and American literature has always held an important position, exerting a significant influence on the modern literature of many countries around the world. As a reflection of the mainstream culture of British and American societies, British and American literary works contain the essence of thought and possess boundless value and charm. They have consistently received high attention in the literary and artistic research fields of countries around the world. The translation of these works and the presentation of aesthetic value in the translation process have become key concerns in the current literary translation community in our country.

In simple terms, British and American literary works are generally created against the backdrop of the development and changes in the social and cultural aspects during different periods of the historical evolution of the UK and the USA. These works carry distinct characteristics of ethnicity and nationality. Before reading British and American literary works, readers must have a grasp of certain literary creation contexts to achieve in-depth reading. Only then can they truly experience the corresponding aesthetic

conception during the reading process, generate a spiritual resonance with the literary work, and enhance their sense of identification with the work.

3. Aesthetics of British & American lit

3.1. British and American works are renowned for elegant prose

The linguistic style of these works often leaves the first impression on readers, providing the most direct experience. The beauty of language is also the most important element of the aesthetic value in British and American literature, significantly influencing the overall value of these works. As history evolves and society changes, the linguistic styles in literary works from different periods have also changed in response to the overall social environment. However, no matter at which historical stage, classic literary works can use delicate language to create vivid characters and present intricate and coherent storylines to readers clearly and systematically. Beneath the surface-level narrative lies the author's most profound spiritual thoughts. During the reading process, readers can communicate and exchange with the author on a spiritual level through the exquisite text, gaining a unique aesthetic experience [2]. For instance, the famous literary work "Waiting for Godot" (by Samuel Beckett) perfectly conveys the characters' anxiety and hesitation while waiting, as well as the mystery of "Godot," revealing a tragic spiritual thought that resonates with readers. It demonstrates that classic literary works present their unique artistic charm through reasonable textual rendering, enabling readers to gain corresponding emotional insights during the reading process. Therefore, it can be said that the beauty of language, as an important feature of British and American literary works, is a major component of their aesthetic value and should be a key focus of study and research.

3.2. Tragic beauty in British and American literary works

The sense of tragic beauty in British and American literary works provides readers with a unique emotional experience during reading, which can evoke a strong sense of the era and facilitate a spiritual communication with the author. Ultimately, this allows readers to gain a profound and shocking experience from the reading process, leaving a lasting impression. In British and American literary creation, tragic works often involve intense emotional conflicts, with the tragedy being manifested through the characters' misfortunes. Shakespeare's "Four Great Tragedies" showcase distinct character personalities through intense conflicts, perfectly presenting the tragic nature of the works to the world. For instance, in "King Lear," Shakespeare profoundly portrays human greed, revealing the pain of the real world and an infinite yearning for a better one through the vast gap between reality and the ideal.

This aesthetic thought, imbued with a sense of tragedy, has also had a broad impact on literary creations in other countries. In contemporary Chinese society, some film and television works exhibit the influence of Shakespearean tragic aesthetics. Although "The Butterfly Lovers" differs greatly from Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," the tragic aesthetic ideas share a similar profoundness and resonance.

3.3. Mood and ambience aesthetics in British and American lit

During the creative process of literary works, authors can evoke a certain mood and ambience through meticulous depictions of the story's settings and circumstances. This allows readers to immerse themselves in the narrative alongside the characters, thereby gaining a better understanding of the work's spiritual essence. In many outstanding British and American literary works, the significance of the mood and ambience goes beyond a simple and reasonable portrayal of the environment. Instead, it is achieved by integrating the protagonist's actions and language with the narrative, thereby revealing the inner emotions of the character. For instance, the classic British and American literary work "Jane Eyre" features a nuanced depiction of mood and ambience, which not only clearly presents the fate of the protagonist but also lays the foundation for the development of her character.

3.4. The beauty of humanity in British and American literary works

Characters are an essential element in all literary works and have an extremely important impact on the presentation of the work's value. Portraying human nature to reflect on the current world and convey positive and uplifting messages is a common technique used by creators, which to a certain extent helps to

enhance the ideological guidance and educational significance of the work. Renowned novelists such as O. Henry and Ernest Hemingway are representative figures who showcase the beauty of humanity and convey positive thoughts and educational connotations through their works. Works like "The Gift of the Magi," "The Last Leaf," and "The Old Man and the Sea" are important representatives of the beauty of humanity in British and American literature and have been selected for textbooks in our country, playing a significant role in ideological education and guidance.

3.5. Structural beauty in British and American literary works

During the creation of British and American literature, authors enhance the literary value of their works by reasonable arrangement of the plot and diverse construction of the narrative process. They combine various narrative techniques such as flashbacks, straightforward narration, and reverse order to present the literary work to readers in a more exciting way. Additionally, with the continuous development and progress of literary creative thought, structuralism and deconstruction have emerged in literary studies. The analysis has fully expanded the aesthetic ideological content of literary works, which is conducive to enhancing the value of aesthetic works. This enables readers to gain a deeper understanding of the connotations of the works and positively influences the dissemination of the works.

4. Aesthetic value in British and American literary works

4.1. Aesthetics in translating Brit & Am. Lit

For literary works, text translation is not equivalent to a simple language conversion; the most important aspect is the exploration and presentation of the work's connotations, as well as the pursuit and expression of its aesthetic value. Every classic work, whether it is a novel, essay, or poem, has its specific mode of expression, and different authors also have certain differences in creative thought and external expression during different creative processes [3]. Detailed analysis of these issues, while increasing the difficulty of translation to a certain extent, is precisely why literary translation pays more attention to aesthetic value, promoting the wider dissemination of works worldwide. The pursuit of aesthetic value in literary translation is more evident in the translation of essays and poetry. Generally, essayists and poets have their own personalized styles over a long period of creation. Whether it is delicate or majestic, the aesthetic value of the works can be objectively demonstrated under the support of different translation styles. In addition, translators should not only focus on the original text's essence of thought during the translation process but also combine their own translation style and the context of the times to re-create the work. Thereby, they can enhance the appeal of the translated work through their personalized language, gain recognition from a wide range of readers, and truly demonstrate the aesthetic value of the translation of British and American literary works.

During the translation process, it should also be noted that excellent British and American literary works generally possess a certain aesthetic of artistic conception, so the translation language should also focus on expressing the work's artistic conception, and evoke readers' spiritual and ideological resonance through the creation of artistic conception. Generally speaking, the most important purpose for the author of a literary work in the actual creative process is to express their own views and thoughts through the work and have a specific impact on readers, even affecting the construction of social spiritual civilization. Therefore, translators must maximize the display of the original work's artistic conception in the actual translation process: first, they can reasonably observe the language of the original work, then choose the most appropriate words for translation and scene reconstruction, integrate their own translation style on the basis of showing the artistic charm of the original text, enhance the personal aesthetic value of the translation, and ultimately enable the spiritual connotation of the literary work to be perfectly interpreted in another language, so that the literary work can be better disseminated.

4.2. Aesthetics in Brit. & Am. Lit. translation

4.2.1. Emotional Aesthetics in Lit. Trans

Literary emotion is inherent in every literary work, playing the role of a spiritual guide within the literature. Once a literary work loses its emotion, it inevitably loses its soul value and cannot attract or influence readers. Whether translators can perfectly present the original work's thoughts and emotions in the actual translation process is a major factor in evaluating the quality of the translation; therefore, emotional conveyance is a key and challenging aspect of the translation of British and American literary works [4]. Generally, there are certain differences between the historical periods, social backgrounds, and cultural environments of the creators and translators of literary works, which to some extent increases the difficulty of reasonably positioning and grasping the emotions in literary works. Thus, translators need not only to have high professional quality and language proficiency but also to possess certain abilities in emotional analysis and conveyance. Only by understanding the literary emotions of the work can they use the most accurate language to convey the corresponding emotions, enhance the artistic and aesthetic value of the translation, and facilitate the better dissemination of British and American literary works.

4.2.2. *Imagery Aesthetics in trans*

For British and American literary works, imagery specifically refers to the process by which authors, after careful deliberation during the creative process, integrate thoughts and emotions through appropriate language description. Therefore, translators of British and American literature can appropriately choose to use a vagueness treatment method in the actual translation process to reasonably and high-quality restate the imagery in the works, enhancing the value of the translation. Chinese language and culture have a long and profound history; the meaning of a word inevitably varies in different historical periods and different linguistic environments. Coupled with the flexible and changeable nature of English vocabulary, translators can only achieve aesthetic processing of textual transformation in the translation process by reasonably using the vagueness treatment method. This truly completes the translation of textual imagery, promoting better development in the translation of British and American literary works in our country.

4.2.3. *The aesthetic value demonstrated in literary Ambience*

In the process of literary translation, if the translation lacks the corresponding ambience, the actual quality of the translation will inevitably be low and fail to gain widespread recognition from the public. Therefore, translators should pay more attention to the creation of ambience when translating British and American literary works. Before starting the translation work, translators should explore the ambience and aesthetic value of the literary works, repeatedly analyze and study to explore the aesthetic ideas of the works, thereby stimulating their own translation inspiration. This leads to a more vivid and lifelike translation, enhancing the quality and value of the translation, and laying the foundation for the dissemination of British and American literature in our society.

5. Conclusion

In summary, as an essential part of world literature, British and American literary works exert significant influence on the literary creations of other countries around the world. Therefore, our country should place greater emphasis on the translation of British and American literature. By enabling translators to appropriately grasp the aesthetic value of the works during the translation process and then express this value perfectly using the right language, readers can experience the endless charm of the translated works. This facilitates a broader dissemination of the works in contemporary society.

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