



Translation of contemporary value of the opera film “Honorable Official Yu Chenglong” guided by the text typology theory

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Article Info

ISSN (online): 2582-7138

Volume: 04

Issue: 03

May-June 2023

Received: 27-03-2023;

Accepted: 19-04-2023

Page No: 55-61

Abstract

As the anti-corruption struggle gradually deepens in China, the building of the honest government culture has become an important part. The honest government culture is a new development and exploration of theories of advanced socialist culture construction, and its core value is to do things for the people with cleanliness and honesty. The anti-corruption operas and films have made great contributions to the honest government culture. The source text, *Contemporary Value of the Opera Film “Honorable Official Yu Chenglong” in the New Era Context of Corruption Fighting*, discusses the contemporary value of anti-corruption films, which is of significance for the popularization of corruption fighting, hoping that the readers can have a deeper understanding of the honest government culture. Under the guidance of Peter Newmark’s Text Typology Theory, the present author used appropriate translation methods and strategies to reproduce the functions performed by the source text and improve the quality of translation.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.54660/IJMRGE.2023.4.3.55-66>

Keywords: honest government culture; anti-corruption films; Text Typology Theory

1. Introduction

1.1 Research background

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the party central committee with Mr. Xi Jinping at its core has integrated strict governance of the party into “the Four-pronged Comprehensive Strategy ---- to make comprehensive moves to complete a moderately prosperous society in all respects, to further reform, to advance the rule of law, and to strengthen Party self-governance”, and promoted the construction of the honest government and the fight against corruption with unprecedented courage and determination. The building of the honest government culture in the new era is a vivid textbook for carrying forward the spirit of struggle, daring to struggle and knowing how to struggle, and there are a lot of things we need to learn, to comprehend and to summarize.

The construction of the honest government culture has absorbed the achievements from Chinese traditional culture and advanced socialist culture. Based on various new forms such as teaching activities, publicity reports, literary and artistic edification, etc., the integrity building has been integrated into the governance of sector, industry, grass roots, and has played such significant functions as value-oriented, behavior constraints, environmental purification functions. The integrity building, started from the spiritual level, is consciousness-oriented, which builds an ideological defense line against corruption in people’s heart.

1.2 The source text

The Contemporary Value of Opera Film “Honorable Official Yu Chenglong in the New Era Context of Corruption Fighting was published in 2019. The research consists of three parts with more than 4000 Chinese characters. The present author translated the source text into English in about 3,000 words.

The author of the source text, is an associate professor in School of Communication of a university in Shandong Province, P. R. China. The source text is highly logical and well-structured with three parts. In part one, the author of the source text analyzed the relationship between Chinese opera art and the building of the honest government culture. Part two was about the contemporary context of corruption fighting in the new era. In part three, the contemporary value of anti-corruption films in the building of the honest government culture is summarized.

There are lots of names of Chinese opera, such as *Honorable Official Yu Chenglong*, *The Case of Chen Shimei*, *Yue Fei's Mother Tattooed Characters on his Skin*. In addition, most of the sentences in the source text are declarative and long sentences. Therefore, it is a typical informative text.

2. Translation process

2.1 Pre-translation preparation

Proper preparation for translation is quite significant. Therefore, it is always necessary for the translator to be well prepared for a good translation.

The translation process is actually a process from whole to part, and text analysis has a direct impact on the selection of translation techniques and methods. In order to understand the characteristics of the source text, the present author read the source text before translation repeatedly for thorough and complete understanding, marked the unfamiliar words and sentences, and looked for reference materials to understand the theoretical basis of anti-corruption. For the parts the present author did not know, she used online dictionaries and search engines to find relevant knowledge and try to understand its meaning. For the problems that cannot be solved by search engine, the present author read relevant academic papers from CNKI to find solutions.

In the preparation work before translation, the present author used some translation tools to help improve the translation efficiency, such as DeepL Translator. In addition, the present author made a glossary of certain words and expressions to ensure accuracy and consistency. Finally, a short schedule was drawn to ensure that the task would be completed on time.

Table 1: Examples of the Glossary

Opera Name in Chinese	Corresponding English Translation
《廉吏于成龙》	<i>Honorable Official Yu Chenglong</i>
《文昭关》	<i>Wu Zixu's Predicament Zhaoguan Pass</i>
《将相和》	<i>General and Premier</i>
《苏武牧羊》	<i>The Shepherd Story of Su Wu</i>
《摘缨会》	<i>The Battle between Chu and Jin</i>
《清风亭》	<i>Upright Pavilion</i>
《铡美案》	<i>The Case of Chen Shimei</i>
《岳母刺字》	<i>Yue Fei's Mother Tattooed Characters on his Skin</i>
《抗金兵》	<i>Anti-Jin Fighting</i>
《赵氏孤儿》	<i>The Orphan of Zhao</i>
《文天祥》	<i>Wen Tianxiang</i>
《花木兰》	<i>Mulan</i>
《戚继光》	<i>Qi Jiguang</i>
《林则徐》	<i>Lin Zexu</i>
《杨门女将》	<i>Women Generals of the Yang</i>
《锁麟囊》	<i>The Lucky Purse</i>
《生死恨》	<i>Regrets of Life and Death</i>
《穆桂英挂帅》	<i>Lady General Mu Takes Command</i>
《赤桑镇》	<i>The Town of Chi Sang</i>
《陈若霖斩皇子》	<i>Chen Ruolin Beheads the Prince</i>
《九斤姑娘》	<i>The Girl Jiu Jin</i>
《秦淮梦》	<i>Dream of Qin Huai</i>
《潘月樵传奇》	<i>Legend of Pan Yueqiao</i>
《海瑞罢官》	<i>The Dismissal of Hai Rui from Office</i>
《焦裕禄》	<i>Jiao Yulu</i>

2.2 While-translation process

Research on the Contemporary Value of Anti-corruption Films in the New Era Context of Corruption Fighting is a text on the building of the honest government culture, and its words are professional. But there are also many expressions and long sentences. And the text has a lot of features of

informative text. The source text is divided into three closely linked parts. Even a minor error may lead to mistranslation. Therefore, in the initial translation process, the translator used several translation tools to ensure the accuracy of the information and grammatical structure. In addition, the assistance from the tutors helped to overcome challenges.

At the lexical level, the translator had difficulties in translating the Chinese four-character idioms. Idiom is a kind of concise and accurate fixed phrase used by Chinese people for a long time. Some idioms can be understood literally, while others must be understood by knowing their source or allusion. Therefore, the translator looked up different search engines and English abstracts of the papers with similar themes from CNKI to find out the relatively standard translation.

At the syntactic level, the source text has lots of long sentences. Chinese long sentences are mostly juxtaposed in form. But actually, there are different relations among the components, so the translator tried to determine the actual logical relations of the information in the original sentence before starting to translate. In addition, Chinese long sentences are seldom connected by conjunctions and are usually arranged according to their meanings. Therefore, when translating these long sentences, the translator tried to follow the reading habits of the target readers and paid attention to the combination of long and short sentences, avoiding using the juxtaposition structure blindly and too many run-on sentences.

2.3 Post-translation revision

Post-translation revision is an essential step in translation practice. It is not just a matter of checking for omissions and mistakes, spelling errors and grammatical errors, whether the language conforms to the stylistic features, whether it is readable, whether the technical terms are correct, etc. It is also necessary to pay attention to whether the punctuation, spaces and special characters in the translation are used in a standard way. This post-translation revision consists of two steps: self-revision and others' revision.

After the initial translation, the translator began to conduct self-revision. In the course of revision, the present author first read the translation sentence by sentence from the source text to check whether there are any problems in mistranslation, omission, comprehension and expression. Once there was doubt about the expression of the translation, the authoritative information was sought and compared for verification, to ensure the accuracy of the translation. For the translation of uncertain terms, the translator asked help from some classmates and friends except the reference materials. After that, the source text was put aside and the translated version in the target language was read through carefully from the target reader's perspective, ensuring the translation is as close to the source text as possible in content and linguistic styles. After the self-revision, the present author handed in the translation to the tutor in charge of re-revision. According to the tutor's professional knowledge, she made some changes to the translation, gave some suggestions, and recommended the related resources for the inaccurate translation. After the tutor had finished the revision, the translator would revise the translation again according to the feedback and send the revision back to the tutor, to sum up the experience and lessons learned during the translation process, in order to lay a foundation for future translation practice and provide reference.

3. Theoretical Framework

3.1 Introduction to the Text Typology Theory

Peter Newmark is a well-known contemporary English practical translation theorist. He has been engaged in the practice and teaching of English-French and English-German

translation for a long time. "His research is not a purely theoretical hypothesis from concept to concept, but a theoretical reflection and summary of his own and others' translation experience. Therefore, his translation theory and thoughts are of great guiding significance to translation practice, especially the practice of English-German and English-French translation."

Traditionally, people usually distinguish texts by subject matter, such as literature, science and technology, etc. But Newmark feels that it does not reveal much about the nature of language. Therefore, he proposes his own text functions and classification, on the basis of revising the function models of Bühler and Jakobson. Newmark divides language into six functions: Expressive Function, Informative Function, Vocative Function, Aesthetic Function, Phatic Function and Metalanguage Function. He points out that the choice of translation methods must be combined with the type of text function in order to achieve the expected communicative effect. He also repeats and emphasizes that these text functions could co-exist in the same text, and that one or two would dominate.

In his book *Approaches to translation*, based on different contents and functions of the texts, Peter Newmark divides the common texts into three types: Expressive Text, Informative Text and Vocative Text. According to Newmark, Expressive Text often uses hyperbole, metaphor, personification and other figures of speech, as well as some words and sentence patterns with personal style, to indicate the author's attitude, emotion, value orientation and so on. Such texts include: serious literary works, such as novels, essays, etc.; authoritative statements, such as politicians' speeches, academic works written by authoritative figures in certain fields, etc.; autobiography, personal letters, etc. Informative Text is a kind of text which is mainly used to convey information and reflect objective facts. Its language is usually impersonal, and it often uses common collocations and sentence patterns, such as teaching materials, academic works, meeting minutes, etc. Vocative Text emphasizes reader-orientation, and its aim is to make readers feel the author's intention, think and act, including advertisement, brochure, instruction book, etc.

For these three different types of texts, Newmark puts forward semantic translation and communicative translation strategies. These two translation strategies are the core of Peter Newmark's translation strategies. Semantic translation requires the translator to retain the linguistic form of the source text, while communicative translation focuses on the transmission of information from the source text and the reader's response. Therefore, semantic translation strategy is suitable for the translation of Expressive Text, communicative translation strategy for the translation of Informative Text and Vocative Text.

Table 2: The Translation Strategies of Peter Newmark

SL emphasis	TL emphasis
Word-for word translation	Adaptation
Literal translation	Free translation
Faithful translation	Idiomatic Translation
Semantic translation	Communicative translation

3.2 The application of the theory

3.2.1 Lexical level

English is a static language with more usage of nouns or noun structures, while Chinese is a dynamic language, which tends

to use verbs or verb phrases. Under the guidance of Newmark's communicative translation theory, in order to improve the quality of the translation and make the target readers better understand the meaning of the source text, the translator needs to adopt some translation techniques such as reservation and conservation.

3.2.1.1 Reservation of authoritative translation

For the terminologies during the translation practice, the translator should consider the official and widely accepted translations. There are many opera names and classical Chinese in the source text. Therefore, the translator should translate these terminologies faithfully to the source text and not at will, to ensure the translation of authority and accuracy.

Example 1

ST	在众多的戏曲影视剧中反映廉政建设的作品不在少数，如电影《廉吏于成龙》；电视剧《廉吏于成龙》《女工委员》《血溅清风石》《金缕曲》和《罢宴记》等影视剧提倡的反腐倡廉和勤政为民的服务献身精神；
TT	There are quite a few works reflecting the building of the honest government culture in numerous opera films and TV dramas, such as the film <i>Honorable Official Yu Chenglong</i> ; TV dramas like <i>Honorable Official Yu Chenglong</i> , <i>Female workers committee</i> , <i>Blood on the stone</i> , <i>The Gold-Threaded Song</i> , and <i>Refusal to Attend a Feast</i> , advocate the spirit of anti-corruption and integrity and of diligent service for the people;

Analysis

Opera name is usually a noun phrase, which can accurately express the main content and information of the opera. In order to make the translation strict and standard, the present author adopts literal translation to deal with opera names. The translation of these opera names is mainly determined by searching for information.

Searching from the online engines, the present author found the fixed translation of some opera names. But for others that were of no fixed translation for reference, the present author tried to translate them in a well-accepted way. As a result, the target readers can gain the most important information of the opera at the first time.

Example 2

ST	戏曲文化中“民为贵·君为轻”，把军民关系比作舟与水的关系等戏曲思想就是民本思想的具体体现。
TT	In opera culture, opera thoughts, such as “ The people are the most precious, the ruler is the least ”, the relationship between the rulers and the people is compared to the relationship between boat and water and so on, are the concrete embodiment of people-oriented thoughts.

Example 3

ST	戏曲艺术蕴含着修身、齐家、治国、平天下的道理，通过一个个感人至深的故事树立了一个个典型艺术形象，弘扬着以爱国主义精神为核心的崇高的民族精神。
TT	The opera art contains the truth of self-cultivation, a well-managed family, and the ability to administer the state and to bring peace to the nation . Through a touching story, a typical artistic image is established, and the noble national spirit with the spirit of patriotism at its core is carried forward.

Example 4

ST	我们可以清晰地看出本届艺术节艺术创作始终坚持“以民为本”，树立“一心为民”的情怀。
TT	We can clearly see that the artistic creation of this festival has always adhered to the principle of “ People first ” and set up the sentiment of “ Serving the people wholeheartedly ”.

Analysis

Classical Chinese is also a kind of text. As for the translation of classical Chinese into English, the present author used these methods: First, the present author searched the fixed translation of these classical Chinese online. Second, for those classical Chinese without proper translated version, the present author translated them into modern Chinese first, and then translated modern Chinese into English. Finally, when

translating into English, the present author tried to choose words, in line with the rhythm of English poetry.

3.2.1.2 Conversion of part of speech

Conversion method in translation refers to the conversion of parts of speech and sentence patterns in the original sentence so as to make the translated sentence conform to the expressions and habits of the target language.

Example 5

ST	片中主要讲述了清代官吏于成龙在赴福建按察使时发现当地百姓平白受冤，上万人锒铛入狱，只因前任官员玩忽职守，草菅人命，造成了当地冤假错案频出，百姓因缴纳各种军粮徭役苦不堪言。
TT	In the film , Yu Chenglong, an official of the Qing dynasty, investigates the case in Fujian province and finds that the local people have been wronged, and tens of thousands of people have been put in jail. Due to the negligence and disregard for human lives of former officials , the people are suffering unspeakable hardship for handing in various kinds of military grain

and corvee.

Example 6

ST	他 <u>不顾</u> 自身安危，巧施计谋，与勒春、喀林等官僚斗智斗勇，终于以其人格魅力感化了康亲王及一千同僚，使一方百姓安居乐业。
TT	Regardless of his own safety, Yu Chenglong cleverly schemed to Prince Kang, the real hierarch in Fujian Province, schemed against the bureaucrats such as Le Chun and Kalin, and finally Prince Kang and his colleagues were convinced by his devotion to the country, loyalty to the emperor and uprightness, and willingly corrected their mistakes. Consequently, the local people returned to their peaceful life and work.

Example 7

ST	这也是全国的艺术工作者，在认真学习理解，真正贯彻落实习近平总书记在文艺工作座谈会上的重要讲话精神及《中共中央关于繁荣发展社会主义文艺的意见》后的一次成功实践， 有力地展示了 当代中国的艺术水准及民族特色， 体现了 党和国家反腐倡廉，从严治党，努力实现中华民族伟大复兴的信心和决心。
TT	It is also a successful practice for all artists to learn and implement the spirit of the speech, given by the General Secretary Xi Jinping on Literary Work Symposium, and <i>Opinions of the Central Committee of CPC on the Prosperity and Development of Socialist Literature</i> . This is a powerful demonstration of the artistic standards and national characteristics in contemporary China, as well as the confidence and determination of the party and country to fight corruption and uphold integrity, tighten party's discipline and strive to achieve a great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Analysis: In English, only one predicate verb appears in a sentence. For the sake of semantic coherence, a preposition is often used as a connecting device, which makes the preposition used in English widely and frequently. On the contrary, in a Chinese sentence, there can be more than one verb, which leads to the non-equivalence of parts of speech in English-Chinese translation.

Therefore, in order to make the translation information accurate and semantic fluency, the present author used conversion of part of speech to translate the Chinese verbs and their components.

3.2.2 Syntactic level

When translating the Informative Text, the translator should

focus on the content it contains. In other words, the linguistic function of the Informative Text is mainly to describe the facts objectively. Therefore, under the guidance of Newmark's communicative translation theory, the translator should convey main content of the source text instead of being limited to the form of expression, through some translation techniques like amplification, omission and conversion.

Amplification

Due to the differences in thinking patterns, language habits and expressions in English and Chinese, it is necessary to add some sentence elements in translation so as to more accurately express the meaning contains in the source text.

Example 8

ST	希望 在全面实现小康社会的宏伟目标和中华民族伟大复兴的中国梦的征途上涌出无数个勇于担当、清廉简朴、一心为民的“于成龙式”的好干部。
TT	It is hoped that in the process of fully realizing the moderate prosperity in all respects and the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation, countless responsible, clean and simple cadres of Yu Chenglong type and of diligent service for the people will emerge.

Analysis: Since Chinese is a parataxis language, the absence of subject often occurs in sentences. But English is hypotaxis language, needs to translate the subject clearly. Therefore, the

present author chose to add the formal subject “it” to complete the sentence in English.

Example 9

ST	他 <u>不顾</u> 自身安危，巧施计谋，与勒春、喀林等官僚斗智斗勇，终于以其人格魅力感化了康亲王及一千同僚，使一方百姓安居乐业。
TT	Regardless of his own safety, Yu Chenglong cleverly schemed to Prince Kang, the real hierarch in Fujian Province, schemed against the bureaucrats such as Le Chun and Kalin, and finally Prince Kang and his colleagues were convinced by his devotion to the country, loyalty to the emperor and uprightness, and willingly corrected their mistakes . Consequently, the local people returned to their peaceful life and work.

Analysis: When translating the underlined part in the source text, the present author added more detailed explanations of the factors to convince Prince Kang and his colleagues and their subsequent corrections, to express the source

information more accurately.

Omission

Omission refers that some words in the source text are not

translated into the target text, because the target text can express the full information without these words. The translator should remove some dispensable or redundant

expression of words, not to delete ideological content from the source text.

Example 10

ST	随着中国国际地位的提高，中国传统文化作为中国软实力的重要部分，越来越受重视。作为传统文化重要组成部分的戏曲文化也是如此。
TT	With the improvement of China's international status, traditional Chinese culture is gaining more and more attention as an important part of China's soft power. This is also true of opera culture.

Analysis: In English, the sentence expression tends to be more concise. Therefore, in order to avoid the repetition, the present author omitted the translation of “as an important part

of traditional Chinese culture” and used the phrase “be true of” to improve the translation.

Example 11

ST	这种榜样，在现代物欲横流的社会中更为少见，这个榜样也是党和国家培养廉政干部的目标。
TT	This sort of example is even rarer in the modern materialistic society, and is also the training goal of the party and country.

Analysis: The two subjects of the Chinese sentences in the source text are same. Therefore, in order to avoid repetition, the present author omitted the latter and combined the two sentences into one, which made the translation more concise in English.

Conversion of the voice

More passive sentences are used in English than in Chinese. In the Chinese-English translation, the translator can convert the active voice in Chinese into the passive voice based on the English language habits, so as to ensure the objectivity of the language.

Example 12

ST	中国共产党第十八届中央委员会第六次全体会议，把从严治党作为一项重要的任务来抓。
TT	At the Sixth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, strict governance over the party has been made an important task.

Example 13

ST	戏曲艺术蕴含着修身、齐家、治国、平天下的道理，通过一个个感人至深的故事树立了一个个典型艺术形象，弘扬着以爱国主义精神为核心的崇高的民族精神。
TT	Through a touching story, a typical artistic image is established, and the noble national spirit with the spirit of patriotism at its core is carried forward.

Example 14

ST	条例把廉政建设上升到加强和规范党内政治生活的重要任务。不仅要求领导干部加强自身修养，带头执行廉洁自律准则，自觉同特权思想和特权现象做斗争，而且还要注重家庭、家教、家风建设，教育管理好亲属和身边工作人员。
TT	In the regulations, the integrity building is of more importance and is regarded as a task of strengthening and standardizing the political life within the party. Leading officials are required not only to strengthen their self-cultivation, take the lead in implementing the principles of integrity and self-discipline, and consciously struggle against privilege thoughts and privilege phenomenon, but also to pay attention to the construction of family, family education and family style, educate and guide relatives and staff around.

Analysis: For the Chinese sentences in Example 12 - Example 14, the relationship between the subject, predicate and object cannot be understood by English readers. Therefore, the present author tried to use the passive voice to change the subject of each sentence in English, which is more suitable for the target text readers.

in the clear and accurate transmission of content in the source text. If there is a lack of coherence in the translation process, the translated text will read stiffly and unnaturally, and the target readers will not be able to effectively understand the true information in the source text. Thus, under the guidance of Newmark's communicative translation theory, the translator should use the translation technique, like amplification, to ensure the translation more fluent.

3.2.3 Textual level

In the Informative text, textual coherence plays a crucial role

Example 15

ST	《廉吏于成龙》对于当代来说，它的意义在于唤醒党的干部一身正气、两袖清风的思想操守。告诫党的干部要经得起拜金主义、享乐主义等腐朽思想的考验。
TT	For the contemporary, <i>Honorable Official Yu Chenglong</i> , is of significance to awaken the party cadres to be righteous, clean and honest. It advocates that the cadres should resist money worship, hedonism and other decadent ideas.

Analysis: It is difficult to find out the true subject of the second Chinese sentence in the source text, because Chinese is hypotaxis. Therefore, according to the information above, the present author added the pronoun “it” to refer to the film “*Honorable Official Yu Chenglong*” and make the context more coherent.

4. Conclusion

This is a Chinese-to-English translation process analysis of the article, *Contemporary Value of the Opera Film “Honorable Official Yu Chenglong” in the New Era Context of Corruption Fighting*. The source text, with the standard language, clear structure, close logic and high academic level, is strongly objective and worthy of being studied and translated into another language. Under the guidance of Newmarket's Text Typology Theory and his exposition of Informative Text, combining the features of the source text, the translator proposed specific translation method to meet the requirements of Informative Text translation at the lexical level and the syntactic level.

During the translation process, the translator had encountered some difficulties. First, there were a large number of terminologies in the source text making the pre-translation preparation very important. In order to improve the accuracy of translation, the translator had to make a glossary by consulting relevant materials and using online and off-line tools. After this practice, she believes that in the future translation, we must pay attention to the pre-translation preparation, for the more accurate translation. Secondly, the long sentences in the text were complicated, so it was inevitable that the subject of the sentences would be confused and the modifying elements would be fuzzy in translation. Therefore, in this report, the translator concludes some translation methods of long sentences, which can be used for reference in future translation practice. Thirdly, translation is not only a unilateral requirement to understand Chinese words and sentences, but also needs the translator's ability to express well in English. Thus, the translator needs to constantly improve both her source and target language proficiency level: accumulating vocabulary and expressions, enriching the encyclopedic knowledge reserves and keeping pace with the theoretical development of corresponding field of the source text to achieve the purpose of a competent translator.

Based on her translation practice and the Text Typology Theory, the translator sums up several translation methods in words and sentences, and puts forward her own analysis and opinions. However, there are many translation methods, which are not limited to what the translator has summarized, but also need specific analysis of specific issues. And it is necessary for the translator to constantly strengthen the ability of understanding the theory and present situation of anti-corruption, the structure and linguistic features of this type of source texts, deepen theoretical study of translation, and further enhance the ability of translation generally.

5. Acknowledgements

This paper is a phased achievement of the research project funded by Shanxi Provincial Philosophy and Social Science Planning Office: *Research on Multimodal Spreading of Shanxi Anti-corruption Opera Culture (2022YY143)*

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