



C-E Translation of Micro Film Spreading Mode and Local Opera Development Path under the Guidance of Skopos Theory

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Abstract

With the continuous acceleration of globalization in today's world, international cultural exchanges are becoming more and more frequent. However, the development of Chinese opera culture is facing challenges in contemporary era. As a new communication channel, unique advantages of micro-film can provide a new path for the development of local opera. The source text, *Micro Film Spreading Mode and Local Opera Development Path*, aims at passing information, with practical, informative and communicative functionality, so its translation must meet the actual needs of the target language readers to understand the content. Under the guidance of Skopos Theory on the translation of academic text, translation strategies such as literal translation, addition, and conversion have been adopted to ensure the translated text to be accurate in meaning as much as possible to the source text, and the target language is similar to that of the original author in style.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Task Description

In the era of information technology, micro-film has emerged as a new media format with characteristics such as short duration, rapid dissemination, and a broad audience reach. It provides a promising avenue for the development of local opera in China. Local opera is an important part of Chinese traditional culture, but it faces problems such as audience loss, inheritance difficulties, and lack of innovation in modern society, which is urgently in need of finding new development models and dissemination methods. In this translation project, the translator selects *Micro Film Spreading Mode and Local Opera Development Path* as the source text. The article explores the impact and inspiration of micro-film on the development of local opera, and proposes the feasibility and strategy of developing "micro-opera" by learning from the creation and communication model of micro-film.

By translating the original text, the translator can not only improve his English proficiency and professional skills but also enhance his understanding and awareness of local opera culture and micro-film media form in China, providing a reference for academic exchange and cooperation in related fields.

Based on the existing research, it is evident that there is a scarcity of studies on the relationship between micro-film and local opera, both domestically and internationally. Most existing studies focus on addressing the problems and solutions of each individually, either from a theoretical or practical perspective. In contrast, the original text comprehensively analyzes the mutual promotion and learning relationship between the two, combining specific cases to illustrate the creation and development strategies of "micro-opera."

This report adopts the Skopos Theory as a theoretical guideline for the translation process. The translator has made necessary adjustments to cater to the different thinking modes and language features of the target readers in the East and the West to ensure

effective communication.

While preserving the original meaning, the translator has strived to employ concise and understandable expressions. Moreover, lively and interesting annotations or supplementary explanations will be utilized to engage readers' attention and enhance their interest in the content.

1.2 Significance of the project

The translated version of the source text, *Micro Film Spreading Mode and Local Opera Development Path*, will help the readers in English speaking countries to understand Chinese local opera culture and micro film, and is a valuable reference for academic exchange and cooperation within the fields of opera and mass media.

Local opera represents an essential aspect of China's rich traditional culture. However, it currently faces challenges such as diminishing audiences, difficulties in inheritance, and a lack of innovation in the modern society. Consequently, the exploration of new development models and dissemination methods becomes crucial. In this context, micro-film, as a newly emerged media form, offers a promising avenue for the development of local opera in China. Its attributes, including short duration, rapid dissemination, and wide audience reach, make it particularly suitable for this purpose. Translating the original article not only contributes to cultural exchange and understanding between the East and the West but also fosters mutual learning and innovation between local opera and micro-film in China. By bridging the gap between these two realms, the translator's efforts facilitate the exploration of new creative possibilities and serve as a catalyst for innovative developments within local opera and the micro-film industry.

1.3 Structure of the Report

This translation practice report mainly includes five parts. Chapter One provides an introduction that offers a concise overview of the *Micro Film Spreading Mode and Local Opera Development Path*. Additionally, it outlines the objectives and scope of the translation project. Chapter Two introduces the theoretical framework of the Skopos Theory, which serves as a guiding principle for the translation process. Chapter Three provides a detailed account of the translation process, organized into three distinct stages: translation preparation, translation process, and post-translation proofreading. Chapter Four delves into the translation strategies employed throughout the practice, employing the principles and insights derived from the Skopos Theory. These strategies are discussed in detail, showcasing their application and effectiveness in achieving the desired communicative purposes. The final chapter presents the conclusion, encompassing the key findings derived from the translation process. Furthermore, it acknowledges the limitations encountered during the project and offers suggestions for future endeavors in similar translation projects.

2. Theoretic Basis and Academic Text

2.1 Theoretic Basis of Skopos Theory

Skopos Theory is a translation theory established by Hans Vermeer and Katharina Reiss in Germany in the late 1970s. Vermeer believed that translation is a purposeful activity and

a human behavior, and he argued that the purpose of the text determines the use of translation strategies. This theory challenged the traditional equivalence theory. Vermeer proposed three main rules: the Skopos rule, the coherence rule, and the fidelity rule, and emphasized that the Skopos rule should be given priority, meaning that the translation process depends on the purpose of the entire translation action.

According to the Skopos Theory, translation is not only the conversion of the source text into another language, but also the transfer of information into the target language and culture for a specific purpose. Therefore, "equivalence" and "fidelity" are not enough, and the target text should be consistent with the purpose of the source text. This purpose is determined by the translation commissioner and is to some extent restricted by the cultural background of the target text readers. Therefore, translators should select appropriate translation methods and strategies from the perspective of the readers and creatively translate the multiple sources of information provided by the source text to achieve the translation purpose (Wang, 2013: 27-29).

2.2. Language Characteristics of Academic Text

Academic texts possess distinct language characteristics that include precise vocabulary, an abundance of technical terms and definitions, and a minimal use of colloquial language. The language employed is concise and focused, devoid of unnecessary embellishments or repetitive content. Sentences typically adopt the active voice and direct statement mode. Academic language maintains objectivity, impartiality, and neutrality, avoiding personal emotions or biases. The text is often written in third person or impersonal style. The language conforms to scientific norms and logical reasoning, while the article's format and structure demonstrate clarity and rigor. Therefore, when translating academic texts, it is essential for the translator to consider these language characteristics and adopt a reader-oriented perspective. The academic texts such as the source text, *Micro Film Spreading Mode and Local Opera Development Path*, have the following language characteristics. At the lexical level, the text encompasses a multitude of opera-related terms, such as "Mu Guiying, the Lady General," "freehand brushwork," and "retribution for good and evil." Furthermore, it incorporates numerous terms specific to new media communication, including "micro-film," "mobile terminal," and "cyberspace." Additionally, the text encompasses features unique to Chinese culture, such as "background extras" and "loyalty, filial piety, and benevolence." At the sentence level, the text consists of numerous short sentences utilizing impersonal or third-person subjects. These sentences exhibit logical rigor and objectivity. However, given the differences between Chinese and English, the translator must consider that English places greater emphasis on formality. Consequently, the translator has restructured the original Chinese short sentences into longer, more comprehensible English sentences. Furthermore, the original text employs parallel structures extensively, and the translator endeavors to preserve this form in the translation. By recognizing and considering these language characteristics, the translator ensures the accurate and effective translation of the academic text, thereby maintaining the integrity and scholarly value of the content.

2.3 The Guiding Significance of Skopos Theory on the Translation of Academic text

Skopos Theory, with its three fundamental principles, provides effective guidance for the translation of academic texts. Firstly, adhering to the principle of purpose, Skopos Theory seeks to align the cultural function of translation with the macroscopic constraints and mechanisms of the target language culture. This approach ensures that the translation is shaped by the target language culture while also being faithful to the original text. Academic texts, being extensive and specialized, require translators to thoroughly consider the professional backgrounds and domain knowledge of the intended audience. Translators must also understand the expectations of target language readers for the translated text. Secondly, the coherence rule plays a crucial role in translating academic texts, given the disparities between Chinese and English. Academic texts often feature complex sentence structures and specialized terminology. Translators need to possess a deep understanding of the textual context and employ appropriate translation strategies based on the specific circumstances. This approach ensures the coherence of the context and prevents potential misunderstandings among target language readers.

Lastly, the fidelity rule is particularly significant when translating academic texts, considering their rigor and precision. Translators often encounter challenges in accurately rendering vocabulary and sentence structures. The fidelity rule guides translators in ensuring the accuracy of information transmission during the translation process, avoiding issues such as semantic repetition or loss.

In summary, Skopos Theory holds considerable guiding significance for the translation of academic texts. By adhering to its principles, translators can effectively navigate the intricacies of academic language, maintain coherence within the text, and uphold the accuracy and fidelity of the information being conveyed.

3. Translation Process

3.1 Preparation before Translation

The translation process is highly intricate. Therefore, prior to commencing the actual translation work, it is crucial to adopt an appropriate translation theory and make thorough preparations. These preparations involve fully understanding the source text, consulting relevant texts on the same theme, and gathering translation tools. These steps allow the translator to approach the task with confidence.

After reading *Micro Film Spreading Mode and Local Opera Development Path*, the translator found that this is an article discussing the impact and inspiration of micro-film on the development of local opera. The article analyzes the challenges faced by local opera, such as dwindling audiences, difficulties in inheritance, and a lack of innovation. Additionally, it highlights the characteristics and advantages of micro-film as a new media form, such as short duration, fast dissemination, and broad audience. The article proposes the feasibility and strategies of learning from micro-film's creation and distribution models to develop "micro opera."

With a more comprehensive understanding of the original text, the translator delved into related materials and literature on the article's theme. This involved consulting professional books, journal articles, online resources, and other sources to grasp the necessary professional knowledge, terms, concepts, and the research status and development trends within the

relevant fields.

Before embarking on the actual translation, the translator also selected appropriate paper-based and online translation tools. The paper-based tools encompassed dictionaries such as "New Century Chinese-English Dictionary," "Lu Gusun Chinese-English Dictionary," and "Oxford Advanced Learner's English-Chinese Dictionary." Online translation tools included Eurodict and Youdao Translator, among others.

By engaging in thorough pre-translation preparations, the translator equipped themselves with the necessary resources and tools to ensure an effective and accurate translation process.

3.2 Translation Procedure

During the translation process, the translator engages in a meticulous procedure to ensure an accurate and high-quality translation. This procedure involves several key steps.

Firstly, the translator carefully reads the original text multiple times, aiming to fully comprehend its meaning, main ideas, structure, logic, language features, style, and rhetoric. By doing so, the translator swiftly grasps the core content and expression methods employed in the original text, laying a solid foundation for the subsequent translation.

Secondly, the translator conducts a thorough analysis of the original text. He identifies challenging, significant, and ambiguous information, while also considering the context, background, and purpose of the original text. This analysis enables the translator to determine appropriate translation strategies and methods that align with the desired outcome.

Thirdly, language conversion becomes the focal point. The translator selects suitable structures and expressions in the target language, taking into account the content and form of the original text. This process ensures that the translation achieves the desired language function and effect in the target language.

The translation process often proves to be demanding, and the support and guidance from others are invaluable. Consequently, the translator seeks feedback from his supervisor, who provides input on completed paragraphs, aiding in the enhancement of the translation. This feedback helps address any deficiencies or areas for improvement, including aspects such as structure, logic, style, and rhetoric. By incorporating this feedback, the translator enhances the fluency and readability of the translation.

3.3 Post Translation

Proofreading is an essential step in the entire translation process. To ensure the highest quality of the translation, the translator not only conducts self-proofreading but also seeks assistance from others. Collaborative proofreading proves highly beneficial as it can inspire new ideas and perspectives. Therefore, once the translator completed the initial translation, he thoroughly reviewed the first draft, rectifying basic spelling errors and grammar issues, and avoiding minor mistakes. Moreover, he cross-referenced the terminology list developed during the translation process, ensuring consistent usage of professional terms within the appropriate context.

Throughout the translation process, the translator encountered various difficulties. To overcome these challenges, he consulted relevant information and parallel texts, independently striving to address complex problems and uncertainties, and provided the highest quality translation as much as possible.

However, it is difficult to accurately output the content of the article solely relying on personal proofreading. Therefore, the translator sought the help of other translators, which can help to discover the shortcomings of the translation and play a role in mutual communication and learning. Peers have more similarities in thinking, but also have many differences. For the translation strategy that they both recognize, it can inspire the translator. For areas of disagreement, they can also exchange translation ideas and methods, improving the readability and acceptability of the translation. At the same time, the translator also consulted the academic advisor and marketing professionals outside the university for proofreading, obtaining more professional suggestions to further improve this translation practice.

4. Case analysis

Under the guidance of Skopos Theory, the translator used various translation strategies to complete this translation practice. In the process of translation, the translator also encountered many difficulties. In this chapter, translator will select some parts of the article and combine specific translation strategies, including literal translation, addition and conversion, to analyze and summarize some representative cases.

4.1 Application of the Skopos Theory

In both Chinese and English, different sentences erect barriers in readers' reading process. Some words and phrases in the source text are difficult for English readers to understand if they are not translated properly. So the translator tries to employ some translation techniques under the guidance of Skopos Theory. That is, when translating

these words and phrases, the translator will put the purpose of his translation first.

4.2 Translation Strategies

4.2.1 Literal Translation

Literal translation is a strategy that aims to accurately convert the words and structures of the source language into the target language. It prioritizes accuracy and precision in translation. This approach can effectively retain the rhythm, meter, rhyme, cultural connotation, and historical value of the original text. By adhering to the principle of fidelity, choosing literal translation when translating *Micro Film Spreading Mode and Local Opera Development Path* can help readers better understand and appreciate the original text.

Table 1

ST	《微电影传播模式与地方戏曲发展途径》
TT	Micro Film Spreading Mode and Local Opera Development Path

Analysis: Titles typically provide a concise summary and introduction to the content of an article. Guided by the principle of fidelity to the communicative purpose, the translator chooses literal translation to ensure accuracy and precision, allowing readers to quickly grasp the theme of the article. Moreover, employing a literal translation for titles helps maintain consistency and uniformity across languages, minimizing potential misunderstandings and ambiguities in translation

Table 2

ST	四匹单骑等于千军万马·一个圆场代表走了万水千山
TT	Four riders on stage can represent thousands of troops and horses, and moving a circle on stage can depict traveling through thousands of rivers and mountains.

Analysis: In this example, “四匹单骑等于千军万马·一个圆场代表走了万水千山” is an interesting metaphor used to describe the stage effect in traditional Chinese opera performance, transforming a small number of elements into a rich scene and highlighting the unique expressive techniques in Chinese opera. Guided by the principle of communicative purpose, the translator adopts a literal translation strategy to convey the metaphorical effect accurately to English readers, enabling them to understand the performance techniques and aesthetic characteristics of Chinese opera. At the same time, literal translation can also help readers better understand and appreciate the unique aspects of Chinese culture.

4.2.2. Addition

Addition, as the name suggests, involves adding additional content or details during the translation process to better convey the meaning of the original text. Since theatrical texts often contain many cultural allusions and historical events, their rich cultural connotations may not have the same importance in the cultural and historical context of the target language. Therefore, following the principles of fidelity and coherence, the translator should consider the language habits of the target audience and provide appropriate explanations and annotations. In translating *Micro Film Spreading Mode*

and *Local Opera Development Path*, using addition can ensure that the target audience's understanding of the text is accurate and comprehensive.

Table 3

ST	《穆桂英》
TT	Mu Guiying, the Lady General

Analysis: Mu Guiying is the name of the protagonist in the Chinese traditional opera “Mu Guiying”. This name does not have any meaning or cultural background associated with it in English. Therefore, following the guidance of Skopos Theory, the translator adopted an addition strategy when translating and rendered it as “Mu Guiying, the lady general”. By including Mu Guiying's surname and title in the translation, it can more accurately convey the character's identity and background, and is also easier for foreign readers to understand and remember.

Table 4

ST	妻妾成群
TT	The wives and concubines of the rich and the powerful men

Analysis: The phrase “妻妾成群” in the original text can also

be translated directly as “wives and concubines,” which is also correct. However, such a translation may make some target readers feel confused, as this phenomenon is not common in some cultures. Therefore, in order to help target readers better understand, and following the guidance of the Skopos Theory, the translator added “the rich and the powerful men” in the translation. This can help target readers better understand the background and reasons for the existence of “妻妾成群”. In addition, this strategy of adding content can also better express the emotional and cultural connotations in the original text. In this example, “妻妾成群” is a negative phenomenon in Chinese culture in history, indicating the abuse of male power and the deprivation of female rights. Therefore, the use of addition can better express the cultural connotations of the original text.

Table 5

ST	隋唐至上世纪五六十年代
TT	From the Sui and Tang dynasties (581-970 A.D.) to the 1950s and 1960s

Analysis: The original text mentions “Sui and Tang”, which are two important dynasties in Chinese history. However, for English readers who are not familiar with Chinese history, they may not have any concept for the times of "Sui and Tang." Therefore, to help readers better understand the original text, the translator followed the guidance of Skopos Theory and adopted the addition translation strategy. The translator added specific time period explanation in the translation, which enables readers to better understand the historical period involved in the article.

4.2.3. Conversion

Conversion refers to the process of converting certain content in the source text into a corresponding expression in the target language in order to better convey the meaning of the original text, including word order, grammar, rhetoric, and culture. Traditional Chinese operas have strong cultural and regional characteristics that may be interpreted differently in different cultural backgrounds and contexts. Therefore, following the guiding principle of Skopos Theory, when translating 《微电影传播模式与地方戏曲发展途径》 the translator used the transposition translation strategy to make the meaning of the original text clearer to readers.

Table 6

ST	成为地方戏曲管理部门和演出单位关注的热点
TT	Local opera management departments and performing units are grappling with the task of taking lessons from...

Analysis: In Chinese, it is customary to mention subordinate components before the main point, whereas in English, the opposite is true, often emphasizing the main point initially and then subsequently adding supplementary components. Moreover, the original meaning of the phrase “成为...热点” conveys that local departments will attach importance and take appropriate measures. To ensure coherence and clarity in the translation, the translator employed the Skopos Theory and adjusted the word order accordingly. Specifically, the translator modified the phrasing of “成为...热点” to

“grappling with the task of” in order to convey the dynamic action of the local government taking effective measures to address the issue at hand. The translator’s modification successfully captures the intended meaning of the original text and effectively conveys it to the target audience. Through this approach, the translation not only ensures linguistic accuracy, but also maintains coherence with the source text and effectively communicates the author’s intended message.

Table 7

ST	人们已经不满足于戏曲这一单一的娱乐方式
TT	People are seeking more diverse forms of entertainment.

Analysis: The original text posits that individuals are no longer content with a singular form of traditional opera entertainment. With the advancement of society and technology, people are increasingly seeking out alternative forms of entertainment that offer more diversity and novelty. In accordance with the principles of Skopos Theory, the translator employed a conversion strategy during the translation process. Specifically, the translator opted to use a more straightforward phrase, “seeking more diverse forms of entertainment,” in order to directly convey the implied meaning of the original text. By utilizing a conversion strategy, the translator aimed to create a translation that is more accessible and easier to understand for the target audience. The translator recognized the importance of conveying the intended meaning of the original text while also ensuring that the translation was in line with the cultural background and reading habits of the target audience. The translated text not only accurately conveys the intended meaning of the original text, but it also captures the evolving cultural landscape and changing entertainment preferences of society. This approach highlights the importance of not only accurately translating words, but also capturing the underlying meaning and cultural context of the text.

Table 8

ST	中国戏曲的美是写意的美。
TT	The beauty of Chinese opera is similar to that of Chinese freehand brush painting.

Analysis: The term “写意” used in the original text has no direct equivalent in Western culture. As such, the translator faced the challenge of selecting an appropriate translation strategy to effectively convey the intended meaning of the term. In line with the coherence principle of purposive translation, the translator opted for a conversion translation strategy to transform “写意的美” into the more visual expression “freehand brush painting.” This translation strategy proved effective in conveying the meaning of “写意”. “写意” is a term that describes a style of Chinese painting that is characterized by its free, expressive brushstrokes and its emphasis on capturing the essence or spirit of the subject rather than a realistic depiction. By translating “写意的美” as “freehand brush painting,” the translator effectively communicates the visual and expressive nature of this style of painting. Moreover, this conversion strategy highlights the importance of choosing a translation approach that is suited to the specific context and intended audience of the text. It demonstrates the translator’s understanding of both the source

and target cultures, and their ability to make strategic decisions in order to convey the meaning of the text accurately and effectively. By using a conversion translation strategy, the translator has successfully bridged the cultural gap between Chinese and Western traditions of art and effectively conveyed the intended meaning of the term “写意的美。” This approach serves as an example of the importance of context and cultural sensitivity in the translation process.

5. Conclusion

During the process of translating the paper *Micro Film Spreading Mode and Local Opera Development Path*, the translator has upgraded his knowledge in the field of local opera and micro film, and put the translation theory and skills into practice. Firstly, he has a deeper understanding of the background and current status of micro films and local operas in China, including their mutual influence and inspiration. Additionally, key concepts and terms related to these fields, such as “micro-opera,” “communication mode,” and “development path,” have been comprehended accurately. Secondly, the translator has enhanced his English language proficiency and translation strategies by applying the Skopos Theory as a guidance. He has carefully considered the purpose and target audience of the translation, adjusting or rephrasing sentences and words to align with the different thinking modes and language habits of the audience. Simultaneously, the translator has endeavored to convey the original text's meaning with clarity, simplicity, and accuracy, ensuring the retention of its fluency. Furthermore, when necessary, the translator has included annotations or supplementary explanations to assist readers in comprehending unfamiliar or specific information. He has employed engaging and interesting approaches to captivate readers' attention and increase their interest in the subject matter. Last but not least, the translator has reflected upon his strengths and weaknesses in the field of translation and identified areas that require further improvement or learning. These areas include expanding vocabulary, correcting grammar, and enhancing cultural comparisons.

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