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Chinese-English Translation Process Analysis of the Article: Yu Chenglong's Anti-corruption Practice and Its Significance

Chang Yanni ¹, Ji Lingzhu ^{2*}

¹ Student, Department of Foreign Languages, Taiyuan Normal University, City of Jinzhong, 030619. Shanxi Province, P.R. China, China

² Associate Professor, Taiyuan Normal University, City of Jinzhong, 030619. Shanxi Province, P.R. China, China

* Corresponding Author: **Ji Lingzhu**

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Abstract

This translation project aims to introduce Yu Chenglong's anti-corruption thoughts and practices to English-speaking readers, and promote cross-cultural exchange of China's historical anti-corruption experiences and present practice with ancient honorable officials as references. The report uses the "Comprehension, Expression and Adaptation" (CEA) framework to analyze some cases such as the translation of Yu Chenglong's official positions and the interpretation of ancient sayings, from the aspects of understanding the original text, target language expression, and flexible adjustment. Through this translation practice, the translator not only deepened her understanding of Yu Chenglong, but also significantly improved her translation skills and upgraded her knowledge of cultural translation.

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Keywords: Yu Chenglong, Integrity-building, Translation practice, CEA framework

1. Introduction

The translator wrote the translation report in order to sum up the gains and lessons in the process of her translation of the source article from Chinese to English and further fulfill the task. The body of the report is composed of five parts, giving a review of the translation process and analyzing the representative examples of resolving translation difficulties in possible ways. In the third part, by utilizing the "CEA" Framework proposed by professor Li Changshuan, the translator took some examples to elaborate how she attempted to tackle the problems in comprehending the source text, expressing the meaning and conveying the culture, and making adaptations.

1.1 The background of subject selection

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in exploring China's historical wisdom in anti - corruption and governance. Yu Chenglong, a renowned figure in Chinese history known for his integrity and outstanding governance, provides a rich source of inspiration about anti - corruption governance. The translation of this text aims to introduce his ideas and practice to people in different countries, facilitating cross - cultural understanding of China's historical anti - corruption resources and the present efforts of the Chinese government to tackle corruption problems among the leaders of different levels.

1.2 The source text

The source text is a scholarly article that delves into Yu Chenglong's life, his anti - corruption thoughts and practices, the reasons for their formation, and their contemporary significance. It combines historical facts, quotations from various historical documents in classical Chinese, analysis, and discussions on values, making it a complex and multi - faceted text. The task consists of two parts: translating the source text from Chinese to English and writing the post-translation reflections.

1.3 The significance of the project

Yu Chenglong was a famous honest and capable official in the Qing Dynasty, and his anti-corruption practice has important enlightening significance for contemporary anti-corruption and integrity promotion. As a part of China's excellent traditional culture, the culture of clean governance is not only a moral requirement for public officials, but also an important guarantee for political integrity and social progress. By translating the text, it enables international scholars and the general public to access and understand China's historical anti - corruption experiences. It also offers valuable insights for contemporary anti - corruption efforts around the world, as many countries are constantly seeking effective anti - corruption strategies.

2. Translation process

A. Preparation

After reading the article conscientiously, the student translator made some preparations before translating to ensure the accurate and complete comprehension of the source article. First, in-depth research on Yu Chenglong, the well-known honest and capable official in Chinese history, was conducted. This involved studying his life history, historical records about him, and the social and political context of the Qing Dynasty. Additionally, relevant terminologies in the fields of history, politics, and ethics were collected and analyzed. Special attention was paid to the comprehension of unique Chinese concepts related to integrity and governance, such as “天理良心” and “慎独自律”, in order to find appropriate English equivalents.

B. Translating and proofreading

During the translation process, the translator focused on accurately conveying the meaning of the source text. Special attention was paid to complex sentences and cultural - loaded terms. After the initial translation, a thorough proofreading was carried out. This involved checking for grammar errors,

4. Case analysis

Example 1

ST	于成龙 (1617-1684) , 字北溟, 号于山, 明清时代山西省永宁州 (今山西省吕梁市) 人 · 曾任广西罗城知县、四川合州知州、湖广黄州府同知、湖广武昌知府、湖广黄州知府、湖广下江防道、福建按察使、福建布政使、直隶巡抚、两江总督等职务。
TT-1	Yu Chenglong (1617 - 1684), with the courtesy name Beiming and the art name Yushan, was from Yongning Prefecture (now Lüliang City, Shanxi Province) in the Ming and Qing dynasties. He served as the magistrate of Luocheng in Guangxi, the prefect of Hezhou in Sichuan, the deputy magistrate of Huangzhou Prefecture in Huguang, the magistrate of Wuchang in Huguang, the magistrate of Huangzhou in Huguang, the Jiangfangdao of Huguang, the provincial judge of Fujian, the provincial administration commissioner of Fujian, the governor of Zhili, the governor - general of Liangjiang, and other positions.
TT-2	Yu Chenglong (1617-1684), with the courtesy name Beiming and the style name Yushan, was from Yongning Prefecture (now City of Lüliang, Shanxi Province) in Ming and Qing dynasties. He served as the magistrate of Luocheng in Guangxi, the prefect of Hezhou in Sichuan, the deputy magistrate of Huangzhou Prefecture in Huguang (present City of Huanggang in Hubei province), the magistrate of Wuchang in Huguang (present part of the City of Wuhan in Hubei Province) the magistrate of Huangzhou in Huguang (present City of Huanggang in Hubei province), the intendant of Xia Jiang in Huguang (in present Hunan and Hubei), the provincial judge of Fujian, the provincial administration commissioner of Fujian, the governor of Zhili (the present Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei), the governor-general of Liangjiang (present Anhui, Jiangsu provinces and City of Shanghai), and other positions.

Comprehension

In the first attempt, the translator did not provide explanations for historical and geographical concepts such as “Huguang” and “Liangjiang”, which may cause confusion for English readers regarding the jurisdiction. Under the guidance of her tutor, she supplemented modern corresponding areas (such as Huguang (present Hunan and Hubei)) with parentheses in the second attempt, reflecting consideration of the cognitive background of the target readers.

ensuring consistency in terminology of anti-corruption and government policies, and verifying the accuracy of historical facts. The translator also sought feedback from her tutor to improve the quality of the translation.

3. Analysis framework

A. The “Comprehension, Expression and Adaptation” (CEA) framework

The “Comprehension, Expression and Adaptation” (CEA) framework proposed by professor Li Changshuan was used to illustrate the process of transforming the source language into the target language.

- **Comprehension:** Comprehension is the foundation of translation. It requires a deep understanding of the source text, including its literal meaning, cultural connotations, and historical background. The translator needs to analyze the text at various levels, from words to entire paragraphs, to understand the author's intentions.
- In this report, the translator exemplified how she dealt with the difficulties in comprehension by paying attention to the language details and analyzing the context.
- **Expression:** Once the source text is understood, the translator needs to express the meaning in the target language. This involves choosing the appropriate words, adjusting sentence structures, and ensuring that the translation reads smoothly and naturally in English.
- **Adaptation:** Adaptation refers to adding, subtracting or adjusting the literal information of the source text in order to form the expressive habits of English or better achieve the purpose of translation.
- The whole process of translation is determined by the purpose to be achieved, that is, the purpose determines the method. In this report, the translator used examples of trying to achieve cultural exchange by adapting the source text through different ways.

Expression

The “Lü liang City” in the first attempt did not conform to authentic English expression habits, while “the City of Lü liang” in the second attempt was more in line with the inverted structure of English.

Adaptation

In the second attempt, Liangjiang was supplemented with the addition of (present Anhui, Jiangsu provinces and City of

Shanghai), which transformed the concept of “Liangjiang” in the Qing Dynasty into a modern provincial administrative

division and lowered the threshold for understanding, it is easier for Western readers to understand.

Example 2

ST	“当官不为民做主 · 不如回家卖红薯”，这句古训充分说明了官员要为国为民勇于担当、敢于干事的重要性。
TT-1	The old saying “If an official doesn’t act on behalf of the people, he might as well go home and sell sweet potatoes” fully illustrates the importance of officials’ courage to take responsibility and act for the country and the people.
TT-2	The saying “If an official doesn’t act on behalf of the people, he might as well go home and sell sweet potatoes” (This line is from the honorable official play “ <i>Xu Jiujing’s Promotion Record</i> ” and has been widely circulated among the people. It means that if one official has no sense of responsibility to serve the people, he should not stay at that position.) fully illustrates the importance of officials’ courage to take responsibility and act for the country and the people.

Comprehension

In the first attempt, the translator directly translated the ancient saying into a proverb, but did not indicate its source (from the drama “*Xu Jiujing’s Promotion Record*”), which may lead Western readers to mistakenly believe it is an ordinary saying handed down from Chinese history, and weaken its seriousness as a cultural example of honorable officials. In the second attempt, under the guidance of her tutor, the translator supplemented the source of the saying (“*Xu Jiujing’s Promotion Record*”) and its core meaning through parentheses, reflecting the translator’s awareness of textual research on the cultural background of the source language.

In the first attempt, the translator directly translated “卖红薯” as “sell sweet potatoes” without explaining the symbolic meaning of this image in Chinese culture. In the second attempt, sense of responsibility to serve the people” was used to explain this metaphor, achieving the transformation of “卖

红薯” from a concrete image to an abstract concept.

Expression

In the first attempt, the translator used “act on half of” to express “为民做主”, which did not reflect the “active decision-making power” implied by the Chinese word “做主”. In the second attempt, “为民” was translated as “serve the people”, which was in line with the Western concept of public service and formed a cognitive resonance.

Adaptation

In the second attempt, the translator supplemented the source of saying (“*Xu Jiujing’s Promotion Record*”) and label the drama type as “honorable official play”, which not only reflect the characteristics of “clean official play”, but also conveys the Confucian values of “integrity” through “honorable”.

Example 3

ST	我辈虽无科第身份 · 上古之皋、夔、稷、契，岂尽科目中人耶？我此行决不以温饱为志 · 誓勿昧“天理良心”四字 。子素知我于莲池书院者 · 敢为子质言无隐。
TT-1	Although we have no imperial civil examination background, were all the sages like Gao, Kui, Ji, and Xie in ancient times from the imperial-examination-passed group? This trip is not for the pursuit of a comfortable life, I swear I won’t betray my conscience. You have known me well at Lianchi Academy. I dare to tell you the truth without concealment.
TT-2	We have not got any imperial examination titles. Neither did the sages like Gao, Kui, Ji, and Xie in ancient times. This official position is not for me to pursue a comfortable life. I swear I shall never betray my conscience. You have known me well at Lianchi Academy. I dare to tell you the truth without any concealment.

Comprehension

In the first attempt, the translator translated “科第身份” as “imperial civil examination background”, which conveyed the meaning but did not reflect the connection between the

imperial examination system and the rank of achievements. On the second attempt, using “imperial examination titles” yielded better results, this expression was more in line with authentic English expression.

Example 4

ST	成龙时年四十五 · 英气有余 · 私心自揣 · 读书一场 · 曾知“见利勿趋 · 见害勿避”，古人“义不辞难”之说 · 何为也？
TT-1	When Chenglong was 45 years old, with a strong sense of heroism and a personal ambition, knew the principles of 'not rushing towards profit when seeing it, and not avoiding danger when facing it', and what the ancients meant by 'not shirking difficulties for the sake of righteousness'.
TT-2	I am already 45 years old now, having a strong sense of heroism and ambition for my career. Having studied the Confucian classics for so many years, I perfectly understand what it means by officials “not rushing towards profits when seeing them, and not avoiding difficulties and dangers when facing them. Otherwise, why did the ancient saints say “not avoiding danger for the sake of justice?”

Expression

In the first attempt, the translation of “When Chenglong was 45 years old” to “成龙时年四十五” was more direct, but it was not clear that “成龙” meant “于成龙”, which could

easily lead to misunderstandings; In the second attempt, “I am already 45 years old now” was presented in the first person, which is in line with Yu Chenglong’s self-narrative tone and makes it easier for readers to understand.

Example 5

ST	三是加强政治生态建设。加强廉政纪律和制度建设，强化廉政奖惩力度，把廉政作为领导干部提拔使用的重要依据，在广大干部中形成人人崇廉、人人尚廉的政治风气，促进廉政风气形成。
TT-1	Third, strengthen the construction of the political ecology. Strengthen the construction of integrity-related disciplines and systems, intensify the rewards and punishments for integrity, and take integrity as an important basis for the promotion and appointment of leading cadres. Create a political atmosphere in which everyone advocates and respects integrity among cadres to promote the formation of an integrity-oriented environment.
TT-2	Third, a proper political ecology should be set up. The construction of integrity-related disciplines and systems should be strengthened, the rewards and punishments for integrity-related issues should be intensified. Integrity should be taken as an important basis for the promotion and appointment of new leaders. In this way, a political atmosphere and integrity-oriented environment in which all the leaders advocate and respect integrity will be created.

Expression

In the first attempt, the translator adopted the structure of imperative sentences and started with the verb prototype,

without revealing the subject. In the second attempt, under the guidance of her tutor, passive voice and modal verbs were used to display the subject and make the sentence clearer.

Example 6

ST	启示我们要注重生活作风教育，弘扬艰苦朴素好传统：一是始终坚持正派作风，生活勤俭节约，严格遵守党章党纪党规关于作风建设的要求；二是始终心存敬畏，知止收手，以百姓利益为重，不贪不占不拿；三是始终控制欲望，慎“好”，理性看待自己的爱好和兴趣，防止不法分子利用领导干部的不正爱好打开腐败裂缝；四是始终牢记自己最初的状态，经常想一想自己曾经的生活条件、曾经的进取经历、曾经的奋斗历程，及时调整可能出现的思想偏差，营造纯洁的内在环境，永葆政治本色。
TT-1	This enlightens us to pay attention to the education of work styles and carry forward the fine tradition of hard-work and plain-living. First, always adhere to a proper work style, be thrifty in life, and strictly abide by the requirements of the Party Constitution, Party discipline, and rules regarding work-style construction. Second, always have a sense of awe, know when to stop, and prioritize the interests of the people, not being greedy or taking what doesn't belong to you. Third, always control your desires, be cautious about your hobbies, and rationally view your interests to prevent law-breakers from taking advantage of leading cadres' bad hobbies to create opportunities for corruption. Fourth, always remember your original intentions, often review your past living conditions, experiences of progress, and struggles, timely adjust possible ideological deviations, create a pure inner environment, and maintain your political integrity.
TT-2	This enlightens us to pay attention to the education of leaders work styles and carry forward the fine tradition of hard-work and plain-living. First, leaders should always adhere to a proper work style, be thrifty in life, and strictly abide by the requirements of the Party Constitution, Party discipline, and rules regarding work-style construction. Second, leaders should always bear in mind a sense of awe, know when to stop, and prioritize the interests of the people, never to take what is not theirs. Third, all the leaders should control their desires, be cautious about their hobbies, and rationally view their interests to prevent law-breakers from taking advantage of their non-compliant private interests to create opportunities for corruption. Fourth, leaders should always remember what they were from the very beginning, often review their past living conditions, experiences of progress, and hard struggles in order to timely adjust possible ideological deviations, create a pure inner environment, and maintain their political integrity.

5. Comprehension

Although the original text does not explicitly use the term “leaders”, it implies that the subject is leaders through expressions such as “prevent law-breakers from taking advantage of their non-compliant private interests to create opportunities for corruption”. In the first attempt, the translator used AI translation and did not express the subject, which may cause misunderstandings among foreign readers; And under the guidance of her tutor, she add “leaders” as the subject (the original text implies that the subject is Party members and cadres). Although the AI version has completed the basic semantic transformation, it has not achieved the “reproduction of meaning from the surface to the deep level of language” emphasized by Professor Li Changshuan.

6. Expression

In the first attempt, the translator used AI translation and did not reflect the characteristics of policy statements; Under the guidance of her tutor, she clarified the agent by repeating “leaders should”, which conforms to the expression habits of policy texts, and she used “in order to” to connect “review experience” and “adjust deviation”, reflecting the internal

logic of the original text.

7. Adaptation

Under the guidance of her tutor, she translated “bad hobbies” as “non-compliant private interests” in the second attempt which is more in line with the appropriate level of external publicity than “bad hobbies” in the first attempt.

8. Conclusion

Generally speaking, the target text translated by the student translator of the article, Yu Chenglong's Anti-corruption Practice and Its Significance, is a valuable attempt. The student translator tried her best to convey the content, ideas, and cultural connotations of the source text as faithfully as possible. She used all her command of both English and Chinese, and translation theories and techniques she learned during these four years as a translation major to work on the readability of the target text. She does hope that her target text is faithful to the original in meaning, the English language used is appropriate, and the Chinese anti-corruption culture is well-represented for promoting the spreading of traditional Chinese values of clear governance. In this

attempt, the translator not only gained an understanding of Yu Chenglong's anti-corruption background knowledge, but also improved her translation skills and polishing abilities.

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