

**MODERN VECTORS OF SCIENCE  
AND EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT  
IN CHINA AND UKRAINE**

中国与乌克兰科学及教育前沿研究

Harbin Engineering University

State institution "South Ukrainian National Pedagogical University named after K. D. Ushynsky"

Educational and Cultural Center "Confucius Institute"

Odesa, Ukraine

Harbin, the People's Republic of China

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**This international journal, as a periodical, includes scientific articles of Ukrainian and Chinese scholars on the problems of Sinology, Cross-cultural Communication, Pedagogy and Psychology: contemporary review. Odesa, Ukraine.**

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The ninth issue of the materials represented by the Ukrainian and Chinese scholars are dedicated to the relevant issues of General and Contrastive Linguistics within the Chinese, English, Ukrainian, Turkish and Korean languages; linguodidactic problems of teaching native and foreign languages within polycultural educational space; peculiarities of cross-cultural communication in geopolitical space alongside education-related aspects regarding profession-oriented training of future specialists under conditions of multicultural environment and military actions in Ukraine; post-COVID-19 pandemic challenges.

The given articles may be of use to researchers, graduates, postgraduates and practising teachers who are interested in various aspects of Sinology, Cross-cultural Communication, Linguistics, Pedagogy and Psychology.

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**A STUDY ON THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE DOCUMENTARY  
*LIFE MATTERS ANTI-EPIDEMIC SPECIAL PROGRAM* FROM THE  
PERSPECTIVE OF THE SKOPOS THEORY (EXCERPTS)**

*Abstract.* As mass medium continue developing, documentaries have become an essential way for countries to spread their own national culture. Therefore, the subtitle translation of documentaries is particularly important in the process of cultural communication. *Life Matters Anti-Epidemic Special Program* is a documentary produced by China, mainly focusing on the great contributions made by medical personnel in the fight against the epidemic. It helps people to realize the severity of epidemic and the danger facing the medical staff, and presents a sense of humanity in the fight against COVID-19.

**Keywords:** subtitle translation, Documentary, SkoposTheory

The translation task of this paper is one of the episodes of *Life Matters Anti-Epidemic Special Program--Letters from Wuhan*. In addition to rich medical terminology, the documentary also includes daily doctor-patient conversations. In the process of translation practice, in order to make the translation of the original text conform to the expression habits of the target language, the translator can present the translation fluently and faithfully under the guidance of Skopos Theory. In addition, to solve the difficulties encountered in the translation of vocabulary and long sentences, the translator used several translation methods, such as omission, amplification, conversion, splitting, restructuring and combining. Finally, the translator hopes this

paper can provide reference for subtitle translation of other similar documentaries.

**Keywords:** *subtitle translation, Documentary, SkoposTheory.*

## **1. Introduction**

With the vigorous development of world civilization and the deepening of international cultural exchanges, documentaries have gradually become an important tool for countries to spread their own cultures and expand their cultural influence. China has also repeatedly emphasized the need to implement the culture “go abroad” strategy, strengthen the country’s international communication capabilities, promote cultural exchanges between China and other countries through various channels, and strive to create a credible, lovely, and respectable image of China. More and more excellent documentaries have emerged in China to demonstrate our country’s spirit of the times, technological development, and cultural prosperity. In order to promote Chinese culture to go global and tell Chinese stories well in the world, documentary translation has also become a top priority. However, due to the lack of professional subtitle translation companies in China, most of them are translated by private subtitle groups or translation enthusiasts, so the translation quality is far more satisfactory.

In light of the global background of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current shortage of medical types in the documentary market, this paper selects two episodes of subtitles from the documentary *Life Matters Anti-Epidemic special program* as translation practices, *Letters from Wuhan*. The document is jointly planned and produced by the Shanghai Municipal Health Commission and Shanghai Radio and Television Station. From the perspective of medical staff struggling to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, the documentary tells the vivid stories and touching details of medical staff and patients in Wuhan and Shanghai. Under the guidance of Skopos Theory, in order to make the translation conform to the characteristics of the target language, the translator adopts specific translation methods according to the characteristics of the original text, such as splitting, converting, saving translation, splitting and regrouping, etc., and analyzes some typical words and sentences.

The documentary fully reflects the Chinese government’s belief that life is Paramount and the Chinese people’s profound tradition of benevolence. The translation

of the documentary will help fully show China's image as a responsible major power and improve the country's international communication ability. At the same time, the translator consulted various video websites on the Internet and found that this episode had not been translated. It is hoped that this paper can fill the gap in the translation of medical epidemic prevention documentaries and provide reference for other similar content.

## **2. Skopos Theory**

The three principles of Purpose Theory include Skopos Rule, Coherence Rule and Fidelity Rule.

Skopos Rule is the core of translation behavior, which emphasizes that the translation should be able to function in the culture of the translated language according to the expectation of the receiver, that is, the purpose of translation determines the whole translation process. Coherence Rule requires that the translated text be coherent within the language, i.e. readable and acceptable, to ensure that it is understood by the receiver. This includes taking into account the cultural background and linguistic habits of the target audience to ensure that the translation is fluent and natural. Fidelity Rule emphasizes that the translation should be as faithful as possible to the meaning and style of the original text. This includes retaining the vocabulary, grammar and rhetorical devices of the original text, but it does not mean translating word for word, but making appropriate adjustments according to the linguistic habits and context of the target culture.

## **3. Case study**

Skopos Theory proposed by Reiss is the guiding principle of the C-E translation report. Under the direction of this prospective, the translator makes an in-depth analysis of the documentary from two aspects, namely, lexical and syntactic translation.

### **3.1 Lexical translation under the Skopos Theory**

Vocabulary is the smallest unit of language, and the choice of word meaning directly affects audiences' understanding of the whole document. Therefore, the correct choice of word meaning directly determines the quality of translated works. In the process of translation, translators strive to fully understand every word of the original text, consult relevant professional terms, and improve the accuracy of the translation



from the most basic language units.

### 3.1.1 Conversion for verb phrases

Generally speaking, in the process of Chinese to English translation, some sentences can be translated word by word, while some sentences cannot be because of the different ways of expression between Chinese and English. Therefore, some words in the original text need to be converted to make the English translation smooth and natural.

Example 1:

Source Text: 靠按压，靠输血，靠打肾上腺素都难以为继。

Translation Text: Compressions, blood transfusions, and adrenaline injections are all difficult to sustain.

Analysis: Due to the differences in grammar and habits between English and Chinese, it is hard to directly reflect the original meaning of Chinese in English, and the translation must be changed accordingly while ensuring that the meaning of the original text remains unchanged. In this sentence, when analyzing the three verb phrases “靠按压”，“靠输血” and “靠打肾上腺素”，the translator instinctively wants to translate literally, but considering the three principles of Skopos Theory and the English writing habits, the translator chooses to translate these three verbs into nouns, which can not only make the translation faithful to the ideological content of the original text, but also conform to the expression of the translated language.

Example 2:

Source Text: 反复填压，反复寻找

Translation Text: Iterative filling and searching

Analysis: In the process of Chinese to English, the transliteration of verbs into nouns is a very important part. Chinese usually uses verbs to express actions, but this is not the case in English, which is expressed in a variety of ways. The conversion of the two verb phrases “反复填压” and “反复寻找” into adjective-modified noun phrases not only conforms to the writing habits of the translated language but also conforms to the principle of fluency in Skopos Theory.

### 3.1.2 Omission for synonyms

In the process of Chinese-English translation, the translator should try her best to avoid repetition. If a word needs to be repeated in a sentence or several connected sentences, she should either replace it with a pronoun or use the method of sparing translation to avoid repetition. Omission is a translation method corresponding to application, that is, deleting words that do not conform to the thinking pattern, language habit and expression mode of the target language to avoid redundant translation.

Example 3:

Source Text: 我们在这里也跟您的女儿一样，来照顾您，来安慰您，来帮助您，好不好？

Translation Text: We are here just like your daughter to take care of you, OK?

Analysis: In the translation process, the translator omitted the words “安慰” and “帮助”, leaving only “照顾”. Because in this context, the phrase “take care of” already includes the meaning of “comfort” and “help”. If translator insist on translating “comfort” and “help”, the translation will become tedious and redundant. Moreover, in line with the Skopos Theory, the translator abides by the coherence rule and purpose rule to improve the readability of translation text and consider the language pattern of targeted audiences.

### 3.1.3 Amplification for logical conjunctions

Amplification refers to the addition of words that do not appear in the original text but are already contained in the actual content in translation according to the meaning of the original context, logical relationship, syntactic characteristics and expression habits of the target language. Due to the significant difference in sentence structure between Chinese and English, logical connectives in English sentences are often very obvious, while in Chinese, on the contrary, many connectives are implicit in two sentences and are not clearly stated. Therefore, in the process of C-E translation, the translator should add logical connectors appropriately according to the meaning of the context to ensure the accuracy of the translation.

Example 6:

Source Text: 一般我们说大概正常人是 200，她差的时候只有连 10 个都不到。

Translation Text: Generally speaking, about 200 for a normal person, but when she's poor she only has less than 10.

Analysis: In the process of translation, the translator adds the connective “but” according to the logical relationship of the context. Chinese sentences have no clear logical relationship between each clause. However, in the process of Chinese-English translation, logical words must be reflected. Although there are no obvious conjunctions in these two sentences, there are implied meanings of transition and contrast. Therefore, the translator chose to add the conjunction “but” to highlight the logical relationship between the two sentences. At the same time, it also conforms to the purpose principle in Skopos Theory. The translator should start from the perspective of the target audience to make the translation easier to be accepted by the target audience, so as to better spread Chinese culture.

### **3.2 Syntactic translation under the Skopos Theory**

Under the guidance of Skopos Theory, the translator found that the original text is characterized by loose structure, redundant content, mostly flowing sentences and unowned sentences, which is a very typical Chinese style. Therefore, in order to make the translation conform to the language habits of the target audience and conform to the writing habits of English, the translator adopts three methods of splitting, reorganization, and merging to deal with the long and difficult sentences in the Chinese. In the process of translation, translators always keep in mind the three principles of teleology, and strive to provide a fluent and vivid and natural translation of the target language audience.

#### **3.2.1 Splitting for long and complicated sentences**

Complex long sentences have multiple structures, multiple layers of meaning, and complex relationships between sentences. This Chinese-specific sentence structure is loose but the meaning expressed is uniform. When translating complex long sentences, the translator chooses to split the long sentence into multiple independent sentences, and according to the syntax, appropriately add related words, generally without

adjusting the word order.

Example 9:

Source Text: 感染科,呼吸科,重症医学科等等,这些领域的顶尖专家,在红区内外,日夜职守,协同作战,这种医疗力量的大集结,在平日里鲜少看到,却反映了这座城市保卫生命的决心。

Translation Text: In the Red Zone, these top experts who come from Infectious diseases department, Internal Medicine Department, Critical Care Department works effortlessly and builds synergy. This mass gathering of medical power, rarely seen on weekdays, reflects the city's determination to defend life.

Analysis: This sentence is mainly about the gathering of top medical forces, reflecting the determination of the city of Shanghai to defend life. After analyzing the sentence structure and figuring out the logical relationship between the sentences, the translator chooses to split the original text. It is not difficult to see that the structure of the original text is loose and the logical relationship is not obvious, so when translating such a statement, the splitting method can be used to extract effective information and achieve the purpose of efficient and accurate translation of the original text.

### 3.2.2 Restructuring for non-subjective sentences

Restructuring refers to the process of Chinese to English translation, in order to make the translation fluent and more consistent with the narrative habits of the target language, on the basis of getting a clear understanding of the structure of the text of the source language and the meaning of the source language, completely get rid of the word order and sentence form of the source language and recombine the sentences.

Example 11:

Source Text: 稳定血压,对症治疗,面对危重症新冠肺炎患者,听起来简单,但对在红区具体执行的医生来说,却像走钢丝

Translation Text: In the face of critically ill COVID-19 patients, stabilizing blood pressure, symptomatic treatment, these operations sound simple, but for doctors who perform specifically in the red zone, it is like walking a tightrope.

Analysis: As Chinese is a paratactic language, subjects are often missing in

sentences. English, on the other hand, is a hypotactic language, requiring an explicit translation of the subject. In the process of translating the sentence, the translator found that it is very loose and had no obvious subject. In addition, the translator believes that the sentence is meant to convey “it is very difficult for doctors to treat COVID-19 patients.” After analyzing the sentence, the translator chooses to take “面对新冠肺炎” as adverbials and “医生” as the subject of this sentence, and then logically integrate the short Sentences in Chinese into one long sentence.

## Conclusion

Through this translation task, under the guidance of Skopos Theory, the translator has completed the translation of the original text and analyzed the characteristic sentences in the original text. In the process of translation, the translator successfully solved the difficulties encountered and accumulated rich translation experience, which laid a good foundation for the future translation work.

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## 目的论视角下纪录片字幕翻译研究——以《人间世》抗疫特别节目为例

**摘要.** 随着传播媒介的不断发展,纪录片逐渐成为各国传播本民族文化的重要载体,因此纪录片的字幕翻译在文化传播过程中尤为重要。《人间世抗疫特别节目》是中国拍摄的抗击疫情的纪录片,该片以奋战在疫情一线的医护人员为主体,帮助人们了解疫情传播的严重性和医护人员工作的危险性,展现了人们在与病毒作斗争时闪耀的人性光辉。

本文节选了该纪录片中的一集字幕翻译作为翻译任务,主要内容为《武汉来信》。在翻译实践过程中,为了使原文本的翻译符合目的语的表达习惯,译者以莱斯的功能目的论为理论指导。在上述理论的帮助下,译者才得以流畅忠实地将译文呈现出来。

通过本次翻译实践,译者对中英文之间的差异有了更加深刻的认识。在英汉互译过程中,应当遵循合适的翻译理论,选取适当的翻译方法将译文处理的流畅自然。译者也积累了大量医疗类型文本的翻译经验,较大提升了译者的翻译水平。最后,希望本篇翻译实践报告能为其他同类型纪录片的字幕翻译提供参考和借鉴。

**关键词** 字幕翻译; 纪录片; 目的论