

## **Translation Development in New China**

### **I. Overview of development status**

The birth of new China in 1949 ushered in new opportunities for the development of Chinese translation and translation studies.

#### **1. 1949-1957**

Most of the translation research papers published before the reform and opening up were published during this period. In this stage, translation studies are closely integrated with translation practice, but at the same time, they are obviously influenced by mainstream ideology, with a relatively narrow field of vision and insufficient depth of theoretical discussion.

#### **2. 1957-1966 (ten years before the Cultural Revolution)**

During this period, the attention and support of the relevant departments to translation work constantly declined and continued until the end of the Cultural Revolution.

#### **3. 1966-1978 (Cultural Revolution)**

As a result of the country's foreign exchange needs, translation activities have not stopped, but the form and scale were controlled.

#### **4. 1978- (After the reform and opening up)**

With the rapid improvement of China's international status, translation practice and translation studies have been developing rapidly. From the reflection on translation standards, to the introduction of Russian and Soviet's translation theories, then to the introduction of Western translation theories, and then to the reflection on traditional Chinese translation theories.

### **II. Exploration of development reasons**

#### **1. Social progress and thought liberation promote the development of translation.**

The development of translation studies in New China is closely related to the development of the society and the major political, historical and cultural events of the country.

For example, before the Cultural Revolution, translation studies were immature, with scattered contents and lack of theoretical support and clear research methods. After the reform and opening up, people's minds were emancipated. After the reform and opening up, China's foreign exchanges accelerated. The first Graduate Seminars on translation theory and the first the national translation theory seminar, were launched in 1987 by "the international federation of translators BBS Asia", in 2008 the international federation of translators and Chinese translators association jointly organized the 18th world conference on translation in Shanghai, this is the first time that the International Federation of Translators has held the World Translation conference in Asia, The fact that China has won the right to host this conference fully demonstrates the rapid development of Translation in China since the reform and opening up and the recognition and concern of the

INTERNATIONAL Federation of Translators and the international translation community for China's important role in the development of global translation. In terms of theoretical construction, the conference has closely integrated translation theory with practice, expanded the field of translation studies, and strengthened translators' sense of historical responsibility.

## 2. The growth of translation research team and discipline construction

### 1) Development of research team

In the early years of the People's Republic of China, there were two main groups of translators: interpreters and literary translators. After the reform and opening up, the translation theory research achievements of various foreign parties are gradually introduced into China. With the increase of graduate students in translation major, the team of translation researchers has been gradually growing, and the talent in translation field has been gradually diversified. Nowadays, translation studies, together with linguistics and literature, have become the three pillars of foreign language and literature. At the same time, various translation organizations were also established. In 1982, the Translators' Association of China was founded, and in 1987 it formally joined the International Union of Translators and Interpreters. In 1994, the Society for Comparative Literature set up the Society for Translation studies to meet the needs of academic development. In the same year, the Chinese Association for English-Chinese Comparative Studies established the Translation Studies Association.

### 2) Construction of translation studies

#### A. Three aspects of discipline construction

- a) Based on academic exploration;
- b) Team building as the center;
- c) Carry forward the spirit of reform and innovation.

#### B. Relevant journals

"Chinese Translation", "Foreign Language Teaching and Research", "Foreign Language", "Foreign Language and Foreign Language Teaching", "Chinese Science and Technology Translation", "Shanghai Translation" and so on.

#### C. Translation and Publishing Company

Hubei Education Press, Yilin Press, Shanghai Translation Publishing House, Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, Foreign language Education Press, etc.

#### D. Cultivation of talents

In 1979, Beijing Foreign Studies University established the United Nations Interpreter Training Course, the first formal training for professional translators, and gradually made Chinese people realize the necessity, importance and irreplaceability of professional translation education. In the 1980s, with the rapid increase of the demand for foreign talents and high-level translation talents, people began to think about how to cultivate translation talents. In the 21st century, Beijing Foreign Studies

University and Shanghai International Studies University have set up translation studies programs. In addition, more and more translation scholars have entered the post-doctoral research stations of foreign languages and literature disciplines in China to carry out research. The combination of different levels, both academic and professional, has gradually formed a complete translation research talent training system.

### III. Review and reflection on development

#### 1. Characteristics of translation studies in New China

For the first 30 years after the founding of the People's Republic of China, translation studies were basically subordinate to the study of foreign languages and literature. Mainly include:

- a) Discussion on translation characters and thoughts;
- b) Exchange of translation skills;
- c) The development of translation criticism;
- d) Compilation of translated teaching materials.

After the reform and opening up, the theoretical and methodological awareness of researchers has been significantly strengthened. Although the majority of translation textbooks and scattered theories are still in the majority, the number of pure theoretical works on translation has been increasing year by year. Moreover, the study of translation history has become an important field, and the number of theoretical works on translation introduced from abroad has also increased significantly.

#### 2. Reflections on the development of Translation in New China

- 1) Attention should be paid to the close relationship between translation theory and practice. Translation theory comes from practice and should be better combined with practice. Although many books on translation theory have been written by predecessors' painstaking efforts, whether they can meet the needs of contemporary translation still needs to be identified through practice.
- 2) It is important to note that after the reform and in the early stage of the domestic translation studies revival and, influenced by anti-rational and anti-traditional thoughts of postmodernism, the Chinese translation career once went to the extreme of culture angle to translation studies, human, social and cultural factors and etc. were introduced into translation studies to answer questions neglected by traditional translators, but the excessive pursuit in this field also leads to the marginalized of translation and the blurring of the essence of translation. Therefore, translation studies should strike a balance between interlingual exchange and cultural translation, and carry out discussions on the basis of ontology, epistemology and methodology, so as to achieve the healthy development of translation

## Reference

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