

## DOCTORAL THESIS

### 譯者為中心的翻譯適應選擇論探索

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譯者為中心的翻譯適應選擇論探索

Exploration into a Translator-centred Approach to  
Translation as *Adaptation* and *Selection*

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## 提 要

本課題是一項翻譯理論的宏觀研究，嘗試利用作為人類行為的翻譯活動與“求存擇優”自然法則適用的關聯性和通融性，以達爾文生物進化論中的“適應/選擇”學說為指導，探討“翻譯生態環境”中譯者適應與選擇行為的相互關係、相關機理、基本特徵和規律，從“適應”與“選擇”的視角對翻譯的本質、過程、標準、原則和方法等作出新的描述和解釋，論證和構建一個“翻譯適應選擇論”。

在“翻譯即適應與選擇”的主題概念之下，本文將“譯者為中心”的理念明確地體現在翻譯的定義之中——翻譯是“譯者適應翻譯生態環境的選擇活動”。

“翻譯生態環境”是原文、原語和譯語所呈現的“世界”，即語言、交際、文化、社會、以及作者、讀者、委託者等互聯互動的整體。本文運用“適者生存”的自然法則，提出、並論證了翻譯過程中譯者的中心地位和譯者主導作用，以及譯者“自我適應”的適應機制和“事後追懲”的制約機制。

本文具體闡述和例證了翻譯適應選擇論對翻譯本體的解釋功能：（一）翻譯過程——譯者適應與譯者選擇的交替循環過程；（二）翻譯原則——多維度適應與適應性選擇；（三）翻譯方法——“三維”轉換；（四）譯評標準——多維轉換程度、讀者反饋、以及譯者素質，從而得出最佳翻譯是“整合適應選擇度”最高的翻譯這個結論。

本課題另外附帶地做過實證調查，通過瞭解翻譯界同行讀者對翻譯適應選擇論的可操作性和解釋性的認同程度，從一個側面對翻譯適應選擇論的有效性進行了檢測。

本課題首次從“適應”和“選擇”的視角，系統地探討了翻譯活動中譯者的適應與選擇問題，並使譯者的適應行為和選擇行為從經驗性的、單一的、本能的層次，提升到了理性的、多維的、能動的層次，因而有助於豐富和增強翻譯理論對翻譯現象的解釋力。本課題研究中論證的以“譯者為中心”翻譯觀，使譯者的

中心地位和主導作用從一般“比喻”、呼籲“正名”、主體“介入”階段，提升到了置入翻譯定義、明確相關機制、確立譯者中心地位的較高層次，從而有助於促進譯者的自重與自律，也為“譯有所為”提供了更為可觀的理論依據。

## Abstract

As a macro study of translation theory, this thesis, by applying Charles Darwin's principles of *adaptation*, *natural selection* and *survival of the fittest* to the study of the translator's behavior and role in the process of translating, aspires to establish an approach to translation as *Adaptation* and *Selection* with the translator-centered concept at its core. The relationship between the translator's adaptation and selection, and the specific features of adaptation/selection in the translating process are discussed and illustrated. Attempts are made to rationalize the theoretical framework of translation as *Adaptation* and *Selection* and to apply it to the description and explanation of the various aspects of translation, covering its nature, process, principle, criteria, and methods.

Translating is in this study regarded as 'a selection activity of the translator's adaptation to the eco-environment of translating'. The eco-environment of translating here refers to the worlds of the source text and the source/target languages, embodying the linguistic, communicative, cultural and social aspects of translating, as well as such elements as the author, the reader, and the client. By applying the principles of adaptation and selection to translating, the study has confirmed the translator's central status and dominating role in the translating activity. In addition, the mechanism of the translator's adaptation is postulated, and constraints on the translator's performance, including that of 'post-event penalty', are described in accordance with Darwin's evolution concept of *the survival of the fittest*.

Within the theoretical framework of translator-centred translation as adaptation and selection, the explanatory power of the model is demonstrated through the description of the nature, process, principle, methods, and criteria of translation: (a) the

process of translation is described as that of producing target texts by 'natural' selection; (b) the principle of translating is seen as 'multi-dimensional adaptation and adaptive selection'; (c) translation methods are generalized as 'three-dimensional transformations' operating at the micro (linguistic, cultural and communicative) levels; and (d) criteria of translation criticism are defined in terms of the degree of multi-dimensional transformations, the reader's feedback, and translator quality.

Surveys by questionnaire were also conducted to find out to what extent this approach to translation as adaptation and selection is supported by practising translators, translation educators and students.

It is hoped that (a) the translator-centered approach to translation as *Adaptation* and *Selection* will throw light on the description and explanation of translation activities; and (b) the recognition of the 'translator-centred' concept will further legitimize the translator's central status and dominating role in translating, hence serving as a theoretical prop to justify the translator's subjectivity, creativity and authority in the translation process, so as to offer a new dimension to the study of translation as an academic discipline.

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