Abstract

The present study is the first systematic attempt to survey the history of Czech literature in Chinese translation in a century-long time span, a largely under-researched area which certainly merits more academic attention and efforts. It aims to present a descriptive, contextualized, target-oriented translation history research into the introduction of Czech literature in China from a socio-cultural perspective. It also makes an endeavor to answer the major research questions of "what", "who", "how" and "why", by examining the socio-cultural conditions in three historical periods (1921-1949, 1950-1977 and 1978-2020) and investigating their influence on the selection of texts for translation, the characteristics of translators, the adoption of translation approaches, the choice of intermediate languages, and the employment of various translation strategies.

Theoretically, Even-Zohar's (1990) polysystem theory, Toury's translation norms, and Lefevere's rewriting theory, which view translated literature as part of the polysystem, conceptualize translation as a fact of the target culture, and perceive translation as rewriting which reflects manipulation by ideology and poetics, are most relevant to our study and serve as the theoretical underpinning of this thesis. Methodologically, this study is an empirical research combining qualitative and quantitative approaches. It combines case study, corpus study, historical and archival research methods and the use of numeric data and statistical data analysis.

Special attention is paid to a number of peripheral topics in translation studies, including indirect translation, retranslation and paratexts, which have been accorded only marginal positions in translation studies, due to their deviation from the prototypical notion of interlingual translation characterized by the dichotomy of one source text and one target text, typically mediated by one translator. Their prevalence in translation history, however, makes them worthy of more academic attention. These are also among the topics identified as highly relevant to the research questions: indirect translation, retranslation and paratexts are linked with the "how" question; ideology and censorship are closely related to the "what" and "why" questions. What's more, the "who" question is obviously concerned with the topic of translators.

This thesis also includes a comparative textual analysis conducted on five different versions of Jaroslav Hašek's *The Good Soldier Švejk*. Special attention is paid to the translation of offensive language, tabooed subjects, and cultural elements. And our operations on some representative parallel textual segments involve attempts to establish regularities of behaviour and to reconstruct the translation strategies adopted. The aim is to shed some light on matters relating to the translating strategies, target culture restrictions, and faithfulness to the original versus manipulation.

Our corpora analysis takes in account such context variables as source-language, translator, publication form, publisher, socio-cultural, etc., to examine the effect of context on text, the effect of text on context, and the relations between text and context variables themselves. Our findings confirm the initially formulated hypothesis: there are patterns or tendencies in the translation of Czech literature into Chinese, whose explanations can be found in the target socio-historical context.