

**TRANSLATION STRATEGIES IN SCIENCE FICTION: LINGUISTIC
INNOVATION AND CULTURAL TRANSFER**

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Abstract

Science fiction is a literary genre characterized by imaginative narratives, futuristic technologies, and innovative vocabulary. These distinctive features create specific challenges for translators, particularly when dealing with newly coined terms and speculative scientific concepts. The aim of this article is to examine the translation strategies commonly used in science fiction texts and to analyze how translators preserve both meaning and stylistic effect. The study emphasizes that the translation of science fiction requires not only linguistic competence but also creativity and cultural awareness. Effective translation strategies such as borrowing, calque, and descriptive translation allow translators to recreate the fictional world of the source text while maintaining readability for the target audience.

Keywords: science fiction translation, translation strategies, neologisms, literary translation

Introduction

Translation plays an essential role in the global circulation of literature. Through translation, literary works can reach audiences beyond their original linguistic and cultural boundaries. Among various literary genres, science fiction occupies a unique position due to its imaginative exploration of future technologies, alternative realities, and extraterrestrial life.

However, translating science fiction presents several challenges. The language of science fiction frequently includes newly invented terms, speculative scientific concepts, and references to fictional worlds. These elements may not have direct equivalents in the target language, which makes the translator's task more complex.

In addition, science fiction authors often experiment with language in order to create a sense of novelty and discovery. Translators must therefore find ways to reproduce this creative effect without distorting the meaning of the original text. As a

result, science fiction translation requires both linguistic accuracy and creative interpretation.

The purpose of this article is to examine the translation strategies used in science fiction literature and to highlight the importance of creativity in the translation process.

Linguistic Features of Science Fiction

The language of science fiction differs significantly from that of other literary genres. One of its most notable features is the frequent use of **neologisms**, or newly created words. These terms are often used to describe futuristic technologies, alien species, or unknown scientific phenomena.

Another important characteristic is the presence of **technical and scientific terminology**. Science fiction writers frequently draw upon real scientific concepts such as space exploration, robotics, or artificial intelligence. Even when these concepts are fictional, they are often described using technical language that resembles scientific discourse.

Furthermore, science fiction narratives typically involve complex **world-building**. Authors construct detailed fictional environments with their own social structures, technological systems, and cultural traditions. Translating these elements requires careful attention to both linguistic and contextual factors.

Translation Strategies in Science Fiction

Borrowing

Borrowing is a strategy in which the translator retains the original term in the translated text. This method is often used when the invented term plays an important role in the fictional world. By preserving the original word, the translator maintains the exotic or futuristic atmosphere of the narrative.

Calque

Calque involves translating the components of a word or phrase directly into the target language. This strategy is useful when the structure of the original term can be reproduced while still remaining understandable for readers.

Descriptive Translation

When a direct translation is not possible, translators may use descriptive expressions to explain the meaning of a term. This strategy helps readers understand unfamiliar concepts without losing the overall coherence of the text.

Creative Adaptation

In some cases, translators create entirely new expressions in the target language in order to convey the intended meaning. This approach requires creativity but allows the translator to maintain the stylistic effect of the original text.

Cultural Considerations

In addition to linguistic challenges, science fiction translation also involves cultural considerations. Many science fiction works reflect the cultural background of their authors, including attitudes toward technology, social change, and the future of humanity.

Translators must therefore decide whether to preserve these cultural elements or adapt them to the expectations of the target audience. Maintaining the original references may enhance authenticity, while adaptation may improve readability. Balancing these two approaches is one of the key challenges of literary translation.

Conclusion

Science fiction translation requires a combination of linguistic expertise, cultural awareness, and creative thinking. The presence of neologisms, technical terminology, and imaginative world-building makes this genre particularly challenging for translators.

To overcome these difficulties, translators employ a variety of strategies such as borrowing, calque, descriptive translation, and creative adaptation. These methods enable translators to preserve both the meaning and the imaginative atmosphere of the original text.

Ultimately, successful science fiction translation depends on the translator's ability to reconstruct the fictional universe of the source text while ensuring that the translated work remains clear and engaging for readers.

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