

TRANSLATION METHODS AND STRATEGIES IN THE CONTEXT OF SCIENCE FICTION

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Annotation

Science fiction is a complex and imaginative literary genre that presents unique challenges for translators. The presence of neologisms, scientific terminology, and culturally specific elements requires the use of specialized translation methods and strategies. This article examines the main translation methods such as literal translation, borrowing, adaptation, and calque, as well as strategies including handling neologisms, maintaining consistency, and applying domestication and foreignization. The study highlights the importance of balancing accuracy and creativity in order to produce effective translations of science fiction texts. The findings suggest that successful translation in this genre requires both linguistic competence and creative thinking.

Keywords

Science fiction, translation methods, translation strategies, neologisms, borrowing, adaptation, domestication, foreignization

Introduction

Science fiction (SF) is a literary genre that explores speculative ideas about science, technology, and the future. It often includes elements such as space travel, artificial intelligence, time travel, and extraterrestrial life. Due to its imaginative nature, science fiction presents significant challenges for translators.

Unlike other genres, science fiction frequently introduces new concepts and terminology that do not exist in the real world. Therefore, translators must go beyond simple word-for-word translation and apply various methods and strategies to convey meaning effectively. This article aims to analyze the key translation methods and strategies used in science fiction and to explain how they contribute to successful translation.

Translation Methods in Science Fiction

One of the fundamental methods used in translation is literal translation. This method involves translating the source text directly into the target language while preserving its structure and meaning. It is useful when the original text is clear and

contains standard expressions. However, in science fiction, literal translation is often limited because of the creative and unconventional nature of the language.

Another important method is adaptation, which is used when the source text contains elements that are unfamiliar to the target audience. In science fiction, this may include futuristic technologies or cultural references. Adaptation allows translators to modify such elements to make them more understandable and relevant for readers.

Borrowing is a widely used method in science fiction translation. It involves taking words directly from the source language without translating them. This is especially common for scientific and technical terms. Borrowing helps preserve the originality of the text and ensures that internationally recognized terms remain consistent.

Calque, or loan translation, is another method used to translate compound words or phrases by translating their components literally. This method is useful for maintaining the structure of the original term while making it accessible in the target language.

Translation Strategies in Science Fiction

In addition to methods, translators rely on various strategies to handle specific challenges. One key strategy is dealing with neologisms, or newly created words. Science fiction authors often invent terms to describe new technologies or imaginary worlds. Translators must decide whether to create new words, adapt existing ones, or retain the original terms.

Another important strategy is consistency. In science fiction texts, certain terms and names appear repeatedly. Maintaining consistent translation of these elements is crucial to avoid confusion and ensure coherence.

Contextual understanding is also essential. Translators must fully understand the context of the story, including its scientific background and thematic elements. This helps them choose appropriate translations that reflect the intended meaning.

Two major translation strategies are domestication and foreignization. Domestication involves adapting the text to fit the cultural norms of the target audience, while foreignization preserves the original cultural elements. In science fiction, a balanced approach is often necessary to maintain both readability and authenticity.

Discussion

The translation of science fiction requires a flexible and creative approach. Translators must carefully choose between different methods and strategies depending on the context. For example, technical descriptions may require literal translation, while imaginative elements may require adaptation or creative solutions.

Moreover, the translator's role is not only linguistic but also interpretative. They must understand the deeper meaning of the text, including its philosophical and social implications. Science fiction often addresses issues such as technological development, human identity, and ethical dilemmas. Accurately conveying these ideas is essential for a successful translation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, translating science fiction is a challenging but rewarding task that requires a combination of linguistic skills and creative thinking. Various translation methods such as literal translation, borrowing, adaptation, and calque play an important role in conveying meaning. At the same time, strategies such as handling neologisms, maintaining consistency, and balancing domestication and foreignization are essential for achieving effective translation.

A successful science fiction translation not only communicates the content of the original text but also preserves its imaginative and artistic qualities. Therefore, translators must approach this genre with both accuracy and creativity.

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