

Original Paper

An Analysis of Translation of War Literature in Journals (1931-1945)

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Abstract

The victory of the China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression is of great significance to the whole Chinese nation because it is the first time in nearly a century that the Chinese people have won a complete victory against imperialism. A large number of translations of foreign war literature were published in anti-war periodicals. However, domestic scholars have not paid enough attention to the study of war literature translation in Anti-Japanese war periodicals, so the research results are relatively few. This paper researches the translation of war literature in three periodicals of the war period (The Anti-Japanese War Literature and Art, The Weekly Digest and Translation Series: A Comprehensive Translation of English Newspapers and Magazines), including a survey of the sources of the translations, the translators, the main ideas of the translations, the translation techniques and their significance. The study found that the translation introductions of war literature from these periodicals penetrated the readership of the public, enhanced the confidence of the nation in the victory the China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, promoted the awakening of the whole nation, inspired the people of the nation to join in the Anti-Japanese War, and made a special contribution to the victory of the China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression.

Keywords

China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, War Literature, Translation Studies, Periodicals

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

During the Anti-Japanese War period, periodicals and newspapers were the main venues for the dissemination of ideas and culture. They translated and published a large number of foreign works and

original articles. Due to the special context of the war, some journals had published a large number of translations of war literature.

This paper focuses on three journals: *The Anti-Japanese War Literature and Art*, *The Weekly Digest and Translation Series: A Comprehensive Translation of English Newspapers and Magazines*.

These three influential journals mainly published translated articles about the Anti-Japanese War.

1.2 Literature Review

The research results are few about *The Anti-Japanese War Literature and Art*, *The Weekly Digest and Translation Series: A Comprehensive Translation of English Newspapers and Magazines*. The research subject concerns the function of the journal in the propagation of Maoist thought at the time (Zhang, 2013); The research content is revolution translation. Jin Mingquan argues that *The Anti-Japanese War Literature and Art* was the most widely distributed, influential and longest-standing progressive literary journal in the National Unification Area during the China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and had a tremendous impact on the literature and literary movement during the war. Tang Xuzhi translated Darrytiev's article "Wartime Sholokhov". The article contains a basic assessment of Sholokhov: "The Quiet Don and The Reclaimed Virgin Land, Sholokhov's later work, have familiarized us with the Russian people--military and builders--who are entering that new era of history for revolution, civil war and collective farming." Particularly noteworthy is the comparative literary consciousness embodied in this article. The author selects the writer's performance in a certain period to analyze, and compares his main works in this period with his representative works in the whole period. This method is very effective for an in-depth study of a writer's style and characteristics. Other relevant researches include Pang Liqin, a scholar at Southwest University, who in her article "A Study of the Literature of Translation by the Wenxue—A Case of The Anti-Japanese War Literature and Art" explores how the "Wenxue" transformed from an independent literary organization with the idea of Anti-Japanese Salvation into a position of political struggle (2014), and Luo Sun, Xi Jin, and Peng Yubin, who studied the Wenxue in the 1980s and 2000s in terms of its historical value, content overview, and edition issues. However, these researches on above-mentioned journals do not deeply analyze the effect of quality and theory of translation dissemination on China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression.

The foreign situation: firstly, there is a lack of foreign knowledge about China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression periodicals; secondly, foreign researchers on war literature translation of China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression periodicals is even more insufficient.

1.3 Research Value

The China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression was a great struggle of epoch-making significance for the Chinese people and the Chinese nation against imperialist aggression and struggle for national independence and liberation. This war greatly reversed the situation of China, which had been lagging behind and being defeated for a long time in the fight against foreign invasion, and wrote an unprecedented chapter of victory. The most valuable spiritual treasure it leaves to the contemporary

nation is the great spirit of resistance to World War II. As a carrier of spiritual and cultural communication, The China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression periodicals allowed the public to receive spiritual baptism in a more intuitive and timely manner. So the study of translation of war literature in China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression periodicals can make the public understand the situation on the battlefield and the spirit of the China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression.

1.4 Methods

- 1) Literature research method: search a lot of information from books, journals and online, collect data and organize and analyze useful information. For example: Resistance Literature Data Platform, China Knowledge Network, Love Academic.
- 2) Example method: Identify translations of war literature in magazines, conduct an in-depth study, and analyze the content and ideas of the translations.
- 3) Inductive method: Summarize the political function of translations of war literature, the impact on the dissemination of war literature, and the value brought to the war effort from each of the translations listed in the journal.
- 4) Qualitative method: Qualitative research is used to evaluate the quality of translations by organizing the themes of translations in journals.

2. Translation Research

2.1 Introduction in Journals

The Anti-Japanese War Literature and Art, *The Weekly Digest* and *Translation Series: A Comprehensive Translation of English Newspapers and Magazines* three influential journals mainly published translated articles about the China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. In March 1938, the "All-China Literary and Artistic Anti-War Association" was established in Wuhan. The Association's journal--*The Anti-Japanese War Literature and Art*, was the longest-running literary publication during the war period. The journal was founded in Hankou on May 4, 1938 by Wang Pingling, Tian Han and others. Until the victory of China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, the All-China Literary and Artistic Association against the Enemy changed its name into the All-China Literary and Artistic Association. The publish of *The Anti-Japanese War Literature and Art* was also discontinued with published separately as Chinese Writers. Ten volumes and 36 issues of *The Anti-Japanese War Literature and Art* were published before and after.

The weekly periodical *Translation Series: A Comprehensive Translation of English Newspapers and Magazines* was launched in Shanghai on December 22, 1937 and was edited and published by the Shanghai Translation Series Weekly which for current affairs translation then was displaced by *The Weekly Digest*. It's publish discontinued on August 27, 1939 and published 80 issues in total. The journal was mainly edited by a group of revolutionary students from Jiangsu Province Shanghai High School and Jinan University, such as Zhou Weiping, Monday Ping, Chen Weida, et al. It had columns

for monographs, novels, essays, long-form serials, cartoons, weekly highlights, report literature, current affairs, editor's words, etc. As a progressive student publication, it mainly published progressive articles such as "Mao Zedong on Strategy", "About the Eighth Route Army" and "The Dawn of a New China". In addition, it had translated and published Snow's famous book "The Red Star Shines in China" based on British and American newspapers.

The Weekly Digest was founded in 1939 and published in Shanghai, edited and distributed by the Shanghai Weekly Digest Press, which was a current affairs translation publication. The journal inherited the Translation Series: A Comprehensive Translation Journal of English Newspapers and Magazines. The major contributors included Wang Liewang, Qian Zhiyuan, Wang Ruqing, Jin Ren, Ying Bai, Jing Fu, Er Yuan, Kang Mo, Ming Fu, Jun Yuan, et al. The main columns included monographs, current affairs of the week, Luofu's visit, report literature, current affairs of the extracts, current affairs, international literature, grammar questioning, etc.

2.2 Translation Quantity Analysis

In the *The Anti-Japanese War Literature and Art*, there were 37 translations ranging from 1938 to 1945.

In the *Translation Series: A Comprehensive Translation of English Newspapers and Magazines*, there were 12 reportage translations published in 1938.

In the *The Weekly Digest*, there were 10 reportage translations published in 1939.

2.3 Translation Source Analysis

According to the above three journals, the articles published in them were mainly translated from China, the Soviet Union, Japan, the United States, Spain, France, Egypt, Ukraine and Serbia. According to rough statistics (the source of some articles is unknown), of the 59 translations, 13 were translated from the Soviet Union, accounting for about 21.6% of the total number of translations; there were also more articles translated from France and China, each with 9 articles, about Each accounted for 15%; 6 articles were translated from Spain, accounting for about 10%; 4 articles each were translated from the United States and Germany, and 1 article each was translated from Egypt, Serbia and Ukraine.

In general, most of the translations in these three journals were from the Soviet Union. At that time, the influence of the Soviet Union on China and the Communist Party of China was not express an opinion. The Soviet Union was also one of the main forces in the anti-fascist camp during the Second World War. Its experience and theories of the War of Resistance against Fascist were worth learning. Short stories, novels, plays and poems reflecting the anti-fascist struggle and life of the Soviet people were published in large numbers in Chinese literature and art newspapers (He, 2011).

2.4 Translator Analysis

Take the above three journals as an example: In the *"Anti-Japanese War Literature and Art"*, there were several translators such as Cao Jinghua, Ma Zongrong, Han Shi, and Ma Er who had translated more than two translations. Among them, the translator Cao Jinghua was the most prominent translator with 5 articles translated. (There was a serialized novel translated). In *"Translation Series:*

Comprehensive Translation of English Newspapers and Magazines”, the translators with more than two translations were Yi Mo, Ying Bai and Er yuan. Among them, Yi Mo had the most translations with 8 translations then followed by Ying Bai with 5 translations. In the “The Weekly Digest”, there was a translation of Er Yuan and An Ding each.

3. Translation Content

The mainstream values of war literature during the China’s War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression were to save the nation and call for liberty and peace. Through the analysis of translations of the three journals and the study of the translation of war literature, it could be seen that calling for liberty and peace were the main idea of the translation of war literature during the China’s War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. It was mainly reflected in the following aspects.

3.1 Resistance against Aggression

Opposing aggression were the main aspiration of people all over the world, which was mainly reflected in:

The Anti-Japanese War Literature and Art published a special issue in honor of Gorky and a column entitled “*In Memory of Romain Rolland*”. It also introduced progressive writers from all over the world who supported China’s resistance, and published special articles by Japanese writers Verda Majo and American Smedley who supported the Chinese people. Some articles, such as *The Front of Teruel*, *Guerrilla Warfare in Shamshevo*, reflected the fact that the local women, children and labors were ravaged by the invasion of fascist countries, and the united spirit of the people of all countries to rise up and fight bravely.

3.2 Description of World War II

From the description of the scene of the front-line battles, it can be seen that the soldiers on the front-line yearned for peace. They fought hard for the liberty of their countries and people. *At Lake Hassan* (张鼓峰的战斗) in the *The Weekly Digest* described the real scene of the two sides in the battle, showing the cruelty of the front battlefield, the intensity and suddenness of the battle, and reflecting the friendship of the soldiers.

Example 1

ST: He looked at me and silently shook my hand. The Japanese opened artillery fire. One shell exploded within four meters of me. I was bruised, found it difficult to rise and my legs were aching. Levchenko ran up to me in alarm.

“Are you all right?” he asked. “It’s nothing, just a bit shell-shocked.”

“Attack commanded Levchenko with a grim look. His eyes were flashing fire; he held a grenade in one hand and a revolver in the other.

I turned my head towards the enemy and noticed a Japanese sniper aiming at Levchenko. “Every second is precious,” the thought crossed my feverish brain. I was shivering. With lightning speed

I gripped the machine gun and fired. The Japanese sniper disappeared. I looked back and saw that Levchenko was alive and uninjured.

How did Levchenko find out that I had saved his life? He crawled up to me and embraced and kissed me warmly,

“Thanks, Comrade Golyanov,” he said quietly.

TT: 他注视着我，并且和我静静地握手。日军的炮火又开始了。一颗炮弹在离开我四米远以内爆裂。我被击伤了，不能站起来，我的腿发痛。赖金可惊慌地跑到我到我这里来。

「怎末样？」他问着。

「没有什么，只是被弹片震动一下。」

「发射！」赖金可扮着坚决的脸相命令着。他的眼睛是在闪烁地冒火；他一双手里握一颗手榴弹，另一双手里执一枝手枪。

我掉回头面向着敌人，看到日本的射击手正在向赖金可瞄准。「每一秒钟都是宝贵的，」这思想在我发热的头脑里横过。我颤抖着。像闪电一样的迅速，我握紧了机关枪而发射了。

日本的射击手不见了。我掉回头去 看赖金可还是非常活泼，一点也没有受伤。

赖金可怎未会发现我救了他生命的呢？他爬到我这儿来，热烈地拥抱我和吻我。

「谢谢你，高里阿诺夫同志，」他温柔地说。（郁明译）

In this translation, above conversations showed the unity and friendship between two soldiers and the intensity and bloodshed of World War II.

3.3 Publicizing China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression

During the War, the dramatic political changes attracted many foreign correspondents. They reported the heroic deeds of the Chinese people to the world, and their works were quickly translated into Chinese and published in the *The Weekly Digest*. In October 1936, American journalist Edgar Snow (1905-1972) recorded the true deeds of Mao Zedong and other CPC (the Communist Party) members after coming out of the blockaded areas through several months of in-depth interviews in the revolutionary bases in Northwest China.

The reportage of these foreign correspondents had a great influence at that time. Xin Di, a writer in the 1940s, gave an objective evaluation of their historical value in his article *China is no Longer Huaxia*: They exposed the truth of China's turbulence, depicted the turning point in history and the sprouting of new China, and illustrating the historical path of China in the future. More importantly, in their writing, what they loved was not the ancient China but the lively China, which was in the metamorphosis and growth. Some may think of them as a group of news-loving journalists, but they are China's truest friends.

Example 1

ST: Today I saw a peasant soldier of China die. In him was embodied the death of a million men of China who have given their lives that their country may not be subjected and their people enslaved. How ugly he was in death—and how beautiful! How tragically great the common men of China. (艾格尼丝·史沫特莱)

TT:今天我看见一个中国的农民兵士的死。他的死具体地表现出百万中国人民为了要使他们的国家不被臣属,要使他们的人民不沦为奴隶,而把他们的生命献给了国家。他的死是多么地低微—又是多么美丽!中国的人民大众是多么壮烈伟大!(颖白译)

In this translation—*An Unknown Soldier*, the American female journalist showed her kindness to the death of the Chinese soldier and she made great contributions to foreign propaganda against the China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression.

3.4 Meanings of Translations

From the translations of foreign war literature, especially from the Soviet Union's works about anti-fascist struggle, China understood the external world, which played an incentive role in the struggle for national survival and democracy. These translations nourished the Chinese war literature, cultivated and expanded the publicity team, safeguarded and consolidated the unified front of democracy, promoted the creation, performance and translation of literature and art, communicated with foreign countries, and enhanced people's anti-fascist cohesion.

3.5 Translation Techniques

Yi Mo translated the *Spain's Tempering* which was published on *The Weekly Digest*. By comparing the original text and the translations, it can be seen that the translations had the following features: This paper adopted the techniques omission translation, free translation and rewriting, and did not completely coherent to the original text.

Example 1

ST: *Span's Tempering*; "A sip of precious water from their bottle, perhaps a man's last gratification...Never, until now, have I seen so much will power and so much firmness."

TT: "锻冶"; 水壶里一口宝贵的水,也许是最后的惠赠了。我从没有看见过这样的意志力,这样的坚毅。(易默译)

In the translation, the chines title is completely different from the English title and the translation techniques is free translation. Besides, in the second part, the translator uses the omission translation, because the pronoun "their" and "A man's" is deleted.

It's circulation also followed the rules of domestication, acceptance, expression and circulation. The interaction between the circulation and acceptance of the translations fully considered the readers' ability to accept.

In order to popularize war literature, the translators had a clear sense of serving the workers, farmers and soldiers. They adopted the strategy of popularizing the translation, or added notes in front of the translation to briefly explain the outline of the story, so as to make the translations more coherent and easier to be accepted by readers.

Example 1

ST: 1. smash to smithereens 2. manage its own affairs 3surprise 4.guerrilla movement 5partisan 6.in the vicinity of 7. cope with (*Translation Series: A Comprehensive Translation of English Newspapers and Magazines*)

TT: 1.粉碎; 2.自治 3.袭击; 4.游击运动; 5.游击队; 6.靠近, 附近 7.抗衡, 对敌 (欧明译)

In this translation *Chinese Guerrillas Form Real Threat To Japan*, the translator added the notes to show Chinese culture and make the foreign and local readers understand easily.

4. Conclusion

During the China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, the Chinese nation was in a crisis of survival with its security and unity threatened. The mainstream was to save China from subjugation and fight for survival. Journals concerning the war had a powerful influence on public opinion. The translation and circulation of these journals encouraged the extensive spread at home and abroad of information about the War in China, playing an important role in the victory of the China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression.

Through the methods of literature research, illustration and quantitative and qualitative analysis, this paper studied and discussed a total of 77 translations from three war literature journals, including *The Weekly Digest*, *The Anti-Japanese War Literature and Art* and *Translation Series: A Comprehensive Translation of English Newspapers and Magazines*. The main findings are as follows.

Firstly, those articles were mainly translated from China, the Soviet Union, Japan, the United States, Spain, France, Egypt, Ukraine and Serbia. The translation quality of *The Anti-Japanese War Literature and Art* was relatively better. The translation genre was various, and translations were popular with readers. Some translations received follow-up attention, serialization, and publication.

Secondly, translations of *The Weekly Digest* used more domestication strategy, and the translation techniques were mainly augmented translation technique, supplemented by a small amount of omission translation technique. The theme of the translations was mainly war literature, and the major genre of the translations was reportage.

Finally, the mainstream values of war literature during the China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression were to save the nation and call for liberty and peace. From the translation of foreign war literature, especially from the Soviet Union's works about anti-fascist struggle, China understood the external world, which played an incentive role in the struggle for national survival and democracy.

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