

Original Paper

A Study of the English Commentary Translation of Chongzuo Zhuang Museum from the Perspective of Skopos Theory

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Abstract

In recent years, China's tourism industry has continuously promoted economic development. Therefore, the translation of tourism commentary is becoming increasingly important. The museum's English commentary translation plays an irreplaceable role as an important medium for disseminating cultural knowledge and informing foreign friends. However, we don't think highly of the English commentary translation, there are many grammatical and general errors, which hinders foreigners from getting the correct and accurate information. Wrong English commentary is not only harmful for cultural transmission but also bad for expanding opening-up. Chinese English translations are rarely translated on the basis of theory, which hinders the development of theoretical studies on Chinese translation.

This thesis mainly focuses on the research and analysis of the English commentary in the Chongzuo Zhuang Museum. And it researches and analyzes the English commentary translation from the perspective of Skopos teleology. And it will enrich domestic research on teleological translation theory.

Keywords

Skopos Theory, Zhuang Museum, English commentary, translation errors, suggestions of amendment

1. Introduction

English commentary is an important way to offer a brief introduction for a deep understanding of the pictures or items. Chongzuo Zhuang Museum is the first Zhuang museum in Guangxi, there are many foreign visitors to learn Zhuang culture, English commentary is indispensable for cultural transmission. Skopos Theory is an important translation theory, which is widely used in English commentary translation. It doesn't translate English commentary mechanically but pays more attention to the aim and purpose of translation. Therefore, in order to offer correct and accurate English commentary

translation information for foreign people, the author focuses on the English commentary translation of Chongzuo Zhuang Museum, analyzes English translation and offers suggestions for wrong translation from the perspective of Skopos Theory.

1.1 Background, Significance and Goal of this Thesis

With the development of globalization, cultural exchange communication activities are more frequent among many countries than before, and the museum is an important place for cultural exchange, the English commentary is the main way to make foreign visitors understand brief introduction of exhibits in museum. The English commentary in Chongzuo Zhuang Museum not only allows visitors to study Chinese history and excellent culture but also plays an important role in spreading Chinese culture. Chongzuo Zhuang Museum is the first Zhuang museum in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and it is the first prefecture-level Zhuang museum in Guangxi. With the development of tourism in Chongzuo, more and more tourists and foreign people come here to visit in Chongzuo Zhuang Museum. The research of English commentary in Chongzuo Zhuang Museum can not only make foreign people have a rough idea in linguistic feature between English and Chinese but also spread Chinese culture. Otherwise, English lover cannot have a chance to communicate with each other.

However, some English commentary translation in this museum is not appropriate for foreign people's reading habit, because they are not translated by professional and accurate translators. Some of them are even translated easily by translation software. When you visit this museum, it is not difficult to find out that there are many obvious errors in the English commentary translation.

This is not a great phenomenon. It is well-known that the English commentary is an important medium to explain exhibits' history and express Chinese culture. Wrong English translation will mislead foreign people to get correct translation information of exhibits. This is harmful for cultural communication.

Consequently, the goal of this thesis is trying to analyze commentary sentence and find out some mistakes in it, then this thesis will give some suggestions to correct some translation errors for the good of getting accurate information from the perspective of Skopos.

1.2 Structure of this Thesis

There are 4 parts in this thesis. They are: introduction, literature review, analysis and summary. The key part is analysis for mistakes, it will offer the original text and translated text to give some analysis.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Meaning of Skopos Theory Translation

Skopos Theory is a theory that applies concepts to translation. The core concept of Skopos Theory is that the most important factor in the translation process is the purpose of the overall translation behavior.

According to German translator Hans Vermeer (1984), "translation is a kind of human action, and every action has a purpose". As a consequence, when translating, the translator should focus on the purpose of Skopos Theory translation and guide translation theory to translate the original text accurately. In

addition, translators should meet certain translation standards.

In addition to Skopos, Vermeer (1984) uses the words “aim”, “purpose”, “intention”, “function”, and so on.

In Vermeer’s (1984) Skopos teleology framework, one of the most important factors in determining the purpose of translation is the visitor—the intended recipients of the translation. Because they have different cultural background, their expectations for the commentary translation, and their communication needs. Every kind of translation is directed to a certain visitor, as a consequence, translation is a “text that produced for a certain purpose and target audience in a target context”. Vermeer (1984) believes that the original text is only a source of some or all of the information for the target audience.

In the framework of Skopos Theory, the process of translation should follow three main principles: Skopos rule, coherence rule and fidelity rule. The Skopos rule is the supreme rule, it is the most important rule.

Vermeer (1984) thinks, different translation purpose, the strategy method is also different in the process of translation, it means that the translator should adopt different translation strategies in the purpose of this principle according to the text with different characteristics and different goals. This translation practice provides a theoretical foundation for the construction of practical text. The coherence rule means that the translation has the readability and acceptability, which can make reader realize how to understand and accept it. The fidelity rule refers to the semantic coherence between the original text and the translated text, what it means is that the fidelity of the original text should be generally understood by readers, but the degree and form of fidelity depends on the purpose of the translation and the translator’s understanding of the original text

For commentary translation of Chongzuo Zhuang Museum, it is a good idea to translate with the general meaning, because the goal to translate the same meaning between two different languages is not easy to reach! But pay attention to the rule of teleology and coherence because it is very important for cultural communication.

2.2 Introduction of Chongzuo Zhuang Museum

The Chongzuo Zhuang Museum is the only prefecture-level Zhuang museum in the country that integrates the collection of cultural relics, research, display, education, and service. It mainly shows the history and culture of the Zhuang with “Zuojiang Huashan Rock Painting Cultural Landscape Exhibition”, “the Ou-luo ethnic group inherit culture, the Zhuang ethnic group sing happy song, Zhuang History and Culture Exhibition”, occasionally it will be launched temporary themed exhibitions.

Relying on “hundreds of miles Rock Paintings, work of art in Luo Yue, Zuojiang Huashan Rock Painting Cultural Landscape Exhibition”, it has become a window for people to understand Zhuang ethnic group. The display won “the Thirteenth National Museum Top Ten Display Exhibition Excellent Product Award”.

2.3 Research Content of Chongzuo Zhuang Museum

Some wrong museum commentary translation mistakes will be analyzed, such as its spelling, grammar, meaning, logical thinking and so on. Then some suggestions to correct these mistakes will be given.

2.4 Hard Part in the English Commentary Translation of Chongzuo Zhuang Museum

It is very difficult to translate Chinese language to English with the same meaning to make foreigners to understand, what we can do is to translate and correct the commentary with the least error. There are many culturally specific items that are unique to Chinese culture, they do not have the same word in foreign language. For example, “天書釋義”, we can not find any English words without decorations to completely translate it. Under these circumstances, foreign visitors are not easy to know the original meaning in Chinese. So it is hard to correct the improper translation to proper one.

3. Analysis in the English Commentary Translation of Chongzuo Zhuang Museum

3.1 Mistakes, Analysis and Suggestions in the English Commentary Translation of Chongzuo Zhuang Museum

1. Original text: 38 個景觀單元的岩畫完整地展現左江花山岩畫圖像表達系統的發展和演變，與山崖、河流、臺地共同構成的景觀格局要素都保存完好。

Sān shí bā g èjǐng guān dān yuán de yán huà wán zhěng d ǐzhǎn xi àn zuǒ jiāng huā shān yán huà à tǔxì àng biǎo dá xì tǒng de fā zhǎn hé yǎn bi àn, yǔ shān yán hé lí ú tǎ d ìgōng tóng gòu chéng de jǐng guān g èjǔ yào sù dōu bǎo cún wán hǎo.

Translated text: With all landscape elements such as paintings, mountains, rivers and tablelands well preserved, the 38 landscape units of rock art fully show the development and evolution of the Zuojiang Huashan rock art image expression system.

Analysis: The original text means that development, evolution and landscape elements well preserved. But the translated text uses “with” to start, so the original meaning has been changed.

“Painting” shouldn’t appear in “such as painting, river...”, because the original didn’t mention it. The translated text didn’t express with original meaning. It needs to follow the fidelity rule to restore original meaning.

Suggestion: The rock art of 38 landscape units fully show the development and evolution of the Zuojiang Huashan rock art image expression system, the elements of the landscape pattern composed of cliffs, rivers and platforms are all well preserved.

2. Original text: 今天，我們置身於這夢幻般的山水間，觀賞岩畫，瞭解歷史，駐足凝思。

Jīn tiān, wǒ men zhìshēn yú zhè mèng huàn de shān shuǐ jiān, guān shǎng yán huà à liǎo jiě lǐshǐ, zhù zú n íng sī.

Translated text: Surrounded by the dreamy scenery, we are offered the opportunity to not only appreciate the rock art, but also travel back in time to acquire a deeper understanding of history.

Analysis: Translators forget to translate “今天 (jīn tiān/today)” and “駐足凝思 (zhù zú n íng sī/ stop for a moment to meditate)”, they didn’t appear in the translated text. It didn’t follow the fidelity rule.

The original text didn't have the meaning of "travel back in time". "we are offered the opportunity" is not fit able for readers' habits logically, it missed the coherence rule. By using omission rule, "山水間 (shān shuǐ jiān/between the mountain and water)" is translated to "scenery". "山水間 (shān shuǐ jiān/between the mountain and water)" means that "between mountains and water", but this kind of literal translation is not good enough in English. For example, "桂林山水甲天下 (guì lín shān shuǐ jiǎ tiān xià/the mountain and water of Guilin is the best)", "mountains and water" didn't expose in the best translation version, it uses addition and subtraction like: "East or west, Guilin landscape is the best". For the good of reading habit, "山水 (shān shuǐ/mountain and wter)" can be translated to "scenery" or "landscape".

Suggestion: Today, we are surrounded by the dreamy scenery, we have the opportunity to not only appreciate the rock art and study history, but also stop for a moment to meditate.

3. Original text: 岩畫景觀周邊村落，林木茂密，生態優美，村民素有保護岩畫及風貌的傳統。

Y án hu à jǐng guān zhōu biān cūn luò, lín mù mào mào shēng tài yōu měi, cūn mǐn sù yǒu bǎo hù y án hu à j í fēng mào de chū án tǒng.

Translated text: Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape is highlighted by the surrounding villages, the exuberant forests and the beautiful ecological environment. The villagers there are kept the tradition of protecting the rock and the geological views.

Analysis: "Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape" in initial capital is not appropriate because it is not a headline or a title in this sentence. "is highlighted by the surrounding villages" is not the same meaning in the original text, "岩畫景觀 (y án hu à jǐng guān/ rock art landscape)" and "周邊村落 (zhōu biān cūn luò/ Surrounding villages)" are two nouns, so it is not correct in translation. "The villagers there are kept" using passive tense is not logical in this sentence. So, it didn't follow coherence rule and fidelity rule.

Suggestion: Zuojiang Huashan rock art cultural landscape and surrounding villages, the exuberant forests and the beautiful ecological environment. The villagers there are kept the tradition of protecting the rock and the geological views.

4. Original text: 2004年11月，時任全國政協副主席李兆焯在時任崇左市委書記、現任自治區高級人民法院院長羅殿龍陪同下，在崇左市調研花山岩畫，並題詞“花山岩畫 壯族文化瑰寶”。同年12月，給時任自治區主席陸冰寫信，要求支持保護左江花山岩畫。

èr líng líng sì nián shí yuè è, shí rèn quán guó zhèng xié fù zhǔ xí lǐ zhào chāo zài shí rèn chóng zuǒ shì wèi shū jì, xiàn rèn zì zhì qū gāo jí rén mín fǎ yuàn yuán zhǎng luó diàn lóng péi tóng xià, zài chóng zuǒ shì tiáo yán huā shān y án hu à bìng tí cí "huā shān y án hu à zhuàng zú wén huà guībǎo". tóng nián shí yuè è, gěi shí rèn zì zhì qū zhǔ xǐ lù bīng xiě xìn, yāo qiú zhī chǎng bǎo hù zuǒ jiāng huā shān y án hu à

Translated text: In Nov. 2004, Li Zhaozhuo, then the Vice Chair of CPPCC conducted an investigation of Huashan Rock Art in Chongzuo with Luo Dianlong, then Secretary of CPC

Committee in Chongzuo and presently President of the Higher People's Court of the Autonomous Region. He wrote an inscription "Huashan Rock Art, a Treasure of the Zhuang Culture". Later, he wrote to Lu Bing, then Governor of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, advising him to support the protection efforts of Huashan rock art

Analysis: This translated text is not serious enough to pay attention to the words spelling, "committe" is not a word, it should be "committee". "advising" in V-ing form, the spelling of it should be "advising", because "advise" is a verb when "advice" is a noun. Commentary translation should be serious, or it will lead to some little mistakes which is not supposed to come out. "同年 12 月 (tóng nián shí èr yuè/Dec. 2004)" is translated to "later", in Skopos perspective, it does not obey logical thinking, but following the fidelity rule is also important. Literal translation is better in this situation, "In Dec. 2004" can be used in this commentary translation.

5. Original text: 青山疊翠，壁立千仞；江山如練，田園似錦。

qīng shān dié cuì bì lì qiān rèn; jiāng shān rú liàn, tián yuán sì jǐn.

Translated text: The peaks are covered with verdure and the cliffs stand upright along rivers winding like long silk ribbons. What a fairyland this is!

Analysis: This sentence is an environment description for the landscape of Chongzuo Huashan, its function is information communication. Before translation, translator need to do the work of clarification and extraction and find out important information. Some modified descriptions are needed, but less of them is more consistent with foreign people's habits. The original text is fitter with Chinese people's habit, it makes use of symmetric words, which is more beautiful and catchy. But in English, its principle is straight forward, plain and simple. So, when we translate this kind of commentary, we need to follow this rule to offer foreign people the most suitable translation. A direct translation for "壁立千仞 (bì lì qiān rèn / The cliff is as steep as a wall)" is not easy. It uses "cliff" which is suitable here, because a cliff is a vertical, or near vertical, rock exposure, which is the same meaning in the original text. We can use the original meaning to translate "壁立千仞 (bì lì qiān rèn / The cliff is as steep as a wall)" to "The cliff is as steep as a wall". The original text didn't mention "river", and this is an additional translation. What is reduced translation is "江山如練 (jiāng shān rú liàn / the country just like a fairyland)", "錦 (jǐn / brilliant)" can not be clearly described in a word in English, but it has the meaning of "nice, good and excellent". So, when the landscape is modified, "What a fairyland this is!" is suitable to express that the landscape here is very amazing and marvelous.

6. Original text: 花山，是廣西的，是中國的，更是世界的。

huā shān, shì guǎng xī de, shì zhōng guó de, gèng shì shì jiè de.

Translated text: Huashan belongs to Guangxi, as well as to China. And most importantly, it belongs to the whole world.

Analysis: a noun or a phrase can be exposed in the back of "as well as", we can correct it as "Huashan belongs to Guangxi as well as China". "most importantly" can be "more importantly" to restore the meaning of the original text.

Suggestion: Huashan belongs to Guangxi as well as China, more importantly, it belongs to the world.

7. Original text: 以”守護岩畫”為主題的萬人簽名活動。

yǐ “shǒu hù yán huà” wéi zhǔtí de wàn rén qiānmíng huódòng.

Translated text: A solicitation for 10,000 signatures themed on safeguarding the Rock Art.

Analysis: Solicitation is the act of asking someone for money, help, support, or an opinion (Note 1). “活動 (huódòng/activity)” means “activity”, not “solicitation”. So, the translation of “solicitation” is not correct. “萬人 (wàn rén/thousands of people)” in Chinese means that there are many people or thousands of people, not an exact figures 10,000. This can easily mislead foreign people.

Suggestion: An activity with thousands of people to write down their signature, its theme is “protecting the Rock Art”.

8. Original text: 2013年5月26日至31日, 自治區副主席李康率區、市有關單位主要負責人赴美國出席2013年國際岩畫年會, 舉辦廣西專場活動, 宣傳推介花山岩畫, 並與世界各國同行交流岩畫保護管理經驗。

èrlínglíngsānniányǐwǔyuèèrshíliùzhìsānshíyīrìzìzhìqūfùzhǔxīlíkānglǜqū, shìyǒuguāndānwàizhǔyàofùzérénfùměiguóchūxíèrlíngyīsānniánguójìyánhuàniánhuìjǔbànguǎngxīzhuānchǎnghuódòng, xuānchuāntuījièhuāshānyánhuàbìngyǔshìjìgèguótóngxíngjiāoliúyánhuàbǎohùguǎnlǐjīngyàn.

Translated text: From May 26 to May 31 in 2013, Li Kang, Vice Governor of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous region, led directors of relevant departments of the Autonomous Region and cities, went to the US to attend 2013 International Rock Art Annual Conference, and promote Huashan Rock Art and exchange rock art protection and management experience with peers from across the world.

Analysis: This passage is a narration about Huashan Rock Art, so translator chooses to use literal translation rule to narrate. “led” is past tense of “lead”, the verb after “led” is “went”, it should be “lead sb. to do something”, it is not correct. “led” can be replaced by “ask” or “make”. “Peer” means that people who are equal in such respects as age, education or social class, group, colleague, etc., as in peer group or social peer-to-peer processes. “同行 (tóng háng/ business colleague in the same line)” can be translated to “business colleague”. We need to know exactly the meaning of every English word in commentary to translate the right sentence, or it will express the wrong information. “from across the world” have two prepositions, “from” and “across” can’t come out together, it is a grammatic mistake. We can delete “from”, because “across the world” can modify “同行 (tóng háng/ business colleague in the same line)”.

9. Original text: 巡查岩畫點; 巡查左江河道; 巡查岩畫所處山體。

xúnchá yán huà diǎn; xúnchá zuǒ jiāng hé dào; xúnchá yán huà suǒ chù shān tǐ.

Translated text: Tour check the rock art sites; Tour check along the Zuojiang River; Tour check the mountain with rock art.

Analysis: The original text is telling us that they checked those things in the past. However, there is not

a subject in the original text, it is common in Chinses, but sometimes it couldn't make sense in English. Translator didn't follow the coherence rule, it is well known that "tour" may refer to: tourism, travel for pleasure. But it is not about people, so we can choose "inspector" instead of "tour". "check" in this sentence shouldn't be primary tense as it happened in the past. "checked" in past tense is correct. The meaning "check the mountain with rock art" is different with the original text, because the "rock art" is on the mountain, so they couldn't check the mountain with rock art. From here, we can see that our translator didn't think highly of our English commentary translation. After translating the commentary, we need to check it carefully to prevent mistakes, especially this kind of low-level error. Sentence like this original text without a subject, we need to pay attention to the Skopos rule, that is to tell our visitors with accurate information.

10. Original text: 岩畫保護是“世界級”的難題，國內外至今沒有成熟經驗可以借鑒。

yán huà bǎo hù shì "shì jiè jí" de nán tí , guó nèi wài zhì jīn mǎ yǒu chéng shú jīng yàn kě yǐ jì è jì àn.

Translated text: Rock art protection, as a difficult issue in the world, lacks of proven experience to learn from.

Analysis: The ending in the translated text is "learn from", it should be nouns or phrase after "learn from". "借鑒 (jì è jì àn / use for reference)" can be translated to "for reference", it can follow the fidelity rule to offer accurate information.

Suggestion: Rock art protection, as a difficult issue in the world, lacks of proven experience for reference.

11. Original text: 當地民眾自古以來也把岩畫視為神物，自覺予以守護。

dāng dì mǐn zhòng zì gǔ yǐ lái yě bǎ yán huà shì wéi shén wù , zì jué yǐ yǐ shǒu hù

Translated text: The local people believe the rock art sacred and safeguard it consciously.

Analysis: This text is just a Chinglish translation. It obeys coherence rule and fidelity rule. "自古以來" didn't appear in the translated text. "believe the rock art sacred" is a typical Chinglish translation. Foreign visitors can not get the point for its grammar mistakes.

Suggestion: The local people have regarded the rock art as precious heritage since ancient times and protected them consciously.

12. Original text: 2014年11月，自治區政府組織民族研究、岩畫研究等相關領域的專家學者召開花山岩畫與壯族文化研討會。

èr líng yī s àn nián shí yī yuè zì zhì qū zhèng fǔ zǔ zhī mǐn zú yán jiū , yán huà yǔ zhuàng wén huà yán jiū dēng xiāng guān lǐng yù de zhuān jiā xué zhě zhào kāi huā shān yán huà yǔ zhuàng wén huà yán jiū huì

Translated text: In November 2014, the Autonomous Region government organized experts and scholars of rock art, ethnic studies, and other relevant fields to hold seminars on Huashan rock art and Zhuang culture.

Analysis: "Autonomous Region", their initial is capital form when "government" is not. As a matter of fact, "the Autonomous Region government" needn't use capital form.

13. Original text: 2009年, 12月8日, 現任自治區人民檢察院檢察長崔智友出席甯明花山岩畫保護工程開工儀式。

èr líng líng jiǔ nián, shí èr yuè bā rì xiànrèn zìzhìqū rén mín jiǎnchá yuán jiǎnchá zhǎng cuī zhìyǒu chū xíníng míng huā shān yán huà bǎo hù gōng chéng kāi gōng yí shì

Translated text: On Dec. 8, 2009, then Secretary of CPC Committee in Chongzuo, attended the opening ceremony of the protection project of Ningming Huashan Rock Art.

Analysis: The original text is to tell a news, so offering true and accurate information is very important. But the translated text has obeyed the coherence rule and fidelity rule. “現任 (xiànrèn / currently hold the post)” in English shouldn’t be “then”, their meaning is totally opposite. “人民檢察院檢察長 (rénmín jiǎnchá yuán jiǎnchá zhǎng / chief procurator of autonomous people’s procuratorates)” shouldn’t be translated to “secretary”, it should be “chief procurator of autonomous people’s procuratorates”. “CPC Committee” is not correct. Our translator is careless when “Rock Art” is capital form.

14. Original text: 時至今日, 壯族仍是廣西的主體民族, 也是崇左市人口最多的民族。駱越文化通過千百年的傳承、發展、融合和演變, 形成了今天多姿多彩的壯族文化, 呈現出獨具民族特色的桂風壯韻, 對周邊乃至東南亞地區產生了廣泛而深遠的影響。

shí zhì jīn rì zhuàng zú rén shì guǎng xī de zhǔ tǐ mín zú, yě shì chóng zuǒ shì rén kǒu zuì duō de mín zú. luò yuè wén huà tōng guò qiān bǎi nián de chuán chéng, fā zhǎn, róng hé yǎn biàn, xíng chéng le jīn tiān duō zī duō cǎi de zhuàng zú wén huà. chéng xiàn chū dù jù míng zú tì sè de guì fēng zhuàng yùn, duì zhōu biān nǎi zhì dōng nán yà dì qū chǎn shēng le guǎng fàn ér shēn yuǎn de yǐng xiǎng.

Translated text: Even today, the Zhuang ethnic group remains a major part in Guangxi and is the ethnic group with the largest population in Chongzuo City. Hundred and thousand years of inheritance, development, integration and evolution have shaped the ancient Luoyue culture into a rich Zhuang culture which has a wide spread and profound influence to surrounding areas, even to Southeast Asia.

Analysis: The translated text uses literal translation. The style of Chinglish in it is obvious. “也是崇左市人口最多的民族 (yě shì chóng zuǒ shì rén kǒu zuì duō de mín zú/nation with the most people in Chongzuo)” was translated to “and is the ethnic group with the largest population in Chongzuo City”, the former is a verb “remains”, the latter is a copula “is”, so it should be a full sentence after “and”. “千百年 (qiān bǎi nián/thousands of years)” was translated to “Hundred and thousand years”, it was full of Chinglish style. We should stand in foreign people’s shoes to make the translation suit for their reading habit. as a matter of fact, “thousands of years” can express the meaning of “千百年 (qiān bǎi nián/thousands of years)”. “have shaped” is present perfect tense, but it happened in the past, and it still influents until today, so it should be past perfect tense. The ancient country of Luoyue was founded in the south of Lingnan, “駱越 (luò yuè)” is translated to “Luoyue”. Foreign people way not know the history of China, so they may fell strange. Luoyue people are the ancestors of Zhuang, Dong, Li ethnic group. By translation of “Luoyue”, foreign people can not understand its meaning, so translator need to

add comments and notes to tell what it is. “桂風壯韻 (guì fēng zhuàng yùn / Zhuang culture)” to follow the rule of Skopos, it is translated to “Zhuang culture” by reduced translation to make foreign people easily understand.

15. Original text: 天書釋義。

tiān shū shì yì.

Translated text: hidden message

Analysis: The content of “天书释义 (tiān shū shì yì/ interpretation of a sealed book)” in this museum is mainly about analysis and cultural connotation of the rock art images. To most of us, the message and its story of the rock art is still mysterious, but this part of commentary will tell us some information and story about the rock art. In this occasion, literal translation should not be used. The translated text “hidden message” is good to tell us that there are some hidden messages that we don’t know, so we can be curious about it. It follows the rule of Skopos Theory to make retranslation properly.

16. Original text: 冷水冲型銅鼓紋飾。

lěng shuǐ chōng x íng tóng gǔ w én sh ì

Translated text: Decorative Patterns on Bronze Drums of Lengshuichong Style.

Analysis: This is a antiquity name about bronze drum, “冷水冲 (lěng shuǐ chōng)” is one of the types of bronze drum. What is its distinctive feature is that the main surface of it is about heron. And its standard instrument comes from Lengshuichong Heng village, Teng county, Guangxi. “Lengshuichong” is a place to define this type of bronze drum, some notes about this type of drum is needed, or visitors can not understand what it is by the translation of “Lengshuichong”.

17. Original text: 銅鼓文化源遠流長，內涵豐富，影響廣泛，不同時代、地區和民族的銅鼓有著各自的特點。在中國南方少數民族尤其是壯族人心中，銅鼓具有神聖而崇高的地位。

tóng gǔ w én hu àyuan yuan liúch áng, n ǎ h án fēng f ù, yǐng xiǎng guǎng f àn, b ù tóng sh íd ài, dìqū h ém n zúde tóng gǔ yǒu zhe g èz ide t èdiǎn, z ǎ zhōng gu ón án fāng shǎo sh ùm n zúy óu q ísh ì zhu àng z úr én xīn zhōng, tóng gǔ jùyǒu sh én sh èng érchóng gāo de d ìw ǎ.

Translated text: Bronze drum culture is of long standing, rich connotation and wide influence.

Drums from different times, areas and ethnic groups bear different characteristics. In the heart of ethnic minorities in south China, especially the Zhuang people, bronze drum occupies a high status, which has hardly been changed over the past thousand years.

Analysis: “is of long standing” is not correct in expression, “long standing” is an adjective, “be of” and an adjective can not be together, it should be a noun after “be of”. When it comes to “bear different characteristics”, “bear a big reputation” is appropriate, but “characteristic” is not a reputation or honor, so “bear” is not appropriate here. “which has hardly been changed over the past thousand years” is additional translation, because it does not appear in the original text. But it follows the Skopos Theory to tell visitors that how important the drum is for the Zhuang people.

18. Original text: 岩畫畫面充滿神秘感，景觀格局、周邊環境從未改變。銅鼓文化傳統延續至今。

yán huà huà miàn chōng mǎn shén mì gǎn, jǐng guān gé jú, zhōu biān huán jìng cóng wèi gǎi biàn. Tóng gǔ wén huà chuán tǒng yǎn xù zhì jīn.

Translated text: The rock art images are full of mystery and the landscape pattern and the setting have never changed, which the bronze drum cultural tradition still continues today.

Analysis: The translated text didn't follow the coherence rule, it basically restored the original information, but the translation didn't perform well in the coherence. Above didn't mention "landscape" and "setting", so it shouldn't use definite article "the". What between "are full of mystery" "the landscape" is "and", but "The rock art images are full of mystery" is a full sentence, so we can use a comma before "the landscape". What's more, "which" is not correct, because its "landscape" and "setting" is not concern with "bronze drum cultural tradition", we needn't hold a handle to a sun but use a dot to take them apart.

suggestion : The rock art images are full of mystery , its landscape pattern and setting have never changed. Bronze drum cultural tradition still continues today.

19. Original text: 泛舟江上，放眼青山斷崖，可見萬千影像，奇麗無比。

fàn zhōu jiāng shàng, fàng yǎn qīng shān duàn yá, kě jiàn wàn qiān yǐng xiàng, qí lì wú bǐ.

Translated text: Seen in a boat on the river, the mountains and water seem to be a kaleidoscope of marvelous views.

Analysis: "Seen in a boat on the river" didn't express the meaning of "steering the boat", it is not a beautiful sentence. I think that "Steering the boat on a river" would be better. "the mountains" and "water" is not consistent, it should be "the mountains and the water".

3.2 Analysis about the Reasons of the Mistakes in the English Commentary Translation of Chongzuo Zhuang Museum

Translation mistakes are inevitable, but what are the reasons of the mistakes? There are several reasons. Firstly, translator's translation level needs to be improved, there are so many grammar mistakes. Secondly, translator is careless in the translation process, even some commentary is still not translated. Thirdly, translator didn't pay enough attention to the cultural history of the museum, so it leads to wrong commentary translation.

4. Resolution Suggestions after Analysis of the English Commentary

There are some mistakes in English commentary translation include its spelling mistakes, grammar mistakes and logical mistakes, even some translation didn't follow the original text to try to express the correct meaning. Most of them can follow the fidelity rule to restore the original information, but some can not stand in foreign people's shoes to follow their reading habit. So, it is not difficult to know that there are many Chinglish translation in this museum.

There are still many Chinese commentary words not translated into English in this museum. Incomplete commentary translation may give visitors with bad experience.

My suggestions: Firstly, a systematic research in English commentary in Chongzuo Zhuang Museum should be conducted, we need to find out and analyze mistakes in it, then make a conclusion or summary to offer some opinions about how to correct these mistakes. Secondly, there are many Chinese commentary not translated into English, we need to make the English commentary translation complete and offer good experience for our foreign visitors. Thirdly, it is necessary to invite some high-level translators to correct mistakes and complete the English commentary translation. For translators, only with a strong sense of responsibility and scientific attitude can we prevent the phenomenon of word-for-word translation. Fourthly, it is better to strengthen the study of translation theory. Because most of museum commentary is about its history, so sometimes literal translation can not be used in history translation, in this occasion, knowing about its history and its background is very important.

5. Summary about the English Commentary Translation of Chongzuo Zhuang Museum.

English commentary of museum is an irreplaceable medium to develop cultural communication, wrong English commentary translation will mislead foreign visitors. Consequently, the English commentary translation can not be ignored. In response to various English commentary translation problems in museum, we should take immediate actions to correct the translation mistakes with Skopos Theory. The Skopos Theory provides new guidance for the translation of the English commentary. Under the guidance of Skopos Theory, commentary translation is based on the target audience and considers the characteristics and constraints of the commentary text to offer original text meaning. Therefore, when translating the commentary, we need to combine theory and practice for the best results. We also need to pay attention to reader's acceptance, cultural characteristics and language habits. English translation is important for cultural transmission, it also drives the development of tourism in Chongzuo. As an indispensable propaganda, the mistakes or improper English translation should be corrected normatively. Only in this way can it play a role to develop cultural transmission.

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Note 1. [英] 柯林斯高階英英詞典