A Corpus-Driven Study of the Semantic Explicitation of Metaphor in Translations of *Huangdi Neijing Suwen*: An Analysis of Two Translated English Versions

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ABSTRACT

The explicitation hypothesis (Blum-Kulka, 1986), mainly represented by the increased explicitness at the grammatical and syntactic level in the translated text, is controversial (Seguinot,1988; Pym, 2005 etc.). Some researchers argued that the above description of explicitation is too narrow, it is only limited to the textual cohesion and coherence and does not concern all uses of language in and beyond the text, not to mention cultural issues. The corpus data and the findings in this study further investigate the explicitation as a broader concept by using a self-built corpus to explore the semantic explicitation of metaphor in two translations of *Huangdi Neijing Suwen*.

To do so, the main questions that this dissertation aims to answer is what strategies translators use for the semantic explicitation of metaphor in two translated texts of *Huangdi Neijing Suwen,* and what the effecting factors are on the level of semantic explicitness in metaphor translation.

The theory this study is mainly based on is the definition of explicitation that derives from previous research in Translation Studies (Seguinot's, 1989; Klaudy's, 2009; and Becher's, 2010;). This study in particular draws on Galia Hirsh's definition (2020:461–462) proposed in 2020 with slight adjustments to investigate semantic explicitation. A corpus-driven descriptive approach is used to investigate 3014 metaphorical expressions and their translations in the Chinese source

text of *Huangdi Neijing Suwen,* and two of its English versions. The findings of the research are as follows: 1) the translators' use of seven strategies for the semantic explicitation of metaphor in the two translations confirms the insights of previous studies with regards to the definition of explicitation in a broader sense; 2) cognitive asymmetry between English and Chinese is not a decisive factor in the choice of semantic explicitation in metaphor translation; 3) translator choice should be given more weight than cognitive factors in determining the level of semantic explicitation; and 4) the different translation strategies used by the translators are an absolute indicator of the level of semantic explicitation, the use of certain translation strategy being directly proportional to it.

The empirical data on the semantic explicitation of metaphor in the translations of *Huangdi Neijing Suwen* points to the need to explore explicitation in translation from a broader perspective. We hope that the present study can shed new light on the definition of explicitation and its motive factors in the translation study.

KEYWORDS: Chinese medical metaphor translation, cognitive asymmetry, corpus-based translation, semantic explicitation, translator's choice

基于语料库的《黄帝内经.素问》中隐喻翻译的语义显化研究
——基于两部英文翻译版本

'显化假设' 学说 (Blum-Kulka ,1986), 主要以翻译文本中的语法和句法上的显化为代表, 一直受到学者们的争论 (Seguinot,1988; Pym, 2005 等) 。一些学者认为, '显化假设' 学说对于显化的描述十分狭隘，仅仅局限于语篇的连贯性和衔接性, 并未涉及到语篇内外的所有语言应用, 包括其中的文化问题。本研究利用自建语料库探索《黄帝内经. 素问》两个翻译文本中的隐喻的语义显化现象, 从广义上进一步探讨显化的概念。因此，论文的主要研究问题是: 两位译者在《黄帝内经. 素问》的两个翻译文本中采用的隐喻的语义显化策略是什么? 什么因素影响隐喻翻译的语义显化的程度?

本论文的理论框架, 主要是建立在前期翻译研究中, 对于显化的定义探讨的基础上的 (Seguinot's, 1989; Klaudy's, 2009; and Becher's, 2010;) 。本研究主要基于 Galia Hirsh (2020:461–462) 在 2020 年提出的显化定义进一步研究语义显化现象。本研究采取语料库驱动的描述性研究方法, 探讨了《黄帝内经.素问》和其两个英文翻译版本中的 3014 个隐喻词中的语义显化现象。本研究的研究结果如下：1）总结了两位译者所采用的 7 条隐喻翻译的语义显化策略, 支持了前期研究者们提出的从广义角度探讨显化定义的主张。2）中英文文化差异下的认知不对称不是隐喻翻译中语义显化程度的决定因素。3）在决定隐喻翻译的语义显化程度时, 译者对语义显化策略的选择, 应比认知因素赋予更高的权重。4) 译者选择的不同翻译策略, 对于隐喻翻译中语义显化程度, 是一个决定性的指标, 一定的翻译策略和隐喻翻译中的语义显化程度成正比。

《黄帝内经.素问》翻译文本中的隐喻语义显化的实证数据, 支持了从广义角度探索翻译中显化现象的必要性。希望本研究能为显化的定义和显化的动因提供新的思路。

关键词：中医隐喻翻译, 认知不对称性, 语料库翻译, 语义显化, 译者的选择