

A Review of the Uyghur Translation of "Journey to the West"

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ABSTRACT

"Journey to the West" is one of China's four great classic novels, and occupies an important position in China's literary history. It is also the treasure of Chinese splendid culture, with profound cultural heritage and extremely high literary value. This paper introduces Muhtar·Mehsut and Meryem·Memmtimin, the translators of the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West", and makes a brief comment on the status of the version, the background, the research status of translation strategies and the value and significance of the translation.

Keywords: "Journey to the West", Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West", significance

I. INTRODUCTION

The story of Xuanzang's pilgrimage to the West in "Journey to the West" (Gheripke sayahet) was translated into Uighur (ancient Uighur) 1000 years ago by the Master Shengguang, an Uighur translator. However, Wu Cheng'en's "Journey to the West" was only partially translated in 1964 and published by Xinjiang people's publishing house. The cover-to-cover translation of "Journey to the West" was translated into Uyghur by Muhtar·Mehsut and Meryem·Memmtimin in the 1980s, and was published by Xinjiang Juvenile Publishing House in 1988.

Scholars in China and foreign countries have hardly introduced the Uyghur cover-to-cover translation of "Journey to the West", and there are few related researches. It is necessary to make a comprehensive introduction to the Uyghur cover-to-cover translation of "Journey to the West". From December 17 to 23, 2019, the author exchanged and interviewed with Muhtar Mehsut and Meryem Memmtimin, translators of "Journey to the West", to understand the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West".

II. UYGHUR COVER-TO-COVER TRANSLATION OF "JOURNEY TO THE WEST"

The main content of "Journey to the West" (Biography of Xuanzang) has been translated and widely spread in the western regions before the compilation of "Journey to the West". However, there is only one Uyghur cover-to-cover translation of "Journey to the West" published in the 1980s. This version was translated from the first edition of Xinlei publishing house in December 1979 and the third printed edition in January 1983. It was translated and published successively from 1964 to 1988. This cover-to-cover translation is divided into four volumes. Each volume covers about 25 chapters of content, with a total of 1976 pages. Due to the differences between the old version and the new version, the details on the situation of each version are as the following ("Fig. 1").

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Fig. 1. Uyghur cover-to-cover translation of "Journey to the West" (photo taken at the library of Northwest Minzu University on December 10, 2019).

The first edition of the Uyghur cover-to-cover translation of "Journey to the West" was published by Xinjiang Juvenile Publishing House in February 1988, with 1400 copies printed; ten years later, it was printed for the second time in February 1998, with a total of 6900 copies and 1976 pages for each copy.

Volume I: first edition in February 1988, first printed in March 1989, 1400 copies, 476 pages

The Uyghur cover-to-cover translation of "Journey to the West" was published for the second time by Xinjiang People's Publishing House in December 2008 and printed for the first time in December 2008, with a total of 3000 copies. In March 2010, Xinjiang People's Publishing House printed 5000 copies for the second time.

Again, in November 2012, the second edition of Xinjiang People's Publishing House printed 5000 copies for the first time. In addition, the Uyghur cover-to-cover translation of "Journey to the West" was published by Xinjiang Juvenile Publishing House in February 1988. The translators of this version and the version published by Xinjiang People's Publishing House in December 2008 are both Muhtar·Mehsut and Meryem·Memmtimin, but the responsible editors of the two versions are not the same.

III. OTHER UYGHUR TRANSLATION OF "JOURNEY TO THE WEST"

At present, there are three versions of Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West", namely, the scaled-down version, the juvenile version and the picture-story version.

First, the scaled-down version of Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West" (written by Wu Chengen) was rewritten by Zhang Yanhui and translated by Cadet, and published by the Ethnic Publishing House in July 2005. (one copy in total)

Second, the juvenile version of Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West" (written by Wu Chengen) was rewritten by Heng Ru, translated by Huojia'aihemaiti Younusi, and published by Xinjiang Juvenile Publishing House in April 2012. (one copy in total)

Third, the picture-story version of Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West" (written by Wu Chengen) was transliterated by Aierken Yibula, published by Xinjiang Science and Technology Press in 2010. (5 volumes in total)

IV. INTRODUCTION TO THE TRANSLATORS OF THE UYGHUR COVER-TO-COVER TRANSLATION OF "JOURNEY TO THE WEST"

Muhtar·Mehsut (male, Uyghur, born in Pishan, Xinjiang in April 1957) is a famous poet and translator. He is successively served as the deputy director of The Academic Affairs Office of Xinjiang University, deputy Secretary of the Party Group and director of the Cultural Affairs Department of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. In 1975, he began to publish his works, including three poetry anthologies and more than 60 papers and some monographs such as "Interview skills", "News writing", and "Writing synchronization". He translated and published Chinese and foreign poetry anthologies, such as "Goddess Peak", "Island of fire", "Poetry of the Tang Dynasty", and "Anthology of Chinese modern and contemporary classical poetry". There are some other translated works, such as ""Journey to the West", "20th century — the call of thinkers", "Sweeter than candy", "The Classic of Filial Piety", "Zhu Family Instructions", "24 stories of filial piety", "the Book of Family Names" and "Cambridge As I Know It". In addition, the first and second part of "Journey to the West" are translated by Muhtar·Mehsut.

Meryem·Memmtimin (female, Uyghur) is an editor of the editorial department of Xinjiang People's Publishing House. Born in Kashgar, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on September 15, 1948, she has been engaged in publishing for more than 30 years in Xinjiang People's Publishing House. She has edited and compiled nearly 160 Chinese and foreign classical and modern (including world famous) novels, short stories, autobiographies, learning materials and other subjects, such as "the Southern Anhui Incident", "The Travels of Lao Ts'an", "the Chinese", "Shakespearean Tragedy", "Gone with the Wind" (part 1 and part 2), "Crime and Punishment", "The Red and the Black", "Women and

Human rights", "Logic", "The Magic Skin", and "One Hundred Years of Solitude". She has also translated more than 30 books, such as "Wuthering Heights", "The Animal", "Eternal Amber", "Three Days to See", "Picture Woman", "Manoeuvring: Stalin", "The Story of 100 Princesses and Princes", and more than 40 short and medium length novels, such as "Black face", "Escaping", "Autobiography of Napoleon", "How difficult it is to be a teacher", and "The Romance of a Milkmaid". A number of books, reprinted books and short stories have been revised. Meryem Memmtimin is responsible for translating the third and fourth part of "Journey to the West". Kuerban Balati, editor of Xinjiang Juvenile Publishing House, is the editor of the Uyghur translation.

V. THE CURRENT RESEARCH SITUATION OF UYGHUR TRANSLATION OF "JOURNEY TO THE WEST" IN CHINA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Since its publication, "Journey to the West" has been translated into many national languages, which has attracted the attention of many scholars in China and foreign countries. And they have carried out relevant research from various perspectives. There are few studies on Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West".

In China, Professor Abuduwaili Kerimu of Northwest Minzu University, the chief expert, has applied for the major project of National Social Science Fund "Research on the acceptance, influence and database construction of Uyghur and Kazakh translations of China's four famous literary works" (Project No. 19ZDA283). It has been awarded the largest research project in Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West". In addition, the "Research on Uyghur translation of 'Journey to the West' from the perspective of receptive aesthetics" was successfully approved in 2020, which was sponsored by the central government for doctoral research and innovation.

In addition, there are few studies on the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West". The author inquired about the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West" on CNKI. There are 6 Master's theses, 2 papers related to Xinjiang ethnic minorities and 2 papers related to Uyghur translations, about 10 in total. It shows that 80% of the papers are written in Chinese and 20% in Uyghur. So far, the research results of Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West" are mainly as follows:

A. Study on Buddhist appellation terms and the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West"

Based on the Buddhist appellations of "Journey to the West", this paper discusses the Uyghur translation methods of these Buddhist appellations, and analyzes

the cultural differences in the translation. The paper is divided into four parts. The first part describes the author's selection basis in detail, briefly describes the research status of Buddhist appellation and its translation, and briefly introduces the research content and significance of the paper; in the second part, based on the definition of appellation terms and Buddhist appellation terms, it classifies "Journey to the West" in three categories: name appellation, identity appellation and general appellation; the third part summarizes the Uyghur translation methods of Buddhist appellations in "Journey to the West" in different situations, among which literal translation, literal annotation and free translation are adopted in equivalent cases, while transliteration, transliteration annotation, sound and meaning translation, literal translation, free translation and omission translation are mainly used in unequal cases. This part also analyzes and explains the causes of some mistranslations of Buddhist appellations in "Journey to the West" in Uyghur translation. The fourth part summarizes the ways to deal with the differences of religious culture in translation, which are divided into three types: "equivalent literal translation", "simplified free translation" and "cultural translation". At the same time, this part also points out three countermeasures to deal with religious and cultural differences, namely, "sorting out religious and cultural differences before translation", "flexible use of translation methods in translation" and "keeping the religious color of the original language after translation".

B. Study on the Uyghur translation of special nouns in the catalogue of "Journey to the West"

One of the innovations of this paper is to study the catalogue of the translated version of "Journey to the West". Taking the translation method of chapter heading as the foothold, combined with historical, cultural and other factors, this paper analyzes and discusses various kinds of proper nouns in the translation, so as to reduce the reading obstacles and understanding difficulties of readers of "Journey to the West" (Uyghur translation version).

C. Analysis on the translation of the names of monsters in the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West"

Based on the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West", this paper takes the names of monsters in "Journey to the West" as the breakthrough point, analyzes the translation methods of various monster names, and tries to summarize them. At the same time, the author of this paper also uses the "equivalence theory" to analyze the characteristics of the translation of monster names in "Journey to the West" (Uyghur translation).

D. Study on the translation of characters' names in the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West"

In this paper, the author divides the Chinese characters' names in "Journey to the West" into three categories, explores the translation methods of character names, and classifies, statistics and analyzes the translation methods used in the translation of these three types of names. In this process, the author also analyzes the advantages and disadvantages of the translation methods used by the translators in solving the original character names in the Uyghur translation, and studies the rules and characteristics of the translation methods used by the translators in dealing with different types of character names. At the same time, the author also evaluates the quality of the Uyghur translation of the names of characters, and investigates whether the translation method chosen by the translator achieves the cultural charm of the original text.

E. Study on the translation of Buddhist words in the Uyghur version of "Journey to the West"

Based on "Journey to the West" (Uyghur translation), this paper discusses the different methods of translating Buddhist words and analyzes the advantages and disadvantages of individual words in translation. The paper is divided into three parts. The first part explains the significance and purpose of the study; the second part outlines the classification of Buddhist words in "Journey to the West" (Uyghur translation), and the corresponding translation methods; the third part focuses on the analysis and summary of the methods and techniques used in the Uyghur translation of Buddhist words in "Journey to the West".

F. Study on the names of gods and demons in "Journey to the West" and the Uyghur translation

Based on the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West", this paper discusses the names and sources of some immortals and demons in "Journey to the West", as well as the translation methods and characteristics adopted in the process of translation. In addition, the paper points out that in translating the names of immortals and demons in novels, the historical, cultural, religious and other factors of the source language should be taken into account, and appropriate translation methods and techniques should be selected so as to maintain the cultural connotation of the original text and reduce the readers' reading obstacles. The author divides the paper into three parts. The first part mainly classifies the names of gods and demons in "Journey to the West", and studies the main sources of these names; the second part first describes the main translation theories, and then analyzes some basic translation methods used in the process of Uyghur translation of the names of gods and demons in "Journey to the West"; the third part briefly discusses the characteristics of Uyghur translation of some names

of gods and demons in "Journey to the West" and personal views on the translation of a few names of gods and demons.

G. The spread of "Journey to the West" among ethnic minorities in Xinjiang

This paper sorts out the early and modern communication of "Journey to the West" among Xinjiang ethnic minorities, combs the origin of "Journey to the West" and Xinjiang ethnic minorities, and the important role played by the early Mongolian translation of "Journey to the West" in Xinjiang ethnic minorities. The paper points out the transmission channels of modern "Journey to the West" among ethnic minorities, including film and television, translation of various languages, adaptation sketches, network polyphonic ringtone, etc. At the same time, the author systematically analyzes the spread of "Journey to the West" among ethnic minorities in Xinjiang.

H. The spread of "Journey to the West" among ethnic minorities in Xinjiang

This paper discusses the communication of national culture, analyzes the communication and acceptance of "Journey to the West" in Xinjiang, discusses how to further promote the cultural exchange between ethnic minorities and Han nationality on the basis of the content, cultural characteristics and dissemination characteristics of "Journey to the West", and describes how to spread the excellent traditional culture, strengthen the cultural exchanges of all nationalities in Xinjiang border, and how to improve the understanding of Chinese culture and ethnic minority identity of the Chinese traditional culture.

In addition to the works and research of the above scholars, young researchers have also published relevant papers in various publications. "Journey to the West" is the first romantic traditional Chinese novel with captions for each chapter, which is about gods and demons in ancient China. It is one of the four famous works in China. Among the research on the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West", there are the following basic problems. The research perspective is relatively single. The author often attaches great importance to a certain part of "Journey to the West". However, there are few studies on the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West" from the perspective of strategy or theory. The research on the topic is single, which leads to the lack of targeted and comprehensive analysis. There is a lack of systematicness in the study of countermeasures. Most of the strategies put forward in the existing research results mainly focus on the introduction of events or a certain language phenomenon, and lack the systematic theoretical analysis and research methods. It is worth mentioning that even though there have been some

research results in this field, it is far from enough to refine, deepen and supplement the research, even combine with the current social needs, and approach the national strategy. Therefore, this research has certain academic value and practical significance.

VI. CONCLUSION

This paper attempts to analyze and summarize the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West" from the perspective of the new era and keeping pace with the times, which is also the necessity of the study. In addition, the author believes that it is necessary to further explore and pay attention to the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West", such as the comparison of the Uyghur and English translation of "Journey to the West", the research on the influence of "Journey to the West" on Uyghur literature, and the dissemination of "Journey to the West" among Uyghur people.

The translation of "Journey to the West" plays a very important role in the communication among Uyghur people. The resonance caused by classical culture can promote the cultural exchange among nations, promote the dissemination of Chinese excellent culture, and play an important role in strengthening the sense of community of the Chinese nation. In conclusion, it is of great significance to study the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West", and there are new development directions and research needs. Therefore, it has certain academic value and significance to grasp this opportunity and carry out innovative comparative research.

For example, it can provide the basis and platform for shared culture, which is conducive to the follow-up related research, the dissemination of Chinese culture, and the promotion and deepening of cultural exchange. Also, it can supplement and improve the research content related to the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West", and construct the comparative research methods and practical methods of "China's four great classic novels". From the perspective of reception aesthetics, this paper analyzes the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West" from the perspective of Uyghur readers, and makes the study from the perspective of translatology. This is a blank for the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West". Therefore, it is necessary to carry out research on this and try to fill in the gap in this respect. It is of great significance to study the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West", especially from the perspective of reception aesthetics. It is of practical significance to preserve, convey, inherit and spread the excellent cultural heritage of the Chinese nation, "Journey to the West". The translation of "Journey to the West" plays an important role in the spread among Uyghur people. It can promote the cultural exchanges, the spread of Chinese excellent culture, and

build a strong sense of community of the Chinese nation. In short, it is of great significance to study the Uyghur translation of "Journey to the West".

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