Collaborative Translation in Chinese Students Majored in Master of Translation and Interpreting

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Abstract. Collaborative translation is different from independent translation. It emphasizes on the importance of cooperation which between human translation (HT) and machine translation (MT) or among translators. Students who learnt English as a foreign language (EFL) always count translation and interpretation as an important standard to show their English competence. Thus, many undergraduates choose Master of Translation and Interpreting (MTI) as their major to continue the further English learning. The study plans to explore if collaborative translation is adopted by English students and what difficulties they have met in making this strategy effectively. The participants were 50 Chinese students majored in English in the university. Data were collected by using a survey questionnaire. The study found that most students prefer collaborative translation to independent translation. The use of collaborative translation in daily practice is conducive to improving the accuracy and speed of translation and helping students find their problems in time. These findings are expected to make more people understand the benefits of English learning strategy of collaborative translation so that learn from other's strengths and get a better translation.

Keywords: collaborative translation · Machine Translation · MTI

1 Introduction

Collaborative translation has a long history, and its systematic theoretical cognition originated in the late 1980s. But throughout the history of Chinese translation, especially the translation before the 20th century, Chinese translations were mainly produced by collaborative translation. Whether it is the translation of Buddhist scriptures that has lasted for thousands of years, or the scientific and technological translation of the late Ming and early Qing dynasties, collaborative translation is the mainstream work mode [1]. The choice of translation mode is not only related to the translation itself, but also closely related to the social, historical and cultural context at that time. The translation of Buddhist scriptures has changed from the initial discussion by a few people to a joint translation supported by a strict division of labor. Later, Chinese monks continued to go to the West for exchanges and began to translate Buddhist scriptures, which made the quality of the translations of the scriptures continue to improve, and more and more

believers participated in the translation of the scriptures. The scientific and technological translation in the late Ming and early Qing dynasties was mainly to meet the needs of social development. If people want to learn the advanced technology of the West, they have to go through the medium of translation. At that time, there were not many professional translations, mainly by some scholars with outstanding special skills to translate related fields. Although there are some flaws in the translation results, the excellent skills of these scholars make up for this problem. In the late Qing Dynasty, many overseas students returned to China, the country began to cultivate foreign language talents, and professional translation gradually increased. At this time, collaborative translation gradually withdrew from the mainstream market.

The collaborative translation mentioned in this article includes not only the cooperation between translators, but also the cooperation between human and machine. With the development of technology, the cooperation between translators and machines will also bring greater benefits. For certain terms, machines can undoubtedly give more consistent expressions. The increase of computer-aided translation software has also brought greater convenience to translators. Although the current software on the market may not be perfect, most of them are translated in the form of segments, which lacks a certain coherence. However, in terms of management terminology and post-translation proofreading, it will bring more accurate and intuitive information to translators. Computer-aided translation emphasizes the function of aid. As an auxiliary project, if it can improve translation efficiency and translation quality, it will achieve the effect of aid, and translators can choose to cooperate with it in translation. With the development of artificial intelligence technology, the response speed of machine translation is much higher than that of human translation. Of course, machine translation still has many shortcomings, such as word-to-word translation results when dealing with long difficult sentences, complex grammar sentences and some literary sentences with connotations. At this time, the translator's pre-editing and post-translation proofreading for machine translation is more important. In the context of today's great development of science and technology, translators need to learn how to cooperate with machines to achieve the purpose of assisting their own translation, and finally obtain a more complete translation.

With the increasing diversity of talent training, there have been more and more independent translators in recent years, and people have gradually ignored the benefits of collaborative translation. In order to rediscover the new possibilities of collaborative translation in the new era, this paper conducts a survey on collaborative translation among students majoring in translation by means of a questionnaire. The full text is divided into four parts. The first part is the definition of collaborative translation. According to the definition of collaborative translation by many scholars throughout the ages, we will re-understand cooperative translation. The second part is a survey report on collaborative translation by students majoring in translation, showing the results of the report and explaining the situation reflected. The third part expounds the necessity of collaborative translation and its new use in today's society based on the content of the survey report and related research. The fourth part points out the still existing limitations of collaborative translation and proposes appropriate solutions. These studies aim to promote the improvement of translators' translation ability and enhance the creativity of translation.

2 Collaborative Translation

2.1 Definition of Collaborative Translation

From the perspective of translators, collaborative translation, as the name implies, is a translation completed by two or more translators. It includes not only the oral or written cooperation between translators whose native language is the source language or the target language, but also the division of labor for the translation of the same work among several translators with the same native language, and it can also be regarded as a mixture of the above two state [2]. Some scholars believe that collaborative translation is "a dissemination activity conducted by two or more translators who translate a country's culture into the target language to the target language country" [3]. However, with the continuous progress of science and technology, some scholars believe that the mode of cooperation is no longer limited to translators or countries. Collaborative translation in the modern sense refers to "integrating various modern scientific and technological means and management means" [4]. Cooperation with machines is also a type of collaborative translation. From the above conclusions, it can be found that the academic circles have similarities and differences in their understanding of collaborative translation. Whether it's a collaboration between translators or a human-machine collaboration, translation is always a transformation between languages. The most obvious features of collaborative translation are the diversification of subjects, the modernization of cooperation means, and the diversification of cooperation methods [5]. Cooperation among subjects is a unique attribute of collaborative translation. Nowadays, most of the subjects in collaborative translation are bilingual professionals who can actively complete language conversion activities. However, modern technology and management methods are auxiliary tools, and when cooperating with them, the translator's dominant position will not be affected. In a word, all subjects in collaborative translation play their own translation functions, and their behaviors will affect the degree of equivalence between the original text and the translated text. The translator is always at the core of translation. The purpose of the collaborative translation model is to achieve better translation.

### 2.2 A Survey of Collaborative Translation

For translation learners, can collaborative translation be a way to improve the translation level? In the translation majors of many schools, the teaching mode of translation workshops has been opened. This learning method mainly trains students' translation ability through real translation practice, unlike traditional teaching methods that only focus on theoretical research but are out of touch with practice. This teaching mode makes students become the center of the classroom again, and students' independent discussion and inquiry make the classroom more active. Translation is a subject that pays more attention to practice. In the learning mode of the workshop, the use of collaborative translation by students is of great benefit to everyone's learning.

In order to understand the cognition of translation students about the collaborative translation model, the author conducted a survey with translation majors as the survey objects, and adopted the method of randomly distributing questionnaires. A total of 51 valid questionnaires were obtained through internet. The aim is to study the acceptance

and limitations of collaborative translation among students. The survey content mainly includes three aspects: the first part of the survey content is whether the students have collaborative translation experience in their past studies; the second part of the survey content is the cooperation objects students face in collaborative translation and the specific form of cooperation; the third part of the survey content is students' perceptions of collaborative translation. The following specific survey results were obtained through the statistical arrangement of the collected questionnaires:

2.2.1   Collaborative Translation Experience

The results of the questionnaire survey show that 16 students often use collaborative translation for translation learning, accounting for 31%; 34 students occasionally use collaborative translation, accounting for 67%; and 1 student has never chosen Collaborative translation, accounting for 2%. From the above data, we can find that the vast majority of students have the experience of collaborative translation in translation learning. Whether it is cooperation between translators or cooperation with machines, everyone will choose the mode of cooperation to improve the quality of their translations. The only difference is that the frequency of use. More than one-third of the students often use the collaborative translation mode, but most of them use it occasionally, which shows that students mainly rely on independent translation in translation practice.
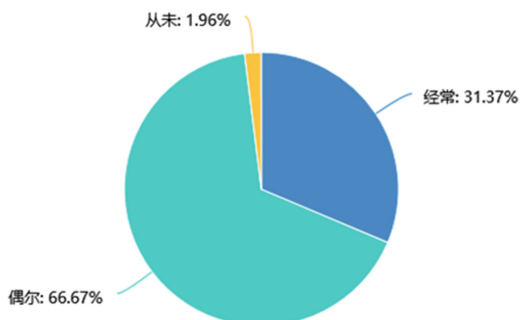

2.2.2   The Object and Form of Cooperation

According to the survey results, students choose to cooperate with their classmates and machines in translation practice. 9 students choose to cooperate with classmates, accounting for 18%; 13 students choose to cooperate with machines, accounting for 18%. 25%; 29 students choose the above two types of cooperation objects, accounting for 57%. We can find that more than half of the students will choose the cooperation between the translator and the machine when cooperating in translation. The change of cooperation objects reflects the new changes of collaborative translation in our new era. In the past, people could not believe in machine translation, and many scholars held objections to machine translation, believing that the machine translation model was too rigid. Now, with the development of science and technology, computer-aided translation software can actually help translators improve their translations, and more and more

people are willing to use machine translation to improve efficiency and quality. Some students still choose to cooperate with their classmates. After a later investigation, part of the cooperation among the classmates comes from the group assignments in the course, and some think that the discussions between them can inspire inspiration and create more accurate translation.
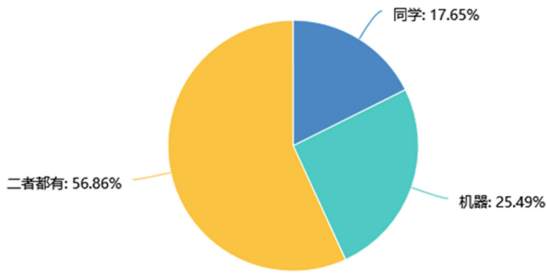

Regarding the form of cooperation between translators, we can find that the specific form of cooperation will still vary. 11 students chose the mode of co-translation + co-proofreading, accounting for 22%; 24 students chose the mode of separate translation + mutual proofreading, accounting for 47%; 16 students chose the mode of separate translation + co-proofreading mode, accounting for 31%. Translation and proofreading are often divided among different translators in collaborative translation. The separation of translation and proofreading is helpful for different translators to make more profound improvements to the translation, and can link the front and rear parts of the translation to make it more coherent.
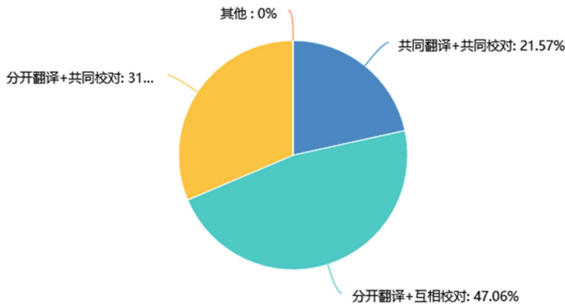
2.2.3　Views on Collaborative Translation

According to the data of the survey report, 47 students believe that collaborative translation improves the quality and speed of translation, accounting for 92%; 3 students think that collaborative translation will lead to inconsistent translation and waste time, accounting for 6%; One student supported the collaborative translation, but thought that the translation time was wasted when the collaborative translation improved the translation quality. Judging from the overall data, the vast majority of students recognize the

convenience brought by collaborative translation to translation practice, and only a few students object it. This shows that the model of collaborative translation can still be supported by everyone in the new era, and with the help of new technologies, it can bring convenience to translators. However, we cannot ignore the voices of opposition. The speed and quality of translation are always a standard in the mind of translators. When we choose collaborative translation, we must try to avoid the mistakes in translation and the time wasted by division of labor. Only in this way can we create better translations through collaborative translation.
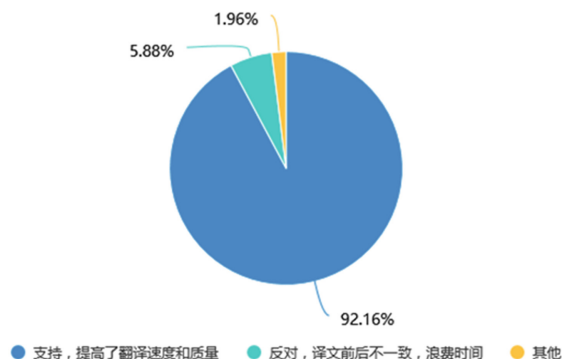
According to the above questionnaire analysis, we can intuitively see the views of MTI students on collaborative translation during the learning process, which provides some reference for the development of collaborative translation in the future. Moreover, students are willing to learn through collaborative translation, which requires us to re-recognize the importance of collaborative translation and extend it to translation practice.

2.3 The Necessity of Collaborative Translation

Collaborative translation is a translation mode for translators to choose. Like independent translation, it aims to create a more appropriate translation. The relationship between them is not substitution and competition, but complementary and coexisting. A pen, a piece of paper, a lamp, a book (original text), a foreign language or bilingual dictionary, alone in the study, or thinking hard, or writing hard, this vividly shows the translator's work in the eyes of most people. For a long time, translators have completed translations in this state. Collaborative translation usually requires the efforts of multiple translators, and requires division of labor and cooperation, complementing and overall planning. The result of collaborative translation is the crystallization of each translator's wisdom and talent, the integration of ability and trust [6]. From the perspective of students majoring in translation, they can obtain further learning through the mode of collaborative translation, so they can also exercise their ability by adopting group collaborative translation in their learning practice.

With the development of globalization, translators from all over the world can participate in the dialogue of globalization. In order to adapt to the tide of the times, it is necessary to actively adopt the translation mode of transnational cooperation between

translators. For many years, the cooperation between translators has stayed within their own country. However, translation itself is an activity that spans different countries and different languages. If it only stays between translators in their own country, it is difficult to always guarantee the quality of the translation. However, if the translators at home and abroad work together, one is the native speaker of the source language, and the other is the native speaker of the target language, plus the communication and proofreading between the two, then the effect of the translation is doubled. The canonical expression of languages and the original structure of the article can be expressed through collaborative translation. Every September 30th is the International Translation Day. As early as 2009, the title of the International Translation Day theme article was: Working Together. Translators all over the world should look at collaborative translation from a fresh perspective.

The development of science and technology provides technical support for collaborative translation, and many translators as professionals have mastered the skills of computer-aided translation. When co-translating, computer-aided translation software can be used to help us before, during and after our translation. Before translation, you can jointly build a term base that may be used in translation. During translation, you can use the online cooperation platform to connect the related translations in time. After translation, you can also use the software's own proofreading to prevent mistranslations and missing translations. Collaborative translation in the new era is no longer just cooperation between translators, so the necessity of using this translation mode should be re-emphasized. Translation has now been opened as an independent subject, which shows that the recognition of translation studies is still very high in the society. We should adopt various methods to do translation practice.

3   Limitations and Solutions of Collaborative Translation

In translation practice, the role of collaborative translation cannot be ignored. Coupled with the combination of advanced technologies such as computer, Internet and artificial intelligence, collaborative translation has gradually developed further. However, the premise of cooperation in collaborative translation is always the division of labor among different subjects. After the division of labor, there will still be problems. The difficulty of co-translation is "unity" [7]. The difficulty of "unity" mainly comes from the following aspects: firstly, it comes from the different understanding of the original work among different translation subjects; secondly, the writing styles of different translation subjects are different, and it is difficult to unify the writing style of the original work and the target text; and finally, different translation subjects with cause different definitions of terms.

To solve the problem of different understandings, all translators need to establish the translation standards of the translation at first. We generally use " faithfulness, expressiveness and elegance" to measure translation, so if we want to achieve the unity of understanding, we must first achieve "faithfulness". If the translation fails to be faithful to the original, then the translation is a failed translation from the very beginning. Being faithful to the original text mainly refers to the consistency of grasping the central idea of the original text. Each translator should not only focus on the part of the article translated by himself, but should grasp the content of the article from the perspective of the

full text. Put aside the subjective emotions of each independent translator, start with the objective text, and focus on the language itself in depth. Philosophically speaking, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. The purpose of co-translation is not to split the translation into pieces and say different things, but to concentrate the talents of many people and strive to achieve a better translation. Therefore, translators should not only focus on their own tasks, but should translate some articles on the basis of grasping the full text.

Secondly, be faithful to the writing style of the original. The style of the article, like the personality of a person, varies from person to person. Similarly, when translating, each translator's writing style and habits will also be different. At this time, the writing style of the original work should be used as the benchmark, and the translators should move closer to the style of the original work. This style may be the language characteristic of the whole article, or the language habits of the writer. When translating, vocabulary, rhetoric and article structure may affect the overall style of the article. At this time, translators not only need to be fully prepared before translation, but also need to determine a post-translation proofreader. The proofreader must make a deep check on the last step, not only trying to reproduce the style of the original work, but also realizing the style unity between the translation and the original, and also pay attention that the translation must conform to the specifications of the target language. In the process of translation, if you blindly pursue the consistency with the original work, it may cause a "translationese", which is not conducive to readers' understanding. After identifying the style of the original work, the translators discuss and choose the most suitable form to translate the original work. Finally, the proofreader reviews the manuscript to achieve the unification of the translation style.

Finally, the definitions of terms will also be inconsistent. The issue of terminology inconsistency is the most obvious problem in the collaborative translation model. Especially in professional translation such as scientific and technological translation, the different definitions of terms will cause the problem of ambiguity in professional understanding. In recent years, the translation of terms has become a specialized field of study. Translators pay more attention to the establishment and application of terminology. When translating, there needs to be a clear standard for the definition of terms, and the translation method of terms should be specified according to specific fields and specific contexts. At this time, setting up the post-translation proofreaders mentioned in the previous article has become a crucial step. Unify the terms in the translation process so that the terms are consistent throughout the text. In addition, we can use computer-aided translation tools, and current software such as Trados, Transmate, etc. have their own term base and translation memory. When translating, the translator can add the term to the term base when it first appears, then during subsequent translation, whenever the term appears, a consistent expression will be automatically filled into the translation. This translation software can also complete online synchronization. The translator saves the terminology in the term base when translating, and the term base of other translators can also be synchronized accordingly. With computer-aided translation tools, terminology is also kept as consistent as possible during the translation process.

4   Conclusion

Collaborative translation is a language conversion activity completed by multiple subjects cooperatively. It belongs to a part of translation, which is different from independent translation and concentrates the wisdom of many people. Collaborative translation does not mean erasing the individual efforts of the translators, but concentrating the capabilities of each individual. The purpose of using collaborative translation is to create a more accessible translation. And with the development of science and technology and the improvement of technology, computer-aided translation software makes collaborative translation have new possibilities in the new era. Many translation majors have learned new translation models brought about by emerging technologies. Under the leadership of the translator's own thinking, coordinate the mutual relations of other parties, and finally realize the unity between the author, the reader of the original text, the translator and the reader of the translation. In the context of globalization, more attention should be paid to the cooperation of translators between different countries. Co-translators take advantage of their own native languages to avoid derogating from the ideological content of the original work. There may still be many difficulties in the implementation of collaborative translation, which needs to be further explored. There are still some shortcomings in the research of this paper, and I hope to use it to attract others, so as to promote the development of collaborative translation.

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