



University of Macau

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Master of Arts in Applied English

**Communication via Vinay and Darbelnet's translation strategies:
A case study of the book "Common Knowledge about Chinese Culture"**

**Student Name : Lam, Oi Lin Irene
(M-A4-5530-6)**

Supervisor : Dr. Kam-yiu S. Pang

**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts in Applied English at the University of Macau**

August 2009

Table of Contents

	Page No.
List of Abbreviations	ii
Abstract	iii
Keywords	v
Part I. Introduction	
1.1. Background of Research	1
1.2. Objective of Research	3
Part II. Literature Review	
2.1. Communicative Function	6
2.2. Translation Strategies	7
Direct Translation	8
- Borrowing	8
- Calque	9
- Literal Translation	11
Oblique Translation	12
- Transposition	13
- Modulation	14
- Equivalence	15
- Adaptation	16
Part III. Methodology	
3.1. Materials of analysis	18
3.2. Methods of analysis	19
Part IV. Analysis	
4.1. Analysis on Source Text	21
4.2. Analysis on Translation Strategies	22
Direct Translation	22
- Borrowing	22
- Calque	24
- Literal Translation	26
Oblique Translation	29
- Transposition	30
- Modulation	33
- Equivalence	36
- Adaptation	41
Part V. Findings	44
Part VI. Conclusion	53
Bibliography	55

ABSTRACT

Abstract of thesis entitled “Communication via Vinay and Darbelnet's translation strategies: A case study of the book ‘Common Knowledge about Chinese Culture’ ”.

Submitted by Lam Oi Lin, Irene, student number M-A4-5530-6 for the degree of Master of Arts in Applied English at the University of Macau in August 2009.



A written text is aimed at achieving communication; likewise its translation. Communication will be hindered whenever there are cultural barriers like those beliefs and ideas that do not have equivalents in the target culture. This creates a problem for translators. This study aims to tackle culture-bound problems which arise during the translation process and strategies to deal with them. The study will review on Vinay and Darbelnet's translation model. Analysis will be made to identify translation problems and find out how the strategies in their model help to achieve communication. Another aim of this research is to have a critical examination on Vinay and Darbelnet's translation model, so as to find out if there are any merits or shortcomings in using their translation model. The data for analysis is the book "Common Knowledge about Chinese Culture" << 中國文化常識 >>. Findings show that Vinay and Darbelnet's translation model helps to sensitize translators tackle cross-cultural problems and use different methods to find translation solutions. 'Direct' strategies help readers identify the culture-bound items more quickly since the 'foreign flavor' is carried forward. Meanwhile, 'oblique' strategies help to alert translators in tackling other methods or combine different strategies when 'direct' strategies are impossible in order to achieve the text's communicative function. It also raises readers' awareness to trace if 'modern strategies' like foreignization, addition, etc. are implicit in their translation model.

KEYWORDS

Translation strategies, Vinay and Darbelnet, communication, source text, target

text

