From Language of a HCC to a LCC – A Study of Chinese-English Translation of MAM Articles

A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Translation Studies

by

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DECLARATION

The work presented in this thesis is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, original and my own, except as acknowledged in the text, and has not been submitted, either in whole or part, for a degree at this or any other university.

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ABSTRACT

As a descriptive study for analyzing Chinese-English translations, Juliane House's concept of overt and covert translation is put together with Edward Hall's concept of high-context culture and low-context culture, along with Beaugrande and Dressler's concept of order of informativity and the use of different translation procedures into one analytical framework. The study examines three pairs of texts from the Macau Art Museum. With the texts selected, sentences and paragraphs were examined one-by-one to analyze the type of translation (overt or covert) employed along with the used of cultural filter, shifts in the order of informativity, translation procedures applied, as well as to observe if the shift in the order of informativity is resulted by any particular translation procedure(s) applied. Translating from a HCC language to a LCC language may result in an increase in the information as expressions would become more explicit, but this doesn't seem to be quite true for this study; therefore other elements such as the translation procedures and their relations with the shifts will also be taken into consideration. It was found that the results did not match the expected findings as cultural filter is not used compulsorily and the order of informativity does not shift frequently. Concluding the research, cultural elements in the ST do not always needed to be translated, information is not necessarily amplified either and the order of informativity does not seem to be affected.

Key Words: overt translation, covert translation, cultural filter, culture, high-context (HCC), low-context (LCC)