

**A Functionalist Evaluation of the English
Translation of the preface for the “Witness the
Qing Empire” Exhibition**



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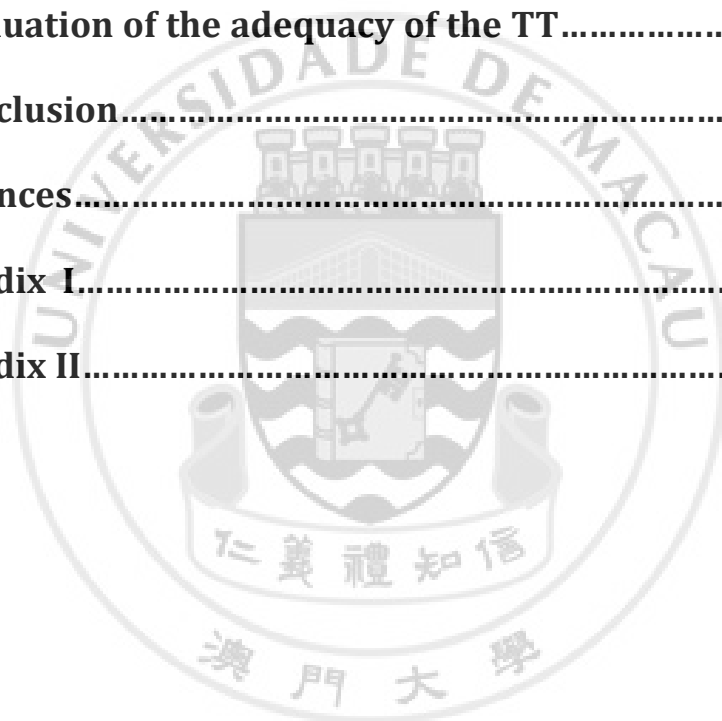
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Abstract

When dealing with translation tasks, it is a common practice to translate words and sense of the source text (ST) to the target text (TT). The functionalist theories allow an alternative approach which advocates the prime principle determining any translation process is the purpose (Skopos) of the overall translational action rather than just mere linguistic transcoding.

This thesis evaluates the translation of a publicity text for an exhibition on the basis of Functionalist Theory. By understanding the nature of the texts through Katherina Reiss' text type analysis, by applying the ST analysis model advocated by Christiane Nord, and by interviewing the personnel responsible for the translation of the materials to be analyzed, these are used to evaluate if an adequate TT is made. Due to the difference of the audience and based on the translation brief, it is found that the translator has demonstrated his/her awareness on these intratextual and extratextual factors which differentiate the ST and the TT, and has made an adequate TT in terms of his/her good knowledge on the different information needs between the ST and TT audience. It illustrates how the functionalist approach to translation is able to justify any incoherences occurred in any translation pair under different situations.

List of abbreviations

SL: source language

TL: target language

ST : source text

TT : target text

