



A Comparative Study of Dialect Translation in Two English Versions of *The Divorce*

Liao Binyan

School of Foreign Languages, Qianjiang College, Hangzhou Normal University, China

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Abstract— In the literary translation, translation of dialect becomes a topic that deserves a lot of attention, because dialect is endowed with distinctive national and regional cultural characteristics and frequently cause many difficulties in the translation process. Exploring dialect translation is of great significance for the translation of literature. This paper aims to make a comparative study of dialect translation in two English versions of *The Divorce*, a short novel written by Lu Xun, a prominent figure in the history of Chinese literature, so as to analyze translators' translation styles and strategies, reveal the loss and gain of different translation methods and thus trigger more researches on the translation of non-standard literature dialect in novel translation.

Keywords— dialect translation, *The Divorce*, translation methods.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the translation of literature, dialect translation is always deemed as the most demanding and challenging, because dialect as a regional or social non-standard language generally has its strong "nationality" and varied cultural connotations, just as Lane-Mercier once pointed out that social dialect in literary works is "a clearly-defined untranslatable area" (Lane-Mercier, 1997). The striking differences of dialect from the standard language definitely pose a great challenge to translators and thus marks dialect translation as a field worth further exploring.

Lu Xun (originally named Zhou Shuren, 1881-1936) is a great writer of modern China and one of the founding fathers of Chinese modern literature. In his remarkable lifetime, he has created many renowned and influential literary works and a large number of them have been translated into foreign languages. Until now, 34 of Lu Xun's novels, including *The Divorce*, have been translated into English since the mid-20th century. Based on two versions of *The Divorce*, this paper intends to make a comparative study of dialect translation in two English versions of *The Divorce* so as to analyze translators' translation styles and strategies, reveal the loss and gain of

different translation methods and thus arouse more attention to the translation of non-standard literature dialect in novel translation.

II. AN INTRODUCTION ON THE DIVORCE AND ITS TWO ENGLISH VERSIONS

2.1 An Introduction on *The Divorce* and Its English Translation

The Divorce is one outstanding short story written by Lu Xun, one of the founding figures of modern Chinese literature, celebrated for his "powerful diagnoses of his nation's social and political crisis, and for his contributions to reinventing the vernacular as a literary language" (Lovell, 2009). It was first published in the weekly journal *Yin* in 1925, and was later collected in *Panghuang*, one of Lu Xun's most famous anthology. Lu Xun's fictions, including the short stories in *Panghuang*, have won a large readership in the world and been translated into English by various translators and scholars.

The Divorce depicts a bold and outrageous rural woman named Aigu, who, with great fighting spirit, refused to get divorced when she was abandoned by her

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history geography and even philosophy These and other themes are explored in a wide ranging Introduction by the editors which sets the individual pieces and the subject in context for the reader Transactions of the Yorkshire Dialect Society Yorkshire Dialect Society,1902 List of members in each number Studies in Linguistic Geography (RLE Linguistics D: English Linguistics) John M. Kirk, Stewart Sanderson, J.D.A. Widdowson, 2014-01-10 The publication in the past ten years of linguistic atlases of England and Scotland has not only advanced our knowledge of the lexical and morphological variety inherent in the English language but has made it possible to establish a number of methodological principles for the study of language both in its contemporary distribution and in its historical evolution The essays in this volume by contributors to the linguistic atlases and other dialectologists describe some of the problems that bedevil the study of dialect and the methodological solutions employed to minimise them They also survey the contributions that linguistic cartography can make to the study of English and of language in general The considerations it embodies are of major importance for the student of language and in addition the book is an invaluable companion to the Atlases **The Phonology of the Dialect of Aurland, Norway** George Tobias Flom, 1915 **Studying Dialect** Penhallurick R., 2006-10-18 English has always been a language made up of dialects and its diversity has fascinated its speakers for centuries This book tells the story of that fascination giving a complete history of work on dialects of English from the sixteenth century to the present day from the earliest dialect dictionaries to modern research in geolinguistics and looking at English dialects across the world Written in accessible style Studying Dialect is the most comprehensive introduction available It evaluates and explains the methods and purposes of one of the most productive areas of interest in language study Dialect Notes ,1928 *Studies in the Dialects of the Kentish Charters of the Old English Period ...* William Frank Bryan, 1915 *Notices of the Proceedings* Royal Institution of Great Britain, 1909 **University of Illinois Studies in Language and Literature** ,1915 **Publications of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study** ,1914 **Identity and Dialect Performance** Reem Bassiouney, 2017-10-24 Identity and Dialect Performance discusses the relationship between identity and dialects It starts from the assumption that the use of dialect is not just a product of social and demographic factors but can also be an intentional performance of identity Dialect performance is related to identity construction and in a highly globalised world the linguistic repertoire has increased rapidly thereby changing our conventional assumptions about dialects and their usage The key outstanding feature of this particular book is that it spans an extensive range of communities and dialects Italy Hong Kong Morocco Egypt Syria Japan Germany The Sudan The Netherlands Nigeria Spain US UK French Guiana Colombia and Libya Studies in the Varieties of Language V. U. Longe, 1995 **English Studies** Reinard Willem Zandvoort, 1921 **Report on the Activities of the Institute for Comparative Research in Human Culture in the Years [1923/1926]** Instituttet for sammenlignende kulturforskning, 1928

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