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STUDY ON THE CHINESE VERSION OF *GO SET A WATCHMAN* TRANSLATED BY ZHANG YUN FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ECO-TRANSLATOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

Eco-translatology is a new cross-disciplinary theory proposed by Prof. Hu Gengshen. He demonstrates and constructs the translation theory of "translation is adaptation and selection" from the perspective of ecology. This paper intends to introduce the eco-translatology theory to Zhang Yun's translation of *Go Set A Watchman* while exploring how she adapts to the specific translational eco-environment and makes corresponding adaptive selection in terms of linguistic, cultural and communicative dimensions.

Keywords: Eco-translatology, *Go Set A Watchman*, Adaptation and Selection, Multi-dimensional Transformations

1. Introduction

Go Set A Watchman is a novel by Harper Lee, published on 14th July, 2015. Written before the first and only other published novel of Harper Lee, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, winning the Pulitzer Prize, *Go Set A Watchman* is now widely regarded as a sequel. Since it was published, it casts a fascinating new light on the literary circle. With over 1.1 million copies of the books sold in the first week, topping the Amazon hot book list, it is no doubt that *Go Set A Watchman* was the best-selling book in 2015, continuing the legend of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It receives appraisal from a great many of journals, such as *Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *BBC Culture* and so on.

The story takes place on a small town, Alabama, in the 50s of last century, set against the backdrop of the civil rights tensions and political turmoil that were transforming the South. The novel begins with that twenty-six-year-old Jean Louise Finch returns home from New York to visit her aging father, Finch Atticus, while this visit actually turns bittersweet. She goes through a personal conflict, progressively and intricately, quarreling with her aunt Alexander and holding totally different values

with her father. The novel focused on the racial tensions in the South of America, dealing with the complex relationship between daughter and father, and also delves into deep personal conflict of the world of Jean Louise.

The Chinese version of *Go Set A Watchman* was published in February 2017. It was translated by freelance translator Zhang Yun, who graduated from Peking University and now lives in California in America. Both the original novel and Chinese version won wide attention. However, few studies have been conducted about Zhang Yun's translation of *Go Set A Watchman*, let alone from the perspective of eco-translatology.

It is on such background that the research is conducted. With the theoretical basis of Hu Gengshen's eco-translatology, the paper is to explore how the translator makes adaptation and selection from multi-dimensional transformation in translation, prompting the target text to adapt to the translational eco-environment. Given this, firstly, it is hoped that the eco-translatology can shed a fresh insight to translation, which can arouse more academic attention to this relatively new theory, being used to more practice. Secondly, it is hoped

that Harper Lee's works can receive more Chinese scholars' attention, thus attracting more readers to focus on the novel's theme—inequality of races, which is a universally existed phenomenon in the world.

2. Eco-Translatology

2.1 Literature Review

Eco-translatology, was initiatively proposed in 2001 by Professor Hu Gengshen in Tsinghua University. It is a newly-established discipline based on the natural science of ecology and social science of translation, under the background that ecological management and environmental protection play an increasingly important role in the process of globalization.

The thought of eco-translatology can be traceable to translation theories at abroad in the 1980s to 1990s. Peter Newmark ranked ecology the first in the five cultural categories in his book *A Textbook of Translation* (Newmark, 1988). Rosanna Warren, in her book *The Art of Translation: Voices from the Field*, compared translation as human's migration, for both of them undergo adapting to the new environment (Warren, 1989). Michael Cronin put forward the concept "Translation Ecology" in his book *Translation and Globalization*, in which he called for a "healthy balance" between language and culture pluralism in the context of globalization (Cronin, 2003).

In domestic research field, eco-translatology develops fast and become more and more popular since its birth. In 2001, Prof. Hu read out *A Primary Study on Theory of Translation as Adaptation and Selection* in FIT 3th Asian Translators' Forum, which is the first eco-translatology essay to be read in international conference. The essay discusses how the translators adapt to the translational eco-environment and make selection in the process of translating. In the book *An Approach to Translation as Adaptation and Selection*, published in 2004, the framework of eco-translatology was systemically proposed by Hu. He pointed out that translation is "a selection activity of translator's adaptation to the eco-environment of translating." In the last five years, great efforts still have been made by Hu to improve the newly-born

theory. In the essay *From Translators' Centeredness to Translators' Responsibility*, published in 2014, Hu redefines the responsibility of translators.

Besides Prof. Hu, there are many other scholars joining in the discussion of eco-translatology. For example, Wang Ning, in his essay *Eco-Literature and Eco-Translatology: Deconstruction and Reconstruction*, puts forward that eco-translatology poses a huge challenge to traditional translation studies, for it calls for a balance between the subject (translator) and the object (text). Fang Mengzhi, expatiates that "translational eco-environment" can be divided into two aspects: translation ecosphere and translation environment, which are necessary for harmonious translation activities.

However, skeptical voices and negative views exist and can't be ignored. Leng Yuhong expresses his disagreement by insisting that the core concept "translator-centeredness" is controversial, the translator can't be the center in translating, for he shares the equal position with other elements in the translational eco-environment. Wang Hong affirms the achievement the new theory makes, but also shows doubt on "translator-centeredness". He claims that the "post-event penalty" is raised to compensate the defects of "translator-centeredness".

2.2 Main Contents

The theory eco-translatology was raised by adopting Darwin's evolutionary theory's key notion, "nature selection" and "survival of the fittest". Based on the point of view of ecological holism, Hu redefined translation as "a selection activity of the translator's adaptation to fit the translational eco-environment" (Hu Gengshen, 2004). It centers on "translator-centeredness" and gives detailed interpretation of translation process, translation principles, translation methods, and the value standard of the translated text, which are showed in the table 1. What's more, series of notions have been raised, such as "ecological rationality", "translational eco-environment" and "subsequent punishment".

Table 1. The Essence of Translation from Eco-translatology perspective

Element	Conception
Definition	A selection activity of the translator's adaptation to fit the translational eco-environment
Process	Translator "adapt" to the translational eco-environment with "source text" being its typically important element and the translational eco-environment "selects" the target text with "translator" being its typically important element.
Principle	Multi-dimensional adaptation and adaptive selection
Method	Three-dimensional transformations, namely linguistic, cultural and communicative dimension.
Evaluation	Degree of holistic adaptation and selection; readers' feedback; the degree of multi-dimensional transformation

3. Zhang Yun's Adaptation to Translational Eco-Environment

3.1 The Translator's Linguistic and Cross-Cultural Competence

Translator's linguistic ability ensures the translator carries out the translation smoothly and effectively. Not as famous as some other translators, Zhang Yun is a low-key freelance translator. Graduated from Peking University, majored in Germany, she pursued a graduate study of Germany in America. Living in America, Zhang developed avid interest in reading, while what she learnt in university are almost philosophy and culture theory, with little literature works, so she decided to give up academic path. After leaving school, she spent most of her time in reading and taking notes as well. After two to three years, she began to read from Chinese literature works to original English books, and gradually forms her own style of writing notes. The great number of input has helped to lay a solid foundation for her linguistic ability. On the recommendation of a friend, Zhang Yun began to write for domestic magazine, such as *Grace*,

Southern Metropolis Weekly, *Book Town* and so on. It was on an occasional situation that she was introduced to an editor of foreign literature, Peng Lun, who happened to have a book needed to translate. Zhang Yun grasped the chance and tried to finish it, which beat a path in Zhang Yun's translation. Since then, she has begun to gain the favor of publisher and worked on literary translation. So far, she has translated many novels, including well-received books of *Go Set A Watchman* (2017), *The Testament of Mary* (2015), *Transatlantic* (2016), etc. Though Zhang Yun has no professional education background of English and translation studies, her rich reading and abundant experience serve as proof of her excellent linguistic ability of English.

As for cross-culture ability, due to translation's essence that translation is a cross-culture communicative activity, the translator is supposed to be equipped with the ability to cope with problem of cultural transmission concerning politics, history, religion, etc. From reading aimlessly to writing articles and sharing book reviews, from introducing original English books in Chinese magazines to translating English novels to Chinese readers, Zhang Yun has a good command of transforming two symbolic signs and delivering unique culture of two countries. According to an interview conducted by Wu Jingya (2017), Zhang Yun, now living in America, still keeps the balance of reading original English books and Chinese books. She thinks that living in an environment without Chinese context, the only way to keep linguistic awareness and culture understanding is to be persisting in reading Chinese materials.

3.2 Zhang Yun's Views on Translation

In the interview, Zhang Yun also expressed her own views on translation that translation is to understand the English expression first, and say it in Chinese then. Instead of stressing translator skilled at Chinese, what is most vital to translation is reading comprehension, which needs a specific context.

As for the continuous dispute question of literal translation and free translation, she holds the view that there is no absolute bound between them;

it is a problem of balance, just like wire walking. The translator has to be faithful to the source text, and allowing target readers read fluently without making difficulties and barrier at the same time. In accordance with her view on translation, translating *Go Set A Watchman* is a process of continual balance. For one thing, her translation is easy to understand in plain expressions with a large amount of Chinese four-characters. For another, the translation is not done literally, so that the original features of source text are maintained. Zhang Yun believes that the translator should strike a balance between literal translation and liberal translation in the whole process of translating.

3.3 Zhang Yun's Translation Views under Eco-Translatology

As for eco-translatology, Zhang Yun holds the view that elements inside the system of translational eco-environment are mutually interconnected, interactional, forming an organic integrity, which raise a request that looking things in a holistic way. Elements, such as the source text, translator, target text, readers and publishers are all indispensable elements to form a harmonious translational eco-environment. For example, in the interview, she pointed that there are many translated text of English literatures in Chinese literature circle, but few people pay much attention to the translated versions. And although there are so many translators, few of them have stable readerships. She considers that publisher should pay more attention to translators in a round way, instead of a specific work of them. In many times, the publishers publish a book in quantity when this book gets award, but care less about other books of this translator, which is to the disadvantage of forming a relatively stable readership. Therefore, in the whole activity of translation, not only the

(1) Chinese Four-Character Idioms

translated text should be stressed, but the relationship between publisher and translator, translator and readers should be paid more attention to as well. And she also advocates that translator and publisher are supposed to build a stable and dynamic relation to cultivate readership to prompt transmission of literature works. Only in this way, can the elements inside the system of translational environment interact actively and effectively to form a benign translational eco-environment on the whole.

4. Zhang Yun's Multi-Dimensional Adaptation and Selection in *Go Set A Watchman*

According to Professor Hu, the best translation is one with the highest degree of holistic adaptation and selection (Hu Gengshen, 2008). And the method of translation can be simplified as multi-dimensional transformation, that is focusing on the transformation under the principle of multi-dimensional adaptation and adaptive selection (Hu Gengshen, 2011). There are mainly three dimensions of adaptation and selection of multi-dimensional transformations, namely the linguistic dimension, the cultural dimension and the communicative dimension. In this part, Zhang Yun's translation of *Go Set A Watchman* will be studied from these three-dimensional aspects, and the adaptation and selection by the translator to fit the translational eco-environment is fully analyzed.

4.1 The Linguistic Dimension

As a literary novel, *Go Set A Watchman* is possessed of great aesthetic and artistic value. To represent this effect, Zhang Yun pays more attention to stylistics reproduction and rhetoric devices, by adopting quantities of Chinese Four-Character Idioms, as well as appropriate translation of parallelism and simile.

	The source text	The target text
Example 1	The girl should have had a mother. Atticus had let her run wild since she was two years old, and look what he had reaped. Now she needed bringing up to the line, and bringing up sharply , before it was too late. (Harper Lee 2015:36)	这姑娘实在需要有个母亲。自她两岁以来, 阿迪克斯就对她放任不管, 瞧他得到的报应。现在, 她得 拨乱反正 , 并且 上纲上线 , 以免为时 晚矣 。(张芸2017: 37)

The source text is a depiction of the words Alexandra says to Joan Louise. Alexandra makes a stand against marriage of Henry and Louise, who have distinct backgrounds. What's more, she is irritated by Louise's taunt to her, and thinks she should share the responsibility to play the role of Louise's mother, teaching her a lesson to convert her pertinacious thought. In the target text, Zhang's translation employs Chinese four-character phrases "拨乱反正", which refers to eliminate the chaotic situation and restore order, correcting significant errors, for instance, the Great Cultural Revolution. Such translation is the result of adaptation and selection. Firstly, "乱" and "正" is employed to show what a huge and unforgivable mistake Louise has made in aunt Alexandra's eye, fully presenting

(2) Parallelism

	The source text	The target text
Example 2	When she went up the courthouse steps she missed the elderly men who loitered there, she missed the water cooler that stood inside the door, missed the cane-bottom chairs in the hallway; she did not miss the dank urine-sweet odor of sunless county cubbyholes. (Harper Lee 2015:105)	当她走上县府大楼的台阶时, 她 没有注意到 在那儿闲荡的上了年纪的人, 她 没有注意到 立在门里的饮用水冷却器, 没有注意到 走廊里藤编坐垫的椅子; 她 注意到了 含有甜丝丝尿骚味的阴湿气息, 来自不见天日的县档案库。(张芸2017: 106)

In the original text, Harper Lee employed the technique of parallelism in presenting Louise's feeling when she entered the courthouse through depiction of what she saw and smelled. When heard her father and Hank were members of Council Meeting, Louise followed them to the courthouse. In order to present the protagonist's strong apprehension and fears, Zhang Yun also adopted

(3) Simile

	The source text	The target text
Example 3	It was easy to listen to him, to be lulled by his gentle rain of words , that she did not miss the absence of his purposeful gestures, the shower of "hum"s and "hah"s that peppered his usual conversation. She did not know he was deeply worried. (Harper Lee 2015:199)	这么容易就听信他, 被他的话所哄骗, 如沐春风 。她甚至注意到他略去了意味深长的手势和通常谈话中接二连三雨般的"哼"和"哈"。她不知道他忧心如焚。(张芸2017: 202)

In the original, "gentle rain of words" describes Uncle Jack's words is like the mild rain, which makes her feel comfortable. In the target text, Zhang Yun does not change the original rhetorical device of

Alexandra's traditional thought. This is Zhang's adaptation. Secondly, Zhang initially adopts an idiom with color of politics and produce humorous effect. The readers cannot help laughing by describing quarrels rising to political level. This is translator's selection. Adaptation and selection are two sides of one coin and is closely linked. Adaptation promotes better selection, and selection makes a higher level of adaptation. The translator takes the eco-environment of target language into consideration, and creates a familiar context for target readers. Zhang Yun's translation is fully based on rich knowledge of Chinese culture background, according with theory that translation is the process of adaptation and selection.

parallelism in her translation. In the source text, the author used three positive sentence and one negative sentence to create the parallel structure; however, in Chinese, the translator made a selection by using three negative sentences and one positive sentence to stress that she neglect the improvement of courthouse, but only notice its unfavorable side.

simile. Instead, she simply maintains it by putting it into "如沐春风", just like the wind in spring, which has two meanings, one refers to somebody being immersed in the nice environment and feel pleased

and delighted. The other is educated and edified by noble and virtuous people. The second is accord with the context. Both of rain and wind are used to present Jack's comfortable words. Therefore, “如沐春风” is a functionally equivalent expression for “gentle rain of words” to keep the original flavor faithfully.

4.2 The Cultural Dimension

It is believed that translation is a cross-culture communicating activity, especially for

literary translation, which can be said that the main task of translation is to transmit culture among different nations. Whether a translation could survive in the translational environment is determined by the cultural adaptation and selection the translators made. As indicated by Hu (Hu Gengshen, 2011), “On culture dimension, transformations of adaptive selection ask for translator paying attention to delivery and explanation of cultural implications of two languages.”

(1) Religion

	The source text	The target text
Example 4	Heavenly Fathers, put'em where they belong!” exploded Dr.Finch. “Come here!” (Harper Lee 2015:215)	“我的小祖宗啊 戴在该戴的地方!” 芬奇博士忍无可忍了, “过来!” (张芸2017: 210)

“Heavenly Fathers” means “天父” in Chinese, an application of God in Judaism and Christianity. As New Testament recorded, God is the father of Jesus, and his love is the source of all fatherhood among human beings. In the source text, Doctor Finch is intolerable to Jean Louise's ignorance and tardiness. Therefore, Harper Lee adopts a holy word to express Doctor Finch's helplessness. Christianity and Judaism are widespread in western countries, while in china they haven't formed large scales yet, though gaining

fast development nowadays. Zhang Yun considered eco-environment of target language that most of the Chinese readers are not familiar with culture of the two religion, so she translates it into “小祖宗”, with deep Chinese local color, which not only closes to Chinese culture, but also brings a sense of humor incidentally, fully presenting Doctor Finch's unendurable mood. The readers may feel confused if the word was translated into “天父” directly.

(2) History

	The source text	The target text
Example 5	She despised men and thrived out of their presence. That her son had developed all the latent characteristics of a three-dollar bill escaped her notice—all she knew was that she was glad he lived in Birmingham because he was oppressively devoted to her, which meant that she felt obliged to make an effort to reciprocate which she could not with any spontaneity do. (Harper Lee 2015:28)	简而言之, 她鄙视男人, 却享男人的福。然而她没有注意到, 她的儿子逐渐显现出断袖之癖所有的潜在特质——他只知道, 她很高兴他住在伯明翰, 因为他对她的孝心沉重难当, 她便有义务勉力做出回报, 而那是她无法自觉自愿做到的。(张芸2017 : 29)

The state of Texas once issued 3-dollar-bill, which is rare in the United States. So people used “queer as a three-dollar bill” to describe the weird phenomenon. In the example 5, “A three-dollar bill” was derived from “queer as a three-dollar bill”. Because the word “queer” is pejorative of gay men, later it was used to refer to homosexual. “断袖之癖” is

idiom from Han dynasty referring to affection between emperor and the minister. In order not to wake up Dong Xian, the Han emperor cut off his sleeve which is pressed by Dong Xian. The story later was also used to describe homosexual. Some historical terms are specific to a period of time, some of which are not even understood by

American, let alone Chinese readers. Therefore, Zhang Yun found a corresponding idiom in Chinese

to make it easy for the target readers to understand.

(3) Politics

	The source text	The target text
	"I'm afraid I don't. What is it?"	"我恐怕不知道。那是什么?"
	"Communism."	"乱党。"
Example 6	"Ah—I thought the Communists were all for violent overthrow and that sort of thing." (Harper Lee 2015:174)	"啊——我以为乱党分子全是主张暴力颠覆之类的事儿。"(张芸2017: 177)

In *Go Set A Watchman*, there are some expressions regarded as politically sensitive in China or other countries with different political system. However, for the purpose of successful publication of the novel, it is necessary for the translator to comply with the norms of publication of the target culture. In the example 6, America is a capitalist country, led by the Republican Party and the Democratic Party, while China is a socialist country, led by the Communist Party. The capitalist country America once had Cold war with socialist country the Soviet Union, so some people bore resentment against socialist country led by the Communist Party. However, in China, the mainstream ideology is to support the leadership of the Communist Party of China, because it is a country implementing socialist system. Under such background, facing the translation challenge, Zhang Yun adopted strategy of free translation by translating it into "乱党", making it vague. If the word "Communism" is directly translated into "共产党" in the target text, it is no doubt that the novel cannot be published in the

(1) Amplification

	The source text	The target text
Example 7	Alexandra said, "I've got a list of things for you to get at the Jitney Jungle, Jean Louise. (Harper Lee 2015:151)	亚历山德拉说："我把要在'五分丛林'便利超市买的东西给你列了一张清单，琼·露易丝。"(张芸2017：153)

In the source text of example 7, Alexandra asks Jean Louise to go to Jitney Jungle to buy things according to her list. But it didn't give detailed information about Jitney Jungle, maybe a market, a store, or something else, which may lead the target reader feel confused about it. In order to eliminate ambiguity, Zhang Yun provides specific information

mainland of China, for it violates the mainstream ideology of the target text. Such selection is the result of fully adapting to the translational eco-environment of target text.

4.3 The Communicative Dimension

As is illustrated by Prof. Hu, in communicative dimension, adaptive selection lays emphasis on the realization of communicative intention of the original text in the translated text (Hu Gengshen, 2011). It demands that the translator should not only pay attention to transformation of linguistic information and cultural connotation, but also the aspect of communicative intention. Therefore, translator's adaptive transformation in communicative dimension has a great influence on whether the communicative intention can be realized. In *Go Set A Watchman*, Zhang Yun mainly adopted the method of amplification, annotation and misattribution to obtain communicative purpose.

by adding "便利超市" after "五分丛林". In this way, it is clear that Louise was asked to buy some food or daily necessities, and target readers can understand it smoothly without confusion. In this way, communicative intention is realized by employing translation strategy of amplification.

(2) Annotation

	The source text	The target text
Example 8	Alexandra was talking to her: "I told you. It's something your father brought home from a citizens' council meeting." (Harper Lee 2015:103)	亚历山德拉在同她讲话：“我告诉你。这是你父亲从公民议会的会议上带回来的。”（张芸 2017：104） Notes: 美国民权运动期间，南部地区由地方领袖和企业家组织成立的机构，目的在于抵制废除种族隔离的行动。

Council Meeting is the product of America Civil Rights Movement. In the 1950s, black Americans began to fight against racial discrimination and oppression, and strived for equal rights in politics, economy and society. The white leader and entrepreneur set up the institution of council meeting in order to abolish the segregation and take series of measures to suppress Negro Movement. In order to adapt to the translational eco-environment

of target readers, Zhang Yun not only translate council meeting to “公民议会”, but also add notes providing background information. In this way, target readers who with little knowledge of American history at that time can get a better picture of the novel background. What's more, the intention of cultural communication is realized at the same time.

(3) Misattribution

	The source text	The target text
Example 9	The way you behave sometimes, anybody'd think you were behind the pale. (P144) (Harper Lee 2015:144)	老实讲，有时你的行为会让人觉得你无法无天！（张芸2017：146）

In the source text, Jean Louise operated the mower, waking up her father, and kicked off the motor barefooted, which makes Alexandra terribly annoyed. So she wants to give a lesson to Louise. However, when she argued with Jean Louise, she wanted to say “beyond the pale”, which means unacceptable behavior, but said “behind the pale” mistakenly, confusing “beyond” and “behind”. For purpose of presenting Alexandra's malapropism, Zhang Yun translated “beyond the pale” as “无法无天”, and the wrong expression “behind the pale” as “无法无地”, showing Alexandra's mistake completely and precisely in Chinese. Zhang Yun tried her utmost to let the target readers get the laughing point, and remain the original flavor, realizing the communicative intention.

5. Conclusion

Thanks to Professor Hu Gengshen, the significant translation theory of eco-translatology initially came up, providing new perspective for translation study. The theory believes that

translation is the product of translator's adaptation to the translational eco-environment and adaptive selection of the target text, which justifies the pivotal position of the translator and also takes all the other factors' effect into consideration during the whole process of translation.

With eco-translatology as the theoretical foundation, this thesis was conducted to make a study on Zhang Yun's translation of *Go Set A Watchman*, illustrating how Zhang Yun made adaptation to translational eco-environment and adaptive selection. Firstly, the author analyzed the translator's linguistic and cross-cultural competence and her translation view under eco-translatology, which enables her to make multi-dimensional transformation by adopting specific strategies. Secondly, in case study, multi-dimensional transformation was elaborated, namely, linguistic, cultural and communicative dimension. Examples were presented to verify its feasibility and

applicability of the theory of eco-translatology in analyzing the translation.

However, it should be admitted that certain limitation are existed in this study. Because eco-translatology was proposed before long and less mature, it still needs improvement and development. More comprehensive and profound researches are needed to enrich its application.

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