

# Development and Theoretical Innovation of Cognitive Linguistics and Cognitive Translation

Hui Zhao

Institute of Foreign Languages, Inner Mongolia University of Science and Technology, Baotou, 014010, China

**Abstract:** In the field of translation, the standards and principles of translation have always been the focus and hot topic of our attention. From the perspective of cognitive linguistics, we should look at translation and analyze the development and theoretical innovation of cognitive linguistics and cognitive translation. Based on the functional view of translation and the basic viewpoints of experiential philosophy and cognitive linguistics, the cognitive view of translation is proposed. On the basis of understanding the various meanings expressed in the source text, the translator tries to map them out in the target language, and in the translation, it should try to draw the realistic world and the cognitive world which the author wishes to describe. The enlightenment of cognitive linguistics to translation studies is like an aphorism itself. It takes cognition as a starting point, fully understands and accurately grasps the complex and diverse forms of cognitive linguistics, and processes it through cognitive processing. The conceptual categories and language symbols are used to achieve translation communicative activities. The relationship between cognitive linguistics and cognitive translation is analyzed by using the theories of cognitive semantics, quasi-typicality and basic category, and the research of translation theory innovation is realized from the perspective of cognitive language.

**Keywords:** Cognitive linguistics; Cognitive translation; Cognitive world; Theoretical innovation

## 1. Introduction

In recent ten years, the research of cognitive linguistics has made great progress in theoretical deduction and descriptive analysis. At present, cognitive linguistics has become an important theory of natural language analysis and research. Cognitive linguistics originated in the late 1970s and early 1980s[1]. From the perspective of historical origin, it holds that the study of formal linguistics is narrow in scope and lacks the cognition of the social and communicative functions of language, so it is separated from the research camp of formal linguistics. At the same time, the author puts forward his own theory and method of language and linguistics research. Cognitive linguistics mainly focuses on the study of language as a tool of organization, processing and transmission of information. Therefore, the conceptualization and experimental analysis of linguistic categories are the most important in the field of cognitive linguistics[2].

Contemporary linguistics shows a tendency towards contextualization, and language must be studied in context. If we can agree with this theory, cognitive linguistics can fully reflect the research situation. Firstly, the interaction between language and conceptualization is the focus of cognitive linguistics, which reflects the contextualization of language research[3]. Secondly, by developing the network model of language structure, cognitive linguistics

recovers the position of vocabulary as one of the related structure levels. Thirdly, cognitive linguistics also embodies the academic trend of contemporary linguistics to pay attention to the phenomenon of scattered language by insisting on the applied attributes of language[4]. In detail, some linguistic theories may have made more achievements than cognitive linguistics, but the prominent position of cognitive linguistics lies in its integration of these theories. This feature reveals the fundamental reasons behind the success of cognitive linguistics. Looking back on the past 10 years, the study of cognitive linguistics has made great progress in theoretical deduction and descriptive analysis. It can be said that cognitive linguistics has become an important theory of natural language analysis and research. Here, we want to analyze the development of cognitive linguistics and cognitive translation from the perspective of cognitive linguistics. This paper analyzes the development and theoretical innovation of cognitive linguistics and cognitive translation, and the cognitive view of translation is proposed. On the basis of understanding the various meanings expressed in the source language text, the translator tries to map them out in the target language, and in the translation, it should focus on drawing the realistic and cognitive world that the author wishes to describe, so as to realize the innovation and development of cognitive translation theory from the perspective of cognitive language.

## 2. Theoretical Analysis of Cognitive Linguistics

### 2.1. Subject definition of cognitive linguistics from the perspective of cognitive linguistics

Language is an important component of human cognitive ability. Therefore, the structural characteristics of natural language categorization, the principle of language structure combination, the conceptual interface of syntax and semantics, the experience and experimental background of language use, as well as the relativity and the universality of concepts, have become the main problems of cognitive linguistics. Strictly speaking, there is no single, inflexible theory on these issues that can be completely covered. In this sense, it is better to regard cognitive linguistics as a dynamic theoretical framework than as a single linguistic theory[5]. In other words, the theory of cognitive linguistics is only a linguistic research ideas and perspectives. When cognitive linguistics is regarded as a category, it also has a family similarity structure, which, compared with a single theory, forms many intersecting ways of language research. Although cognitive linguistics has not yet formed a complete theory, it is still possible to carry out various forms of linguistic research within the theoretical framework of cognitive linguistics to explore the universal characteristics of human language[6].

In terms of terminology, "cognitive linguistics" is obviously different from "cognitive linguistics". The former exists as an independent subject form, while the latter is a general term for studying natural language as a psychological phenomenon. "Cognitive Linguistics" is just one of the "Cognitive Linguistics", which can be distinguished from other types of linguistics, so how to establish the subject attribute of Cognitive Linguistics? In short, cognitive linguistics is a discipline that studies language from the perspective of cognitive function. The word "cognition" is very important here. In the face of the external world, "cognition" plays a very important role in the information structure.

One of the most striking features of cognitive linguistics is its attention to the meaning of language. On the whole, cognitive linguistics should have three basic features: (a) In language analysis, semantic analysis is independent. (b) Linguistic meaning is universal. (c) Linguistic meaning is metaphorical.

It can be seen that the definition of cognitive linguistics and the division of research scope have some degree of arbitrariness. From the point of view of academic research, the openness and dynamics of cognitive linguistics in the process of establishing theory greatly increase the attraction of its theory to researchers[7]. Figuratively, cognitive linguistics is like a building with many units, which can attract the attention of researchers with different interests, and they can choose to enter any one of

them according to their own interests. However, this is also theoretically dangerous, as it is easy to lose one side of any unit. Other contemporary theoretical linguistics has produced many theoretical orientations and trends, while cognitive linguistics is a combination of both, and through integration, more internal academic potential than any other contemporary theoretical linguistic framework has been discovered.

### 2.2. Development trend of cognitive linguistics

There is a new trend in the development of linguistics, and grammatical studies tend to be contextualized, and cognitive linguistics reflects a trend of more contextualization than any other theoretical linguistics. The social attribute of communicative language is classified into the context of language, which is closely related to the transformation of the generality of language phylogeny. In fact, since 1985, linguistic studies seem to have closely linked linguistic studies to contextual studies that were interrupted by the rise of generative grammar theory. Those disciplines that were originally on the margins of linguistics are now closely linked to the study of linguistic ontology[8]. By reviewing the development of related research, we can see the important role of cognitive linguistics.

## 3. A Cognitive Approach to Translation Studies

On the basis of the functional view of translation and taking into account the basic viewpoints of experiential philosophy and cognitive linguistics, this paper proposes the cognitive view of translation: translation is a cognitive activity and a psychological transformation between the two languages. It involves complex cognitive processes of bilingual information conversion. At the same time, this kind of cognition is based on the multiple interactions in which the cognitive subject takes part in the background of the real experience. On the basis of understanding the various meanings expressed in the source language, the translator tries to map them out in the target language. In the translation, we should try to draw the realistic world and cognitive world that the author wants to describe.

### 3.1. Relationship between translation and cognitive linguistics

On the one hand, human cognition is based on experience, on the other hand, it is different and creative. Since the translation is based on the experience and cognition of the original text to understand its various meanings, and then use the target language mapping to express it, the translator's subjective role is also self-evident. Since translation is a cognitive activity of human beings, it will inevitably be marked by subjectivity and will inevitably

have a certain degree of creativity. Cognitive linguistics not only emphasizes the experience of cognition, concept, meaning, reasoning and understanding, but also emphasizes the subjective role of human in these processes.

### **3.2. Translation and basic hierarchical categories**

The basic level category is basic and important in cognition, which is mainly determined by four factors: first, perceptual aspect. The basic category has a similar global shape in perception, which can form a single mental image reflecting the whole category, and people can identify the genus of the category as quickly as possible. Second, functional aspects. The basic hierarchical category is the highest level in which people can use similar motion mechanism to deal with the members of the category on it. That is to say, the members belonging to the same category can cause about the same reaction in behavior. Third, verbal communication. Basic hierarchical categories are often expressed in short, simple, commonly used, neutral terms. These words originated early and were first learned by children. Fourth, knowledge organization. Most of human knowledge is organized at the basic level. Cognitive research shows that most of human thinking takes place at the basic level. A typical basic hierarchical category is a tool for classifying specific objects and organisms around them.

## **4. Translation from the Perspective of Cognitive Linguistics**

In the field of translation, the standards and principles of translation have always been the focus of attention and hot topics. From the perspective of cognitive linguistics, this paper analyzes the development and theoretical innovation of cognitive linguistics and cognitive translation. Based on the functional view of translation and the basic viewpoints of experiential philosophy and cognitive linguistics, this paper puts forward the cognitive view of translation.

### **4.1. Semantic Perspective of cognitive linguistics**

The semantic view of cognitive linguistics holds that we can regard the background information related to the judgment of a word meaning as a network system of knowledge, which is embedded into our cultural characteristics, behavior patterns and so on. To be specific, a word can only be understood in the context of the various cognitive structures associated with it. These backgrounds contain a wide range of information. They are human body experience, culture, emotion, civilization, custom, mode of thinking, behavior and imagination that people have accumulated since their birth in the process of understanding and transforming the world.

### **4.2. Different approaches to cognitive world translation**

Translation should try to translate the author and the original works of the two worlds of understanding and description. The cognitive world is formed by cognitive processing on the basis of experience. It is stored in the brain of the cognitive subject. There must be similarities and differences in the cognitive world between the original author and the translator and the reader, which determines the translatability of different texts. It also determines that some information is untranslatable and that different translators have different approaches to the same text. For example, Chinese often has no subject, but in English, as long as it is a sentence (except imperative sentence), there should be subject. In translation, the problem of adding and deleting subject is involved. As to how to achieve the highest standard of translation, more research is done on how to deal with specific words, words, sentences and texts, and how to decode them from the source language to the target language, that is to say, to realize the equivalence between the two languages.

## **5. Conclusions**

From the perspective of cognitive linguistics, this paper analyzes the development and theoretical innovation of cognitive linguistics and cognitive translation, and the cognitive view of translation is proposed on the basis of the functional view of translation and the basic viewpoints of experiential philosophy and cognitive linguistics. On the basis of understanding the various meanings expressed in the source text, the translator tries to map them out in the target language. In the translation, he should try to draw the realistic world and the cognitive world which the author wishes to describe, but in the actual translation process, it should try best to draw a picture of the real world and the cognitive world that the author wishes to describe. In other words, when we understand and express translation materials, we think and study from the perspective of cognitive linguistics from the perspective of cognitive linguistics, and apply the theories of cognitive semantics, quasi-typical and basic categories, etc. Translation is the process of reconstruction from the source language to the cognitive structure of the target language. In the process of translation, the translator needs to pay attention to the various elements of the language, which converge into a whole, and the translator needs to give full play to his subjective initiative. So as to improve the level of cognitive development.

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