

本科生毕业论文（设计）



题目 The Analysis of Economic Classics Translation from
the Perspective of Functionalist Translation Theory—A
Case Study on Smith's The Theory of Moral Sentiments

从功能翻译理论视角评析经济学著作的翻译

——以斯密的《道德情操论》为例

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Abstract

This thesis discusses one selected Chinese translation of *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, the Commercial Press version, from the perspective of functionalist approaches. General description is first made regarding Smith's original work and its Chinese translation, followed by source-text analysis and the translation brief, based on which proper translation strategies are decided. Then the thesis proceeds to comparative case study, in which five types of translation errors in the Commercial Press version are identified, analyzed and improved.

The thesis concludes that economic classics are mainly referential and are usually translated for academic use. In this case, the homologous instrumental translation strategy should be adopted, which emphasizes the degree of source-text originality both pragmatically and rhetorically. Translation errors often results from either translators' miscomprehension of the source-text or their inadequate translation skills. Therefore, it is suggested that initiators of economic translation tasks include both experts in the related subject and translation professionals in the translation group to guarantee the adequacy of the work.

It is worth mentioning that in the current thesis, knowledge about English and Economics are effectively integrated to produce in-depth analysis and enlightening findings, and translation practices and theories are combined to provide meaningful implications. On the one hand, economic classics translation is a specific and newly-developed field of translation practice, which is worth detailed study and would enrich translation theories. On the other, applying translation theory would surely help enhance the quality of economic classics translation.

Key Words: Functionalist Translation Theory; Pragmatic Errors; *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*; Economic Classics Translation

摘 要

本文试图从功能主义翻译理论的角度,分析《道德情操论》的一个中译本(商务印书馆版):首先基于斯密原著和其商务版中译本的基本情况确定翻译策略,然后深入分析案例,查找、整理出翻译错误,做出符合译语文本功能的修正,并针对经济学经典的翻译提出一些建议。

本文得出结论:经济学经典的文本主要具有指称功能,其翻译多为学术研究之用。因此,应针对性地采取一致性工具翻译策略,力图保留源语文本语义和修辞上的原真性。此外,经济学经典中的翻译错误或由译者对原著的误解导致,或是缺乏翻译技巧的后果。为此,建议经济学经典翻译的委托方邀请译作学科领域的行家和翻译学专家共同担纲翻译任务,以保证译语文本发挥其预期的功能。

值得一提的是,本文作者尝试利用英语和经济学双学位的知识进行跨学科的互惠沟通。一方面,对经济学经典翻译这一特殊领域的研究将丰富翻译理论的内容;另一方面,翻译理论的应用能够提升经济学经典译作的质量,为读者带来更好的阅读体验。

关键词: 功能翻译理论; 语义错误; 道德情操论; 经济学著作翻译

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Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Research Background and Research Questions

With globalization and China's reform and opening-up, translation is increasingly functioning as a bridge of communication for world politics, economy, culture, technologies and so forth. Translation practices in different fields often call for interdisciplinary knowledge, which presents more demanding requirements for translators.

The recent 30 years have seen an unprecedented rapid growth of China's economy. The prosperity results from the establishment of a free market. It also greatly benefits from economic classics translation. From Adam Smith's *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* to Samuelson's *Economics*, economic classics translation offers more people better opportunities to learn about advanced economic knowledge, so they could maintain a more penetrating idea of the world.

The author is an economic major and also a frequent reader of economic classics translation. According to my own experience, however, it is not always enjoyable to read a translated economic work. Obscure sentences, ambiguous expressions, strange pauses, and constantly occurred grammar mistakes often hinder my understanding of the text. Sometimes, I even have to refer to the original version for better comprehension. These works are indeed significant, and I do appreciate the translators' efforts. Yet at the same time, translation problems in economics classics require further attention. What are the problems? How can we improve the translation quality? What are the proper techniques or strategies for the translation of economics classics? Such questions remain unanswered.

China's traditional translation theories mostly concern about literary translation. However, with increasing demand for translation in various fields as tourism, international trade, science and technology, Chinese translators and scholars have started to explore new theories and strategies that could better guides translation practices in different fields. Under this circumstance, functionalist translation theory stands out among various translation theories. Its emphasis on the addressee and purpose of the target-text is in accordance with the pragmatic feature of most translation tasks. Besides, it provides clear instructions for translation training, which could help those who are experts in a certain field while beginners in translation.

Therefore, based on functionalist translation theory, this case study serves as a tentative approach to analyze problems in economic classics translation, and further, to present suggestions for improvements and appropriate translation strategies. To be more specific, this thesis endeavors to answer the following questions:

- (i) What are the features of economic classics translation?
- (ii) What kinds of translation errors are frequently presented in economic classics translation? What are the causes for those errors?
- (iii) What are the appropriate translation strategies for the translation of economic classics, and in what standardized procedures should the translation be carried out?

To answer these questions, this thesis hopes to put functionalist translation theory into practice, and to help produce better economic translations that benefit Chinese readers.

1.2 Research Method and Theoretical Framework

Comparative case study is the major approach adopted in the current research. Jin & Nida (1984) states in their book *On Translation* that regardless of how differently translators approach the translation task, “they inevitably depend upon one or more of the of three sets of comparisons: (1) the comparison of translations of different works made at different times in the history of a particular language or culture, (2) a comparison of different translations of the same text, (3) a comparison of responses of receptors in the process of decoding and understanding the text of a translation.” In this thesis, the second comparison would be adopted for case analysis.

Combining the approaches of literature review and comparative case study, this thesis is set within the framework of functionalist translation theory. Discussion of the Chinese translation as the target-text is carried out step-by-step following the standard procedure of functional translation: first, analyze the translation brief and the source-text; second, find out the translation problems and corresponding translation errors in the target-text; third, retranslate according to the chosen strategy to realize the translation functions. The process is demonstrated in the theoretical framework in figure 1.

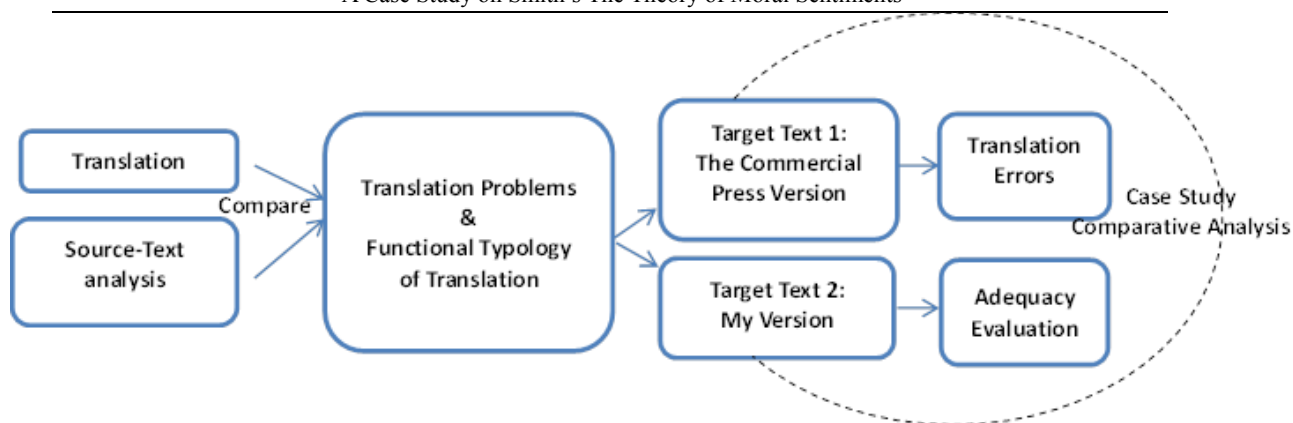


Figure 1 Theoretical Framework

Chapter 2 Literature Review

2.1 Historical Overview of Functionalist Translation Theory

“‘Functionalist’ means focusing on the function or functions of texts and translations.” (Nord, 2001:1) Compared with earlier linguistic approach to translation which bases largely on equivalence, functionalist theory views translation as an intentional interaction, of which the purpose is given the prime importance. It sprung up as a new paradigm, when scholars became increasingly aware of the constant failure of equivalence, to bridge the gap between translation theory and practice.

Many scholars held the idea of functionalism, such as Werner Koller, Peter Newmark and Eugene A. Nida. But it was not until the 1970s that the “German School” scholars formally put forward the functionalist translation theory: Katharina Reiss and functionalist translation criticism, Hans J. Vermeer and the Skopostheorie, Justa Holz – Manttari and the theory of translational action (Nord, 2001:4); their work was later summarized and extended by Christiane Nord.

Early as in 1971, Katharina Reiss introduced a functional category into her work *Possibilities and Limits of Translation Criticism*. Regarded as the starting point for the scholarly analysis of translation in Germany, the book stands still firmly upon an equivalence base (Nord, 2001:9). Yet, for the first time, it explicitly discusses equivalence violations and the possible causes. As an experienced translator, Reiss noticed that when the purpose of the target text differed from that of the original, exceptions might well occur. These cases are referred to as ‘transfers’, where the

functional perspective is given the priority over the normative equivalence (ibid). This point of view is further modified in her collaborative work with Vermeer—*General Foundations of Translation*. Within the framework of Vermeer's general theory of translation, functional equivalence is no longer a normal aim, and only works in special cases where the intended target text is to bear a textual equivalence of the source text (Nord, 2001:10).

Vermeer was trained by Reiss as an interpreter, and had gone much further in trying to mediate between theory and practice. Translation, as he defines, is a form of intentional translational action based on a source text, and guided by the purpose (Vermeer 1987: 29). Departing from normal linguistic approaches, the source is regarded merely as an 'offer of information', while the purpose determined by the addressee plays a dominant role. The theory proposed by Vermeer is called *Skopostheorie*, meaning a theory of purposeful action. As it serves as the foundation for functionalist translation theory, we shall look at it in greater detail later on.

Justa Holz-Mäntt äri, a Finland-based German professional translator translation scholar and teacher, proposed a more radical functionalist theory, the theory of action. In her model, translation is defined as "a complex action designed to achieve a particular purpose" (Nord, 2001: 13). In order not to blur the definition, she even avoids using the term 'translation', and in lieu speak of 'message transmitters' (ibid), which consist of textual material combined with other media such as pictures, sounds and body movements. The role of translators, therefore, is not the expert of translation, but rather the coordinator in the "translational action". We will come back to her theory of action later on to analyze some key concepts that are useful in case study.

Christiane Nord is another influential figure in the history of functionalist translation theory. In her 1997 book, *Translating as a Purposeful Activity—Functionalist Approaches Explained*, she summarizes the functionalist theories proposed by previous scholars, and further raises the principle of "Loyalty" to reduce the prescriptiveness of radical functionalism. According to Nord, loyalty refers to "the interpersonal relationship between the translator, the source-text sender, the target-text addressees and the initiator" (Nord, 2001: 126). It limits the range of justifiable target-text functions for one particular source text and raises the need for a negotiation of the translation assignment between translators and their clients (Nord, 2001: 126). Nord is the first to use English to comb the ideas of functionalist systematically. Her

principle of loyalty turns *Skopostheorie* into an anti-universal model, and the functionalist translation theory a better-knit whole.

2.2 Essentials in Functionalist Translation Theory

2.2.1 The Theory of Action: Roles Played in Translational Interaction

Action is an intentional “change or transition from one state of affairs to another” (Wright 1963:28). When generalized to involve two or more agents, the theory of action becomes a theory of interaction. Furthermore, an interaction is ‘communicative’ if it is produced by one agent, the ‘sender’, and directed towards another agent, the ‘receiver’, with a set of signs. Communicative interactions are carried out in specific situations whose historical and cultural dimensions, in turn, place constraints on the agents’ behavior (Nord, 2001: 17). While within the same culture community, senders and receivers usually share enough common experience to render communication possible, between two different cultures, situational remoteness often calls for an intermediary to enable communication across time and space. That is the role played by translators.

The translation process involves still others roles that are interconnected through a complex network of mutual relation. The initiator starts off the translation process and defines its purpose in translation brief¹. The translator first receives information from both the translation brief and the source-text, and then coordinates to carry out the specific translation task, which should be functional. The source-text producer can be either directly involved in the translation process, if he writes for the need of translation, or indirectly involved if motivated by other factors. In both cases, they offer important ST information. The target-text receiver is the prospective receiver from the text-producer’s view—the addressee of the translation, and is thus a decisive part in translation brief. In some occasions, however, the addressee does not actually use the target-text, thus we have one more concept as the target-text user. (Nord, 2001: 19-24) Taking a closer look at these roles would help us to better understand the translation process, and to detect potential translation problems in advance. Figure 2 shows how roles interact during the translation process.

¹ We do not distinguish between the initiator and the commissioner as in most cases the two roles are played by one agent, for more information please refer to Holz-Manttari (1984:109f).

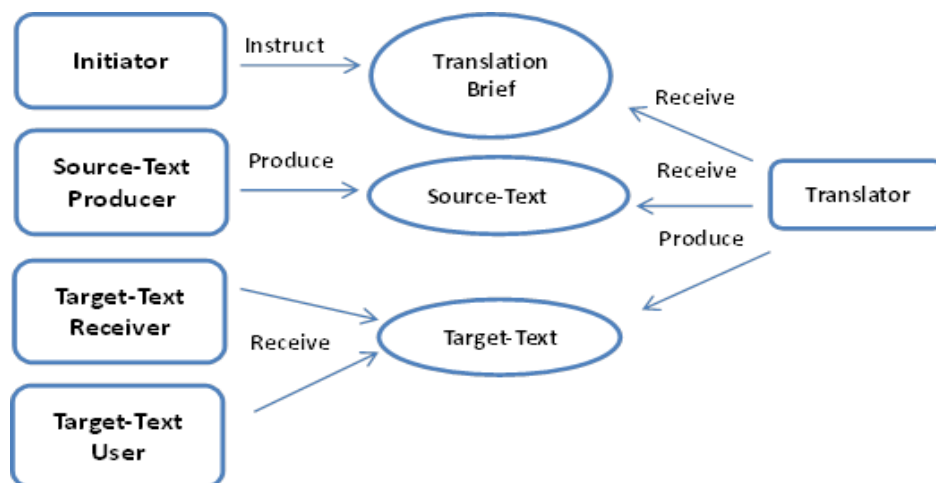


Figure 2: Roles in Translational Interaction

2.2.2 *Skopostheorie*: Skopos, Coherence and Adequacy

Skopos is a Greek word for ‘purpose’, and *Skopostheorie* is the theory that applies the notion of Skopos to translation. (Nord, 2001: 27) Just as intentionality largely defines action, purpose determines the overall translational action. There are three possible kinds of purpose in translation, but the term Skopos only refers to the communicative purpose of the target-text in the target situation (Nord, 2001: 29). Translational actions often allow a variety of Skopoi, and the particular choice made by the translation of a prioritized Skopos is influenced by features of the receiver, or the addressee. To state more explicitly, details about the purpose, explaining the addressees, time, place, occasion and medium are concentrated in translation brief, which determines the function of the target-text.

“A text is made meaningful by its receiver and for its receiver.” (Nord, 2001: 31) This naturally requires ‘intratextual coherence’, which means the receiver should be able to understand it with his cultural backgrounds. Apart from this, the kind of corresponding relationship between the source-text and the target-text also puts forward the demand of ‘intertextual coherence’. It depends both on the translator’s interpretation of the source text and on the translation Skopos, of which word-by-word translation serves as an extreme example.

With the purpose offered by translation brief, we are now able to judge the adequacy of a specific translation. Within the framework of *Skopostheorie*, ‘adequacy’ refers to the qualities of a target text concerning the translation brief—whether it has

fulfilled the intended function. Though emphasizing the dominant power of translation purpose, the concept of equivalence is not totally abandoned, but rather transferred into the 'equal communicative value' between two texts, or between words, phrases, sentences, syntactic structures and so forth (Nord, 2001: 35). The level of equivalence is again determined by the purpose. Figure 3 summarizes general procedures of a translation task according to *Skopostheorie*.

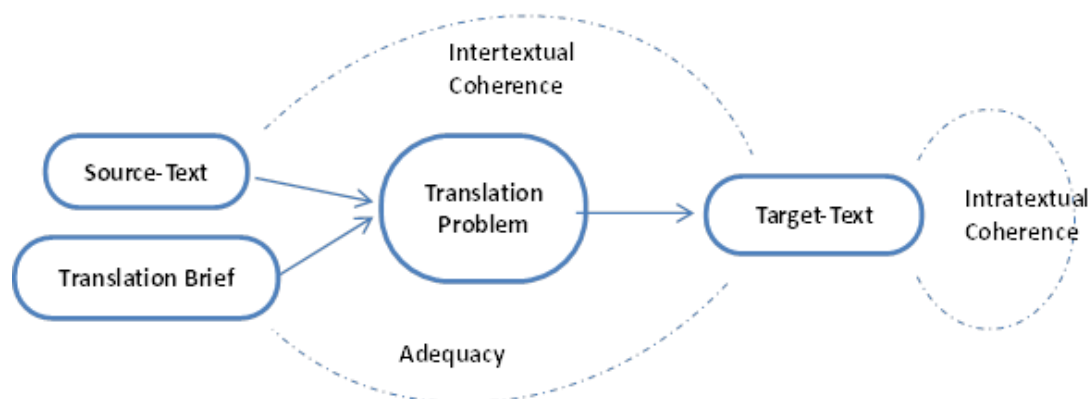


Figure 3: General Procedures of a Translation Task

2.3 Theory Applied in Translation Practice

Practical translation experience gives birth to functionalist theory; the theory, in turn, offers clear guidance and standard for translation practice. In detail, the process could be divided into several logically related parts: first, the translation brief states the intended functions of the target-text and the addressees, while result of source-text analysis provides the basis for decisions about translation feasibility, source-text units that are relevant to a functional translation, and possible translation strategy. Secondary, a comparison of the translation brief with source-text analysis reveals the translation problems. Finally, evaluations are made based on adequacy and inadequacy of the solutions; translation errors checked and corrected. (Nord, 2001:74) Figure 4 shows procedures in translation practice guided by functionalist translation theory.

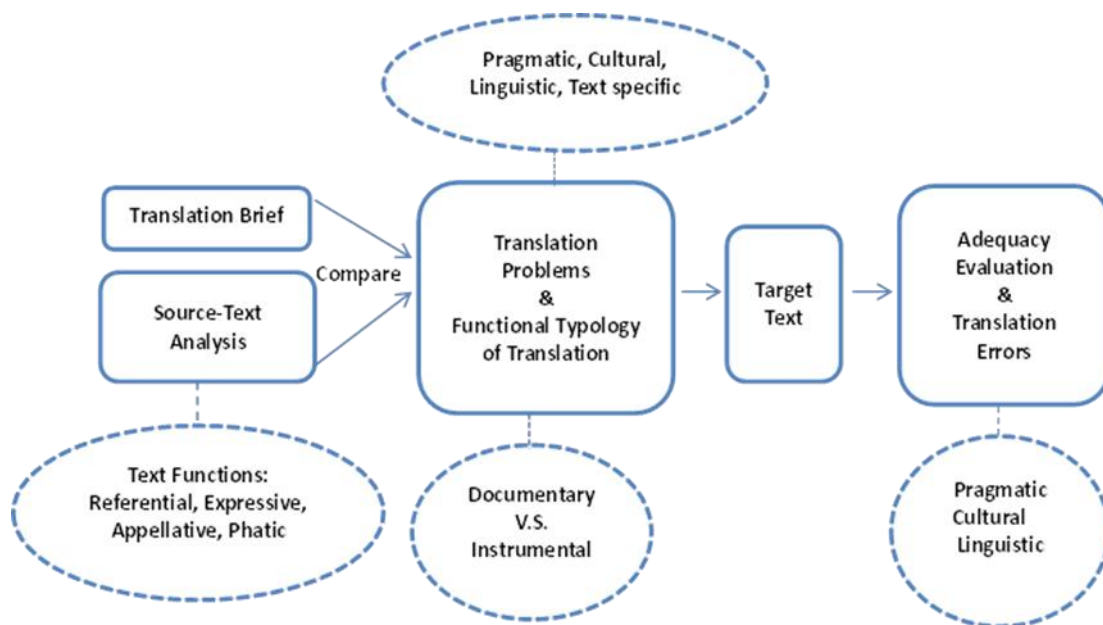


Figure 4: Procedures in Translation Practice

Some explanations should be made regarding classifications as shown in dashed lined circles.

- (i) Text Functions: the referential function of an utterance involves reference to the objects and phenomena of the world; the expressive function refers to the sender's attitude toward the objects and phenomena of the world; the appellative function is directed at the receivers' sensitivity and is designed to induce them to respond in a particular way; the phatic function aims at establishing maintaining or ending contact between sender and receiver. (Nord, 2001: 47-45)
- (ii) Functional Typology of Translation: documentary translation aims at producing in the target language a kind of document of a communicative interaction between a source-culture sender and source-culture audience; instrumental translation aims at producing in the target language an instrument for a new communicative interaction between the source-culture sender and a target-culture audience. (Nord, 2001: 47)
- (iii) Translation Errors: defined as a failure to carry out the instructions implied in the translation brief, they can be further classified into four categories. "Pragmatic translation errors are caused by inadequate solutions to pragmatic translation problems such as a lack of receiver orientation; Cultural translation errors are due to an inadequate decision with regard to

reproduction or adaptation of culture-specific conventions; Linguistic translation errors are caused by an inadequate translation when the focus is no language structures; Text-specific translation errors, which are related to a text-specific translation, can often be evaluated from a functional or pragmatic point of view.” (Nord, 2001: 75,76)

2.4 Research on Economic Classics Translation

Research on Economic Classics Translation includes discussion about economic terminologies (Jin, 2003), comparative analysis of economic works and their Chinese translations (Huang, 2009), often from the perspective of functional equivalence or translation norms. In recent years, some researchers started to apply the functionalist translation theory to economic translations (He, 2010). But these works often remain on a general level, with no detailed case analysis or systematic application of the theory. Moreover, they often focus on the referential function of economic works, disregarding the author's stylistic writing. In this sense, more research needs to be done in this field.

Chapter 3 Case Description of *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* and Its Translation

The Theory of Moral Sentiments (TMS) is a milestone in the history of social sciences. Its author, Adam Smith, the renowned Scottish moral philosopher and pioneer of political economy, referred to the book as his first and most important work. It outlines his view of proper conduct and the institutions and sentiments that make men virtuous (Raphael & Macfie, 1982:2), which altogether form the unintended social order. This subtle and sophisticated book provides the ethical, philosophical, psychological and methodological underpinning to various theories and practices in social sciences. Written originally in English, it is later translated into German, French, Russian, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, and so forth (Raphael & Macfie, 1982:49).

In this chapter, more information about the original text, the selected version for

comparison, and also a brief introduction to the translation work are provided. Proper comprehension of the text on the whole can be crucial when dealing with translation of any specific words, sentences or paragraphs. Particularly, from the perspective of functionalist translation, this chapter fulfills the following functions:

- (i) Forming part of source-text analysis, which helps determine feasibility of the translation assignment, the text units relevant to a functional translation, and the translation strategy we should adopt.
- (ii) Figuring out the translation brief that defines the conditions under which the target text should carry out its particular function.
- (iii) Helping identify possible translation problems in advance.

3.1 The Original Version: Source-Text Functions and Addressees

Smith is most famous for “the invisible hand” that he illustrates in his masterpiece *Wealth of Nations* (WN). During his lifetime, however, Smith was widely known in both Britain and on the continent, not so much for WN, but for his earlier book on ethics, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*. Altogether, Smith produces 6 editions of TMS. The first was published in 1759, during his tenure of the Chair of Moral Philosophy at the University of Glasgow, arising from his lectures to students. In edition 2, Smith made some revisions in response to criticism from philosophically minded friends. The new material in edition 6 was the fruit of long reflection by Smith on his wide knowledge of public affairs and his equally wide reading of history (Raphael & Macfie, 1982:12).

3.1.1 Text Functions

Smith intended, in TMS, to reveal the principles by which people moderate their behaviors, or to be more specific, the adoption by individuals of moral standards by which they judge others, and their adoption of moral standards by which they judge themselves. Similar to other academic works in social sciences, the text function of TMS is mainly referential. Besides, TMS is written in a quite rhetorical manner, in tune with the style accepted for lectures in the mid-eighteenth century. Actually, many of the class attendants were destined for the Church. In order to hold their attention, Smith used rhetorical language and made humorous references to manners of the day

in a way likely to interest young people (Raphael & Macfie, 1982:15). An excerpt from a book review of his time would show how people appreciate the manner Smith adopted in TMS. In *Monthly Review* July 1759, William Rose wrote:

His language is always perspicuous and forcible, and often elegant; his illustrations are beautiful and pertinent; and his manner lively and entertaining. Even the superficial and careless Reader, though incapable of forming a just judgment of our Author's system, and entering into his peculiar notions, will be pleased with his agreeable manner of illustrating his argument, by the frequent appeals he makes to fact and experience...(Nangle, 1749:199)

3.1.2 Addressees

Adam Smith was appointed to the Chair of Moral Philosophy in 1752. His predecessor, Thomas Craigie, fell ill, and Smith was asked to substitute for him with lectures on natural jurisprudence and politics. In view of the speed with which Smith had to prepare his extensive range of teaching at Glasgow, it was inevitable that he should make use of material already available from a series of public lectures which he had delivered in Edinburgh during the years 1748-50 (Raphael & Macfie, 1982:12).

Then in 1759, these lecture notes were made public. First to read TMS were Smith's philosophically minded friends as Hume. Soon it received warm reception among well learned gentlemen and ladies both in England and abroad, including Duke of Argyll, Lord Lyttelton, Horace Walpole, Soame Jenyns, Edmund Burke, Madame de Boufflers, Walther Eckstein, Kant and so forth.

On the whole, the addressees of Smith's *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* are well educated people, who take an interest in urbane philosophy of society. They are usually equipped with a good knowledge of history, literature and philosophy, which may alleviate comprehension difficulties.

3.2 The Chinese Translations: Analysis of Translation Brief

The past three decades have seen a rapid development of social sciences in China. It can be stated, with no exaggeration, that much of the achievements were built upon academic translation, with which Chinese scholars are able to keep abreast of new methodologies and breakthroughs in their intended fields.

Regarded as father of many disciplines in social sciences, Adam Smith is always

a superstar in academic translation. And *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, as his first book, has had more than 20 Chinese versions.

3.2.1 The Commercial Press Version

The text selected for comparison in this thesis is published by The Commercial Press in 1997. It belongs to *The Chinese translation of World Classics Series*², which is known for its academic rigor. Collaboratively translated by Prof. Jiang Ziqiang, Prof. Qin Beiyu, and other two scholars, it is of relatively high quality as the translators are both experts in western economics and political economics. It is worth mentioning that Prof. Jiang, the main translator, is pupil of the famous economist Wang Yanan, under whose influence he developed strong interest in economic history. Throughout his life, Prof. Jiang publishes more than 40 pieces academic work, TMS being the only translation work.

Upon its publication, the Commercial Press version has received warm reception among researchers and scholars. For nearly two decades, it remains an authority and the widely recognized reference for economic history study. Based on the information collected about the book and the series it belongs, the translation brief can be summarized as below:

- (i) Intended text functions: referential (elaborate on the principles by which people moderate their behaviors and form the society);
- (ii) Addressees: researchers and scholars of economics and economic history, people interested in the topic;
- (iii) Time and place of reception: Chinese Mainland, since publication;
- (iv) Medium: book in Chinese;
- (v) Reasons for text production and reception: introducing classical theory into China, providing reference for relevant researches.

This information allows us to infer the following general requirements for the translations:

- (i) In order to achieve the intended functions, the text should conform to text-type and general style conventions and a rather formal register;
- (ii) The text producer should take account of the prospective audience's

² The first publication of this series by The Commercial Press dates back to 1981. Now it includes more than 500 published translation works, covering philosophy, history, economics, linguistics, etc.

culture-specific knowledge presuppositions;

- (iii) The text producer should pay attention to footnotes and other details which may be of academic use.

3.2.2 Our Translation Work

The Translation Workshop of Economic History is founded at Feb. 2011. It is initiated by my academic advisor Prof. Luo Weidong, a much respected scholar of economic history. Prof. Luo's study on Adam Smith traces back to his undergraduate years. So much taken with the observations and theories Smith expresses in *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, he continued the research for his doctoral thesis. Prof. Luo is familiar with different versions of TMS, including the original text, its Japanese translation, and several Chinese translations. During the study, he finds that, as authoritative as the Commercial Press version, severe translation errors still exist. Some of them may even lead to misunderstandings of the whole theory, which is extremely dangerous for scholars who base their research on the translated text.

Upon this reason, the Translation Workshop of Economic History is set up. Its member translators come from diverse backgrounds as linguistics, philosophy, economics, and includes both students (undergraduate, graduate) and professors. The first workshop project is to retranslate and collate TMS, using the Commercial Press version as the major reference. Through close reading and comparison, we pick out translation errors in the Commercial Press version and provide our corrections. The project is launched on Mar. 2011 and completed on Mar. 2013. The collaborative work will soon be published.

3.3 Translation Problems and Strategies

Comparing the source text-in-situation with the target text-in-situation, we can identify the following translation problems, and hence can decide on the general translation strategies.

- (i) Since both the source text and target text are referential, and the target text is mainly for academic use, the homologous instrumental translation should be adopted, with its focus on the degree of ST originality;

- (ii) To carry out the referential function, the receiver must be able to coordinate the message with their model of the particular world involved. As the source-text and target-text addressees possess different sociocultural background, it may require an adjustment of the relationship between explicit and implicit information in the text, and in particular, additional footnotes or textual expansions may be necessary.
- (iii) Apart from the referential function, translators should also take the rhetorical manner of ST into consideration. The difference in culture-specific genre expectations may require an adaptation of the text's form to target culture textual and stylistic conventions.

Chapter 4 Case Study: Identification of Translation Errors and Improvements

4.1 General Description of Translation Errors

Now in this chapter, let us take a close look at the target-text produced by Prof. Jiang and his colleagues. Detailed comparison between the Commercial Press translation and the source text presents 408 translation errors that needs further improvements. According to functional classification of translation errors, the 408 errors belong mainly to pragmatic translation error. They can be further categorized into five groups: misinterpretation of words or phrases, inappropriate omission, grammatical mistakes, imprecise expression, and inadequacy in distinguishing exclusive concept. The improvement of these errors is a collaborative work done by the Translation Workshop of Economic History, in which author of the thesis participates. Table 1 shows the number of cases found in each error type.

Table 1: Number of Cases

Error Type	misinterpretation of words or phrases	inappropriate omission	grammatical mistakes	exclusive concept	imprecise expression
Number	180	46	54	44	84

4.2 Analysis of the Five Types of Errors

In the following part, the five error types will be analyzed one by one. For each type, the selected error cases in the Commercial Press version will be presented, and followed by improvements with appropriate translation strategies.

4.2.1 Misinterpretation of Words or Phrases

This type of translation error occurs when the translator misunderstands a word or a phrase in its context. The word usually possesses more than one meaning, and thus requires the translator to figure out its exact usage according to the whole picture. Misinterpretation of words often makes the target text obscure, as shown in case 1. Sometimes it may even lead to a totally opposite understanding, as shown in case 2.

Case 1:	Source Text	Jiang's Translation
	[I.i.5.3] But we reverence that reserved, that silent and majestic sorrow, which discovers itself only in the swelling of the eyes, in the quivering of the lips and cheeks, and <i>in the distant</i> , but <i>affecting</i> , coldness of the whole behavior.	[I.i.5.3] 但是我们对有节制的悲哀、那种无声而恢弘的悲痛却表示敬意, 这种悲痛只是在红肿的眼睛、颤抖的嘴唇和脸颊以及 <i>隐约的</i> 但是 <i>感人的</i> 全部行为的冷漠中才能发现。

Analysis: Here Smith is talking about the virtues of self-denial and self-government. By bringing down his emotions, the person principally concerned makes it easier for the spectator to sympathize with him. He assumes the coldness to keep people away from his real sorrow, which holds people in awe and veneration. Thus we could see Jiang's version is inaccurate. "*in the distant*" refers to an awful sense of distance, and "affection", according to Oxford English Dictionary (OED), means "producing strong feelings of sadness and sympathy".

Improvement: 但是我们尊敬那种有节制的、无声而庄严的悲伤, 这种悲伤只有在眼睛的红肿中, 在嘴唇和脸颊的颤抖中, 以及整个行为那 *让人感觉疏远的*, 但却 *能激起怜悯* 的冷峻中才能流露出来。

Case 2:	Source Text	Jiang's Translation
	[I.iii.2.1] <i>Nay</i> , it is chiefly from this regard to the sentiments of mankind, that we pursue riches and avoid poverty.	我们追求财富而避免贫困，主要不是出于这种对人类情感的关心。

Analysis: According to OED, the word *nay* as an adverb has many meanings.

A.1.a A word used to express negation, dissent, denial, or refusal, in answer to some statement, question, command, etc. Now arch. or dial.

A.5.a Used to introduce a more correct, precise, or emphatic statement than the one first made.

Jiang's translation has adopted definition 1.a, expressing negation. However, when put into specific context, the error is easily identified.

It is because mankind are disposed to sympathize more entirely with our joy than with our sorrow, that we make parade of our riches, and conceal our poverty. Nothing is so mortifying as to be obliged to expose our distress to the view of the public, and to feel, that though our situation is open to the eyes of all mankind, no mortal conceives for us the half of what we suffer.

In the above text, Smith points out that mankind are more disposed to share our joy rather than sympathize with our sorrow. Poverty is thus considered humiliating since no others can indeed feel the sadness as we do. This asymmetry serves as the hidden motive of social competition. From this point of view, the word *Nay* should adopt definition 5.a.

Improvement: 不止如此，正是主要出于对人类情感的这一考虑，我们才追求财富，避免贫穷。

4.2.2 Inappropriate Omission

This type of error leaves out important information in the source text. Sentiments, the object studied in TMS is quite subtle. To paint the picture, Smith is being picky about the seemingly most worthless detail. And sometimes, those trivialities do make a big difference.

Case 1:	Source Text	Jiang's Translation
	[I.i.3.1] The man who resents the injuries that have been done to me, and observes that I resent them <i>precisely</i> as he does, necessarily approves of my resentment.	[I.i.3.1] 一个对加害于我表示不满，并看到我确实同他一样对此表示愤恨的人，必然赞同我的愤恨。

Analysis: The paragraph which this sentence belongs deals with how people judge the propriety of others' affections. Smith claims that how proper a man's affection is depends on how much we can sympathize with him. We see here a precise correspondence of degree between "how proper" and "how much". Therefore, as an adverb of degree, the word *precisely* is important. Omission in Jiang's translation is inappropriate.

Improvement: 一个对我所受的伤害表示愤恨，并且看到我像他一样具有 *同样程度* 的愤恨的人，必然认可我的愤恨。

Case 2:	Source Text	Jiang's Translation
	[I.i.4.8] and as the <i>reflected</i> passion, which he thus conceives, is much weaker than the original one, it necessarily abates the violence of what he felt before he came into their presence, before he began to recollect in what manner they would be affected by it, and to view his situation in this candid and impartial light.	[I.i.4.8] 并且，因为他作了这样的设想以后，其激情比原来的激情大为减弱，所以在他面对旁观者之后，在他开始想到他们将如何被感动并以公正而无偏见的眼光看待他的处境之后，他所感觉的激烈程度必然会降低。

Analysis: Here the omitted word *reflected* is critical. Smith's theory of sympathy is a process that involves the unremitted interaction between the person principally concerned and the spectator. Like assumptions of faith in game theory, there could be second order or even third order imagination concerning affections. As is exemplified in this sentence, one will voluntarily think of how the impartial spectator views the situation, thus forms a kind of "cooled" and *reflected* passion, which is much weaker than the original passion. Therefore, the word should present its meaning in the target text.

Improvement: 并且, 由于他因此而设想的**反思的**激情要比原初的激情大为减弱, 这种反思的激情必然会缓和——在他设想自己是旁观者、开始回想他们会如何被影响、开始用公正而无偏见的眼光看待自己之前——他所感受到的激烈程度。

4.2.3 Grammatical Mistakes

Grammar mistakes in Jiang's translation are often resulted from carelessness in analyzing sentence structure in the source text. And this may lead to severe consequences as to totally confuse readers.

Case 1:	Source Text	Jiang's Translation
	[I.i.2.6] <i>As</i> the person who is principally interested in any event is pleased with our sympathy, and hurt by the want of it, <i>so</i> we, too, seem to be pleased when we are able to sympathize with him, and to be hurt when we are unable to do so.	[I . i .2.6] 无论怎样, 因为 当事人对我们的同情感到高兴, 而为得不到这种同情感到痛心, 所以 我们在能够同情他时似乎也感到高兴, 同样, 当我们不能这样做时也感到痛心。

Analysis: Here the *as...so...* clause does not indicate causal relationship, but rather an analogy. That a person feels pleasant with our sympathy is not the reason why we would feel pleasant if he sympathize with us. The sentence presents an analogy between two similar phenomena, but does not give an explanation.

Improvement: **正如**每件事情中身与其事的直接当事人总是对我们的同情感到愉悦、对我们的缺乏同情感到痛心**一样**, 我们在能够同情他时也会感到高兴、而不能同情他时**也会**感到悲伤

Case 2:	Source Text	Jiang's Translation
	[I.iii.1.1] Our sympathy with sorrow, though not more real, has been more taken notice of than our sympathy with joy.	[I.iii.1.1]虽然我们对悲伤的同情 不太 真诚, 但是它比我们对快乐的同情 更 引人注目。

Analysis: Here *not more... than...* means that the realness of our sympathy with sorrow is of the same degree or less as the realness of our sympathy with joy, though

it usually attracts more attention. Smith focuses on the relative realness rather than the absolute realness. According to Jiang's translation, our sympathy with sorrow is not real, which is contradictory to Smith's announcements elsewhere.

Improvement: 虽然我们对悲伤的同情不见得会比对快乐的同情 **更为真诚**, 但是它却总是更引人注意。

Case 3:	Source Text	Jiang's Translation
	[I.iii.1.2]The man who skips and dances about <i>with</i> that intemperate and senseless joy which we cannot accompany him in, is the object of our contempt and indignation.	[I.iii.1.2]那个 因为得到我们所不赞同的过分的和毫无意义的快乐而手舞足蹈 的人, 是我们藐视和愤慨的对象。

Analysis: Here the word *with* is an incidental adverbial, meaning the man is feeling that intemperate and senseless joy while skipping and dancing. Jiang's version misinterprets it as indicating a causal relationship, which renders the whole translation wrong.

Improvement: 一个手舞足蹈, 流露出我们 **无法附和的过度和毫无意义的喜悦** 的人, 是我们藐视和义愤的对象。

4.2.4 Exclusive Concept (Concerning Sociocultural Backgrounds)

As is mentioned in chapter 3, different sociocultural backgrounds of the source-text and target-text addresses may give rise to severe translation problems. To avoid consequent translation error, translators should be enough learned and sensitive.

Case 1:	Source Text	Jiang's Translation
	[I.i.1.12] With regard to the future, it is perfectly secure, and in its thoughtlessness and want of foresight, possesses an antidote against fear and anxiety, the great tormentors of the human breast, from which reason and <i>philosophy</i> will, in vain, attempt to defend it, when it grows up to a man.	...以后是完全可以痊愈的, 缺乏思虑和远见就是婴孩免除恐惧和担心的一副良药。但是成人心中的巨大痛苦, 一旦滋长起来却是理性和 哲学 所无法克制的。

Analysis: According to OED, the definition of *philosophy* varies in different ages.

2. That more advanced knowledge or study, to which, in the mediæval universities, the seven liberal arts were recognized as introductory; it included the three branches of natural philosophy, moral philosophy, and metaphysical philosophy, commonly called the three philosophies. Hence the **degree of Doctor of Philosophy**.

3.a. Knowledge of things and their causes, whether practical or theoretical.

In Smith's time, *philosophy* usually adopts definition 3.a. Also, when put into the given context, definition 3.a. makes more sense. Therefore Jiang's translation needs to be corrected.

Improvement: 就以后来说，婴孩是十分安全的，而且它的懵懂无知与缺乏远见让它拥有一副对抗担忧和焦虑这些人心中巨大折磨的良药，不过婴孩长大成人之后，理性和**学识**却不能成功地使它免受折磨之苦。

Case 2:	Source Text	Jiang's Translation
	[II.i.2.4] When we see one man assisted, protected, relieved by another, our <i>sympathy</i> with the joy of the person who receives the benefit serves only to animate our <i>fellow-feeling</i> with his gratitude towards him who bestows it.	[II.i.2.4] 当见到一个人得到别人的帮助、保护和宽慰时，我们对受益者快乐的 同情 ，仅仅有助于激起我们 同情 受益者对使他快乐的人所怀有的感激之情。

Analysis: *Sympathy* is a key word that lies at the center of Smith's theory. It represents the ability of a person to imagine and feel in himself the sentiments of others, though he is not directly involved in the actions that arouse such sentiments. On different occasions, *sympathy* can be shown as joy or sorrow, or to be more specific, proudness, excitement, shame, pity, etc. In daily use, however, it often indicates compassion for people in mischief, thus is usually translated into Chinese as “同情”. This gives rise to pragmatic problems. In Jiang's version, both *sympathy* and *fellow-feeling* are translated as “同情”, which may mislead readers, based on their own sociocultural background, to oversimplify its connotation. Similar errors appear again and again in the translation, and as the word is crucial to comprehension of the whole theory, the consequence can be catastrophic. To avoid such confusion, it is better to think of another counterpart in Chinese.

Improvement: 当看到一个人得到别人的帮助、保护和解救时，我们对受益者快乐的**同情共感**，只会激起我们对受益者对施惠者的感激之情产生**同感**。

4.2.5 Imprecise Expression (Rhetorical Feature)

Being a great rhetorician, Smith puts in a lot of efforts polishing the language. It possesses all the elegance and delicacy of the mid-eighteenth century. To present these rhetorical features in the target-text, translators can never be too careful.

Case 1:	Source Text	Jiang's Translation
[I.i.4.2]	<i>The beauty of a plain, the greatness of a mountain, the ornaments of a building, the expression of a picture, the composition of a discourse, the conduct of a third person, the proportions of different quantities and numbers, the various appearances which the great machine of the universe is perpetually exhibiting, with the secret wheels and springs which produce them;</i>	[I.i.4.2] 美丽的田野，雄伟的山峰，建筑物的装饰，图画的表达方式，论文的结构，第三者的行为，各种数量和数字的比例，宇宙这架大机器以它神秘的齿轮和弹簧不断产生不断展现出来的种种现象；

Analysis: Here the problem is different emphasis. By saying *the beauty of a plain*, for example, Smith puts a stress on *beauty*. In other words, a certain feature of an object is highlighted, rather than the object itself. To present this delicate rhetorical arrangement in Chinese translation, it requires an adjustment of the word order.

Improvement: 田野的美丽，山峰的雄伟，建筑的装饰，画的意境，论文的构思，他人的言行，各种量和数的比例协调，以及宇宙这架大机器以它神秘的齿轮和弹簧产生并不断展现出来的种种现象；

Case 2:	Source Text	Jiang's Translation
[I.i.4.7]	Though they will never be <i>unisons</i> , they may be <i>concords</i> , and this is all that is wanted or required.	[I.i.4.7] 虽然它们决不会 完全协调 ，但是它们可以 和谐一致 ，这就是全部需要或要求之所在。

Analysis: In the paragraph this sentence belongs, Smith talks about how people adjust their sentiments so others could more go along with him. Throughout the paragraph, we see many music-related words, to name a few, beat time to, pitch, flat, natural tone, harmony, and so on. By making an analogy between music and sentiments of mankind, Smith, again, demonstrates the elegance of its language. Taking this rhetorical feature into account, we find Jiang's version barely satisfactory. The nuance between *unisons* and *concord*s is that the former is all of the same pitch while the latter is coordination between different pitches. Therefore, we can improve the translation as follows.

Improvement: 虽然它们决不会 *同音齐唱*, 但是它们可以 *谐音合唱*; 这对于社会交往的需要或要求而言已经足够了。

Chapter 5 Conclusion

5.1 Major Findings and Discussion

To sum up the previous discussion, chapter 4 yields the following findings:

(i) The source-text has mainly the referential function, and is with a distinctive rhetorical feature; its addressee covers philosophers, historians, noblemen and well-educated ladies in the mid-eighteenth century.

(ii) The target-text translation brief announces that the TT be referential, and should aim to elaborate Smith's theory for scholars, researchers and people who take an interest.

(iii) The translation task adopts the homologous instrumental translation strategy which emphasizes ST originality; translators will mainly encounter pragmatic translation problems which may involve certain sociocultural backgrounds, and they should endeavor to reproduce the exact meaning of ST without losing much of its rhetorical style.

Through comparison of the ST and TT translation brief, chapter 4 sets a clear goal and a general strategy for the translation task. Within this framework, chapter 5 digs into the text level to evaluate the adequacy, intertextual coherence and intratextual coherence of TT, which yields the following findings:

(i) The target-text produced by the Commercial Press is inadequate with respect to the translation brief, because it often misrepresents the ST both pragmatically (as shown by error type 1-4) and rhetorically (as shown by error type 5). This directly affects readers' comprehension of Smith's theory, and may even mislead scholars in their research.

(ii) The target-text produced by the Commercial Press possesses intratextual coherence, but lacks intertextual coherence. That means the text itself is understandable, yet some degree of ST originality has been lost.

As is mentioned in chapter 4, the Commercial Press is a pioneer and expert in academic translation. And its version of *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* has long been regarded as the authority. Then here comes the question: what has caused the translation errors and the inadequacy of the TT?

Review the five types of translation errors analyzed in chapter 5, it can be seen

that type 1-3 result from translators' own deviation and inaccuracy in the ST comprehension. Some miscomprehensions are caused by incompetency in the English language, as shown in the 54 grammatical mistakes, and the 3 detailed cases listed in error type 3. Some are due to not enough refined understanding of the context that a specific sentence belongs. To illustrate, a word or a phrase can possess more than one meaning, and an omission can be either proper or improper according to different situations. Here how to translate depends on what function the word or phrase takes in its context. Smith's original work deals with the principle of moral sentiments, which is delicate and subtle in itself. As shown by the cases in error type 1&2, every single word or phrase worth our deliberation, and require translators to constantly go back to the whole theory and see where they echo. Although Prof. Jiang, the translator, is already an expert in economic history, he is still regrettably a "reckless" reader compared to Adam Smith, perhaps the most mindful author ever.

While error type 1-3 take their roots even before the translation procedure begins, type 4&5 occur during the process and are primarily due to the inadequacy in translation skills. Error type 4 considers the translation of exclusive concepts in TMS. Those concepts often give translators a headache as their connotations are closely bonded with a particular sociocultural background, and their comprehension requires readers to call knowledge of the particular world they involved. It is almost sure that a mid-eighteenth century European and a late twentieth century Chinese differ in sociocultural experience. To bridge the gap, therefore, translators rack their brains to find the proper counterpart for a daring and secret transfer. They need to extract the essence and have it transplanted into the target culture without causing ambiguity. That is where the art of translation lies. It should also be highlighted that in TMS exclusive concepts carry much of the intention Smith conveys and they deserve more attention from translators. Error type 5 is mainly concerned with the rhetorical feature of TMS. That the book is a piece of academic work easily leads translators to neglect its literariness, which in fact also constitutes part of the ST originality. Not only does rhetoric marks the unique style of the ST author, but it sometimes go beyond mere decoration to convey an intention or assist comprehension of a certain subject. In other words, to understand and feel the charm of TMS, careful preservation of its rhetorical feature in translation is necessary and desirable.

To wrap up the discussion, the translation errors in TMS result from either

translators' miscomprehension of the source-text or their inadequate translation skills. According to functionalist translation theory, translation should meet the requirement of translation brief, which in this case, ask translators to preserve the highest level of originality of the source-text for academic use. It is in this sense that the deviations in translation are considered improper and are identified as errors. It is also guided by this principle that improvements are made.

5.2 Implications of the Study

Within the framework of functionalist translation theory, this thesis discusses the strategy that should be adopted in translating the economic classic *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, and the translation errors occurred in the Commercial Press version. Furthermore, the case study provides some implications for academic classics translation on the whole.

First, the task of academic classics translation often takes years to finish and following the standard procedure as suggested by functionalist translation theory would help translators keep the broad view when concentrating on texts. To be specific, translation brief sets up a clear goal for translation, mainly its text function, addressee and purpose of production. When combined with source-text analysis, it increases the sensitivity of translators to potential translation problems and helps to figure out the proper translation strategy. During the translation task, translators could constantly go back to this guiding principle to make sure they do not deviate.

Second, economic classics translation usually values source-text originality both pragmatically and rhetorically. That requires translators to establish a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the source-text. Therefore, it is highly recommended that the initiator of economic classics translation tasks (mostly publishers) invite at least one expert in the intended field to join the translation group. Besides, professionals of translation are also needed so that their translation skills can be utilized to guarantee both intertextual and intratextual coherence, and to produce more reader friendly translation work.

5.3 Limitations and Suggestions for Future Research

Due to limited time, this thesis only analyzes 11 selected cases of translation errors, which, though representative, constitutes only a small part of the picture. Also, the discussion is based solely on functionalist translation theory, which has its own limitations.

As for future research, the author suggests that more pieces of economic classics translation work be reviewed and analyzed from a professional translative view, and that more translation theories be applied and tested in academic translation practice. It will surely promote better reader experience as well as the progress in the translation field.

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