

Structure Study of the Translation Reception of Parallelism in Chinese to English Translation: An Exploration based on Grounded Theory

Haopeng Song¹, Yuheng Chen², Zhaoxing Zhou^{1,*}

¹ School of Foreign Studies, Guangxi University of Science and Technology, Liuzhou, Guangxi, 545006, China

² School of Food and Chemical Engineering, Liuzhou Institute of Technology, Liuzhou, Guangxi, 545006, China

* Corresponding author: Zhaoxing Zhou (Email: leaperry@126.com)

Abstract: Translation reception is a necessary path for the development of Chinese literature. In order to provide a clear conceptual framework for understanding translation reception, and to explore the empirical results of audience reactions following rhetorical behaviors, this study took the transformation of parallelism rhetorical devices between Chinese and English languages as research objects, employing the research methodology of grounded theory. The study reveals that the reception can be categorized into three dimensions: cognition, preference, and perceptual. The cognitive dimension refers to whether the audience obtains accurate and precise information and whether the information transmission aligns with the source text, the preference dimension refers to the audience's inclination and the perception dimension refers to the audience's emotional and aesthetic experiences. These dimensions not only reflect the audience's reactions during the process of reading but also provide a qualitative theoretical framework for China's international literature communication with the aspect of translation.

Keywords: Grounded theory, Chinese literature, Translation Reception.

1. Introduction

Translation reception, as a crucial issue in audience research, has not been a new topic. In the process of language conversion, when cultures interact and collide with each other, the handling of rhetoric in the source language becomes inevitable. This is done to achieve the intended rhetorical effects, thereby influencing aspects such as the dissemination of the source culture and discourse power. Therefore, in translation practice, the question arises as to how to consider the practice from which perspective in order to achieve the desired effect and make it easily accessible to readers, i.e., the readers' reception.

Moreover, research participants of translation reception should not be limited only to target language readers but should also be inclined towards professionals who are proficient in both the source and target languages. While it is true that the terminal point of translation works is the target language audience, the works itself still requires editorial scrutiny in order to correct any issues in the translation, making it more consistent with the content, viewpoints, aesthetics, and conceptual awareness intended by the writer of the original text. Compared to native speakers of the target language, individuals proficient in both languages can better understand the textual information and make better judgments about whether the translation has achieved the author's rhetorical intentions or not. Therefore, it is equally important for insiders to conduct research on the reception.

Currently, researches with the analysis of translation reception has been done by some scholars, but there remains several deficiencies: Firstly, the researches on reception tend to focus more on macro-level analysis rather than micro-level. Typically, the analysis are conducted on the entire translated work, constructing small corpus or databases by utilizing star ratings and mining data from book review websites to analyze readers' sentiment scores, thereby evaluating the reception of

overseas translation works. Secondly, the perspective of the reception researches often focus on overseas readers while overlooking the reception by source language readers themselves. This study, however, aims to enhance the dissemination of Chinese culture. By employing grounded theory and conducting a bottom-up approach, it seeks to clarify the content and structure of translation reception in the process of Chinese-to-English language conversion, providing an interpretive framework.

2. Literature Review

Although the translation reception has been a concern for many translators in translation practice, it remains difficult to provide a scientific explanation of its connotation. Scholars and translators have different perspectives on the understanding of translation reception, and there are also different preferences in actual translation practice. He Guihua [1], in his study on the reception of "Ulysses," collected book reviews such as "faithful conveyance of the original language features," "strong literary qualities of the translation," "smoothness and high readability of the translation," and pointed out the importance of avoiding excessive explanation that deprives readers of their thinking autonomy. Liang Hongtao [2], in his study on the English translations of Jia Pingwa's novels, focused on the readers and suggested understanding the readers' reading dynamics, reading psychology, and their value orientations. He also emphasized the need to eliminate culturally unfamiliar information for readers and to use American and British slang as much as possible to convey the original flavor to the readers. In his another article [3], it was mentioned that translators should respect the linguistic and cultural habits and connotations of the target language so as to provide readers in different cultural contexts with appreciation, understanding, and reception.

Wu Yun [4] approached reception from a perspective of

Communication Studies and emphasized the need to understand and respect the audience's "logical consciousness, aesthetic habits, and ideologies." Attention should also be given to "aesthetic differences," and from the audience's perspective, the "reading demands" of the audience should be considered, while recognizing the differences in cognitive abilities and thinking styles between communicators and the audience. Zhang Xiaoxue and Dou Weilin [5] conducted a survey on the reception of English translations of Neologisms and proposed that translators should faithfully convey the content of the original text in a "specific, accurate, and comprehensive" manner. They should consider the "fit with the receiving context," the "imagery, phonetic effects, and memorability of the expression," as well as the "political rationality, style, and tone." Furthermore, lexical innovation, sentence structure innovation, and the establishment of certain formats should also be considered in translation practice. Zhang Xiaoxue [6], through an analysis of the citation situation of English translations of "The Analects" on Google Scholar, analyzed the reception and suggested that translators should understand the readers' reading habits and aesthetic interests in order to achieve a "resonating effect". Li Jie and Wei Jiahai [7] utilized sentiment analysis techniques

to quantitatively analyze the English translation of "Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out." They conducted an empirical investigation on the reception and collected empirical materials that included the successful conveyance of puns and the retention of special expressive effects. In addition, Cai Lijian [8], in discussing the translation of rhetorical devices, suggested that the translation should give a sense of neatness and fluency and should abandon the cumbersome parallelism of the original text. Furthermore, in Cai Lijian [9], it was also mentioned that the aim of translation strategies should be to preserve the effects of the original text as much as possible, including completeness, coherence, rationality, fluency, strength, and aesthetic appeal. According to literature analysis, the reception of translation can be categorized into three dimensions of behavior: behavioral motivation, behavioral methods, and behavioral effects. Behavioral motivation refers to the translator's motivations for adopting specific translation strategies, methods, and techniques during the translation process. Behavioral methods refer to the specific translation techniques employed by translators. Behavioral effects refer to the expected effects of translation as perceived by the audience upon receiving the translated text. The details of the illustration is listed in Table 1:

Table 1. Connotation of Reception

Dimensions	Original description(24)	Researchers
Behavioral motivation	Stronger readability Preserving the stylistic features of the original text Avoiding excessive explanation that deprives readers of the right to think Considering the reading dynamics and psychology of the audience Focusing on readers' value orientation Consciousness of logic, aesthetic habits, and ideology Poetic differences Differences in reading demands, cognitive abilities, and thinking styles Reading habits and aesthetic preferences Respecting the language habits and cultural connotations of the target language reception of contextual relevance Expressiveness, sound effects, and memorability of the representation Political rationality, style, and tone	He Guihua (2022) Liang Hongtao (2021) Zhang Xiaoxue (2019) Liang Hongtao (2020) Zhang Xiaoxue, Dou Weilin (2020) Wu Yun (2022)
Behavioral methods	Incorporating American and British slang, omitting cultural information that is difficult for readers to understand Lexical and syntactic innovations, establishing a certain format Accurate, specific, and comprehensive description	Liang Hongtao (2020) Zhang Wen, Lu Zhihong (2012) Zhang Xiaoxue, Dou Weilin (2020) Liang Hongtao (2021)
Behavioral effects	Successfully conveying puns, retaining special expressive effects Balancing sufficiency and reception Eliciting emotional resonance Enabling appreciation, understanding, and reception Allowing readers to experience Universal human nature, shared emotions Providing a sense of neatness, being catchy Aesthetic appeal, sense of rhythm, strength Smooth translation	Li Jie, Wei Jiahai (2022) Liang Hongtao (2020) Cai Lijian (2022) Cai Lijian (2016) He Guihua (2022)

3. Research Process

Based on the analysis of the literature mentioned above, three dimensions of behavioral response were constructed through a literature-based approach. This study aims to conduct a qualitative research on the translation reception, building upon existing studies. The investigation focused on

participants' translation reception to Chinese parallelism chosen from lyrical, classical prose in English translation. The study employed the "Grounded Theory" research method to explore the constitutive dimensions of the translation reception, providing empirical evidence for the structure of translation reception in the rhetoric of translation studies.

3.1. Research Participants

This study involved 45 readers as research participants, including English teachers, English major students, and translators. Efforts were made to ensure the diversity and comprehensiveness of the interview sample who have the

ability to read English translations. This approach aimed to fully understand the conceptual connotations of readers' translation reception, thus enhancing the integrity and scientific nature of the dimension construction in subsequent research.

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics of Research Participants (N=45)

Variables	Frequency	Proportion
Gender		
Male	19	42.22%
Female	26	57.78%
Major		
English	45	100%

3.2. Research Methodology

This study adopted the Grounded Theory research method. Grounded Theory was proposed by Anselm Strauss and Barney Glaser [10] and is one of the commonly used research methods in qualitative research. Charmaz [11] stresses that its main purpose is to develop theory based on empirical data. Researchers generally do not have theoretical hypotheses at the beginning of the study but instead induce core concepts

directly from raw data, establishing connections between these concepts to form a theory. Corbin [12] summarizes that Grounded Theory has been widely applied in fields, and is increasingly recognized as a qualitative research methodology, including education [13-14], social work [15-16], management [17], and nursing [18]. Rennie D [19] summarized the research approach of Grounded Theory as shown in Figure 1.

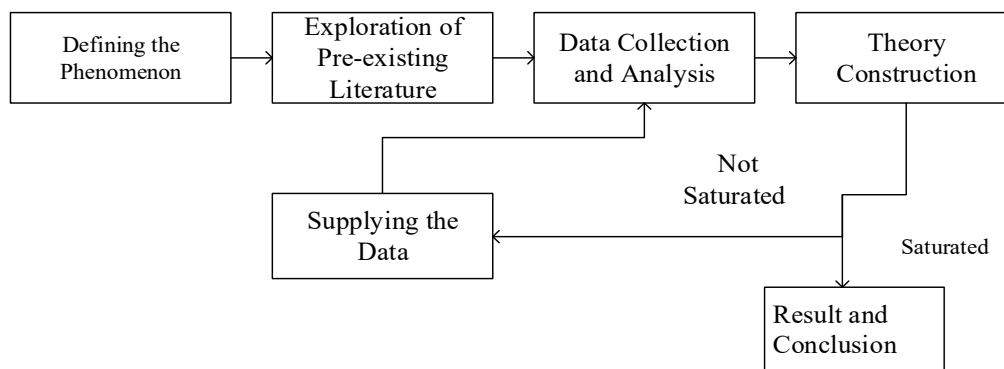


Figure 1. Research process of Grounded Theory

3.3. Semi-structured Interview

Glaser proposed that throughout the use of Grounded Theory, researchers should avoid bringing their personal subjective opinions and interpretations into the study. The analysis of the entire data set requires an open mindset to discover the roots of phenomena, understand the connotations of concepts, and conduct systemic analysis of the research question's data, in order to make the open coding more effective. Semi-structured interviews aim to allow the participants to freely express their thoughts, helping the interviewer gather more comprehensive and extensive raw materials.

Before the semi-structured interviews begin, the interviewer needs to create an interview outline based on the conceptual indicators constructed through the literature-based approach. The interview outline for this study included the following questions: (1) Which translation of the following sentences do you think is good? (2) Why do you prefer this translation? Please describe it as much as possible. (3) In your opinion, what factors may influence the translation reception of parallelism rhetorical devices?

During the semi-structured interviews, the interviewer started with self-introduction and clarified the purpose and significance of the interview. The interview can follow the

interview outline or be adjusted flexibly based on the actual circumstances of the participants to achieve the best interview results and collect more raw materials. What's more, interviewers are required to simultaneously collect data as it helps them to "focus on developing concepts" and "gather further data that flesh out their nascent concepts." [19]

After the interviews were completed, Researchers promptly collected and organized the raw materials obtained from the interviews. The interview data then was sequentially coded with numbers from 01 to 45 according to the order of the participants. The obtained raw interview data were summarized and coded, and analysis of them were conducted to facilitate subsequent research of the data. This process will verify the usability of the interview samples and the relevance of the induced conceptual categories. It will serve as the raw material for the Grounded Theory research.

3.4. Open Coding

Open coding aims to organize, categorize, and code the raw interview materials. During the process of integrating the raw materials, the coding personnel approached the data with an open mindset, combine and categorize them in new ways, assigning new concepts to the categories based on their understanding. In this study, the 48 raw interviewer's raw

materials were decomposed, and in conjunction with the conceptual framework derived from the literature-based research, a total of 87 original event records were organized and conceptually classified. Given that the semi-structured interview outline was the same and the range of rhetorical

objects studied was relatively fixed, most of the collected raw materials exhibited similarities. Therefore, the research team continuously integrated and refined the raw materials, resulting in 26 concepts and 14 categories that encompassed the 48 raw interview materials, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Open Coding

Original Event Record (Sample Code)	a:Concept (26)	A:Category (14)
...not confined to the wording of the original text, and precise.	a1: Flexible use of words	A1: Flexibility and precision
...impressive use of progressive tense.	a2: Reflection of tense	
...rich and diverse vocabulary.	a3: Diverse vocabulary	A2: Variety and vividness
...many words used are vivid and lifelike.	a4: Vivid description	
...prefer translations with more varied sentence structures.	a5: Varied sentence structures	
...inverted parallelism, closely matching the structure.	a6: Same structure	A3: Equivalent form
...reproduces the parallelism in the Chinese text.	a7: Same sentence structure	
...meaning closely aligns with the original.	a8: Similar meaning	A4: Faithfulness of meaning
...strong literary style in sentence structure and word choice.	a9: Corresponding literary style	A5: Reproduction of style
...plain language, and the translation reflects the same.	a10: Corresponding plain style	
...some translations are more colloquial, matching the original style.	a11: Corresponding colloquial style	
...reflects the repetition of rhyme found in the original text.	a12: Rhyme representation	A6: Reproduction of rhyme
...not very interested in reading long passages.	a13: Reading preference	A7: Audience preference
...breaks the original format, more in line with English reading habits.	a14: Reading habits	A14: Reading habits
...skillfully uses authentic English	a15: Language habits	
...aligned with the audience's worldview, values, and ideology.	a16: Ideology	A9: Ideological alignment
...clear and concise, gets the point across at a glance.	a17: Concise expression	A10: Audience understanding
...simple language, doesn't require much effort to read.	a18: Simple language	
...strong sense of visual imagery.	a19: Visual imagery	A11: Visual beauty
...words and parallel structures create a sense of aesthetics.	a20: Aesthetic appeal	
...regular repetition in rhythm, reads smoothly.	a21: Rhythmic beauty	A12: Phonetic beauty
...expresses rhyme, with ups and downs in reading.	a22: Melodic beauty	
...translation includes many adverbs, captures the tone of the original.	a23: Moderate intensity	A13: Emotional resonance
...resonates with one's own emotions.	a24: Emotional resonance	
...satisfied with the atmospheric feeling created by the translation, has artistic conception.	a25: Sense of artistic conception	
...inverted sentences attract attention, and are more sophisticated.	a26: Attention-grabbing	A14: Attention perception

3.5. Axial Coding

Axial coding builds connections among the attributes of the common concepts identified in the 1st-level coding. It identifies connecting points to form an organic whole for each

concept and summarizes different categories while ensuring logical rigor and exclusivity in categorization. After the 1st-level coding, this study identified 6 sub-categories and 3 main categories, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Axial Coding

Open coding extracted categories (14)	Selective coding extracted categories	
	B Sub-category (7)	C Main category (3)
A1: Flexibility and precision	B1: Word and sentence form	C1: Cognitive
A2: Variety and vividness		
A3: Equivalent form		
A4: Faithfulness of meaning	B2: Faithfulness to the original text	C1: Cognitive
A5: Reproduction of style		
A6: Reproduction of rhyme		
A7: Audience preference		
A8: Audience habits	B3: Readers' habits	C2: Preference
A9: Ideology	B4: Values and beliefs	
A10: Audience comprehension	B5: Comprehension barriers	C3: Perceptual
A11: Visual aesthetics	B6: Aesthetic value	
A12: Vocal aesthetics	B7: Emotional value	
A13: Emotional experience		
A14: Attention experience		

3.6. Selective coding

Selective coding involves clarifying the relationship between categories and identifying the "core category" of the research. This step requires researchers to code selectively to enrich core variable [21]. The purpose of this coding is to describe the "core category" and establish the main storyline based on the existing categories and their hierarchical relationships. The steps involved in selective coding are as follows: 1) Clearly define the main storyline of the research; 2) Describe the attributes and dimensions of the main and sub-categories; 3) Validate and refine the concepts by examining the categories; 4) Identify the "core category"; 5) Establish the connections between the "core category" and other categories.

Based on Grounded Theory and systematic analysis, this study identified "translation reception" as the "core category" for selective coding. The main storyline revolving around this core category could be summarized as follows: The audience's response to rhetorical subjects through rhetorical actions is referred to as translation reception. Since translation reception is a result of the interaction between the rhetorical subject and the audience, it fully reflects the audience's cognition, preference, and perception of the translated version.

3.7. Theoretical Model Saturation Experiment

In the theoretical model saturation experiment, after summarizing the first-level coding and second-level coding, the relationships between concepts and categories were established. These relationships were conceptually processed and compared repeatedly with previous literature and expert interviews to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the identified concepts. Through iterative comparisons and discussions, no new dimensions or concepts were found, indicating that theoretical and conceptual saturation was achieved.

4. Research Result

The three main categories of cognition, preference, and perception have significant explanatory power. Specifically, the cognitive dimension refers to whether the audience obtains accurate and precise information and whether the

information transmission aligns with the source text, ultimately achieving consistency with readers of the source language. The preference dimension refers to the audience's inclination towards the rhetorical object based on their understanding inertia, reception preferences, cultural habits, and thinking habits. The perception dimension refers to the audience's emotional and aesthetic experiences when encountering the rhetorical object, focusing on obtaining a psychologically immersive and perceptually satisfying experience similar to that of readers of the source language. This forms the qualitative theoretical framework as depicted in Figure 2.

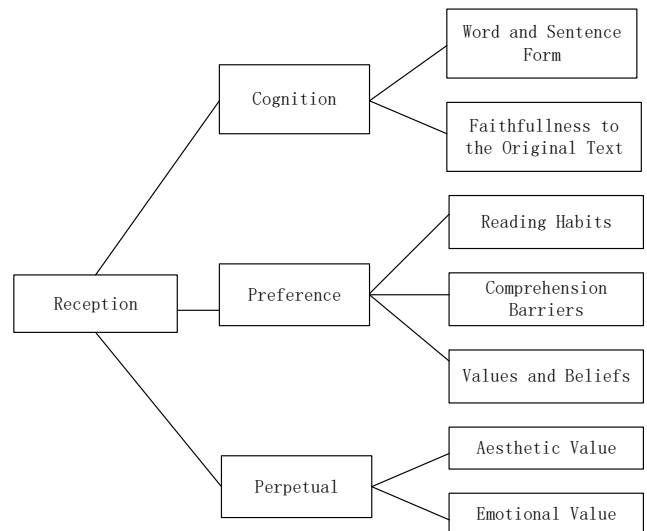


Figure 2. Theoretical Framework of Reception

5. Conclusion

This study has several limitations and potential for future research. Firstly, due to the limited availability of relevant literature and the requirement for bilingual proficiency in survey interviews, the breadth of original materials accumulated was relatively insufficient. Additionally, the sample size of Chinese lyrical prose translated into foreign languages was limited, which restricted this research to exploring translation receptions from Chinese audiences proficient in both Chinese and English. Therefore, future

research can be expanded in two aspects: Firstly, with the circulation of a large number of translations into English-speaking countries, it will be more persuasive to accumulate first-hand translation receptions from native English readers through multiple translations and perspectives, combined with the comparison with Chinese native readers. Secondly, data analysis software can be utilized to further explore and analyze the interview data, examining the weight and positive/negative impacts of different dimensions on audience translation receptions.

It is hoped that this study, through exploring the translation receptions of audiences to the translated parallelism rhetorical device in English-translated lyrical prose, can provide guidance to translators in the process of translation practice, promoting the communication of Chinese culture effectively. By considering the dimensions of cognition, preference, and perception in translation reception from the perspective of audience responses, this research contributes to the field of rhetoric and facilitates better communication between China and the international community.

Acknowledgment

The research is supported by "Innovation Project of Guangxi University of Science and Technology Graduate Education (GKYC202366)"

References

- [1] He Guihua. "A Study on the Online Reader Reception of the Jin Di Translation of 'Ulysses'." *Shanghai Translation*, 2022, 162(01): 88-94.
- [2] Liang Hongtao. "The English Translation and Reception Study of Jia Pingwa's Novels (2010-2020)." *Fiction Review*, 2021, 220(04): 164-170.
- [3] Liang Hongtao. "A Study on the Overseas Reception Validity of Jia Pingwa's 'Happy' English Translation." *Journal of Xi'an International Studies University*, 2020, 28(03): 88-92. B. Smith, "An approach to graphs of linear forms (Unpublished work style)," unpublished.
- [4] Wu Yun. "The Future Orientation of International Communication Capacity Building and Translation Studies Development." *Journal of Shanghai Jiao Tong University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, 2022, 30(01): 12-22.
- [5] Zhang Xiaoxue, Dou Weilin. "Research on the Effectiveness and Strategies of English Translation of Chinese Neologisms from the Perspective of 'Translation Persuasion Theory': A Case Study of the Acceptance Survey of a Chinese Neologism Translation." *Shanghai Translation*, 2020, 150(01): 76-81. C. J. Kaufman, Rocky Mountain Research Lab., Boulder, CO, private communication, May 1995.
- [6] Zhang Xiaoxue. "Analysis of the Reception Effect of English Translations of 'The Analects' from the Perspective of 'Translation Persuasion Theory'—Based on Google Scholar Citations." *Publishing Research*, 2019, 328(03): 70-76+95.
- [7] Li Jie, Wei Jiahai. "A Study on the Overseas Reception of the English Translation of 'Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out' Based on Online Book Reviews." *Journal of PLA Foreign Languages Institute*, 2022, 45(03): 144-151.
- [8] Cai Lijian. "Handling Chinese Literary Rhetoric in Translation." *Chinese Translators Journal*, 2022, 43(01): 181-186.
- [9] Cai Lijian. "On the Selection of Words in Translation." *Chinese Translators Journal*, 2016, 37(01): 117-120.
- [10] GLASER B, STRAUSS A L. The discovery of grounded theory: strategy for qualitative research[J]. *Nursing Research*, 1967, 17(4):377-380.
- [11] Charmaz, K. *Constructing Grounded Theory: A Practical Guide Through Qualitative Analysis* [M]. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. 2006.
- [12] Corbin J. Grounded Theory [J]. *Journal of Positive Psychology*. 2017(3).
- [13] Deesha Chadha & Klaus Hellgardt (2023) A case of conceptualisation: using a grounded theory approach to further explore how professionals define engineering judgement for use in engineering education, *European Journal of Engineering Education*.
- [14] John-Paul Riordan, Lynn Revell, Bob Bowie, Mary Woolley, Sabina Hulbert & Caroline Thomas (2021) Understanding and explaining pedagogical problem solving: a video-based grounded theory study of classroom pedagogy, *Research in Science & Technological Education*.
- [15] Denise Wilson, Alayne Mikahere-Hall & Juanita Sherwood (2022) Using indigenous kaupapa Māori research methodology with constructivist grounded theory: generating a theoretical explanation of indigenous women's realities, *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 25:3, 375-390.
- [16] Ayón, C., J. Messing, M. Gurrola, and D. Valencia-Garcia. 2017. The oppression of Latina mothers: Experiences of exploitation, violence, marginalization, cultural imperialism, and powerlessness in their everyday lives. *Violence against Women* 24 (8):879–900.
- [17] Chametzky, B. (2016) Coding in Classic Grounded Theory: I've Done an Interview; Now What?. *Sociology Mind*, 6, 163-172. doi:10.4236/sm.2016.64014.
- [18] Yvonne Laird, Samantha Fawcner & Ailsa Niven (2018) A grounded theory of how social support influences physical activity in adolescent girls, *International Journal of Qualitative Studies on Health and Well-being*, 13:1.
- [19] Rennie D. Grounded Theory Methodology [J]. *Encyclopedia of Critical Psychology*, 1998(1): 101-119. Letter Symbols for Quantities, ANSI Standard Y10.5-1968.
- [20] Glaser B G. *Doing Grounded Theory: Issues and Discussions* [M]. Mill Valley, CA: Sociology Press, 1998: 168-216.
- [21] Kathy Charmaz & Robert Thornberg (2021) The pursuit of quality in grounded theory, *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 18:3, 305-327.