



## EXPLORING TRANSLATION PROCESSES: THE ROLE OF TEXT TYPE, TRANSLATOR COMPETENCE, AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN TRANSLATION STRATEGY SELECTION

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### **Abstract:**

This study investigates the factors that influence the selection of translation strategies during the translation process. By implementing a think-aloud protocol and conducting interviews with university students varying in translation experience, the author examines the role of text type, translator competence, and cultural differences in translation strategy selection. The results indicate that text type significantly impacts strategy choice, with expressive texts tending towards free translation and informative texts favoring a more literal approach. Additionally, translator competence, particularly experience and knowledge, was found to play a crucial role in the adoption of appropriate translation strategies. Finally, cultural factors, including culture-specific elements and the balance between source and target cultures, were also identified as significant influences on translation strategy selection. Overall, this study sheds light on the complex interplay of factors that guide translators in their decision-making processes.

**Keywords:** translation process; translation strategy; triangulation approach

### **1. Introduction**

This study investigates translation processes by using think-aloud protocols and interviews with university students of varying translation experience. The research focuses on how text type, translator competence, and cultural factors influence the selection of translation strategies. Informative and expressive texts from *The Analects of Confucius* and *the Report on the Work of the Government* (2015) were translated by participants. The data suggests that text type and translator competence significantly influence translation strategy selection. Informative texts tend to favor literal translation, while expressive texts often necessitate free translation. More experienced translators demonstrate superior strategy selection and cultural awareness compared to less experienced ones. Cultural differences also play a crucial role in translation,

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with participants employing strategies such as linguistic analysis, searching for equivalents, and explicitation to handle culture-loaded words.

## 2. Research Methodology

### 2.1 Research Methods

To study the translation process, the method of think-aloud protocol was adopted, a vital technique for gathering data on cognitive processes (Jääskeläinen, 2011, pp. 96-103). To ensure the credibility of the think-aloud data, this research adopted a triangulation approach, which also involved conducting interviews as a complementary research method.

The think-aloud protocol entails participants verbally reporting their immediate thoughts concurrently while performing a translation task. This approach provides insightful glimpses into translation processes, enabling researchers to describe and analyze the unfolding events. Nevertheless, some scholars dispute this method, claiming that think-aloud data is subjective, fragmented, and lacks structure, hence inadequate in capturing translators' cognitive processes. To tackle this issue, an additional approach was utilized to authenticate the think-aloud data.

Interviews were used as an alternative means to extract vital information from participants (Edley & Litosseliti, 2010, p. 176). A notable advantage of interviews is that they empower researchers to inquire directly about participants' perspectives on crucial topics (Saldanha & O'Brien, 2014, p. 169). While interviews resemble verbal reports, they prove more potent as participants might not consistently articulate their decision-making rationale during think-aloud sessions. As a result, this method can either support or refute the findings derived from think-aloud protocols.

### 2.2 Research Participants

To guarantee the integrity and credibility of the findings, the author meticulously selected fifteen participants for the experimental study, all of whom were enrolled in universities. This cohort comprised five senior undergraduates in their final year, five first-year graduate students, and five advanced graduate students. However, owing to resource constraints, recruiting experienced professional translators proved to be a daunting task. Consequently, the author categorized the participants into three distinct groups predicated on their translation expertise, with the selection criteria incorporating academic achievements to ensure a comparable level of linguistic competence and translational skills across the board.

Remarkably, five of the senior graduate students boasted practical experience as intern translators, having contributed to the translation efforts of publishing houses, magazines, and translation agencies, amassing a cumulative word count exceeding thirty thousand. Hence, they were duly designated as "professional translators", all sharing native Chinese proficiency coupled with a high degree of English fluency.

Participants were thoroughly apprised of the study's intricacies, including the recording of their performances and vocalizations. They were reassured that their anonymity would be preserved, with no identifiable personal information divulged in any academic publications featuring excerpts from their think-aloud protocols. Furthermore, they were briefed on the

research's potential contributions sans the disclosure of its specific objectives. These stipulations were explicitly outlined in the participant instructions, which emphasized the value of their contributions to advancing our understanding of translation processes.

This experiment is designed to investigate the cognitive processes during Chinese-English translation. For this purpose, I would like to know what you are thinking when you are translating the following texts.

Moreover, prior to embarking on the study, comprehensive guidelines will be imparted to the fifteen participants to guarantee their comprehension of the “think-aloud” approach and the essence of the information they need to verbalize. Elucidating the thoughts and details that participants are obligated to express is paramount, as ambiguity could trigger lengthy silences, potentially compromising data integrity or overlooking spontaneous reflections. Consequently, participants must comprehend that throughout the experimentation, they are mandated to vocalize every fleeting thought that they would ordinarily keep internalized. Furthermore, to circumvent complexities during data appraisal, it is imperative to underscore that the experimental verbalizations—pertaining to the expression of thoughts, as opposed to the rendition of texts—must be conducted in Mandarin Chinese.

### 2.3 Source Text

In accordance with O'Brien's perspective, the essence of source texts chosen for translation research is crucial to the study's design. She highlights the need to evaluate four pivotal aspects during selection: relevance to participants, degree of specialization or generality, exhibition of distinct linguistic traits, and the level of challenge posed (2015). Guided by these principles, two diverse Chinese texts were meticulously picked, each tailored to avoid being overly simplistic or complex. Overly intricate texts may deter participants, leading to half-hearted efforts devoid of logical rigor, thereby compromising translation quality and research integrity. Conversely, overly simple texts fail to discern the disparities in problem-solving capabilities among participants.

The texts for this investigation stem from two distinct genres: the expressive and the informative. While informative texts prioritize content dissemination, underlining their commitment to conveying facts, figures, or data (Reiss, 2000/2014, p. 25), expressive texts embody the author's sentiments and attitudes towards their subject matter, with the form being paramount (Liu & Xu, 2015, p. 115; Reiss, 2000/2014, p. 25). This dual selection aims to delve into whether text type influences information processing, choice of translation units, and translation strategies, and, if so, the extent of these impacts.

The sampled texts, shown below, include three solitary sentences excerpted from *The Analects of Confucius* and a paragraph from the *Report on the Work of the Government* (2015), exemplifying the contrast between expressive and informative styles.

Source Text 1 :

子曰：仁远乎哉？我欲仁，斯仁至矣。（《论语·述而》）

[The Master said, “Is benevolence really far away? I want to be benevolent, and then benevolence is at hand”.]

Source Text 2 :

子曰：居上不宽，为礼不敬，临丧不哀，吾何以观之哉？（《论语·八佾》）

[The Master said, "If one occupies a high position but is not magnanimous, performs rituals without reverence, and faces mourning without sorrow, how can I bear to witness it?"]

Source Text 3 :

子曰：为政以德，譬如北辰，居其所而群星共之。（《论语·为政》）

[The Master said, "Governing with morality is like the Northern Star: it stays in its place while all the other stars revolve around it."]

Source Text 4 :

大力调整产业结构。着力培育新的增长点，促进服务业加快发展，支持发展移动互联网、集成电路、高端装备制造、新能源汽车等战略性新兴产业，互联网金融异军突起，电子商务、物流快递等新业态快速成长，众多“创客”脱颖而出，文化创意产业蓬勃发展。同时，继续化解过剩产能，钢铁、水泥等 15 个重点行业淘汰落后产能年度任务如期完成。加强雾霾治理，淘汰黄标车和老旧车指标超额完成。

[Official English Translation: We channeled great energy into making adjustments in the structure of industry. We focused on fostering new areas of growth by encouraging the service sector to develop more quickly, and supporting the development of strategic emerging industries, including the mobile Internet industry, the integrated circuits industry, high-end equipment manufacturing, and the new-energy vehicles industry. Internet-based finance rose swiftly to prominence. E-commerce, logistics, express delivery services and other emerging businesses developed rapidly. We have seen creators coming thick and fast, and the cultural and creative industries have been developing with great vitality.]

When the texts were selected, a preliminary test involving the researcher and an additional participant was undertaken. This pilot experiment aimed to gain familiarity with the task's requirements and evaluate the suitability of the texts for the subsequent experiment. It was imperative to understand the potential challenges the subjects might face during the task, particularly instances where extended contemplation would be necessary, causing a temporary cessation of verbalization until a resolution was reached. Given that such intervals can naturally span a few seconds, participants were not compelled to maintain continuous verbalization.

### 3. Analyzing the Adoption of Translation Strategies

Translation, as Kaiser-Cooke emphasized in 1994, constitutes a problem-solving process, stating that "*all translations are problem-solving activities*" (p.137). Problem-solving encompasses a wide range of cognitive operations, spanning from the recognition of an issue to its resolution. This process comprises five distinct phases: problem identification, problem analysis, referencing

relevant information, hypothesis formulation, and hypothesis testing. The latter two stages are collectively known as the decision-making process.

In the context of translation, problem-solving primarily involves identifying appropriate translation strategies. Translation extends beyond a mere word-for-word linguistic conversion; it demands not only the conveyance of meaning but also adherence to the norms and cultural standards of the target language. To accomplish this, careful selection of translation strategies is imperative.

Hence, a pertinent inquiry arises: what constitutes a translation strategy? Lawrence Venuti broadly categorizes translation strategies into foreignizing and domesticating. More specifically, as Lörcher defines, translation strategies constitute “*a potentially conscious procedure for solving a problem encountered by an individual when translating a text segment from one language to another*” (1991, p.76).

### **3.1 The Influence of Text Type**

The functions of texts vary depending on their intended purposes, and thus, it is unavoidable that the text type will impact the translation process. In this section, the author first outlines the diverse functions texts are expected to fulfill, followed by a discussion on how the text type affects the choice of translation strategies.

#### **3.1.1 The Functions of Language and Text Types**

The existence of different text types, which stem from the varying functions performed by languages, lays the groundwork for the emergence of Text Typology (Liu & Xu, 2015, p. 114). Among functional linguistic theories, the three-fold categorization of language functions proposed by German psychologist Karl Bühler stands out as particularly influential and visionary. In 1934, Bühler introduced the Orgagon Model in his *Theory of Language: The Representational Function of Language*, highlighting four key elements: sign, context, speaker, and addressee. Bühler postulated that the sign, which can be equated with language, relates to the other three elements through its functions, thereby defining the functions of language. Consequently, he identified three primary functions of language: informative, expressive, and appellative.

Inspired by Bühler’s framework, Reiss developed the Text Typology, connecting these three functions to specific text types or communication contexts (Munday, 2005, p.72). She categorized text types as informative, expressive, or operative, and outlined translation strategies tailored to each type. Likewise, Peter Newmark, drawing from Bühler’s functional theory of language, identified the informative, expressive, and vocative functions of language, further distinguishing three primary text type categories.

The primary objective of determining a text’s predominant function or its associated text type is to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the source text. This allows for the accurate transfer of information from the source text to the target language, ensuring an equivalent effect. This means achieving “*the same effect (or one as close as possible) on the readership of the translation as was obtained on the readership of the original*” (Newmark, 1988, p. 48). To attain

this equivalent effect, translation strategies must be carefully selected based on the text type being translated.

### 3.1.2 Selection of Translation Strategies in Accordance with the Text Type

The style of source texts significantly impacts translators' choices of translation strategies. The stylistic attributes inherent in source texts must be accurately reflected in the target texts. As Reiss observes, the three functions of language identified by Karl Bühler (1990, p. 28)—representation, expression, and appeal—are not uniformly present in every text. Indeed, these functions often coexist and intersect within the same textual context. Consequently, the predominant function of a text dictates the primary translation strategies adopted.

In literary works, where 'expression' is the prevalent function, an artistic and imaginative rendition is anticipated. Hence, free translation strategies may be favored. Literary works often encompass profound cultural elements and can be challenging to retain their original form, necessitating cultural compensation and elucidation. This justifies the appropriateness of adopting a free translation approach. Evidence from think-aloud protocols reveals that all fifteen participants, both novice and experienced, employed free translation techniques while translating *The Analects of Confucius*. Conversely, *the Report on the Work of the Government (2015)* is an informative text primarily aimed at conveying meaning, information, and messages. Thus, a literal translation strategy, albeit not strictly 'word-for-word', is suitable. Data from the think-aloud protocols suggests that participants did not utilize explanatory methods during translation, as they could locate similar or precise equivalents for most Chinese terms or phrases. It is evident that different text types indeed influence the selection of translation strategies. However, the extent of this influence remains to be further investigated. It should be noted that the nature of this study limited the number and expertise of participants, as only fifteen individuals were involved, and the five experienced translators were not strictly professional.

## 3.2 Translator Competence and Translation Strategies

Another significant factor influencing the choice of translation strategies is translator competence, which encompasses the expertise and knowledge possessed by the translator. This concept is eloquently summarized by Chesterman as a scenario where "*a problem for translator X may not be a problem for translator Y*" (2005, p. 21). The level of a translator's competence varies depending on their proficiency in the language, understanding of the culture, and the extent of their translation practice. This competence can be enhanced through continuous practice, receiving diverse feedback on translations, and becoming aware of other translators' work and its quality (Dimitrova, 2005, p. 12). It is an incremental process where a translator gradually acquires knowledge and gains valuable experience in the field of translation.

### 3.2.1 Experience and Knowledge

The topic of experience and knowledge frequently arises in discussions involving experts and novices, as knowledge serves as a prerequisite for addressing various challenges. Both knowledge and experience constitute the resources individuals rely on when attempting to

resolve issues. It is widely recognized that experts typically surpass novices in handling similar problems.

In the realm of translation, a translator's experience and knowledge partially shape their translational competence, thereby impacting the translation's quality. Translators should strive to enrich their knowledge base, as "*the more sophisticated and stratified knowledge is in terms of breadth and depth, the less likely there will be complications in accurately conveying the source text's meaning to the target text reader*" (Wilss, 1996, p. 58). Both knowledge and experience significantly influence the translation process, particularly the decision-making regarding translation strategies. To ensure that the translated texts fulfill the intended functions of the source texts, translators must select the most appropriate strategies. To accomplish this, translators should aim for proficiency in both languages and a comprehensive understanding of the relevant cultures.

### 3.2.2 Translation Strategies

Translation strategies should be carefully chosen based on the text types and the linguistic norms of both the source and target languages. The translator's competence, specifically their knowledge and experience, significantly impacts their selection of translation strategies. This is evident from the think-aloud protocols of the fifteen participants, where more experienced translators tend to employ more effective and appropriate translation strategies, and vice versa. Examining Subject 4's thought process reveals that she initially sought an equivalent word or phrase in the target language that conveyed the same or similar meaning as "仁". However, after several unsuccessful attempts, she concluded that finding an exact equivalent was not possible and opted for a literal translation of the word "仁". Conversely, Subject 13 recognized the impossibility of finding an exact equivalent and thus decided to adopt the explicitation strategy, combining literal translation with explanatory notes. In his view, this approach was the most practical method for translating the culturally loaded word "仁" (see excerpts from Subjects 4 and 13 below).

An analysis of the protocols from these two subjects underscores the profound influence of translator's experience on the selection of translation strategies. Subject 13, an experienced translator, immediately recognized the cultural significance and translation challenges of the word "仁". Conversely, Subject 4's inexperience led her to a process of experimentation, ultimately realizing the limitations of her initial approach and adjusting her translation strategy accordingly.

The excerpts of Subject 4 and Subject 13 when translating Material 3 from *The Analects of Confucius*:

Subject 4 我认为“仁”应该指的是“仁德”……嗯……我觉得应该能找到一个对应的词……  
嗯……“virtue”？不行，这个词更多地指的品德；“kindness”？也不太合适……嗯……  
呃……这个词不太好翻译，没有什么合适的词，不行还是直接翻吧，就用音译，翻成  
“Ren”，好，就这样，接下来……

(Translation of the sentence by Subject 4: Employing Ren into governance has the same bearing as Big Dipper drawing bunches of stars around.)

Subject 13: “仁”这个字不好翻译，这个字在中国文化中具有丰富的内涵，应该算作一个文化负载词，这种词很难在英语中找到对应词汇或表达，因此，我觉得应该把“仁”直接用音译的形式，然后在翻译后辅以注释，解释“仁”的含义。

(Translation of the sentence by subject 13: Confucius said: “If a man rules by Ren, he will be like the polestar, which stands still while other stars move around it.” Note: Ren has complicated meanings in Chinese, and it may have the combined meaning of virtue, kind, goodness, morality and so on.)

In the translation of *the Report on the Work of the Government* (2015), disparities between seasoned and novice translators are evident. The most notable contrast lies in the fact that all five professional and three semi-professional translators adopted paraphrasing and restructuring techniques, whereas none of the inexperienced translators did. In fact, the latter group did not even recognize the necessity to adjust the structure of Chinese sentences to align with the syntactical norms of the target language.

The interview data serves to reinforce the observations made during the think-aloud protocols. When queried about their rationale for modifying the structure of Chinese sentences, the eight participants provided similar responses, albeit with varying degrees of emphasis. They unanimously agreed that translating Chinese sentences without structural alterations would result in translations that deviate from the linguistic norms of the target language. Additionally, they highlighted that Material 4 encapsulates the distinctive stylistic features characteristic of Chinese documentary writing, such as the absence of a subject in sentences, the utilization of four-character phrases, and the paralleling of predicates. Conversely, the remaining seven participants were under the impression that their translations were adequate in English.

### 3.3 Culture and Translation Strategies

Conventionally, culture was understood as encompassing “*what is deemed civilized within an advanced society*” (Katan, 2009, p. 70). However, with the advent of anthropology, a secondary interpretation surfaced, defining culture as “*the lifestyle of a particular populace*” (ibid.). Echoing this perspective, Newmark defines culture as “*the distinct lifestyle and its various manifestations specific to a community that utilizes a particular language for expression*” (Newmark, 1988, p. 94). This definition underscores the collective nature of culture, aligning with Newmark’s further distinction between “cultural”, “universal”, and “personal” language. Notably, universal traits across human cultures are not considered culture-specific. Universal elements in any language typically have semantic and/or functional equivalents in other languages; for instance, “死” in Chinese corresponds to “die” in English and “mourir” in French. It is the culture-specific phrases that pose challenges in translation.

Within Translation Studies, Vermeer’s definition of culture has gained wide acceptance and is viewed as the “standard” by numerous translators and scholars. Snell-Horby’s (2006) translation of Vermeer’s definition reads as follows: “*Culture is the totality of norms, conventions and opinions which determine the behavior of the members of a society, and all results of this behavior.*” (p. 55)



Vermeer's view of culture as a totality indicates that the language is part of a culture, which means that translation is not merely a linguistic transfer but also a cultural one. Therefore, translators need to pay attention to the cultures of both source languages and target languages and select translation strategies accordingly to restore the cultural elements in source texts.

### 3.3.1 Culture in Translation

Culture is a crucial aspect to consider in translation, given that *"translation cannot be fully comprehended beyond a cultural or, indeed, intercultural framework"* (Wilss, 1996, p.84). Additionally, culture and languages are intricately linked. Language, as an integral part of culture, serves as a mirror reflecting people's ideologies and perspectives. Given that each culture is distinct, cultural disparities are unavoidable.

Considering culture's pivotal role in translation, a significant dilemma emerges: should translated texts align with the target culture or retain the essence of the source culture? Toury (1985) advocates for a target-culture-oriented approach to translation, as evidenced by his statement:

*"Semiotically speaking, it will be clear that it is the target or recipient culture, or a certain section of it, which serves as the initiator of the decision to translate and of the translating process. Translating as a teleological activity par excellence is to a large extent, conditioned by the goals it is designed to serve, and these goals are set in, and by, the prospective receptor system(s). Consequently, translators operate first and foremost in the interest of the culture into which they are translating, and not in the interest of the source text, let alone the source culture."* (1985, p. 18–19)

As demonstrated earlier, Toury appears to unduly stress the significance of the target culture. Certainly, emphasizing the target culture is crucial, given that neglecting it can hinder a translation's ability to engage its intended audience. Nevertheless, an excessive focus on the target culture, coupled with a disregard for the source culture, can result in the loss of the source text's essence, transforming the translation into a novel creation in the target language rather than a faithful rendition of the original. Consequently, the translator must carefully balance considerations of both the target and source cultures, ensuring that the translated text accurately conveys the cultural nuances of the source while remaining accessible and appealing to the target audience.

### 3.3.2 Influence of Culture on Selection of Translation Strategies

Cultural differences exist even within the same culture, let alone across different cultures. Therefore, to engage in intercultural communication or translation, "cultural competence" is imperative. This means that a translator must possess extensive knowledge of both their own culture and the culture they are translating into or from, as mere mastery of language is insufficient to produce or guarantee quality translations. Furthermore, the selection of translation strategies should be influenced by the cultural considerations of both the target and source languages.

Significant disparities exist between Chinese and Western cultures. Shaped by Confucianism, Chinese culture reflects a distinct ideology from that of Western cultures. This ideology has given rise to numerous culture-specific elements unique to Chinese culture, necessitating careful strategy selection by translators to address such complexities.

In the experiment conducted by the authors of this paper, culturally rich materials were chosen from *The Analects of Confucius*, a Chinese classic that encapsulates profound Chinese cultural values. The Analects contains pivotal conceptual words of Chinese culture, such as “天” (Tian), “仁” (Ren), and “君子” (Junzi), among others. When translating these culturally loaded terms from The Analects, the fifteen participants adopted various translation strategies: free translation and explicitation. Specifically, five participants, including three professionals and two semi-professionals, opted for the explicitation strategy, while the remaining twelve participants primarily relied on linguistic analysis and searching for equivalents.

### 3.3.2.1 Linguistic Analysis and Searching for Equivalents

The majority of participants jointly employ linguistic analysis and the search for equivalents as their primary strategies. To grasp the cultural significance of the term “仁”, a linguistic perspective was adopted for text analysis. Typically, participants would read through the text and segment sentences into distinct translation units based on their respective meaning groups. The word '仁' was isolated as a separate translation unit due to its autonomous meaning. Following this, participants dissected the linguistic connotations of “仁” in Chinese, ascribing meanings such as “仁爱”, “仁慈”, “善良”, “包容和宽容”, “厚德”, “仁德”, and “仁政”, among others. They attempted to recall similar knowledge or prior translation experiences and searched their mental lexicon for English equivalents of '仁' based on their comprehension of the word in Chinese.

Hence, while linguistic analysis and the search for equivalents may not be the sole translation strategies, they heighten participants' awareness of their task: seeking culture-specific meaning equivalents, rather than general semantic and pragmatic equivalents. This observation is evident in the think-aloud protocols, exemplified by an excerpt from Subject 8. The excerpt of Subject 8 when translating Material 1 *The Analects of Confucius*:

Subject 8: 嗯.....“仁远乎哉? ”, “仁”应该是“仁爱”或者“包容”、“宽容”的意思, 那翻译成“mercy”? 好像不太合适.....嗯.....或者“kindness”、“goodness”应该也可以.....或者“benevolence”? “kindness”更倾向于友好, “goodness”表示善良, 也都不是特别合适, “benevolence”好像有“友好、善良、慷慨”的意思, 那这个应该是最合适的, 嗯, 就它了.....

(Translation of the Sentence by Subject 8: Confucius said: “Is benevolence far way? If there is a will to be it, one will achieve it.”

### 3.3.2.2 Explicitation

Explicitation, identified as one of the translation universals, pertains to “an overall tendency to spell things out rather than leave them implicit in translation” (Baker, 1996, p. 180). The information encoded within texts encompasses knowledge commonly shared by speakers

within a specific linguistic community; however, such knowledge may be unfamiliar to those outside that culture. Consequently, to communicate cultural elements unique to certain cultures, explanatory measures are essential. Among the fifteen participants in our study, three professional and two semi-professional translators opted for explicitation as their preferred strategy for translating culture-loaded terms, whereas none of the student translators chose this approach.

The term “仁” does not combine with other words to form phrases; hence, explicitation emerges as a suitable translation strategy for “仁” in the sentence “仁远乎哉？我欲仁，斯仁至矣”。Zhang Zheng and Hu Wenxiao (2015) clarify that culture-loaded words in *The Analects of Confucius*, when used in conjunction with other words to create new phrases carrying distinct meanings, should not be translated separately. Conversely, when employed without forming new phrases, they ought to be translated directly (p. 96).

As evident from Subject 9's protocols, he is fully cognizant of the cultural specificity inherent in the word “仁”. Consequently, he elects to elaborate on the meaning of “仁” at the conclusion of his translations.

The excerpt of Subject 9 when translating Source Text 1 from *The Analects of Confucius*:

Subject 9: “仁”应该可以理解为“善良、宽容”，但是意思又不完全相等，嗯……这个“仁”的含义比较广泛，应该是中国文化中的一种哲学思想体现，或许应该解释一下，但是放在正文里又太长了，那就放在翻译后吧……

(Translation of the sentence by Subject 9: The Confucius said: “Is being Ren so far away from being acquired? If being Ren lived within you, you would act accordingly. Note: Ren refers to being good, gracious, or being a gentleman.)

#### 4. Conclusion

Regarding translation strategies, both text types and translator competence are crucial considerations. Texts typically exhibit three distinct functions, with one prevailing in any given text. These functions serve different purposes, necessitating varying approaches to achieve those purposes. Informative texts, for instance, aim to convey meaning and deliver messages effectively. Consequently, literal translation strategies—not in the rigid, word-for-word sense—may be employed, as supported by research data. On the other hand, expressive texts often demand a different translation approach since they frequently reflect the attitudes or emotions of the authors. In such cases, free translation is more appropriate, especially when expressive texts utilize specific forms that cannot be directly translated into the target language. Additionally, translator competence significantly impacts the selection of translation strategies. More experienced translators tend to identify the necessary strategies more swiftly, whereas less experienced translators may require additional time through a process of trial and error.

#### Conflict of Interest Statement

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

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