

A commentary and Reflection on Overseas Spread of Chinese Wushu

Abstract: Chinese wushu has always been "idealised" and "mysterious" in the western world. In fact, Chinese Wushu is not only a fighting skill, but more importantly, a way of exercise to maintain life-long health. In view of the increasing number of the world's sub-health population (85% in 2016, WHO), Wushu promotion around the world is of great significance. Moreover, Wushu opens a door to understanding Chinese philosophy, traditional Chinese medicine, ethics, military science, aesthetics and some Chinese culture and concepts.

Translation, as a means of cross-cultural communication, serves as a desirable bridge to spread Chinese Wushu abroad. Despite the fact that Wushu masters, translation experts and scholars at home and abroad have made unremitting efforts to promote the international spread of Chinese Wushu, the result is far from satisfactory. According to amazon books in the United States, more than 2000 Chinese Wushu works in English have been published and distributed up to 2018. But the sales data indicates that no Chinese Wushu works has ever entered the top 100 best-sellers.

Based on comparison and contrast of three author/translator groups, namely Chinese scholars, overseas Chinese, and native English speakers, this paper comprehensively examines the highlights and inadequacy of different English versions in the process of overseas spread of Chinese Wushu from a multi-dimensional perspective, including the translation undertaker, source text selection, translation strategy, impact of wushu literature including fiction and silver screen works, in an attempt to put forward corresponding strategies to promote overseas spread of Chinese Wushu and to help foster world cultural diversity.

Keywords: Chinese Wushu; translation; spread