

## **Translation Theories in the Context of the Chinese Language – How Applicable are they to Community Translation?**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This article presents a critical review of translation theories advocated in the context of the Chinese language with a focus on their applicability to Community Translation (Taibi & Ozolins, 2016). Community Translation often aims to provide information crucially important to the basic human rights of linguistic minorities. Yet, Chinese translation theories have been largely developed for the translation of literary and religious texts, relying on literary critique of impressionistic and subjective ideas. Therefore, such an approach would not work in the field of Community Translation. A discussion of Community Translation in the context of the Chinese language could add a functional perspective, considerations of the pragmatic functions of both the Source and the Target texts and the perspectives of both the ‘producers’ and the end-users. Discussion in these aspects could help better investigate and evaluate a translated text that aims to help members of linguistically disadvantaged communities participate in the mainstream society.

**KEYWORDS:** Chinese translation theories; Community Translation; pragmatic equivalence

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### 摘要

本文意旨對中文語境中所提出的翻譯理論進行批判性討論，其討論焦點在於那些理論在社區翻譯(Community Translation; Taibi & Ozolins, 2016)範疇中的可實踐性。社區翻譯服務之目的通常在於幫助語言弱勢族群獲取關切於他們基本人權的重要訊息。然而，中文語境中所發展出來的翻譯理論絕大多數都立論於文學文本及宗教文本相關的翻譯作品，且常受到個人印象及主觀意識的文學批判方法所主導。因此，於如此架構中所發展出來的理論無法適用於社區翻譯的實踐。對於中文語境中的社區翻譯課題所進行之探討應加入功能學派的視角(functional perspectives)，以及翻譯作品出產者和使用者(producers and end-users)的視角。涵蓋這些視角所進行之討論方可促進社區翻譯相關課題之探討及翻譯文本之評量分析，也才可更有效幫助語言弱勢族群成員融入主體社會。