

How Cognitive Grammar Can Be Used to Compare *Ge Sa-er Wang* and Its English Translation?

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ABSTRACT

By creating a parallel corpus of thirteen stories from 《格萨尔王》 *Ge Sa-er Wang* “*King Ge Sa-er*” and their English translations, this article seeks to explore the meaning of culture-specific world-builders from reading the translation. World-builders point to such elements as locations, characters, and objects; they play a significant role in constructing text-words which represent people’s understanding of a text. To examine the meaning of culture-specific world-builders, this research draws on the concept of “domain” from Cognitive Grammar. A domain is defined as any type of concept, and a set of domains together form the meaning of an item. The results of this article reveal that the use of an equivalent word to translate a culture-specific world-builder does not guarantee an equivalent meaning of this world-builder in the translation. Instead, the meaning of this world-builder in the English translation is determined by the construction of the domains of a culture-specific world-builder in that version. The key contribution of this research is the new perspective that it provides on the use, and importance, of domains in meaning construction in translation studies.

KEYWORDS: Cognitive Grammar, culture-specific world-builders, meaning construction, domains, *Ge Sa-er Wang*, translation of ethnic minority literature

Yuqiao Zhou, Hazlina Abdul Halim, Diana Abu Ujum, Wong Ling Yann, How Cognitive Grammar Can Be Used to Compare Ge Sa-er Wang and Its English Translation?, Abstract (English and Chinese)

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摘要

本文收集《格萨尔王》中的 13 个故事及其英文翻译，构建成平行语料库，旨在探析文化负载世界构建元素词在译文中生成的意义。世界构建元素包括地点、人物和客体；它们是文本世界的重要组成部分。文本世界为人们理解文本时的表征方式。本文运用认知语法范式中“定义域 (domain)”这一概念来剖析文化负载世界构建元素在译文中的意义。定义域指任何形式的概念。一个词的意义往往由一系列的定義域构成。研究结果显示使用语义对等词来翻译文化负载世界构建元素并不一定能保证其在译文中所创建的意义与原文对等。文化负载世界构建元素在译文中的意义取决于其定义域的构筑。本文的主要贡献在于提供给翻译领域一个新的研究视角，强调定义域在翻译研究中的重要性，运用定义域来探究意义构建。

关键词：认知语法，文化负载世界构建元素，意义构建，定义域，《格萨尔王》，少数民族文学翻译

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