课题名称  
　　An Analysis of the Different Cultural Connotations of Color Words between English and Chinese  
　　试析颜色词的中英文化内涵差异  
　　课题来源  
　　Self-Selected and Approved by the Tutor  
　　一、课题背景及意义 （课题的立题依据及研究意义）  
　　Research Background:  
　　A language not only expresses facts, ideas, or events which represent similar world knowledge by its people, but also reflects the people’s attitudes, beliefs, and world outlooks etc. People of different cultures structure the world around them differently, at least in the language they use to describe that world. Languages differ enormously from one another, and these differences are related to important differences in the customs and behaviors and other aspects of the cultures in which those language reside. In a word, language is a mirror of culture.  
　　When we learn a new word we tend to look for its meaning in the word itself. Yet in addition to its dictionary meanings, the same word may stir up different associations in people, because of cultural differences. In our daily life, color words are the common illustrations of the cultural differences in language use. In Chinese and English cultures, color words are in the same way influenced by cultures, and used widely in people’s daily life.  
　　Research Significance:  
　　As the differences between Eastern and Western cultures led to the understanding of the color words are not the same . Color words contain a lot of deep meaning, implies a different ethnic feelings. If we do not take into account the impact of cultural differences, we are difficult to understand the implicit meaning of color words. The significance of this thesis is to enable a better understanding of color words, in order to enhance communication skills, avoid conflict of cultures.  
　　二、课题研究现状及发展趋势 （课题研究领域的发展现状及可能的发展方向）  
　　Research Status:  
　　Study of color words has long attracted linguists’ attention. The bright lights of the objective world and for humankind as a whole are the same, but the national language or in different books of different ages or different geographical dialects often be found to have different understanding about color words. This concentrated and fully prove that language is the result of human cognition to understand and express the objective world, different groups of people in cognitive understanding and expression of the world, due to the different natural environment, social life, cultural traditions. Study of color words in different languages between the similarities and differences. The same object can look at how the differences in cognitive terms showing similarities and differences between how the social and cultural differences and further expansion of the semantic differences, which for the cognitive linguistics, comparative linguistics and culture, linguistics, and on second language teaching of applied linguistics has an important significance..  
　　Research Tendency:  
　　21st century’s color words study should stress the originality on research based on the achievements of the previous scholars, domestic or abroad. The study should keep track of the latest development of color words, making breakthrough, upgrading the research quality.  
　　三、研究内容及研究目标 （对研究的内容进行说明,并阐明要达到的目标）  
　　Research Contents:  
　　A. Cultural Connotations of Black and Reflections in Idioms  
　　1．Positive Connotations and Their Reflections in Idioms  
　　1.1 Black Is Associated With the Solemn and the Dignified  
　　1.2 Black Is Associated With Profit  
　　1.3 Black Is Associated With the Black People  
　　2. Negative Connotations and Their Reflections in Idioms  
　　2.1 Black Is Associated With the Death  
　　2.2 Black Is Associated With the Evil and Unfortunate  
　　2.3 Black Is Associated With the Shame and Disgraceful  
　　2.4 Black Is Associated With Anger  
　　B. Cultural Connotations of White and Reflections in Idioms  
　　1. Positive Connotations and Their Reflections in Idioms  
　　1.1 White Is Associated With the Pure and Lucky  
　　1.2 White Is Associated With Integrity and Honesty  
　　2. Negative Connotations and Reflections in Idioms  
　　2.1 White Is Associated With Death and Poor  
　　2.2 White Is Associated With Worthless and Timid  
　　C. Cultural Connotations of Red and Reflections in Idioms  
　　1. Positive Connotations and Their Reflections in Idioms  
　　1.1 Red Is Associated With Honor and Love  
　　2. Negative Connotations and Their Reflections in Idioms  
　　2.1 Red is Associated with the Obscenity  
　　2.2 Red Is Associated With Revolution and Socialism.  
　　2.3 Red Is Associated With Danger and Loss  
　　D. Cultural Connotations of Yellow and Reflections in Idioms  
　　1．Positive Connotations and Their Reflections in Idioms  
　　1.1 Yellow Is Associated With the Noble  
　　1.2 Yellow Is Associated With the Joy and Missing  
　　2. Negative Connotations and Their Reflections in Idioms  
　　2.1 Yellow Is Associated With the Vulgar and Exaggerative  
　　2.2 Yellow Is Associated With the Coward and Disease  
　　Research Objectives:  
　　I write this thesis in order to make English learners have a better understanding of the cultural meaning of color words and enhance communication skills, avoid conflict in Western culture.  
　　四、预计的研究难点 （课题研究过程中可能遇到的理论难题或技术难点）  
　　With the changing society, people have a view of things may have diametrically opposite point of view, how is the color of the word has become more authoritative to be a problem; how to get people to attach importance to the implied meaning of color words which may lead to cultural conflict is also a problem. As the color words in real life, the widely used, it is difficult in a paper summarizing, so how to form the color words of the formation of an effective system is a difficult. Possible problems also contain: (1) Limited availability of helpful data, especially the books or articles written by the native scholars; (2) Difficulty in the presentation of insightful ideas and the attainment in originality due to lack of the knowledge related.  
　　五、创新点 （选题、观点、理论、材料、方法等创新点）  
　　The English language is developing constantly, keeping absorbing more color words. What is new in my thesis is that I try to focus my study on color words in modern English, making the research keep pace with the times, with the latest development in loanwords.  
　　六、进度计划 （根据研究内容及研究目标所预计的进度安排）  
　　1. Nov.16th — Nov.22nd , 2008 Subject selecting & topic narrowing  
　　2. Nov.23rd — Dec.20th , 2008 Data gathering  
　　3. Dec.21st — Jan.10th , 2009 Opening report & detailed outline  
　　4. Jan.11th — Feb.8th, 2009 Literature review  
　　5. Feb.9th — Mar.14th, 2009 First draft  
　　6. Mar.15th — Apr.10th, 2009 Second draft  
　　7. Apr.11th — Apr.20th, 2009 Final version  
　　8. Apr.27th — May 14th, 2009 Printing  
　　9. May 17th — May 25th, 2009 Thesis debate  
　　七、资料来源 （指能够支持“课题背景”、“课题研究现状及发展趋势”所论述内容的主要文献资料）  
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　　[2] Eckersley, C.E. Brighter English [M]. London: Longman, 1979.  
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　　[12] 戴炜栋,何兆熊.《新编简明英语语言学教程》[A].上海：上海外语出版社,2002.  
　　[13] 邓炎昌,刘润清．《语言与文化》[M]．北京：外语教学与研究出版社,1991．  
　　[14] 蒋栋元．“论颜色及颜色词的文化差异” [J]． 《四川外语学院学报》,2002,(3)．  
　　[15] 唐振华．“英汉颜色词的翻译” [J]．《中国科技翻译》,1997,(2).  
　　指导教师意见：（对课题的认可意见）  
　　指导教师  
　　年 月 日  
　　系（教研室）审查意见：  
　　系（教研室）主任：  
　　年 月 日

范文2：

Function and Application of Descriptive Translation Studies

* Introduction

The intention of this study is to explore possible advantages of Descriptive Translation Studies as in its application in translation practice and translation analysis.

Since early 20th century, translation studies gradually broke away from the marginal status within other related disciplines and established itself as an empirical science. From then on, schools of thought have kept coming out and each claims its legitimacy for existence. Among these schools is Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS).

DTS approaches translation from an empirical perspective. Translation is viewed to be a social activity having significant importance in the receiving culture and for the target community. Therefore, translation is dealt with beyond the linguistic realization and language comparison, and is incorporated in social and cultural context.

My attention was first directed to DTS by its peculiar characteristic of observation, description and explanation. The subject is whatever happens in translation practice, from the determination of prospective function of translation to the process of translator’s choice of strategies, brainstorming and the revision, to the final product making appearance in the target community.

The method of DTS is basically descriptive. The prescriptive tendency and the problem-solution pattern is abandoned. Translation phenomena are noted down. With accumulated data, some underlying truths about translation will come out which will prove to be instructive not only for theoretical probe but also for applied translation practice. I will apply this descriptive method in the case study of this thesis.

A convenient tool has been set up to conduct DTS. “Norm” is operative at every stage of description and explanation. Function, process and product and their relationship as well are skeletal structure of what constitute descriptive studies. Translation phenomena are accounted for with the help of norm.

The case taken in this thesis is the Chinese classic The Dream of Red Mansions. Two English versions translated respectively by Yang Hsien-yi and David Hawks are compared and observations are made in regard to their translation approaches.

In this regard, my observations are limited to several aspects, I hope in-depth observation and explanation will done in light of DTS.

* Outline

2.1 Development and major concepts of DTS

In this part I will describe Holms’ basic map of DTS and the relationship between function, process and product. I will also discuss some important concepts such as pseudo-translation, multiple translation, translationese, norm etc.

2.2 Methodolgy

I will in this part discuss the methodology of DTS before I apply the same to the case study in this thesis with emphasis to be placed on semiotic approach and the concept norm.

2.3 DTS in contrast to other theories

A contrast study will be conducted here with the objective to find the difference of DTS from other theories such as equivalence theory and the Chinese Xin Da Ya criteria. Some advantage will possibly be shown in this study.

2.4 Case study

In this part, translation of The Dream of Red Mansions (also translated as The Story of The Stone) will be under investigation in light of DTS. Translation samples to be quoted here will be selected at random.

2.5 Conclusion

Based on the above elaboration of DTS and the case study, possible conclusion will be on the advantage of DTS in specific study of translation. Suggestions on further research efforts will be made also.

(Note: While the topic will remain the same, the above arrangement of contents is subject to change in the process of writing.)