ABSTRACT

This seven-chapter honours thesis looks at the translation of English long sentences into Chinese and explores the semantic functions, syntactic patterns and rhetorical usage involved. This study was prompted by the need to recognise sentence-length as an area of concern in translation. It aims to provide further insight by investigating the pragmatic implications involved.

Materials for this study are drawn widely from the various literary forms in which English long sentences are eminent. In addition, a small-scale survey is conducted to investigate the general response to the Chinese equivalence of the English long sentences given, based on direct intuition and sense perceptions.

The study indicates that an awareness of the relationship between form and function is important in assessing and translating English long sentences. The use of English long sentences as an author's style and their semantic symbolism play a significant role in the equivalence both in terms of meaning and form in translation. Besides, the linguistic function of punctuation in long-sentence translation is illustrated with concrete examples.

Finally, the study concludes that in terms of exact equivalence, this form of translation has its limitations that is the concomitant of translation involving different languages. Nevertheless, the translation of English long sentences into Chinese unquestionably is an important aspect in any type of translation which deserves more attention.