SUMMARY

The translation of Chinese philosophical terms into English is an important issue in the fields of both philosophy and translation. Western philosophical researchers had done a great deal of research in the examination of this issue. This issue is part of translation studies, but as most of the research is done from the viewpoint of philosophical study and is restricted in the interpretation of Chinese philosophical terms, there is a need to look at this issue from a different aspect through the analysis of translation studies.

Chinese philosophical terms carry abstract meanings that constitute the key concept in the thinking of Chinese philosophy. As Chinese philosophical terms are unique to Chinese philosophy and Chinese culture, they are unfamiliar to other cultures, for example the English culture. In order to transmit the actual thought of Chinese philosophy, the translation of Chinese philosophical terms must be exact and reflect the same meaning as they are used in Chinese philosophy. However, unlike terms that have specific meanings and are familiar in Western culture, the peculiarity of Chinese philosophical terms is therefore difficult to translate.

This study looks at the translation of Chinese philosophical terms into English from the viewpoint of translation studies in order to examine the way and factors that contribute to the translation of the terms. As the translation of Chinese philosophical terms involves the translating of abstract meanings and the transmitting of Chinese thought, it is especially important to investigate the factors that may affect the translation.

As the translation of Chinese philosophical terms is a new issue in the translation field, although there are many theories regarding the translation of Chinese into English, theory specially formulated to discuss the translation of Chinese philosophical terms has yet be developed. Hence, in this study, a chapter regarding the theory of translating Chinese philosophical terms is specially formulated to act as the basis of the analysis of this issue. In this theory, the key concept of translating the Chinese philosophical terms is discussed and ways of translating is also analyzed.
On the basis of this theory, the study moves on to the examination of the aspects of culture and language. From the discussion of culture, it appears that the differences in Chinese and Western culture are not the only difficulties encountered in translating Chinese philosophical terms. Other factors such as the demand for conceptual coherence in searching for the English word and the understanding of the receiver also play an important role in the translation.

As for the examination of the language aspect, the result shows that the differences in the background of the two languages and the unstability of the meaning of Chinese philosophical terms may result in the misunderstanding of the actual meaning of the terms. Moreover, from the perspective of English, the translating of the terms also lead to a change of meaning in that particular English word.

In conclusion, this study reveals that the translation of Chinese philosophical terms into English is more rigid and inflexible than other types of translation. However, as this issue is important to the transmitting of Chinese thought, it is unquestionably an issue that deserves more attention.