A Corpus-Based Study of Idiomaticity in Different Translations of One Original Text

Deng Yaochen, Fan Fengxiang Dalian Maritime University

Corpus-based research conducted within translation studies has brought us new insights about the broad features of translated texts, especially in the perspectives of explicitation, simplification, normalization and standardization. However, idiomaticity is one aspect of linguistic patterning that has not been investigated thoroughly in this area. With two versions of English translation of the Chinese novel Dreams of the Red Mansion as a basis, the present study intends to investigate the patterns of idiomaticity in different translations of one original text, by focusing on the use of recurring lexical patterns. The study not only throws up some patterns of variation in idiomaticity, indicating the different styles of individual translators, but also discusses the issue of translation universals.

Keywords: translation, translated language, corpus-based, lexical patterns, style