

**A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE ENGLISH
TRANSLATION OF *SANTI II HEIAN SENLIN***

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**A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE ENGLISH
TRANSLATION OF *SANTI II HEIAN SENLIN***

by

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Sci-fi	science fiction
ST	source text
TT	target text
SL	source language
TL	target language
<i>Santi II</i>	<i>Santi II Heian Senlin</i>
<i>Santi III</i>	<i>Santi III Sishen Yongsheng</i>

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ANALISIS SOSIOLOGI TERHADAP TERJEMAHAN BAHASA INGGERIS *SANTI II HEIAN SENLIN*

ABSTRAK

Santi II merupakan karya yang dihargai dalam dunia fiksi sains bahasa Inggeris. Namun, kajian-kajian terdahulu tidak mengaitkan terjemahannya dengan beberapa aspek penting seperti pengaruh perkembangan politik, ekonomi dan budaya China; dedikasi dan latar belakang Martinsen; gambaran watak-watak dalam terjemahan; dan sokongan yang menyumbang kepada pengumpulan kapital setelah kejayaan terjemahan *Santi II*. Terdapat tiga objektif utama yang menjadi fokus tesis ini. Pertama, kajian ini meneliti bidang yang kondusif dan persekitaran luaran yang menyokong penterjemahan *Santi II* menerusi bantuan kerajaan China dan badan-badan bukan kerajaan. Kedua, tesis ini mendalami tabiat Martinsen dengan meneroka cara beliau memanfaatkan gambaran perwatakan dalam *Santi II*. Akhir sekali, tesis ini juga bertujuan menganalisis kesan yang ketara terhadap pengumpulan kapital pengarang dan penterjemah berikutan kejayaan terjemahan *Santi II*. Kajian ini memanfaatkan Teori Amalan Sosial Bourdieu (1977) yang mengutarakan tiga konsep utama, iaitu bidang, tabiat, dan kapital. Kajian ini turut memanfaatkan penyelidikan watak oleh Burroway (2019) dan O'Neill (1996) serta teknik-teknik penterjemahan oleh Liu Miqing (2005) bagi mengkaji watak utama, Shi Qiang secara perbandingan. Tesis ini menggunakan tiga kaedah penyelidikan, iaitu kaedah deskriptif untuk

menerokai terjemahan dalam konteks masa, politik, ideologi, ekonomi dan budaya; analisis kualitatif bagi memahami perlakuan dan pembentukan makna melalui kaedah induktif; dan analisis perbandingan bagi memperlihatkan nuansa wawasan terjemahan yang berlainan daripada pelbagai perspektif, menilai komen serta penerimaan terhadap karya dan terjemahan fiksi sains. Laporan dan ulasan daripada BCC, berita NOW, Amazon dan Goodreads dimanfaatkan sebagai korpus kajian. Dapatan kajian menggambarkan impak positif sokongan pihak kerajaan dalam menetengahkan karya-karya yang kurang ditonjolkan dalam lingkungan sastera arus perdana. Selain sokongan politik yang menggalakkan, reputasi unggul pengarang dan penerbit fiksi sains Amerika Syarikat yang terkenal turut menyumbang kepada kejayaan *Santi II* di Amerika Syarikat. Hal ini menunjukkan peralihan daripada pengaruh politik dalam penerbitan kepada daya tarikan pasaran. Tesis ini menyimpulkan bahawa terjemahan Martinsen telah menggambarkan sifat-sifat khusus Shi Qiang dengan berkesan sebagai seorang pegawai polis yang lasak namun turut berfikiran tajam. Martinsen menonjolkan dengan mahir kekerasan, kekuatan dan penampilan watak tersebut. Di samping itu, tesis ini turut mengenal pasti kepentingan kapital sosial menerusi tokoh-tokoh seperti Barack Obama dan Arthur C. Clarke, martabat Anugerah Hugo, dan kapital simbolik daripada kejayaan pecah panggung filem *The Wandering Earth* yang semuanya membantu melonjakkan *Santi II* di persada dunia, selain turut menyumbang kepada kejayaannya yang besar. Impak jelas kejayaan *Santi II* juga telah meningkatkan populariti pengarang dan penterjemahnya, lantas membantu kejayaan karya-karya mereka yang selanjutnya.

A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF
SANTI II HEIAN SENLIN

ABSTRACT

Santi II is a cherished Sci-fi in the English world, reigning as the best-selling translated Chinese work on Amazon and drawing extensive attention from English media. However, previous research did not relate to certain essential aspects, including the impact of China's political, economic, and cultural development on translation; the dedication and background of Martinsen; the portrayal of characters in translation; and the support contributing to capital accumulation post-*Santi II*'s successful translation. This thesis is structured concerning three main objectives. Firstly, it aims to scrutinize the conducive field and external environment supporting the translation of *Santi II*, aided by both Chinese government and non-governmental forces. Secondly, the thesis seeks to delve into Martinsen's habitus, exploring how he approaches character portrayal within *Santi II*. Lastly, it intends to analyze the substantial impact on the capital accumulation of the author and translator following the successful translation of *Santi II*. This study utilizes the Bourdieu's Social Practice Theory (1977) which introduces three pivotal concept-field, habitus and capital. This study also utilizes character research by Burroway (2019) and O'Neill (1996), together with translation techniques by Liu Miqing (2005), to comparatively study Shi Qiang, the main character. This thesis employs three research methods: descriptive design to explore translation in temporal, political, ideological, economic,

and cultural contexts; qualitative analysis for understanding behavior and meaning construction through inductive methods; and comparative analysis to unveil nuanced translation insights from various perspectives, evaluating comments and reception of Sci-fi works and translations. Reports and reviews from the BCC, NOW news, Amazon, and Goodreads are served as the corpora. The findings reveal the positive impact of government support on introducing underrepresented literature into robust literary spheres. Apart from the favorable political backing, the esteemed reputation of the renowned American Sci-fi author and publisher contributed to *Santi II*'s success in the United States, transitioning from political influence in publishing to market appeal. The thesis concludes that Martinsen's translation effectively captures Shi Qiang's distinct traits, depicting him as a rugged yet astute police officer. Martinsen's translation skillfully portrays the character's rawness, brutality, and appearance. Additionally, the thesis identifies the significance of social capital from figures like Barack Obama and Arthur C. Clarke, the prestige of the Hugo Award, and the symbolic capital from *The Wandering Earth*'s box office success, which all result in propelling *Santi II*'s approach to global audience, as well as contributing to its ultimate triumph. Furthermore, the notable impact of *Santi II* extended to boosting the popularity of its author and translators, aiding in the success of their subsequent works.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter is a brief introduction of *Santi II Heian Senlin* (hereinafter: *Santi II*). As part of the *Santi* series, *Santi II* is traditionally studied alongside the rest of the sequence, including *Santi*, *Santi II*, and *Santi III*. The English translation and international publication of these three volumes were achieved collaboratively, forming a unified sequence. Therefore, a comprehensive analysis of the contextual and societal influences surrounding the English translation and global release of *Santi II* necessitates exploring the factors linked to the translation and international publication of the entire *Santi* series. Notably, researchers of the *Santi* series have yet to delve into the subject matter addressed within this chapter. As a result, *Santi* series (*Santi*, *Santi II Heian Senlin* and *Santi III Sishen Yongsheng*) and the corresponding English translations (*The Three-Body Problem*, *The Dark Forest* and *Death's End*, also called *The Three-Body Trilogy*) will be introduced in this chapter. The views range from the summaries of *Santi* series and their English versions, the statement of problem, research objectives, research questions, the methodology, the scope of the study, to the significance of the study and the organization of the thesis.

1.1 Background of the Research

Santi is a Sci-fi series written by Liu Cixin (the most prolific and popular Sci-fi writer in China), composed of *Santi* (*The Three-Body Problem*, translated by Ken Liu), *Santi*

II Heian Senlin (*The Dark Forest*, translated by Joel Martinsen) and *Santi III Sishen Yongsheng* (*Death's End*, translated by Ken Liu). In May 2006, *Santi* began to be serialized in *Science Fiction World* (*kehuan shijie*), a Sci-fi magazine founded in China in 1979, one of the world's largest circulation of Sci-fi magazines (Wu Yan, 2018: 660). The unique combination of Sci-fi and Chinese cultural elements in *Santi* brought a fresh and stimulating experience to Chinese readers. Additionally, Liu Cixin's high reputation and influence within the Chinese Sci-fi community, as well as his fans' anticipation and attention towards this new work, played a crucial role in the novel's initial popularity. Moreover, the novel's publication coincided with China's rapid development in science and technology and the growing public interest in these fields, which also contributed to the increasing attention and popularity of Sci-fi in the Chinese market. As a result, *Santi* gained immediate popularity within the Chinese Sci-fi community and expanded to the wider literary world after receiving international recognition and awards (Song Mingwei, 2011: 20; Yan Feng, 2011: 73).

In January 2008, *Santi* was published in China (*Santi II* and *Santi III* were published in May 2008 and November 2010 respectively). *Santi* series has a grand layout and a lofty intention, through exploring human nature from the perspective of Sci-fi and combining science and humanities (Liu Cixin, 2013). As one of the most popular Sci-fi novels in China, *Santi* series has won many national and international awards. In addition, in April 2020, *Santi* was included in the "Reading Guidance Catalogue for Primary and Secondary School Students of the Basic Education Curriculum

Development Center of the Ministry of Education of China (2020 Edition)”. After the Ministry of Education of China included *Santi* series in the list of extracurricular books required for primary and secondary school students, it greatly enhanced the recognition and promotion of this series. This means that students across the country will have the opportunity to be exposed to the book in their spare time and consider it as a beneficial reading material, which is very helpful in expanding the readership and elevating the social status of *Santi* series. Additionally, the recognition from the Ministry of Education of China has increased the importance of this series among parents and teachers, leading to more attention and exposure to the book, further promoting its influence and popularity in China.

After gaining popularity in China, *Santi* series has also appealed numerous readers from abroad. Chinese scholar Gu Yiqing once praised that “the English translations of *Santi* series can be regarded as the most successful English translation of Chinese literature in recent years” (Gu Yiqing, 2017: 12). However, the English version is not the earliest foreign version of *Santi* series. A year before the English version was published, the Korean version of *Santi* was published in Republic of Korea (hereinafter: South Korea), but the popularity and reception are far different from the English one. As the first translation of *Santi*, the Korean version had only 400 copies of the first printed edition, and sales were dismal (Sohu news, 2019). South Korea, a country with Asian cultural background, should have resonated better, yet since Liu Cixin was not well-known abroad when *Santi* was first published in China, the

Korean version of it was not taken seriously by the publisher at that time. Moreover, many readers in South Korea hardly know about the book release of *Santi*. The cover design of the Korean version was also one of the causes for the failure of its translation and dissemination, which failed to attract the attention of readers (details in Part 2.4.3). Afterwards, South Korean publishers realized this matter and redesigned the cover (details in Part 2.4.3). The cover of the reprinted version is much better than the previous one. Therefore, the sales of the Korean version of *Santi* increased slightly. Compared with the Korean version of *Santi*, the cover design of the English version (details in Part 2.4.3) shows international and modern Sci-fi elements, such as stars, celestial bodies, pyramid, and spacecraft, plus English title *The Three-Body Problem*, presenting an authentic English Sci-fi, to certain extent. The cover header added the slogan “China’s best-selling science fiction, the English version came out for the first time” in accordance with the usual practice of commercial packaging, as well as selected book reviews from the authority of Western Sci-fi and mainstream media to make the English translation of this work entered the target language book market with an image that is more acceptable to target language Sci-fi readers.

If readers take the Korean version as the first exploration and attempt for *Santi* series to go global, then the English version of *Santi* series made it through and triumphant into the world. In February 2015, Liu Cixin was nominated (details in Part 2.4.3) for the 2014 American Fantasy Science Fiction Association Nebula Award for *The*

Three-Body Problem, which was just translated (from *Santi*) and published in the United States. In August of the same year, *The Three-Body Problem* officially won the 73rd Hugo Awards for Best Novel (see the official site of the Hugo Awards: www.thehugoawards.org/2015/08/2014-hugo-award-winners-announced/). This is the first time that an Asian has won the Hugo Award. In terms of sales volume, *The Three-Body Problem* has sold more than 110,000 copies worldwide from November 2014 to the end of 2015 alone (Xinhua News, 2016), which is in sharp contrast to its Korean version (only 400 copies of the first printed edition, Sohu News, 2019). According to the most recent figures, at least 8 million copies of *Santi* series (*The Three-Body Trilogy*) have been sold, with around 1.5 million copies sold outside of China (Mcgregor, 2020). English versions of *Santi* series is the most popular Sci-fi and Chinese literature in the English world, it is not only the top selling translation works of Chinese literature on Amazon, but also the top dogs in terms of English media attention (details in Part 2.4.3).

The uniqueness of English versions of *Santi* series have attracted many scholars to explore the reasons for its successful translation and they have achieved a series of achievements, including some from the perspective of sociology. Prior studies have emphasized the positive role of Ken Liu and publishers, whether from the perspective of habitus or capital. A closer look at the literature on the translations of *Santi* series from the sociological perspective, however, reveals a number of gaps. The implication of Bourdieu's sociological theory deserves to be explored further.

1.2 Statement of Problems

Santi series is the most popular Chinese Sci-fi and contemporary Chinese literature in the English world (details in Part 2.4.3), which has also attracted many scholars to explore its overseas communication and English translation. As for the research object, the existing study shows a serious proportion imbalance. For example, by searching on China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI, China's largest electronic resource database) with *Santi* (三体, santi) and *translation* (翻译, fanyi) as the theme term, a total of 292 studies on the translation of *Santi* series were obtained, but only 9 studies on English translation of *Santi II Heian Senlin* and 13 studies on English translation of *Santi III Sishen Yongsheng* (retrieved on January 1, 2023). Furthermore, a search across Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.com/>) and WOS (<https://www.webofscience.com/wos/alldb/basic-search>) revealed less than 5 articles published beyond China discussing the translation of the *Santi* series. The research of the English translation of *Santi II* calls for the attention and supplementary exploration of the academic circles. On the premise of limiting the length of the research and ensuring the depth of the research, this thesis chooses *Santi II Heian Senlin* as the research object, which is the least studied of the three volumes. This thesis will take the English translation of *Santi II Heian Senlin* as the research object, and the objectives of its research are not studied by the existing researches on the English translation of *Santi II Heian Senlin*, as well as the other two English translations of *Santi* series.

As for the research on English translation of *Santi II Heian Senlin*, Zhang Yanlong (2013) translated the excerpts of *Santi II* two years before Martinsen published the official translation version, and analyzed the application of literal and free translation, domestication and foreignization with the help of Skopos Theory. Zhang Fei (2018), Li Jingru (2019) and Song Xueting (2021) studied the translations of culture-loaded words in the translation of *Santi II*, however, the studies of Zhang Fei and Song Xueting are more systematic and specific than that of Li Jingru's. Unlike Li Jingru, who only analyzed the translations of some cultural words, Zhang Fei and Song Xueting divided culture-loaded words of the translation of *Santi II* into certain categories, and came to the conclusion from the translator's subjectivity. Zhang Fei found the translation of culture-loaded words was the embodiment of translators' translation purpose, cultural competence and cultural consciousness, reader awareness and creativity, while Song Xueting pointed out that Martinsen mostly adopted communicative translation strategies, and found that when encountering some cultural words unfamiliar to English readers, Martinsen would adopt semantic translation strategies. Under the guidance of Lefevere's Rewriting Theory, Lyu Liangqiu & Xu Zhengqiu (2019) found that Martinsen used the methods of deletion, transliteration and free translation in *The Dark Forest (Santi II)* to adapt to the cultural background and reading habits of target language readers.

Cui Xiangqian (2016) conducted a comparative study on the translations of Chinese

history, culture, scenery description, scientific terms and slang by two translators of English versions of *Santi* series, while Li Yan (2017) studied the different ethical decisions and choices made by the two translators according to different dominant translation ethical values and translation purposes. From the Gender Perspective, Liu Yang (2018) believed that the two translators used the strategies of desexualization and annotation to enhance the image of female roles in source text (hereinafter: ST), however, exploration of the reconstruction and transmission of character's image would enhance the study further. Xu Zhengqiu (2020) and Cai Meng (2020) used empirical and corpus analysis methods to draw the conclusion that Martinsen expressed 77.12% of the metaphors according to the same conceptual metaphor in ST, and Martinsen preferred short words and mainly used long sentence in target text (hereinafter: TT) according to the sentence structure of ST. These studies collectively offer a diverse range of perspectives and methodologies for the English translation of *Santi II*, encompassing translation theories, handling of culturally loaded terms, ethical considerations in translation, and differences in metaphorical expressions. They contribute multifaceted insights into comprehending the complexities of this work's trans-cultural adaptation.

That English versions of *Santi* series rise to be one of the most popular Chinese literature and translation works in the English world, is virtually inseparable from the literary and ideological nature of the source texts and the universal value of cross-culturalism. The example of the bleakness of the Korean version (details in Part

2.4.3) shows that social factors are closely related to translation activities, and the perspective of sociology is an indispensable part for the translation study of *Santi* series. As for the research on English translation of *Santi II Heian Senlin*, none of them was studied from the perspective of sociology. However, there are some sociological research on the translation of *Santi*, still with limitations. Yang Jingyan (2017) discussed Ken Liu's habitus, and how Ken Liu used his cultural and symbolic capital and how Tor Books (foreign publisher) used its symbolic capital to influence the translation of *Santi*. Li Hui (2017) analyzed the favorable field created by China's well-known publisher and in Ken Liu's translation as well as the advantages on capital of author, Ken Liu and the publisher.

Song Shenghua (2017) studied Ken Liu's advantages in field, habitus and capital, as well as the advantage of the capital of publishers. Liu Jingying (2019) investigated the habitus and capital of Ken Liu and explained his inclinations and preferences by observing and comparing his professional experience and social relations. Shan Chunyan (2019) examined the habitus of author, Ken Liu and target language reader, and believed that language skills are important when choosing translators. Zhang Linxi (2019) believed that Ken Liu's translation behavior is a manifestation of the combined effect of his translator's habitus and capital in the field of literary translation. Ren Jinglei (2020) explored the formation trajectory of Ken Liu's habitus, analyzed the constructive role of translator's habitus in the translation process.

Collectively, these studies highlight the positive role of Ken Liu (Song Shenghua, 2017; Li Hui, 2017) and China Educational Publications Import & Export Corporation (Li Hui, 2017) for creating a favorable field environment, the habitus of Ken Liu (Song Shenghua, 2017; Yang Jingyan, 2017; Liu Jingying, 2019; Shan Chunyan, 2019; Zhang Linxi, 2019; Ren Jinglei, 2020), and the author (Shan Chunyan, 2019), the capital of author (Li Hui, 2017), ST (Li Hui, 2017), Ken Liu (Li Hui, 2017; Yang Jingyan, 2017; Liu Jingying, 2019; Zhang Linxi, 2019) and foreign publisher Tor Books (Song Shenghua, 2017; Li Hui, 2017; Yang Jingyan, 2017) to disseminate the translation.

Unfortunately, these studies pay less attention to explain the favorable field and external environments of translation of *Santi II* and *Santi* series by China's political, economic and cultural development, Martinsen's effort and translator's habitus, the translation and reconstruction of character's image of *Santi II* (detailed in Part 3.2), the indirect capital support for the translation and dissemination of *Santi II* and the help for the capital accumulation of the direct and indirect participants in the translation after the successful translation of *Santi II* in the English world. These three aspects explore issues related to the global dissemination, translation, and impact of literary works. There is also a correlation among these three aspects, where political and economic development may provide a better platform for international dissemination of a work, while the translation and translator's habitus can affect the readers' level of acceptance, ultimately affecting the success of the work and the

future development of the author and translator.

Several studies conducted outside of China have suggested a convergence with studies originating from within China. The literature of Wu You (2020) has mentioned the beneficial field of this successful translation for Chinese literature in the world and the capital advantage of China Educational Publications Import & Export Corporation for translation and dissemination. The main limitation is her failure in not investigating details of other related social factors, such as the favorable field and external translation environment, studies on Martinsen and reconstruction of character's image, the indirect capital support and the profound influence on the capital accumulation after the successful translation of *Santi II*, etc.

Therefore, this thesis is motivated by the following reasons:

- a. Lack of studies on favorable field and external environment for *Santi II Heian Senlin* supported by Chinese government and non-governmental forces;
- b. Even though there are studies on Martinsen, the translator of *Santi II Heian Senlin*, the attention on his habitus and the translation and reconstruction of character's image are limited;
- c. Lack of studies on the indirect capital support and the profound influence on the capital accumulation after the successful translation of *Santi II Heian Senlin* in the English world.

1.3 Research Objectives

There are three objectives in this thesis that can be summarized in the following:

- a. To explain the favorable field and external environment for the English translation of *Santi II Heian Senlin* supported by Chinese government and non-governmental forces;
- b. To summarize the habitus of Martinsen through the translation and reconstruction of character's image in *Santi II Heian Senlin*;
- c. To describe the indirect capital support and the profound influence on the capital accumulation after the successful translation of *Santi II Heian Senlin* in the English world.

1.4 Research Questions

The present thesis tries to find answers to the following questions:

- a. What are the favorable field and external environment for the English translation of *Santi II Heian Senlin* supported by Chinese government and non-governmental forces, and how do they affect the translation?
- b. What are the habitus of Martinsen through the translation and reconstruction of character's image in *Santi II Heian Senlin*, and how do the translator's habitus affect the translation?
- c. What are the indirect capital support and the profound influence on the capital accumulation after the successful translation of *Santi II Heian Senlin* in the English world, and how do they affect the translation?

1.5 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework in the thesis is elicited mainly from Bourdieu's Social Practice Theory, namely field, habitus, and capital. From an analytical point of view, "field" can be defined as "a privileged network of practical relationships" (Bourdieu, 1992: 168). It can be further interpreted as an independent social space or social universe with self-operating rules and whose rules are independent of political and economic rules (social universe), "a relative autonomy with respect to its economic and political determinations" (Bourdieu, 1993: 15). "Habitus" refers to "a sustainable and convertible tendency system, which tends to make structured structures play the function of structuring structures" (Bourdieu, 1990a: 117). To put it simply, habitus is the personality tendency, way of thinking, and behavior habits possessed by the individual, which are generated in the constraints of the society, and once generated, they conform and react to the society. Bourdieu believes that "capital" is a kind of accumulated labor (in the form of materialization or internalization), "this kind of labor enables them to occupy social resources in the form of concrete or living labor" (Bourdieu, 1997a: 189). When the subject owns this labor in a private or exclusive way, it in turn makes the subject occupy specific social resources (Bourdieu, 1986: 241). Capital is an important code that determines the subject's position in the field. The capital already possessed by the subject will become his/her advantage in further competition for other capitals. In contrast, the relationship among social capital, cultural capital and the acceptance of literary translations is closer. Social capital is

also called social relationship capital, which is mainly symbolized by the prestige and social title of the actors in the field. Cultural capital exists in the form of internalization (such as a person's aesthetic, language ability, etc.), objectification (such as a work published by a writer), and institutionalization (such as diplomas, awards, etc.). Cultural capital is the most important of all capitals (Bourdieu, 1986: 243), with a symbolic function, that is, people usually think that people with high cultural capital can create more value to be recognized more easily. Therefore, cultural capital will function in a symbolic way in some cases. At this time, people can call it symbolic capital (Bourdieu, 1977: 187). It is believed that complex language practice and use are always involved in the unequal distribution of power and capital, and shaped by it. Sociologists' attention to language should be more focused on the mutual communication of language practice and the impact of specific forms of social life on language communication (Bourdieu, 1991: 3).

Bourdieu's theories of field, habitus, and capital pervade the thesis. In investigating translator's habitus, this thesis seeks to analyse the embodiment of translator's habitus through a hitherto unstudied perspective, specifically through the translation of character's image. Besides, the thesis also draws on theories of character translation and Chinese-English translation. Characters, in the opinion of Burroway et al., "are an essential component of a fiction between reality and virtual, which can reflect humanities" (Burroway et al., 2021: 69). Burroway et al. proposed four approaches, namely dialogue, appearance, action, and thought, for the expression of character's

image (Burroway et al., 2019). According to O'Neill, the process of characterization actually consists of three intersecting processes: "a process of construction by the author, a process of reconstruction by the reader, and, pre-shaping both of these, a process of pre-construction by contextual constraints and expectations" (O'Neill, 1996: 49). The translator, as the most unique reader, is inexorably bound to his or her translator's habitus by way of contextual constraints and expectations when reconstructing the fiction's characters. Liu Miqing has developed conventional and flexible translation approaches for Chinese translation into English in a systematic manner, resulting in one of the most comprehensive translation strategy systems for Chinese translation into English. Conventional translation techniques, according to Liu Miqing, include equivalence and synchronisation. Flexible translation techniques have a broader range of applications than conventional translation techniques, and include 15 specific translation strategies such as compensating, cutting, conversing, transposing, restituting, interpreting, blending, extending, reversing, substituting, splitting, adding and omitting and repeating, rewriting, transplanting, transliterating (Liu Miqing, 2005: 180-185).

1.6 Limitations and Delimitations of the Thesis

The thesis is restricted to the sociological studies on the translation of *Santi II Heian Senlin*. This thesis will mainly examine the practical application and three aspects of Bourdieu's Social Practice Theory, namely, field, habitus, and capital, and pays less attention to other aspects such as illusion and doxa. Besides, this thesis only focuses

on the English version of *Santi II Heian Senlin* that was published in the United States and does not go into detail about translation studies of *Santi II* in other languages.

1.7 Significance of the Thesis

- a. Translation does not occur in a vacuum, and it has its limitations to treat translation as a pure language conversion activity. The perspective of sociology reflects the breadth and depth of translation as a social and cultural activity, enabling people to have a deeper understanding of the nature of translation activities. This thesis will contribute to the sociological studies on the translation where there are still areas that have not been discussed, such as the favorable field and external translation environment, the reconstruction of character's image, the indirect capital support and the profound influence on the capital accumulation after the successful translation, etc., and provide new perspective for the application of Bourdieu's Social Practice Theory.

- b. This thesis will fill the gaps of the research on the positive influence of the policy support of the government and the efforts of non-governmental forces on the construction of field and external environment and help readers, students, scholars and translators understand the social factor and influence in translation. Most of the existing translation studies of *Santi* series focus on the investigation of Ken Liu, while the research on Martinsen and the reconstruction of character's image are relatively scarce. This thesis will explore the habitus of Martinsen and

the translation and reconstruction of character's image from sociological perspective. The major defect in previous research is that they overlooked indirect capital support and the profound influence of further capital accumulation after a certain successful translation. This thesis will supplement the capital research in translation studies, and provide new perspective for the application of Bourdieu's Social Practice Theory.

- c. Since the beginning of the 21st century, many Chinese Sci-fi novels have been recognized by the international Sci-fi circles after being translated, and the translation circles have gradually made some achievements in the research of Chinese Sci-fi translation. At present, Sci-fi translation studies mainly focus on *Santi*, its English translation and Ken Liu, but pay less attention to *Santi II Heian Senlin*, its English translation, and Martinsen. This thesis will provide translation guidance for those involved in the translation of Sci-fi works and the cultivation of Sci-fi translators by exploring the translation background of more Sci-fi works, the growth background of more translators and the regurgitation-feeding influence of successful translation on authors, translators, publishers and national Sci-fi writing and literary translation.

1.8 Structure of the Thesis

This thesis contains seven chapters, including chapter 1 and 7 for introduction and conclusion, respectively. Aiming to show the research gap, chapter 2 provides

literature reviews on the development of linguistic, cultural and sociological turns in translation study, studies of sociological translation, a detailed review of the translation studies of Sci-fi, Chinese Sci-fi and *Santi* series, the main weakness of studies from sociological perspective and limited attention on *Santi II Heian Senlin* and its translation. Chapter 3 provides literature on Bourdieu's Social Practice Theory, translation techniques of Liu Miqing, and methodology. After analyzing the field, habitus and capital of Bourdieu's Social Practice Theory, chapter 4 to chapter 6 present the favorable field by Chinese government and non-governmental forces, the reconstruction of characters' images of Martinsen and his translator's habitus, the indirect capital support and the profound influence on the capital accumulation after the successful publication of *Santi II* as well as *Santi* series in the English world, from sociological perspective. Based on the findings from chapter 4 to chapter 6, chapter 7 concludes and makes a comprehensive summary.

CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the linguistic, cultural, and sociological turns in translation studies, which leads to Bourdieu's Social Practice Theory. It then compares Bourdieu's Social Practice Theory to Luhmann's Theory of Social Systems and Latour's Actor-Network Theory, drawing judgments on the applicability of Bourdieu's Social Practice Theory to the content of this thesis. In addition to studying sociological translation studies, this chapter examines the definition and historical evolution of Sci-fi, as well as *Santi* series and *The Three-Body Trilogy*. The focus of this thesis is *Santi II*, and this chapter will especially look at the translation studies of *Santi II* and *Santi* series, as well as the literature that currently exists to study the *Santi* series from a sociological perspective.

2.1 Linguistic, Cultural and Sociological Turns in Translation Studies

"Translation is, to a large extent, one-sided, revealing only one aspect of translation activities, and it is difficult to deeply reflect the full picture of translation activities" (Xu Jun, 2005: 432). "Turn" refers to a significant change, and it marks the formation of a new research mode.

"It is different from 'paradigm shift', at best it can only be regarded as a prelude to 'paradigm shift'. Whether a new paradigm really emerges depends on whether a 'scientific revolution' can be produced" (Yu Fengping, 2012:

80).

Since the 1950s, translation studies have undergone three turns in general (Li Linbo, 2012: 85), namely the linguistic turn in the 1950s (Xie Tianzhen, 2003; Yu Fengping, 2012; Chen Xiu, 2016; Shi Zhuanzhuan & Li Hui, 2017), the cultural turn in the 1990s (Bassnett & Lefevere, 1990; Peng Ping & Lu Qingliang, 2016), and the sociological turn in the 1990s (Wolf, 2007; Wu Guangjun, 2008; Chesterman, 2012; Buzelin, 2016).

Every turn in translation studies is a change of study perspective. This kind of turn is gradual and inevitable, and is the result of the integration of disciplines. Each turn of research expands the field of translation study, and the research methods are increasingly diverse, and ultimately promote the independence and gradual improvement of the translation discipline.

2.1.1 Linguistic Turn in Translation Studies

The linguistic turn in translation studies underscores the significance of language in the process of translation, positing translation as a conversion and transmission between languages, with language serving as both the basis and vehicle for translation. This shift promotes research on language regularities, structures, and functions in translation, as well as pragmatic factors, context, and language communication, among other issues relevant to the translation process.

Since the 1950s, there have been a number of scholars who adopted modern linguistics, such as Structural Theory, Transformational Generation Theory, Functional Theory, Discourse Theory, and Information Theory, bringing translation issues into the research field of linguistics, and proposing relatively rigorous translation theories and methods from the perspectives of comparative linguistics, applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, semantics, semiotics, and communication. This opened up a new field of translation study and injected new content into traditional translation research (Shi Zhuanzhuan & Li Hui, 2017: 23). The most important representatives are Jakobson, Nida, Fedorov, Ford et al. Strictly speaking,

“it is this group of scholars’ academic discussions on translation issues, that is, the linguistic turn in translation studies they represent, which unveiled the theoretical level in the history of contemporary Western translation studies” (Xie Tianzhen, 2003: 110).

Nida, Fedorov and other scholars introduced the concept of “science” in modern linguistics into translation studies. This is a major shift in translation theory from classical to modern linguistic translation studies (Yu Fengping, 2012: 78). It was Nida who first began to use modern linguistic theories for translation studies. In 1945, Nida (American linguist, translator, translation theorist) published “Linguistics and Anthropology in Translation”, and began to try to explore translation issues from the perspective of linguistics. In 1947, Nida explained the translation process of the *Bible*

in a linguistic and descriptive way in “On the Principles and Procedures of the Translation of the *Bible*”, and made a more systematic discussion on the principles and procedures of the translation of the *Bible*. Many of the views and scientific research methods in the paper even became the early theoretical prototypes of his later famous book *Scientific Exploration in Translation*, which had a significant impact on the Western linguistics and translation circles (Nida, 1964). German scholar Wills believes that this book is, in a sense, the starting mark of scientific research in modern translation (Wills, 2001: 52). Chinese scholar Tan Zaixi also agrees with this view and adds that this masterpiece marks the first real qualitative leap in the history of the development of Western translation theories (Tan Zaixi, 2004: 8).

The Russian translation theorist Fedorov (1953) also began to make a more systematic and comprehensive discussion of translation theory from the perspective of linguistics.

“Fedorov even pointed out that translation theory is a branch of linguistics, and translation problems can only be solved in the field of linguistics, because the translation of any genre must rely on the comparison of two languages” (Cai Yi & Duan Jinghua, 2000: 5-6).

This view of Fedorov’s translation is embodied in *Summary of Translation Theory* (1953), which is also considered to be another initial sign of the first real qualitative leap in the history of the development of Western translation theory.

“Fedorov’s scientific interpretation of the universal theory of translation is more systematic and scientific than Nida’s theory since it draws on ideas and techniques from modern linguistics.” (Tan Zaixi, 2004: 8).

On the basis of Fedorov’s research, another Russian Linguist Jacobson published “On the Linguistic Issues of Translation” (1959). Unlike previous studies, Jacobson put translation into a semiotic framework for investigation, and understood translation as a process of re-coding two equivalent information in two different symbols. Jacobson distinguishes three types of translation, namely, intersemiotic, intralingual and interlingual translations. Jacobson believes that in interlingual translation, there is generally no complete equivalence between tokens, and only information can be used to fully explain foreign symbols and information.

After entering the 1960s, various modern linguistic theories have been introduced into translation studies. American Linguist Chomsky’s transformational generative grammar and the theoretical ideas of the formalist linguistic school became the theoretical foundation of Nida’s translation theory. The functionalist linguistic viewpoints of Firth and Halliday are the direct theoretical source of the British translation theorist Catford’s theory of “translation level” and “translation conversion”. In the process of writing *The Linguistic Theory of Translation*, Catford repeatedly discussed with Halliday, and argued that the general linguistic theory used in this book is basically the theory proposed by Halliday, and to a large extent was

influenced by Firth (Liao Qiyi, 2000: 125). At the same time, the founder and main representative of the linguistic theory of French translation, Mounin clearly stated that translation should be included in the scope of scientific research (Xu Jun, 2000: 23-25).

Translation studies started from the linguistic turn in the late 1940s and early 1950s. After more than 20 years of development, it reached its peak in the 1960s and 1970s. With the continuous growth and enrichment of linguistics itself, more and more linguistic theories have been applied to translation studies. As Chinese scholar Xie Tianzhen said,

“the development and prosperity of Western translation in the 20th century surpassed any period in history, as far as Western translation studies are concerned, the 20th century was first of all a period when the linguistic school of translation studies achieved unprecedented development” (Xie Tianzhen, 2003: 110).

The linguistic turn of translation studies advocates the use of logical methods to analyze language. In fact, it is an inevitable product of scientism and rationalism that prevailed in the 20th century. The linguistic turn emphasizes rationality and science, and its research emphasizes the regularity and cognizability of language. This unveils mystery in the traditional translation studies, and meantime proposes a research method different from traditional translation studies, which greatly broadens research