



## The Studies of English Translation in Horqin Culture

SUN Chunyan<sup>[a],\*</sup>

<sup>[a]</sup>Lecturer, Foreign Language Teaching Department, Inner Mongolia University for the Nationalities, Tongliao, China.

\*Corresponding author.

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### Abstract

Horqin Culture belongs to the Mongolian culture as well as one of the diversified but integrated grassland cultures. In order to introduce Horqin Culture to the world, it is necessary to translate it into English in hope that the international readers will understand and accept it. Therefore, the strategies and methods on English translation of Horqin Culture are mainly discussed in the following thesis.

**Key words:** Horqin culture; English translation; Strategies and methods

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### INTRODUCTION

Horqin culture refers to the regional culture of Horqin area, one of the Mongolian cultures as well as one of the diversified but integrated grassland cultures. Because of the unique history of Horqin, the natural landscape and the deep humanities accumulation, It left us a valuable

human cultural heritages, including the unique dialect of ancient words of Horqin culture, the hip-hop cultures such as amazing heroic epics, Mongolian long tune, Khoomei, narrative folk songs, and Andai (the horse-head fiddle of the Mongolian nationality), the ancient Mongolian Shamanistic cultures, historic celebrities told from generation to generation, as well as Nadam Fair (“Nadam” in Mongolian means “amusement” or “entertainment”, which is rich in local characteristics of folk activities.)

### 1. THE RESEARCH STATUS OF HORQIN CULTURE

Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Center of Horqin Culture was founded in 2009. Its major research areas involve the investigation, the rescue, the legal protection and development of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Horqin Culture, so do Horqin oral culture, Shaman culture, Horqin local dialect, Horqin skills and arts, Horqin medicine culture, Horqin horse culture, traditional rap art, and folk culture. The establishment of Horqin Culture Center has laid a solid foundation for the classified study of Horqin Culture. The relative works, dissertations and academic conferences on a regular basis have yielded notable results. Since the late 1970s, the academic team of Mongolian studies which belongs to Inner Mongolia University for Nationalities has published more than 20 academic monographs of Horqin Cultural study. In addition, more than 20,000 relative academic papers can be searched from the internet. However, the disadvantages of Horqin Culture study still exist. So far, there is few research on Horqin Culture translation. To some extent, we can say that it is still a blank and needs highly attention from the local government and Horqin Culture lovers.

## 2. STRATEGIES FOR ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF HORQIN CULTURE

### 2.1 Establishing a Research Team

So as to guarantee the smooth progress of Horqin Culture Translation, it is necessary to recruit some translation talents who both have a solid translation skills between English and Chinese, and know Horqin Culture inside out. Then, teamwork is obviously important.

As we know, American scholar Jon R. Katzenbach gave the definition of team, "A team is a small group of people with complementary skills who are committed to a common purpose for which they hold themselves mutually accountable."

Therefore, a translating team can be defined as "a small group of people with complementary skills who are committed to the translation purpose for which they hold themselves mutually accountable". What makes the translating team so worthy is that each teammate has the "complementary skill" which is beneficial to the whole research. In the course of the whole translation work, they not only improve their own translating skills, but provide the ordinary readers who do not know any English with more readable materials and books which will contribute a lot of cross-cultural communication among nations around the world.

Translating is an effective way of transmitting brilliant Horqin culture. The quality of the translation will have a significant impact on the communication effect. In order to make the thought and the style unified in the translation work., the team members should cooperate by translating and polishing. First, all the team members will read the original together, exploring the essence of Horqin Culture. Meanwhile, we will study the cultural tradition, customs, values of the target language users. Then, one of the team members will be responsible for the translating the work and the rest of them will cooperate closely. At last, the translation work will be reviewed by another team member who has the comparable abilities. This kind of cooperation mode combines the wisdom of two translators which complement each other's advantages which are much better than independent translation. Therefore, this kind of team cooperation can effectively guarantee the quality of translation.

### 2.2 Building a Network Platform for English Translation of Horqin Culture

In this internet era, in order to guarantee the smooth progress of Horqin Culture translation and save the translation text permanently, we can build a network platform for Horqin Culture translation which makes it electronic, digital and shareable. Everyone can get access to the information on the platform. Internet using is beneficial to reduce the cost and improve the quality of information sharing, knowledge sharing and even

thoughts sharing. The network can be used to break the boundaries of time and space and attract the people who are interested in Horqin Culture and its translation. Online discussion and exchange of ideas can be realized.

Besides, we can build a platform for Peer Online Help. In the course of cultural translation, we are inevitably to encounter some translation problems. At that time, we can ask this platform for help which, I am quite sure, will benefit the people involved, all of which will effectively promote the progress of translation.

Moreover, we can try to cooperate with Horqin Culture Center and break the boundaries between research institutions. The integration of Internet data is another way to save resources and good for the systematism and continuity of this research. Meanwhile, we can avoid the defects of insufficient funds to establish scientific research platform.

### 2.3 The Principles in English Translation of Horqin Culture

English Translation of Horqin Culture is a way of cross-cultural communication. We should pay attention to the cultural differences in the course of the translation. Besides, proper translation skills and smooth conversion between different cultures are needed in order to convey the essence of Horqin Culture to international readers.

Horqin Culture translation is supposed to stick to the principle of "Three Closenesses", that is, first, the translation work should be close to the actual Horqin cultural connotation which is beneficial to the local economic development. Second, it should be close to the needs of international readers about different levels of Chinese ethnic culture. Third, it should be close to the thinking patterns of international readers. These three principles are interrelated and unified.

For the unique cultural words, we can adopt the following methods. If the foreigners got to know the things by its sound, we will adopt the method of transliterating; if they know it with its written form, we will keep its original translation; and we can use free translation to solve certain names of places which represent its cultural connotations. Besides, for those special cultural terms, we can use the method of transliterating plus culture noting.

### 2.4 Actively striving for All-Round Support

Translation plays an essential role in the course of cultural transmission. While the whole society hasn't given enough attention to Horqin cultural transmission. We are short of funds, support and professional training. Therefore, we should actively strive for the financial support of the local government and the related scientific research institutes. Local universities should cultivate applied talents and provide professional training on Horqin Culture translation. The local university should establish the educational mechanism of combining learning with research as off-campus practice base for the students

which can enable them to have the opportunity to put what they have learned in school into practice. Furthermore, they can be part of the career in spreading Horqin Culture in the world with their solid language skills. For the sake of the continuity of the translation team, we can establish long-term cooperative relations with Horqin Culture Center with the same purpose of studying the connotation of Horqin Culture in order to ensure the correct interpretation of the primitive culture. And also we have to strengthen cooperation with publishing house so as to get our translation work published.

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## CONCLUSION

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Horqin Culture is an important part of Mongolian traditional cultures and also indispensable for grassland cultures. Horqin Culture has rich connotations, which include ideas of “worshiping heroes”, “assisting country”, “pursuing development”, “loving hometown”, “protecting ecology” and “perseverance”. Today, Horqin culture reflects a kind of the spirit of humanity, such as “persistence, tolerance, innovation, progress” which provides a solid foundation for the construction of

advanced culture. We will continue to carry on a series of research on Horqin Culture, including its spirit of humanity, Horqin Shaman Culture, its folk culture, its story-telling culture, its narrative folk song culture, its Andai culture, its historic culture, its dialect culture, its eco-culture and so on. Horqin Culture has to change with the times and make its own contribution to economic development in Horqin area and even Inner Mongolia, and provide intellectual support for social progress.

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