

Study on the Significance of Translating Historical Books on Cultural Reconstruction

Case Study on the Translation of Chen Shou's *Records of the Three Kingdoms*

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ABSTRACT

Cultural reconstruction is an inevitable, essential and natural consequence of social and cultural development and advancement. In the whole process of cultural reconstruction, its original root, the culture itself, should be carefully studied and appropriately applied. What is important here is not so much in the future which no one exactly knows how it would be as in the past which almost everything has already reached and even stopped at a certain point of achievement. To know the past well, the assistance of historical books would be indispensable. Meanwhile, in this globalized world, understanding certain culture well means both understanding the culture itself and the cultures around, thus translation becomes another importance factor. Thus, in order to get an effective and meaningful cultural reconstruction, based on the effects that are already displayed, this paper is to research on the significance of translating historical books on cultural reconstruction.

Keywords: Cultural reconstruction, Significance, Effects, Translating historical books, *Records of the Three Kingdoms*.

1. INTRODUCTION

When it goes to the fast advancement of civilization in the world nowadays, the demanding for trans-cultural communication becomes stronger and stronger and covers larger and larger fields. The effective communication would not only be about satisfying the physical or material needs on the basic level, it should also go deep into the essential origin, that is, the cultural sitting and it should reach the information exchange on the metaphysical level, which is closely related with understanding of different cultures, not only the culture in which one is born and growing up, but also cultures that one would be related with from other perspectives.

When different cultures are concerned, translating activities would be necessarily needed. While culture would extensively contain so much and it's not easy and even impossible to translate, understand and make researches on them all, selective actions should be adopted. As best carriers

of culture, literary canons, or, classical literary works would be the wisest choices, among which, the historical books would be most typical and suitable representatives. For example, it's not easy to understand Chinese culture with its all essence for there's such a long history for China, during which it has really created many great feats. However, going through The Twenty-four Histories, a series of 24 well-known books about Chinese history to the Ming Dynasty, would offer a highly-effective and accurate way to grasp the essence of Chinese culture precisely, among which understanding and translating the *Records of the Three Kingdoms* would stand out to be a typically appropriate example.

Culture comes as the result of one group's wisdom accumulated from each member's practical experience and profound thinking for a long time and it can stand the test of time. The actions of analyzing, translating and understanding or even accepting the cultures, no matter the ones already concluded by others or the ones anticipating to be

inferred from the existed materials, for example, the historical books, need both the information senders' and receivers' deep thinking, which must take stock of all the historical, temporal and even social, economic, political and other factors that accompany them. Thus, in all the communications, especially the trans-cultural ones, the original culture would be adjusted or even adapted more or less with changes arising from both subjective and objective reasons, and that is the process of cultural reconstruction, which is inevitable in this more and more quickly developing and melting world.

2. THE INEVITABLE EXISTENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION

In the ancient times when getting enough food to keep the life alive was a big problem and when getting some clothing to keep the body warm and finding some place for sheltering were considered as "luxuries", people just had enough time and energy to meet with their most basic material needs, they would never have the free time to care too much about others, not to speak of noticing one's inner mind, no matter that of others or of one's own. Nowadays, only few people would meet with the problems arising from not being able to fulfilling those basic needs, there are fast development of all kinds of goods and technologies, the world has already become diversified and luxuriant. Under such circumstance, people are all in a higher pursuit, which goes from a physical and sensual one to a spiritual and psychological one. It's easy to meet with the former material needs as long as certain actual substances are found or offered, and it doesn't matter which one is the master of the material, no matter it is the demanding one or the supplying one or even others who are incidentally involved, the only condition for solving the problem is that "there are such things". While to satisfy the latter metaphysical demanding, it's necessary to explore carefully what the one involved would think, use and feel, even if all the other conditions could be ignored, the demanding side's requirement should be unavoidably considered and fulfilled. To meet with these development and requirement, it's necessary to learn clearly about the demanding ones' likes and dislikes and how these all are formed and developed, which is surely related with their cultural background. Thus, more and more communications would be needed. Meanwhile, to make these communications more effective and instructive so as to reach a better consequence, the

focus should be put on those common and essential points originating from and applicable to the whole people in a community but not those specific individuals.

The daily improvement of the society requires people to be more qualified. The ordinary communications on the purpose of chatting and relaxation would not be contented anymore. Going deep into the origin, the cultural root, stands out to be the first fundamental requirement. To know carefully and accurately about the ones concerned, their cultures, especially the already existed ones, should be seriously treated, elaborately studied and minutely applied. In fact, most communications nowadays would involve people using different languages. When cultures under different lingual conditions are involved, translation would be another indispensable requirement. Appropriate and effective translation means understanding at least two languages and their related cultures well. As far as culture is concerned, history is a quite suitable and significant translating target to be chosen because it is a fairly real recording of the actual state for certain people at a certain time. However, not all history could be well or sufficiently translated, then the ones kept in well-known forms, for example, the classical historical books, would be selected out. Translating historical books and making people interested in and familiar with them is very important for cultural communications.

The essence for a profound communication lies in a better understanding of culture. As people accurately get the existed cultural factors connected with the real happening at that right moment, they are reconstructing the culture, keeping the culture developing with the times. The result is a very modern construction for all cultures concerned. In fact, it's an interesting and meaningful circulation: with the development of time, the culture is formed together with the history and most part of it is fixed, at least, at a certain period of historical time; to know the people under a certain culture, it's necessary to know clearly about their cultural background, the existed culture would be studied and applied in details; time is always changing, there must be some changed factors in each culture, no matter passively or actively, people connected with these cultures would surely influence and adapt them more or less, getting them more closely and correctly related with the developing society and time, thus, it goes to kind of profound and significant cultural reconstruction, which is also kind of new history for the concerned culture and which will open a new world for a new circulation.

Therefore, though it's difficult to change the essence, culture is not a constantly stable one with no changes. As long as there are changing factors in its root, the already existed culture, which has been accumulated for a long time and which is more a diachronic thing, cultural reconstruction would be an inevitable process.

3. THE CURRENT SITUATION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION

All countries in the world are actual practitioners in an age of quite fast promotion and development. If not all, at least a large part of them have already left the state of asking for physical supports from the outside world behind. In fact, the trans-cultural communications before are more about how to live a life, the biggest barrier would just be some mechanically lingual problems, the translations are generally about concrete things and theories. Now, these communications go to the problems of how to live a good life, the barrier here is proportionally upgraded to be an abstract one, which is about how different feelings and benefits these actions will lead people to. The simply lingual translations would still be a necessary part, but there's stricter requirement now: Instead of just focusing on the direct denotations of the words, the translations should focus more on their implicated connotations. The typical taboos' different connotations in different cultures would be a good evidence. An obvious and quite popular example could be offered: In China, the color of red is usually related with "happiness" and "prosperity". Even when it is related with blood, it means positive "sacrifice" and "devotion". While in the western world, the color of red is usually related with "death", meaning "being bloody". In Ireland, because of its forever greenness, it is called the "Emerald Island" and the color of green is seen everywhere to commonly stand for something positive. The colors themselves are named on the only basis of "what they are born as", meaning their natural qualities. However, in communication, the connotations would go much further. Connotation is obviously related with the cultural context the concrete words grow in. To understand certain people and to learn about some place, it is fundamental to get the point in question connected with both the former and the latter situations, even learn about it with simultaneous comparisons among similar things in different spaces, which means, learning something well is closely related with learning the context well, both synchronically

and diachronically, taking both the spatial and the chronological factors into account.

With the globalization of the world, no one could avoid getting in touch with others. If one distances itself from others, it will surely be isolated. Then just as what Said talks about in Orientalism, not to say these who give up the chance to express themselves, even those who try their best to express themselves without the ability to grasp the right of discourse, would not be able to display themselves in an accurate and realistic form, they would be defined by others. In this great book talking about the formation, meaning and effects of Orientalism, Said persuasively proves that for the faster and higher development of the western world, the eastern or the oriental culture, politics and social history are all just passive reaction to how the western world views and treats it.[1]^{P142} Without the establishment of one's own culture, even when the culture is set up but not cared by others or when it could only be mute and can't express itself, the related country or people would lose its identity and exist as what others refer it to. The strength of a country is based on its culture, especially its traditional culture. Culture is the accumulation of human beings' intelligence derived from long-time actual practicing, brain-wracking understanding, self-immersing experiencing and deep thinking in real life. With a strong cultural basis, people could carry out a trustworthy and profound communication. When people hold their cultural confidence, they can communicate more effectively.

Thus, it seems that such a conclusion can be drawn: different countries hold different status in the world because of their different levels of cultural basis. Following that inference, people tend to believe that with a longer history, with more accumulation of cultural information, the country should be stronger than others. However, judged from the facts, even if it can't be said that the conclusion is an absolutely wrong one, at least, it disagrees with the reality most of the time. It turns out that there is not a fixed or even a close relationship between the hierarchy of a country and its size and length of culture. The differences between cultures could be evaluated by the size of the people, the zone or the material concerned, and thus being called "the big one" or "the small one", "the complicate-looking one" or "the simple-looking one", but their real and deep values can't be exactly defined with a fixed standard or referred to with a certain index in a fairly short time. The value of a culture can only be abstractly compared

and felt, which depends on how it would be displayed, understood and accepted by others, and one very significant factor is the transitional ways and effects for its information under different circumstances with different countries or even different people. Without intricate and careful consideration, no society will develop according to a special crowd's willing, not to say a separate individual's. The superficial connection would not lead a country to be a strong power, but profound communication after elaborate consideration, delicate displaying and targeted expression based on cultural confidence would. Just as everyone is born equal, every country, no matter how long it exists, is equal in the world. Every country has its special culture, and all the cultures are equal and hold their own values. The only important thing is that their values are noticed and more, they are cared by others and they are well displayed, and consequently they are well accepted by others. This is in fact a process of showing the significance and value of culture and cultural inheritance, and it is also a process of cultural reconstruction.

Reconstruction means constructing and promoting something already existed before. In the society, nothing meaningless would be kept for a long time and what is noticed, applied and even changed must contain special significance and values. When times and situations are changed now and then, culture will also confront with changeable factors, but no matter what culture it is and which country or people the culture belongs to, culture is forever a long-time formed conception, the essential part will be remained, thus it is not a totally new construction but a reconstruction, which basically means that there are valuable points in a certain culture and they should be cared and maintained. Cultural reconstruction is an inevitably significant one and the values inside should be recognized, kept and inherited. Just as what Carl Marx talks about "surplus value": Capitalist production is not only the production of commodities, but also the production of surplus value. [2]^{P74} Surplus value is the source of capital. All these prove that the higher demands could not be reached when the basic ones are not accomplished. Only when they reach the higher level of not being confined by physical needs but released to the pursuit of inner satisfaction will people ask for more communications with the outside. The enclosed society would not be improved but an open and outgoing one would surely be advanced. During this development, different cultures would be noticed, spread,

combined and recreated and renovated. This cultural reconstruction itself is a good evidence to show the promotion of the concerned people's quality and it is also a symbol of a promising future.

Among all the countries in their fast development nowadays, China is a specifically typical representative. It was in February 2021, China declared a full victory in the battle against poverty, lifting all rural people out of poverty by the current standard. [3] Although there are countries, especially, the developed ones, developing better than China, in this age of development for the whole world, as a developing country, China is always proving that it is quite strong and reliable as an outstanding member, taking the initiative for the world as a community shared a common future and setting up the references for many other countries. Most Chinese people nowadays can be fully satisfied with their natural and material needs, they have already reached the phase of pursuing the demanding in a higher level, that is, the spiritual or psychological demanding based on cultural learning and understanding. Being a great country with the glorious history as the sole ancient civilization that goes through all the tests and changes of the outside world, China would never let people down and Chinese people hold the most valuable asset, Chinese culture, which should never be ignored or abandoned. China has really put quite a large amount of time, energy and even money on developing the culture-related propaganda, activities, industries and researches etc. Based on its splendid past and speedy development, Chinese culture opens wide for others to notice, care about and even participate in. With more and more people become more and more interested in Chinese culture, it becomes more and more popular. Inevitably, more and more other cultural factors are brought together to combine with it. Thus, in this modern age, Chinese culture is reconstructed to a higher and more splendid level with the essential points remaining unchanged.

As long as a culture maintaining in the world, it will meet with changes and adaptations. Time and space are changing, and nothing else would just be kept in the same state forever. However, if something is totally changed, it becomes something new and the process can only be called a completely new construction. As far as "cultural reconstruction" is concerned, it necessarily means that fundamentally speaking, the noumenon of the culture has been kept unchanged, which is a constant one and there are just some improvement

and novelty added to this never-vanishing and solid foundation. Those great and essential values going through the history of human beings would never be changed, but the forms and degrees would be constantly variable with the time and location. Just as people would treat being healthy as an important factor in life with the essential point focusing on the state of one's physical fitness, however, in different ages and under different situations, people would define "being healthy" with different standard. The essential points of a culture would not be changed, but there would also be some changing ingredients, and that is what reconstruction means.

It's really a fast-developing information age, which means people would face with more pressures and for most of them busy in ordinary life for work, study or other businesses, the cultural information they accept and apply should be the selected ones. It's not easy for all people to go back into the origin for a real, meaningful and profound research and then make a choice on the information, especially the cultural ones. Meanwhile, as a member in this modernized world, no one can avoid getting in touch with others' cultures. Experts would carry out the actions of making analysis, researches and choices, but even so, people would also unconsciously get these filtered information connected with their own experience, likes and dislikes and cognition. In all these processes, the original culture has already been reconstructed, but it also has become a more feasible and timing one. The process of cultural reconstruction, keeping the original state of the essential points of and adding new and necessary changes to the traditional culture, is really meaningful, significant and indispensable for all human beings in the whole world and it is really a popular modern activity nowadays.

4. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TRANSLATING HISTORICAL BOOKS ON CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION

Compared with that sense of accomplishment caused by obtaining concrete materials under the judgment of objective yardstick set up by others, the sense of fulfillment caused by achieving abstract inner satisfaction under the judgment of subjective yardstick commonly belonging to one's own self, would be more profound and significant. No matter for the concrete or physical obtainment or the abstract or spiritual achievement, as social members, no one can make a real life without any communication and cooperation with others. Thus,

in this new age where people would not just be satisfied with eating enough, wearing well and living comfortably, it's quite necessary to promote the level of the society, which is not only about good living conditions, but also about height of the spiritual civilization, that is, not only about the "whats", but also about the "hows" and "whys". The "whats" is more related with what something is and what it looks like, it is more related with the outside appearance, which is usually shown as kinds of phenomena. While the "hows" and "whys" are usually about how people would think and treat something and why something will be thought and treated in that way, which goes deep in the inner mind and is usually called "the fact" or "the essence". All proves that mastering the truth and essence is much more important than knowing the appearance and phenomena.

It is true that people should see through the superficial phenomenon to perceive the essence. Phenomenon is there to see, while essence is there to feel. The former can be seen anytime, while the latter needs a long time to watch, learn, experience and think. When people don't enjoy so much freedom, and they even need to spend a long time worrying about what to eat and where to stay, it's easy to solve the problem, which could vanish as long as some food or clothing or other physical things are obtained. However, if people want to get the essential points, they must know all the concerned factors well, especially, the surrounding factors, or the context. That is, they must go back to the beginning, know how the essential one originates, how it develops and what it will lead to, even take part in the actions themselves, which is just in the same way as what the historians do. The historians would trace back to the beginning, though usually the beginning would be quite long ago and have only a little or even no information left. They would take every points seriously, never giving in to any subjective judgement without persuasive evidence. For human beings, the history is quite an important factor to help them know more clearly and accurately about the context, help them to know not only the consequences but also the origins. Thus, knowing history well would be an essential factor for one to grasp the essence well.

Therefore, it's natural to draw the conclusion that only effective and meaningful communication would take the lead to achieve the level of going deep into grasping the cultural connotation nowadays for nothing else but the understanding of certain culture well, which would pave the way for grasping the true essence of certain phenomenon.

As human beings in this society, people can only adjust themselves to get used to the outside world instead of letting the world get changed to match with them. Thus, cultural reconstruction is surely an unavoidable choice for all people who want to live a conscious and vivid life in this modern world. Cultural reconstruction is based on profound and accurate understanding for the original culture, and it also means renovation and novelty, which are essential factors for cultural reconstruction and for social advancement as well. Meanwhile, when these reconstructions are carried out, asking for the help and support of the history would be quite a wise choice.

In his *Poetics*, Aristotle says that “It is not the function for the poet to relate what has happened, but what may happen--what is possible according to the law of probability or necessity. The poet and the historian differ not by writing in verse or in prose”.^{[4]^{P20}} It’s the truth that while the poets are talking about things probably to happen in the future, the historians are describing things that already took place before. “Poet” here doesn’t narrowly refer to those who create poems or verses but the ones who write out different literary works, usually with artistic features. Generally speaking, these “poets” are almost equal to the creations of fictional works nowadays, then their counterparts would be those fact-tellers, the historians. He says that “Poetry tends to express the universal, history the particular”.^{[4]^{P20}} Being universal means being common for anyone concerned, which is related with subjective affections. Being specific will decide the difference between one and the other. Only when one knows clearly about the history, will one truly understand the concerned culture. Therefore, learning about history would be quite a good choice for a highly effective communication, which holds even more true for those great cultures with a long history, for example, Chinese culture, because Chinese civilization stands as one of the most ancient civilizations and it is with the longest history that has never been ceased in-between.

When just one culture is concerned, knowing history would just be related with this culture, it’s not so difficult. However, in this globalized world full of combinations and even various blendings and fusions, different cultures would encounter each other now and then, and even more, they would influence each other mutually and cause no small changes, which is sure to under this more and more intermingled international background. And another important point that can’t be ignored would be about “translation”. Different cultures would

usually get connected with different languages. Even when the cultures are related with people who make use of the same language, there would be misunderstandings needing translating activities because of the different conditions the language-users are in, which would be different concrete factors, the geographical ones, the biological ones, the different amount and sources of materials, and which would also be different abstract factors, just one simple example would prove it: for the thirsty ones, some water would be enough; but for the ones born with silver spoon in their mouth and never knowing what is the shortage of certain substances in their lives, ordinary water can’t make them happy, they would ask for spring water or other ones with quite high price. Then, when the cultures are related with people who make use of different languages, translating activities would be strongly needed.

Now, the problem would go to which historical part should be translated when it is concerned with profound and meaningful communications involving at least two systems of cultural factors. A wise choice would necessarily pave the way for an instructive and effective cultural reconstruction with a profound significance. Generally speaking, history can contain everything on the way of development to a certain predetermined point circling around the time axis. It takes place at the same time with the formation of different cultures. If time and energy permit, going through all historical points in the whole process of human beings’ development would be able to offer all the solutions to all problems, but it can only be realized in the imagination, it will always be hope and dream that could only be realized in the future, in fact, which will eventually be a fancy. For a certain individual or certain groups, there must be choices to narrow the scope down. Under such circumstances, classical books would be the very appropriate choice.

While talking about the western canons, Harold Bloom draws conclusion on the typical characteristics of the canons, that is, the classical works. He says that “The Canon, a word religious in its origins, has become a choice among texts struggling with one another for survival... Nothing is so essential to the Western Canon as its principles of selectivity.”^{[5]^{P19-21}} Although it is about western canons, the saying here also holds true for classical works in any other culture, including the Chinese ones. One of the fundamental characteristics of classical works is selectivity. These are works selected from a large amount of

sources and they are time-tested recordings of the human beings and their surroundings. Usually people say “art comes from life and is higher than life”. Most people would put more emphasis on “higher than life” part, however, the most solid basis for the accepted arts would be their indispensable connection with the real life itself. As nature of human beings, only those things and feelings that could resonate with the information receiver would lead them to further caring, interest and thinking, which really agrees with the traditional Chinese wisdom conception: It’s impossible to speak of ice to insects that will keep living only for one summer. For everything in the world, if there’s nothing that could recall or remind the targeted people of any similar memories, feelings or interest and if it totally has nothing to do with them, these people would never cost too much time and energy on it and would even just ignore or give up it. Literature is undoubtedly a kind of artistic form. Only when the works could resonate with the readers will they accept them. Thus, the selected classical works must agree with the standards decided by the majority or at least the group who are in controlling of the right of discourse. In another word, the classical works are chosen carrier of the culture, they can persuasively speak for the culture that they exist in well. If one wants to know deeply about a culture, the concerned classical works would be a quite suitable choice.

Generally, the literary works can be divided into two parts: the imagination-oriented and the fact-oriented parts, or the fictional and the non-fictional parts. For those who want to go beyond the limitation of this right moment, to enjoy life and to find some relaxation, the imaginary one would be the more suitable choice. However, for those who want to learn about the essence of culture, the choice should be the works that can relatively more closely related with history. While for the official and academic researchers, the latter is more appropriate, among which the historical books would play a vital and irreplaceable role. Just as knowing history well will help people understand the culture further and better, thus leading to a better cultural reconstruction.

Thus, theoretically speaking, to upgrade the status in the world, the concerned people or country should aim at knowing the culture of the targeted culture well. Actually, no individual one or a single group can grasp all, then the shortcut of reading and studying historical books becomes the brightest and most effective choice. For example, it’s quite

difficult to understand Chinese culture well for China’s long history, but the assistance of the historical books, The Twenty-four Histories as a typical representative, will make it more interesting and easier. Among China’s seas of books related with history, The Twenty-four Histories is the most widely acknowledged one complying with historical facts, containing almost recordings of great deeds and people in Chinese history before the Ming Dynasty. These books are all officially authorized works that hold a strong non-fictional sense, but they are not classified into documentary or file works, and they are still regarded as literary works mainly because of those detailed depictions inside. No one can reverse the time and go back to the past to live there again. Historical books are based on the historical facts, all people and events contained inside could trace back their real prototypes in real life. Therefore, they go closer to the past facts than other literary works full of imaginative ingredients. However, when they are created and appreciated, the writers’ and the readers’ experience and subjective feelings will surely lead to more profound influences and effects, which would never lead to misunderstandings as some people believe: If all are just duplication of the historical facts, people should just follow and memorize, but with the subjective factors added, it will arouse argumentation and thinking, which is where changes and recreations are made and where the meaning of cultural reconstruction lies.

Going through all these twenty four books, all others are about a certain dynasty except the first one, that is, The Historical Records, which is about a history of about 3000 years, beginning with the ancient stories about the Yellow Emperor era and arriving at the ones about the first years of Emperor Wudi. When there’s the possibility for making a choice, only part of the extensive readers would go to the historical books for they would not be so exciting as those typical fictions. Among the ones who eventually choose these twenty four books, a large population would go to the first book, either for the common “first complex” as nature for all human beings or for it covers a long history and lots of characters, thus one can choose those agreeing with his or her interest. The others just closely related with a certain period could not satisfy so many readers as the first one because only readers interested in that period or compulsory to research on them would choose them. However, all historical periods would equally play important role and no one should be ignored. Thus, to expand ordinary people’s understanding of these past

histories, the ones who have read these books could be more proper ones to assume the task, they are better than the ones who have never read them and they are also better than the ones who have collected their information from other more fictitious sources. Then, for people in the later generations, emphasizing, recalling and even translating these books would give them a more accurate and profound reference to learn about human beings, their history and especially their past, among which the spreading meaning for reading The Records of the Three kingdoms would be a quite special and most suitable example.

The Records of the Three Kingdoms is about the history of the three kingdoms, Wei, Shu and Wu, from the first year of Emperor Wen of Wei's reign to the first year of Emperor Wu of Jin's reign.[6]^{P1} Just as what the name indicates, the Three Kingdoms period is really a unique period in China's history for three politically equal powers separately took controlling simultaneously. As a wholly independent member of the three kingdoms, Wei, Shu and Wu each hold their own special history, celebrities and legends that are parallel and also mutually influential, which offers enough wonderful materials for the following generations as their chatting or writing basis. Compared with other period, Qin, Tang, Song and Qing dynasties as well as the Three Kingdoms period are the most popular ones as temporal and spatial settings for all kinds of artistic displays, pictures, literary works and videos all included. Nowadays, these works based on real history of China do exist in different forms, with an increasingly growing momentum, among which the ones related with the Three Kingdoms show a very strong and wide development, most great heroes in this period are created as world-known images in the legend stories, novels as well as series TV programs and even game plays, which eventually expand the connotation of the Three Kingdoms culture. People around the world all know more or less about the Three Kingdoms through the spreading of the culture as long as they care even just a little about China, which is a certain phenomenon for China's great development and contribution in the world. However, the more precise the information is, the more profound and the exacter China's culture would people obtain. The artistic images in other forms would surely hold some fictitious touch and they would never replace their real prototypes. At this right moment, the importance of the existence of historical books would account for much. For example, Cao Cao and Zhuge Liang are both

widely-know ones, while they are created as opponents with almost opposite characters, Cao Cao is despised as an "evil" one while Zhuge Liang is almost upgraded as the God of Wisdom by most people, which is actually kind of artistic creation with exaggeration and coincidence that would never appear in real life. If people go to the historical book, The Record of the Three kingdoms, they would know exactly what is the real image and state of these images are. While people can enjoy a more exciting and relaxing life when they can cost less time and energy with others' directer and simpler explanations, they must draw the conclusion from the real life and their own experience and even enough practice so as to get a real understanding of the world and live a meaningful and fulfilling life. That is what the significance of understanding and even translating historical books lie in and it could never be degraded or even totally ignored.

5. CONCLUSION

Nowadays, with the promotion of the country and the improvement of living conditions, more and more people go out of the troubles of chaotic ordinary life and participate in the pursuit of spiritual freedom and fulfillment, during which people usually prefer to go to elaborate research on the past instead of just sitting there anticipating the future. Thus, the only way that would make one not lag behind in this fast modern world is not just staying at the physically basic level but going deep into the metaphysically ideological level, for which the most fundamental requirement would be exploring deep into the essence through learning about the original root for all phenomena, and then, learning carefully about the concerned cultures accurately would be the better choice. Then, the history, or the past, that is, the root of the present culture, becomes hot issue for people to focus and reflect on. Understanding just the culture which one is born in would never be enough, therefore translating activities are really needed. With its specific origin and essence, historic books reply here as the most suitable choice for it is the room where the essential cultures of the past are stored. When the door of the room is opened, the room is connected with a broad and bright square outside that would extend into the unlimited future and eventually renovate the culture. Thus, translating historical books would be essentially significant for a profound and meaningful understanding of the culture from a more profound and comprehensive perspective, leading to meaningful influence on

human beings' life and cognition and eventually achieving an effective and promising cultural reconstruction.

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