The Application of Negation in Subtitle Translation
of American TV Series:
A Case Study of *Game of Thrones*

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Abstract: *Game of Thrones* is a medieval epic fantasy television series produced and launched by HBO. It is based on a *Song of Ice and Fire* series of fantasy novels by US author George R.R. Martin. This thesis takes *Game of Thrones* as an example firstly to discuss the application and effect of the negation translation technique in subtitle translation of American TV series. Then the concept and classification of negation translation are also discussed. When translating, if the source text is expressed from the positive side, the target language can be expressed from the negative side and vice versa. Negation mainly focuses on negative translation, so it can be studied from the perspective of negative transfer, negative words, double negation, and repeated negation. Taking the subtitle translation of *Game of Thrones* as an example, this thesis analyzes the application of negation and the more effects it can achieve. First, the sentences translated by the negation are more authentic. Second, the text by using negation can achieve a humorous or ironic effect. Third, in many sentence translations, it is more appropriate to use negation. Fourth, negation has the effect of strengthening tone. This study will help the translation technique of negation get more attention in the future, and even become more popular.

Keywords: subtitle translation; *Game of Thrones*; negation; effect

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1　Introduction

1.1　Research background

With the increasingly close cultural exchanges between China and the West in recent years, more and more Western movies and TV series have been introduced into China. *Game of Thrones* is one of the most popular American TV series. It contains a wonderful plot, vivid characters, and a dialogue or monologue that is very meaningful. At the same time, subtitle translation is an important means to help audiences understand the plot of a film and television. In the process of subtitles translation, ingenious translation techniques should be used to translate subtitles into a language that is easy to accept for the audience according to the characteristics of subtitles, so that the audience can enjoy foreign films and television works more easily. To achieve this effect, different translation techniques should be adopted for subtitle translation in different films and TV series. In *Game of Thrones*, the negation translation technique is applied popularly. In the process of English-Chinese translation, quite a lot of translators are used according to the structure of the original text. However, different ethnic groups have different ways of thinking and there is a great difference between English and Chinese in the lexical and syntactic aspects. Hence, it is better to adopt the way of reversed thinking during translation and it is a good way to translate the original text from the opposite side (Zhu Wenhui 2011: 222).

1.2　Literature review

Game of Thrones has been a huge hit around China since its inception. While subtitle translation is one of the most important functions. As for subtitle translation, some scholars have studied and observed the current situation of subtitle translation, that is, some translators misunderstand the subtitle meanings, some lack responsibility, and some cannot consider the speaking habits of the target language (Hu Lei 2012: 152). Some scholars have concluded that subtitle translation is characterized by instantaneity, simplicity, and comprehensiveness (Ke Jiayin 2016: 89). Of course, there have been numerous theses examining *Game of Thrones*'s subtitles from different perspectives. From domestic and foreign studies, some scholars study the subtitles of *Game of Thrones* from functional equivalence, some from the perspective of Skopos theory or from the perspective of domestication strategy. There are many theses in China that list the functions and effects of the negation translation technique based on some examples from different English-Chinese subtitles. Experts also study some principles of negation in English-Chinese translation. Thus, it is concluded that there are great differences between Chinese and Western cognition. In business English, the negation translation technique is also widely used. It is concluded that the negation translation technique is different from other techniques such as conversion, repetition, amplification, etc. Even if the techniques described above are not properly used, the result is just creating a poor translation. Such poor translation generally cannot achieve "expressiveness" or "elegance" in the translation standard "faithfulness, expressiveness and elegance" which is pursued in translation text but can also achieve "faithfulness" and be faithful to the original text. However, if the negation translation technique is not properly used, it may not even be able to achieve the most basic translating standard "faithfulness," and often make the meaning of the translation completely expressed in an opposite way (Qi

Jiayuan 2003: 87). Among these numerous studies, few scholars have made a comprehensive analysis of combining the translation technique of negation and the subtitles translation of American TV series *Game of Thrones* in which negation is widely applied and then obtained more effects of negation. This thesis will make a breakthrough from this aspect.

1.3 Research purpose and significance

The layout of this thesis will combine the subtitle translation of *Game of Thrones*, list all kinds of lines using the negation translation technique, and focus on what the negation translation technique is while giving examples and explaining. What is the purpose of using the negation translation technique? And what is the effect of applying it? Among all kinds of translation techniques, negation is a relatively difficult one to master, and few theses will study its use and effect. Therefore, the discussion of the negation in this thesis will help more scholars to understand the common use of the negation translation technique and the effects achieved by using it.

The use of negation plays an important role in translation. It can make the translation in accordance with Chinese norms or rhetoric requirements without losing the original meaning, which is one of the commonly used translation techniques. Negation can make the translation more consistent with Chinese customs and easier to be accepted by Chinese. Negation can also express the original meaning exactly. Through this technique, the translator can make the translation vivid, and expressive, and naturally obtain a better rhetorical effect. In addition, negation can effectively translate some English sentences that are totally different from Chinese, so as to eliminate or reduce the loss caused by language differences, make the translation vivid, and achieve better translation results. In some English-Chinese translation texts, the use of negation has its distinct advantage of maintaining the rhetorical effect of the original text and accurately expressing the original meaning, thus making the translation closer to the thinking pattern of Chinese readers and more consistent with the utterance of the Chinese.

1.4 Thesis framework

This thesis takes the subtitle translation of *Game of Thrones* as an example. The function of the negation translation technique in subtitle translation is studied. According to this title, the author divides the main body of the thesis into three parts. First, this thesis studies the definition of subtitle translation. Secondly, it discusses the concept and classification of negation. In the numerous classifications of negation, the author gives four examples which are from the perspectives of negative transfer, negative words, double negation, and repeated negation, respectively. Meanwhile, the author makes a further study of negation based on the subtitle translation of *Game of Thrones*, so as to obtain more effects of negation in subtitle translation at the end.

2　The Definition of Subtitle Translation

The classification of translation is varied, according to text, and it can be categorized into literary works' translation, translation of scientific and technological documents, translation of business letters, and subtitles translation, etc. This thesis mainly explores what subtitle translation is.

With the development of science and technology and the mutual penetration of various cultures, many

excellent films and TV series from foreign countries have been introduced to China. Among them, subtitle translation plays a crucial role. According to Liu's article, researchers have realized that the study of film and television translation in China started later, and the foundation is weak compared with Western countries (Liu Dayan, Fan Ziniu & Wang Hua 2011: 5). But through the subtitle translation in recent year, Chinese audiences who can't speak foreign languages will have a better understanding of the ideological differences between different countries. And then they will enjoy excellent films and TV series from foreign countries. Subtitles are words that flash on a screen and disappear, unlike words in a book. This special way of realizing the information function produces another constraint on the subtitle translation. That is, translators must ensure the cohesion and coherence of the progressive information and ensure that audiences can get the clearest information with the least effort (Li Yunxing 2001: 39).

Then what is the subtitle translation? There is no authoritative definition. The author has collected some definitions of subtitles, as follows:

(1)"Subtitling can be defined as the process of providing synchronized captions for film and television dialogue (and more recently for live opera)" (Shuttleworth & Cowie 2004: 161).

(2) "Subtitles, sometimes referred to as captions, are transcriptions of film or TV dialogue, presented simultaneously on the screen" (Mona 2004: 244–247).

(3) "A subtitle is a printed statement or fragment of dialogue appearing on the screen between the scenes of a silent motion picture or appearing as a translation at the bottom of the screen during the scenes of a motion picture or television show in a foreign language" (Mish 1997: 1175).

(4) "…Printed or superimposed on a film in a foreign language to translate what is being said on the soundtrack…" (Asher & Simpson 1994: 4398).

Throughout the above definitions, the author believes that each definition has defined subtitles to some extent. The author finds that subtitles are mainly involved in movies, TV series, and all video programs or documentaries that need subtitling. Thus, the subtitle translation can be summed up as a translation process that needs translators to translate the dialogue and narration in foreign films, TV series, documentaries, or other foreign films and television works, as well as all the contents in original text related to foreign countries into the target language. With the emergence of subtitle translation for films and TV series, audiences can not only grasp the content of films from hearing, but also from the vision, and appreciate the charm of other countries' cultures.

3　The Concept and Classification of Negation Translation Technique

Negation is a translation technique that is widely used in the subtitle translation. In this part, the author mainly studies the concept and classification of negation.

3.1　The concept of the negation translation technique

What is Negation? Both English and Chinese have the phenomenon of expressing the same concept from both positive and negative aspects. That is, the same meaning can be said from both positive and negative aspects. However, people in Western and Eastern countries have different concepts of positive and negative ways of thinking, ways of expression, and even tone of speech and accompanying actions. "What must be expressed

positively in English would be expressed negatively in Chinese and vice versa." (Liu Yunbo 2013: 151). Also, Si showed that translation, as a speech act, is often not completely identical to the original text in both meaning (function) and verbal representation (form) due to a wide range of factors (Si Xianzhu 2006: 91). Therefore, negation translation technique is often applied during the actual translation process. This is the negation translation technique. Among all the translation techniques, negation is one of the most difficult techniques to master because without a simultaneously deep understanding of Chinese and Western culture and language habits, translators cannot realize the true intention of English or Chinese expression, and fail to convey Western culture to the Chinese audience in an authentic Chinese language and vice versa. That's also the reason why negation deserves to be studied.

3.2 The classification of the negation translation technique

In the process of translation. Sometimes what is expressed in English positively should be expressed in Chinese from the negative side. "What is expressed in English from the negative side should be expressed in Chinese from the positive side." (Liu Yunbo 2013: 151)[①] This is the negation translation technique. First, the study of the negation translation can be carried out from the perspective of negative transfer. English text negates the subject of a sentence, while the translated text can negate the predicate. English negates predicate components, while Chinese negates adverbial components. The negative predicate in English text could become a negative complement in Chinese. English negates objects while Chinese negates predicates. In an English sentence, the main clause is negative, but in Chinese, the translator can negate the subordinate clause. Second, the study of negation can be carried out from the perspective of negative words, which can be divided into total negation, semi-negation, and absolute negation. Third, the study of negation translation can be carried out from the perspective of double negation. Fourth, the study of negation translation can be analyzed from the perspective of repeated negation.

4 Application and Effect of Negation in the Subtitle Translation of *Game of Thrones*

In the process of translation, in order to better understand the use of the negation translation technique, the author makes a specific analysis based on the subtitles of *Game of Thrones* to feel the wonderful effect of negation translation.

4.1 Application of negation translation in the subtitle of Game of Thrones

This section is divided into four parts. The author studies the application of the negation translation technique from the perspective of negation transfer, negative words, double negation, and repeated negation.

4.1.1 Negation transfer and its translation in Game of Thrones

In the study of negation, the first thing translators should know is the negative transfer in translation. Negative transfer is divided into two cases. One is in simple sentences. In terms of form, the negative word negates a component in one sentence, while the negative information is focused on the other component in this sentence through translation. On the other hand, in compound sentences, negative words negate the main

sentence, while the negative information is focused on the subordinate clause. This is a common way of thinking in Britain and America. And this way of thinking is completely different from the Chinese way of thinking. Therefore, the following situations often occur in translation: The original Sentence in English negates the subject, but it will negate the predicate in Chinese; The negative predicate in the original English sentence becomes the negative object in Chinese. The negative main clause in the original English sentence becomes a negative clause in Chinese and so on. This is the transfer of negation(Liu Yunbo 2013: 152).

Every character in*Game of Thrones* has their own unique personality and charm, and their lines are always thought-provoking. In this fierce power fighting, some people always do differently from what they have said while some people are loyal, righteous, and brave. The translator must use the clearest and most authoritative Chinese language to show these people's character and cannot translate in accordance with the original order of the English context. At this time, using a proper negation translation technique can make the lines more authentic and easier to accept.

1. The negative object in the original English sentence becomes a negative predicate in Chinese.

For example:
Perhaps you chose the wrong man to duel with. 或許你選錯了決鬥對象。
This is no toy. 這可不是玩具。
We've done nothing wrong. 我們又沒觸犯法律。
I shallhave no wife, hold no lands, father no children. 我將不娶妻,不封地,不生子。
I shall wear no crows and with no glory. 我將不戴寶冠,不爭榮寵。
I want no bloodshed. 我不希望無謂的流血衝突。
No more fire games, no knife games. 不要玩火玩刀子。
Now his khalasar will trample no nations into dust. 他的卡拉薩再無法令其他國度灰飛煙滅了。

In these sentences, there is the negative object such as "the wrong man", "no toy", "nothing", "no wife", "no lands", "no children", "no crows", "no glory", "no bloodshed", "no more fire games, no knife games", and "no nations" in English, but they become negative predicate such as "選錯", "不是", "沒觸犯", "不娶妻", "不封地", "不生子,不戴寶冠,不爭榮寵", "不希望", "不要玩", and "無法……令灰飛煙滅"in Chinese.

2. The negative subject in the original English sentence becomes a negative predicate when translated into Chinese.

For example:
None of us will ever father sons. 我們永遠不會生兒育女。
No one is supported to be here. 這裏不該有人。
Nobody deserves to die like that. 誰都不應當是那種死法。
No one touches Sam. 不准動山姆。
No one must enter the tent. 任何人都不准動這座帳篷。

In these sentences, thereare negative subjects such as "None of us", "No one", "Nobody", and "No one"

in English, but after translation they become negative predicates such as "不會", "不該", "不應當是", and "不准動" in Chinese.

3. The negative object of English becomes the negative subject when it is translated into Chinese.

For example:
North or south, they sing no songs for spiders. 天南地北, 沒有人會為蜘蛛唱歌啊。

In this sentence, there is negative object such as "no songs" in English, but after translation it becomes negative subject such as "沒有人" in Chinese.

4. The negative predicate becomes the negative complement when translated into Chinese.

For example:
I will not give you trinkets. 我給你的遠不止於此。

In this sentence, there is negative predicate such as "not give" in English, but after translation it becomes negative complement such as "遠不止於此" in Chinese.

From the above examples, it can be concluded that when translating the subtitles of *Game of Thrones*, the translator skillfully uses the translation technique of negation. And, as Jin said, "translator must choose appropriate translation strategies to meet the expectation of his or her "intended readers" or "implied readers", so that his or her translated work can be recognized and plays a very specific role in the local cultural context" (Jin Ruobin 2021: 51). Through the negative transfer of sentence elements, the effect of an English sentence displayed in western countries is as vivid and appropriate as that displayed in the minds of Chinese audiences. On the contrary, if a translator only bases on the surface meaning of English lines and does not conform to the language habits of Chinese audiences, the translated subtitles will be difficult to understand and only stay on the surface, finally failing to make the audience understand the plot of *Game of Thrones*.

Of course, there is negative transfer between subject and subordinate sentences. In the process of translation, in order to correctly use the translation technique of negation, there is not only the negation transfer between elements of a sentence, but also the negation transfer between the main clause and the subordinate clause. There are many long and difficult sentences in English. When translating them into Chinese, it is necessary to pay attention to the fact that the negative sentences in English do not necessarily negate the same part in Chinese. On the contrary, if the negative clause is changed, the translation may be more consistent with the Chinese expression habits, which helps improve the translation quality.

5. In the subtitle translation of *Game of Thrones*, this technique is also applied: the main information negated in the original English sentence is in the main clause while in Chinese is in the subordinate clause.

For example:
You don't think he'll ask us how they died? 你以為他不會追問野人的死因嗎？
Tell me you are not thinking of taking the black. 別告訴我你想當個黑衣兄弟。
I don't think Bran fell from that tower. 我認為布蘭並非失足墜樓。

I didn' t think you'd be so upset about it. 我以為你對這種事情無所謂呢。

I don't think the widow's life would suit her. 我想孀居生活並不適合她。

You don't think I see you looking at my little sister. 你以為我沒瞧見你看我妹妹的眼神嗎?

Don' t think I know what you want? 你以為我不知道你想要什麼?

I'm not sure your mother would like these new styles. 我想你母親不會喜歡這些新髮型。

Your ancestor, Aegon the Conqueror, didn't seize six of kingdoms because it's his right. 但您的先輩, 征服者伊耿攻佔六大王國並非是由於他名正言順。

You don't think I'd do it, do you? 你覺得我不會這麼做,是嗎?

In English, there are lots of expressions like "I think" and "I don't think." Such expressions literally translated into Chinese are "我以為", "我認為" or "我覺得" and "我不以為","我不認為" or "我不覺得". However, for the most part, an ordinary Chinese would be surprised and puzzled to hear "我不以為", "我不認為" or "我不覺得", and Chinese people are more likely to say "我以為", "我認為" or "我覺得". So, if there is an English sentence including "I don't think…" as its main clause, how can a translator help Chinese people understand this better? In fact, the translator always chooses to negate the subordinate clause following the main clause "I don't think…" and then translates "I don't think…" as "我以為", "我認為" or "我覺得". Similarly, in an English sentence with "I'm not sure…" as its main clause, the translation text is more likely to be negated in its subordinate clause. In addition, there is an English sentence pattern "not… because…", when translated into Chinese the negative information generally is in the adverbial clause guided by "because" rather than in the main clause. This is because the Chinese have such a language habit of using "並非是由於……", which is a more sensible translation technique.

4.1.2 Negative word and its translation in Game of Thrones

In this part, the author fully explores the negation and translation of negative words. It is well known that there are some negative prefixes and suffixes in English vocabulary to negate the meaning of words. English prefixes and suffixes are very important expressions of English words. Many grammatical meanings require prefixes and suffixes. When encountering these words with negative prefixes and suffixes, how should they be translated? Next, take the subtitle translation of Game of Thrones as an example to introduce the translation of these negative words.

As a negative prefix, "un-" is arguably the most widely used, being used before adjectives and verbs. Basically, four Chinese characters can be used in translation: "不", "非", "無" and "未" (Liu Yuchi 2012: 76).

For example:

Too large a party attracts unwanted attention. 大隊人馬只會惹來不必要的注意。

There was a time when I was unaccustomed to wine. 那時我還不勝酒力。

Whatever arrangements you made, unmade them, at once. 無論你安排了什麼,立刻收回成命。

The translation of "unwanted", "unaccustomed", "unmade", and other negative words in Game of Thrones is "不必要的", "不勝" or "收回", which helps improve other translators' expression if they meet a word that

starts with the prefix "un-".

The prefix "in-" comes from Latin, and since it is not a native language, so it is far less widely used than "un-." As a result of assimilation, it produces some variation when it changes to "ir-" in front of l; change to "im-" before b, m, and p. It becomes "ir-" if in front of r. Also, "in-" can be added to adjectives, such as: "insensitive," "incomparable," "impossible," "illogical," "incredible" and "inactive." However, when the word begins with "in-" or "im-," you can no longer use "in-," only "un-" (Liu Yuchi 2012: 76).

> For example:
> Impossible as it seems. 難以想像。

"Impossible" in this example begins with "im-", indicating a negative meaning. When translated into Chinese, it can sometimes be translated as "不可能". In this translation, it is also suitable to translate it as "難以……".

"dis-" is the Latin prefix with the meaning of "否定", "相反" and "去除" and so on (Liu Yuchi 2012: 76).

> For example:
> I meant no disrespect. 我絕對沒有冒犯的意思。

In this case, "disrespect" means "don't respect" in Chinese and it has a negative meaning, or it can be used by "冒犯" in Chinese.

Similarly, the negative prefixes also include "il-," "de-," "ir-," "neg-," "non-," "under-" and so on, which usually means negation when translated into Chinese.

There are also some English words which have a negative suffix to indicate a negative meaning.

> For example:
> It appears you're the least useless person here. 看來你是這群廢物中最有用的了。

In this example, "useless" is an English word ending with "-less" with a negative meaning. "least" in front of it superficially is a positive form with a negative meaning. But the Chinese translation just has a positive meaning. If it is literally translated, the translation version is "看來你是這群人中沒用的地方最少的人". Obviously, the original translation is more appropriate to the Chinese speaking habit.

When finding these negation prefixes or suffixes during English-Chinese translation, it is common to add "無","不","否" and "未" and so on.

In addition, except for the words with negative prefixes and suffixes, English also contains a large number of negative words. English and Chinese belong to different language families. Modern English and Modern Chinese have both similarities and differences in the negative structure of grammar. According to their negative meaning, these negative words can be divided into total negation and semi-negation, absolute negation, and partial negation.

Take a look at the total negative translation based on the subtitles of *Game of Thrones*.

For example:

Fire cannot kill the dragon. 真龍不怕火。

It's not funny! 你太過分了。

There is no word for thank you in Dothrok. 多斯拉克語裏沒有謝謝。

Tell them I'm no coward. 告訴他們我不是懦夫。

There are no direwolves south of the wall. 絕境長城以南沒有冰原狼。

Here where you're no damn use to anybody. 你在這毫無用武之地。

Not all of them. 還未斬草除根。

He never had to teach you much. 你倒是讓他省心。

He's never asked us for anything. 他從未有求於我們。

You never fall. 你從未失足。

Illyrio's no fool. 伊利裏歐可不笨。

I have no interest in hospitality or comfort. 我現在不管舒不舒服。

None. 一點用也沒有。

The boy means nothing to me. 那小孩算什麼東西。

We've done nothing wrong. 我们又没触犯法律。

This is no toy. 這可不是玩具。

A direwolf's no pet. 冰原狼野性難改。

Nor will I. 以後也不會。

Sam's no different from the rest of us. 山姆和我們一樣。

From the above examples, it is easy to find the words with the total negation, such as "not," "no," "never," "none," "nothing," and "nor." Besides, the tone of "no" is stronger than that of "not," and the tone of "none" is similar to "not at all." When translating these sentences containing total negative words, translators must pay attention to expressing the corresponding mood in place.

There are also some semi-negative words in English, which can be a tricky problem to deal with in translation. Take the subtitles translation of *Game of Thrones* as examples.

For example:

Getting a little old for it? 是感到力不從心嗎？

You've barely eaten a thing. 你幾乎沒吃什麼呢？

We've barely enough resources to keep our lads armed and fed. 我們手頭很緊，只能保證孩子們不至於挨餓，赤手空拳。

In these sentences "little" and "barely" are words with a semi-negative meaning. The tone of "little" is weaker than "none" and "nothing," and "barely" is weaker than "not" and "never." When translating, the translator should pay attention to the strong and weak tone of the meaning expressed by these words.

There are some English words and phrases thatare formally positive but sometimes have a negative meaning or are better translated into a negative meaning depending on the context.

> For example:
> Stay. 別走。
> Surely the dead can wait. 要看死人也不用這麼著急。
> Getting a little old for it? 是感到力不從心嗎?
> You've barely eaten a thing. 你幾乎沒吃什麼呢?
> She says the king is in danger. 她說國王現在也不安全。
> I know I broke my oath. 我知道我違背了誓言。
> Except for you. 你不一樣。
> Kings lack the caution of common men. 所謂王者無凡慮。
> No bastard was ever refused a seat there. 私生子在哪兒都有座。
> It's the last thing you need to hear right now. 你現在肯定不想聽這些。
> Let him go and I'll let you live. 放了他,我饒你們不死。
> He's beyond the healer's skills. 他已病入膏肓,回天乏術了。

From these examples, the author finds some verbs are formally positive but sometimes have a negative meaning such as "stay", "wait", "break", "lack", "refuse", and "live"; some adjectives such as "little", "danger", "last"; some adverbs such as "barely"; some prepositions such as "except" and "beyond".

4.1.3　Double negation and its translation in Game of Thrones

Idioms are the essence of the Chinese language, containing valuable cultural wealth and Chinese wisdom, from which many people can understand the Chinese civilization, ancient Chinese educational thoughts, and traditional Chinese virtues. While in the West, an idiom is a group of two or more words that are chosen together to produce a specific meaning or effect in speech or writing. The word is used in various other ways, but in this book, the meaning is restricted to the above. (Sinclare 1991: 110)

The individual words which constitute idioms are not reliably meaningful in themselves, because the whole idiom is required to produce the meaning. Idioms overlap with collocations because they both involve the selection of two or more words. At present, the line between them is not clear. (Sinclare 1991: 110)

There are three kinds of negation in English idioms: 1. Double negation 2. Generalized negation 3. Repeated negation (Liu Yunbo 2013: 167). The author mainly focuses on studying the translation technique in double negation and repeated negation.

First, in English, double negation is the use of two negative words together, or one negative word negates another negative word or words with negative meaning (Liu Yunbo 2013: 167), so as to express the positive meaning. What is the use of double negation in English-Chinese translation? How to translate a sentence with double negation? There are three cases of double negation: "negative word+until," "negative word +but" and "negative word+ negative word＝ positive meaning."

> For example:

It shall not end until my death. 至死方休。

This example has a "negative word +until" structure, and the effect of this structure is to strengthen mood. Through a clever process of language, the translated text makes readers feel a sense of power.

Joffrey's king now, which makes your boy and his corpses to be nothing but rebels. 這會既然喬弗裏是國王了,你家小鬼以及那些活屍不就是叛徒嘛。

Stewards are nothing but maids! 事務官充其量就是個下人。

This example has the structure of "negative word＋but", which is equivalent to a preposition in the translation.

It appears you're the least useless person here. 看來你是這群廢物中最有用的了。

She did nothing I did not command. 無論她做了什麼,都是我的意思。

These two sentences are classic examples of double negation expressing a positive meaning. In the first sentence, "least" and "useless" are two negative words that together express the same meaning as the positive statement in the translation. If the translators are not in accordance with the negation translation techniques, just translate words for words, it is concluded that the translation will become "顯然在這群人中,你沒用的地方是最少的". This translation is far-fetched, not smooth, and a little strange. Therefore, try to shift the perspective of translation, and directly express in a positive way in Chinese, and it is easy to accept this translation. Similarly, in the second example, there are two negative words "nothing" and "not," but only affirmative meaning in the translation, which is also due to the sensible use of the translation technique of negation.

4.1.4 Repeated negation and its translation in Game of Thrones

Repeated negative words in the sense do not always offset each other or negate each other, it is possible that one of the negative words can emphasize the other negative word in the sense, namely, there is a "negative word + negative word＝ emphasizing meaning." In repeated negative sentences, it is often the second negative word that negates the first negative word, but it loses its original meaning and can be replaced by its antonym in meaning. Obviously, such an expression is stronger in tone than a negative or direct declarative sentence. This double negation often occurs in Old English and modern spoken English.

Repeated negation, that is, two or more negative words used together, is usually illogical in meaning, so it is also called redundant negation. Unlike double negation, the meaning of repeated negation is always negative no matter how many negative words are in the sentence. Repeated negation does not conform to the grammatical rules of standard English, but it seems to be used by British and American people and is widely used in daily life and literary works (Liu Yunbo 2013: 171).

Take the examples of subtitle translation in *Game of Thrones*

For example:
They won't trouble us no more. 現在野人不會再騷擾我們了。

In this sentence, the word "not" has a negative meaning as well as the words "no more". The translation will become "現在野人會再騷擾我們了。" If the translator follows the translation technique of double negation, which is "negative word + negative word = positive meaning". This translation is totally different from the original meaning that the TV series wants to express. Therefore, the translators should consider the translation technique of repeated negation: the meaning of repeated negation is always negative no matter how many times the negative words appear in a sentence.

4.2 *The effect of negation translation in the subtitles of Game of Thrones*

Based on the above analysis of *Game of Thrones*'s subtitle, the author concludes that the negation translation plays an extremely important role in translation. There is an important research field than ordinary translation methods or techniques. First, the sentences translated by using the negation translation technique are more authentic, which can highlight the personalities of the characters. For Chinese audiences, the authentic translation technique is more acceptable than the literal translation of the word for word. Moreover, the translation of subtitles through the negation translation technique can make the audience more involved in the plot, thus improving the watching experience of American TV series. Second, the translated text by using the negation translation technique can achieve a humorous or ironic effect. If the translators just translate the literal meaning according to the original text very well, the Chinese audience may not feel the humor or irony in the deep meaning of the sentence. However, if the translators translate the original text into an opposite meaning by applying the negation translation technique, the Chinese audience may comprehend the effect that the original text really wants to achieve immediately. Third, in many translations, it is more appropriate to use the negation translation technique because there are huge differences in thinking patterns between the Westerners and Chinese as well as Chinese and English are very different in language expression. At this time, the negation translation technique is chosen, which can reverse the thinking differences between the two kinds of language and make the original sentence be translated easily. Fourth, the negation translation technique has the effect of strengthening the tone. Sometimes an original English sentence just looks like a declarative sentence in form, but it is used for emphasis in function. When it is translated into Chinese, if translators only translate the original text in a declarative mood, the underlying emphasis of this sentence will be lost. However, if translators appropriately use the negation translation technique to translate the English declarative sentence into a negative form, Chinese readers will feel the effect of emphasis, and thus more easily comprehend protagonists' temperament and characteristics.

5 Conclusion

In this thesis, the definition of subtitle translation is first studied. It can be summed up as a translation process that needs translators to translate the dialogue and narration in foreign films, TV series, documentaries, or other foreign films and television works, as well as all the contents in original text related to foreign countries into the target language. And then this thesis has studied the definition of negation, finding that negation is what must be expressed positively in English and would be expressed negatively in Chinese and vice versa. The

Negation translation technique mainly focuses on the application of negation in English. So, this thesis studies the negation translation technique from the perspectives of negation transfer, negative words, double negation, and repeated negation. Next, according to the classification of negation, combined with the specific subtitle translation of *Game of Thrones*, the author summarizes four necessary effects of negation. First, the sentences translated by the negation translation technique are more authentic. Second, the text by using the negation translation can reflect a humorous or ironic effect. Third, in many sentence translations, it is more appropriate to use the negation translation. Fourth, the negation translation has the effect of strengthening the tone. This study will help the negation translation technique get more attention in the future and be considered to apply more by translators.

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