

LINGUISTICS AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN THE ENGLISH AND
MANDARIN TRANSLATIONS OF "ANGELS AND DEMONS"

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ABSTRACT

Translation is seen as a cultural exchange where translator plays a role an intercultural communicator between two languages, bridging the gap existing in source text culture and target text culture. Applying translational theory and Vermeer's (1989) translational framework, the current research investigated the differences existing in source text and target text in terms of language and culture. This study utilized the qualitative method of comparing the English-Mandarin translated novels "Angels and Demons". For the corpus, 15 chapters in the novels were selected because they represented the objectives of the research. The findings are summarized as follows, first, the linguistic differences found can be categorized into typography (usage of italic fonts), particle insertion and omission/substitution; second, the cultural differences are divided into substitution of target-culture item, usage of expletives and footnotes; and third, the changes made in target text are to accommodate the target readers' background and to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation of source culture.