# Contents

1 Major Contributions of Influence Study and Its Weaknesses .............. 1
   1.1 The Origins of Comparative Literature in Europe and Its Dead Ends................................. 1
      1.1.1 The Beginning of Comparative Literature in Europe ........... 1
      1.1.2 Comparative Literature in Britain........................................... 3
      1.1.3 Comparative Literature in Germany ...................................... 4
      1.1.4 Comparative Literature in Italy.......................................... 5
      1.1.5 Comparative Literature in Russia ...................................... 6
      1.1.6 Comparative Literature in France ....................................... 7
   1.2 The Major Contribution of the French School: Founding of the First Phase of the Disciplinary Theory of Comparative Literature ...................................................... 8
      1.2.1 The Shaping of the French School........................................ 9
      1.2.2 The Birth of Comparative Literature as an Independent Discipline and the Formation of Theories of Comparative Literature .......................................................... 10
      1.2.3 Three Cornerstones of Theories of Comparative Literature ............................................. 11
   1.3 “History of Literary Relations”: The Merits of Positivism and Its Weakness................................................. 23
      1.3.1 The Characteristics of Theories of the French School: Positivism of International Literary Relations........... 23
      1.3.2 Criticism from the American School: Ambivalence of Positivism Versus Aesthetics................. 25
      1.3.3 Internal Puzzles of the French School: Ambivalence of Positivism Versus Imagology ...................... 27
      1.3.4 Challenges in Cross-Cultural Contexts: Variation Everywhere............................................. 30
1.4 Essence of Influence Studies: Coexistence of Positivism and Variation

1.4.1 Essence of Influence Studies: The Method of Positivism and the Phenomenon of Variation

1.4.2 Case Study on Coexistence of Positivism and Variation: Exploration of Variation in Literary Communication Between China and Japan

1.4.3 Chinese Orphan: The European Variation of “Orphan of the Zhao Family”

1.5 Important Breakthrough in Comparative Literature: The Shaping of Variation Theory

1.5.1 The Shaping of Variation Theory

1.5.2 The Scope of Influence Studies of Variation

1.6 Two Sustainable Points of International Literary Relations: That of Positivism and That of Variation

1.6.1 “International Literary Relations” from the Positivistic Perspective

1.6.2 Limitations of Positivistic Study of “International Literary Relations” and Its Challenges

1.6.3 The Other Pillar of “International Literary Relations”: Relations of Variation

References

2 Major Contributions of Analogy Study and Its Deficiencies

2.1 Major Contribution of Analogy Study

2.1.1 Contribution of Analogy Study and Its Characteristics

2.1.2 Problems of Analogy Study in Practice

2.1.3 Contents of Analogy Study

2.1.4 Analogy Study in the Perspective of Variation Theory

2.2 Deficiencies of Analogy Study

2.2.1 Western-Centrism and Orientalism

2.2.2 Universal Truth and Heterogeneous Civilization

2.2.3 Deficiencies of Analogue Comparison: Ignorance of Heterogeneity

2.3 Elucidation and Variation in Analogy Study

2.3.1 Interpretation and Variation

2.3.2 Variation in Analogy Study

2.3.3 Evaluation of Variation in Analogy Study

2.4 Discourse Variation in Analogy Study

2.4.1 Spatial Variation: Origin of Discourse Variation in Analogy Study

2.4.2 Illustrative Approach and Spatial Variation

2.4.3 Aphasia and Variation Theory

References
3 The Variation Theory in Cross-Language Context ........................................ 101
  3.1 Literary Translation: From Faithfulness, Expressiveness, and Elegance to Creative Treason ........................................ 101
    3.1.1 Original Intention: The Seeking of Equivalence in Patterns of Faithfulness, Expressiveness, and Elegance ........................................ 101
    3.1.2 Bewildering: Phenomena of “Intention Beyond Language” and Utopia of Equivalence ..................... 104
    3.1.3 The Way Out: Harmony Without Being Identical and Emphasis of Heterogeneity ..................... 106
  3.2 Non-translatability and the Inevitability of Variations in Literary Translation ........................................ 109
    3.2.1 Literature Review: Debate and Research on Non-translatability ........................................ 110
    3.2.2 Non-translatability in Two Philosophical Paradigms ........................................ 111
    3.2.3 Non-translatability and the Inevitability of Variations in Literary Translation ...................................... 117
  3.3 The Cross-Language Variation Between Western Languages and Chinese...................................................................... 119
    3.3.1 Heterogeneity Between Western Languages and Chinese and Their Equal Status ...................................... 119
    3.3.2 Shift Between Western Languages and Chinese in Translation ..................................................... 125
  3.4 The Variation Theory in Translation: Medio-translatology ............... 130
    3.4.1 Translation Study and Variation in Cross-Language Context.................................................... 130
    3.4.2 Birth of Medio-translatology ........................................ 132
    3.4.3 Difference Between Medio-translatological Study and the Traditional Study of Translation ..................... 133
    3.4.4 The Core of Medio-translatological Study: Creative Treason .................................................................... 134
    3.4.5 Transmission of Cultural Images and Mistranslation ........................................ 136
    3.4.6 Medio-translatology and Literary Variation Theory ........................................ 137
  3.5 Case Study on Cross-Language Variation Among European Languages ....................................................................................... 138
    3.5.1 “Translation Is Interpretation” ........................................ 140
    3.5.2 Significance of Cross-Language Variation ........................................ 143
  3.6 Case Study on Cross-Language Variation Between European Languages and Chinese ....................................................................................... 145
    3.6.1 Domestication ........................................ 145
    3.6.2 The Variation of the Second Time ........................................ 149
    3.6.3 Variation in Images ........................................ 151
    3.6.4 Variation in Translation of Idioms ........................................ 153

References ................................................................................................... 155
4 Cross-Cultural Variation Theory ............................................................. 159
  4.1 Cultural Filtering and Literary Variation ............................................. 160
    4.1.1 Social Context ........................................................................ 162
    4.1.2 Linguistic Translation ............................................................ 164
    4.1.3 Traditional Culture ................................................................... 167
    4.1.4 Recipient’s Individual Acceptance Screen .................................. 170
  4.2 Literary Misreading and Literary Variation ......................................... 173
    4.2.1 Conceptual Generation and Research Diversion of Literary Misreading and Literary Variation ......... 173
    4.2.2 The Reason for Literary Misreading and Literary Variation ........... 176
    4.2.3 The Value and Dynamic Formation of Studies on Literary Misreading and Literary Variation ......... 177
  4.3 The First Establishment of Cross-Cultural Variation Theory: The Theory of Imagology of Comparative Literature .......... 179
    4.3.1 Definition and Characteristics ................................................ 180
    4.3.2 Past and Present ..................................................................... 183
    4.3.3 Theories and Methods ............................................................ 188
    4.3.4 Issues and Reflections ............................................................ 192
  References ................................................................................................... 193

5 Cross-Civilization Variation Theory .......................................................... 195
  5.1 The Emergence of the Clash of Civilizations and Cross-Civilization Variation ............................................. 195
    5.1.1 Samuel Huntington: The Clash of Civilization and Cross-Civilization Studies ................................... 197
    5.1.2 Edward Said: The West and East in the Field of Postcolonial Literary Theory ................................. 199
    5.1.3 Tu Weiming: The Discourse Between Neo-Confucianism and Civilizations ................................... 201
  5.2 Cross-Civilization: From Blind Spot to Focal Point ........................... 206
    5.2.1 The Neglect and Contempt of the Early Western Civilization to the Oriental Civilization .................. 206
    5.2.2 Ulrich Weisstein’s Hesitation of Exceeding the Limits of Civilization ............................................. 209
    5.2.3 From Bias to Dialogue Between Civilizations ................................... 213
  5.3 The Rise of Cross-Civilization Studies in Comparative Literature .................. 214
    5.3.1 The Product of the Clash of Civilizations: Early Comparative Literature of China ................................... 214
    5.3.2 The Variation and Distortion of the Clash of Civilizations ................................................................. 216
    5.3.3 From “Illustrative Study” to “X + Y”: The Difficult Development of Chinese Comparative Literature ........... 220
    5.3.4 The Emergence of “Aphasia” and the Rise of Cross-Civilization Studies ............................................. 223
5.4  The Heterogeneity of Civilization and the Variability of Comparative Literature .......................................................... 225
  5.4.1  The Universality and the Uniqueness of Civilization (Commensurability and Incommensurability) ....................... 225
  5.4.2  The Theoretical Transformation of Comparative Literature: The Transformation from the Sameness (of Homogeneity, of the Same Kind) to Variability (the Heterogeneity and Complementarity of Civilization) .......................................................... 229
  5.4.3  Mutual Elucidations and Variations Among the Literatures of Heterogeneous Civilizations........ 233

5.5  The Heterogeneity of Cross-Civilization Literary Theories and the Studies of Variation ................................................ 238
  5.5.1  The Principles of Foreignization of Literary Theories .......... 239
  5.5.2  The Study of Chinization of Western Literary Theories....... 242
  5.5.3  The Dialogue and Activation Among Heterogeneous Literary Theories................................. 246

References ................................................................................................... 250
The Variation Theory of Comparative Literature
Cao, S.
2013, XXXVIII, 252 p., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-3-642-34276-9