

Examining the Mismatch of Semiotic Resources in English-Chinese Translation in the Context of Testing

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Abstract:

The traditional view that translation focuses solely on linguistic transfer has been challenged in recent years. This study addresses the fact that language is no longer as the dominant mode among other potential modes for making meaning and that meaning is created through multiple semiotic resources. This investigation indicates the availability of semiotic multimodal resources as key to accurate and effective translation in the context of testing. I examined how the mismatch of semiotic resources in English-Chinese translation entailed gains and losses in the process of conveying meaning. This paper reports on an exploratory investigation that examined the affordances and constraints of semiotic resources used in both English and Chinese PISA science and mathematics items. Findings indicate that different resources can be used in different kinds of semiotic work or in broadly similar semiotic work in different ways. Ultimately, the results of this study contribute to the implementation of test adaptation guidelines and the improvement of test translation and test translation review procedures.

Keywords:

translation, semiotic resources, testing.