**The relationship of translation, language and culture**

Different nations have different cultures. Then, what is culture? To put it simply, “culture refers to the entire ways of people.” This simple definition implies that culture is the patterns of customs, traditions, social habits, values beliefs and language of society. Language and culture are closely related to each other. As cultures are diverse, so language are diverse. Understanding these foreign words or expressions is not a easy task. And these words may contain some cultural connotations and obviously mirror cultural characteristics, therefore, it is very difficult to translate them correctly.So by exploring the relation between culture and translation, we should know the translation approaches of semantic equivalence and pragmatic equivalence when translating these words. Also we know that between different languages and different cultures, there exists in translation semantic correspondence and semantic zero. So we should try to make

up semantic zero caused by culture when translating.

*RELATIONS BETWEEN CULTURE AND TRANSLATION .*

*What is a Good Translation?*

Translation is , in fact, a converting process. Theoretically, a good translation should give its reader the same conception as what a native reader gets from the original. Nida remarked that how to determine a good translation is the response of the receptor to the translated message , and this message must then be compared with the way in which the original receptors presumably reacted to the message when it was given in its original setting. Jakobson held the view that translation does not just mean the change of symbols into another language , but it is a process of information substitution. The task of a translator is to translate the information he receives into symbols which he will send out. Catford explained that in translation there is no meaning equivalence, but just the signifier equivalence. Because of the differences between the original language and the target language,

there exists the translation equivalence limitedness. This limitedness is not only manifested in the meaning of words, grammatical features, but also manifested in cultural differences more seriously.

*Relations between Culture and Translation*

The purpose and characteristics of translation are to promote understanding among different countries and nations. Eugene Nida, a famous American translation heorist, defined translation as: translation consists in reproducing the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style.

However, to reproduce “the closest natural equivalent” in the target language is more or less influenced by the cultural differences. Because of the differences in histories, geographic locations, local customs and religious beliefs, etc., there are some translation obstacles which hinder people from understanding each other properly. So, translation not only involves translator’s or interpreter’s linguistic competence, but also calls for the acquaintance with the respective cultures. In this sense, translation means more that merely translating the words, sentences or articles from the source language into the target language. It means also to transfer between cultures.