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Translation and Time: Exploring the Temporal Dimension of Cross-cultural Transfer

Presentation Details

Title of Paper:

Chronotope, Adaptation and Translation: with Reference to Relay Translation from Japanese in Chinese Newspapers in Hong Kong in the Early 20th Century

Abstract:

Undoubtedly, the intrinsic feature of translation is time travel (the temporal aspect) and border-crossing (the spatial aspect). For Bakhtin, the chronotope is how configurations of time and space are represented in language and discourse. With the transposition of spatial and temporal coordinates so often at play, the chronotope would seem a concept ideally suited to the field of translation studies. Tara Collington (2010) tries to link "The Chronotope and the Study of Literary Adaptation", and the concept of adaptation has been exponentially explored in translation studies. This paper aims to elaborate on the interwoven relationship with reference to the triad of chronotope, adaptation and translation. The serialized translations of foreign literary works in Hong Kong Chinese newspapers around the turn of the twentieth century have largely gone unexplored. Some of these literary works are relay translated into Chinese via the pivot language of Japanese. By comparing the temporal and spatial shifts in these relay translations, this paper tries to describe how the translator, also the adaptor, ensures the original's "subsequent life" in a new context according to existing social, cultural and aesthetic norms, and delineate the trajectories of text moving in the East Asia community.

Author's Biography:

Bo LI, received his PhD from Lingnan University, and joined City University of Hong Kong as an Assistant Professor in 2015. His research interests include literary translation, translation history, media translation, translation and gender, etc.