



Session # 316

Intralingual Translation as an Approach to
Yuan-Ming Period Textual Practices: I

Diglossia and Intralingual Translation in Yuan and Ming Times

An Attempt at a Theoretical Approach

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- "Intralingual Translation, Language Shifting, and the Rise of Vernaculars in East Asian Classical and Premodern Cultures"
 - Ca. 20 specialists of East Asia (China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Altaic sphere)

- Yuan-Ming-early Qing periods
 - tradition of commentary
 - culture of citation
 - rewriting
 - intertextuality
 - resemantization through hermeneutics
 - different states of the same language
 - resemantization through linguistic relocation
- General theoretical frame for diverse textual practices

- Theoretical relevance of the concept of intralingual translation
- Translation Studies in the context of premodern and early modern China
- Cross-fertilization between TS and Asian studies:
 1. Borrow from TS in order to apprehend certain textual and language-related phenomenon
 2. Modify concepts in TS, a field still centered on European languages and the Western cultural sphere

- The origins of the concept of intralingual translation
- "Three kinds of translation or ways of interpreting a verbal sign:
 - 1. Intralingual translation or rewording is an interpretation of verbal signs by means of other signs of the same language.
 - 2. Interlingual translation or translation proper is an interpretation of verbal signs by means of some other language.
 - 3. Intersemiotic translation or transmutation is an interpretation of verbal signs by means of signs of nonverbal sign systems."

(Roman Jakobson 1959)

- Intralingual translation: poor cousin of TS
 - Surge in interest in recent years is tied to an interest in vernacularization
- Diglossia
- Diglossie : Jean Psichari (1854-1929)
 - Charles Ferguson 1959
 - "In many speech communities two or more varieties of the same language are used by some speakers under different conditions."
- The question of H vs./ L

- "Indeed the complementary roles served by the literary and vernacular languages in pre-modern China are in many ways typical of the roles of H and L languages in classic diglossia."

(Chris Wen-chao Li,

Encyclopedia of Chinese Language and Linguistics 2015)



wen 文 (“literary”, “written” speech) (literary Sinitic)

vs./

su 俗, *tongsu* 通俗 (“vulgar”, “communicating with the vulgar”) (vernacular language / plain Chinese)

- Increasing interest in vernaculars in recent times
- In Western or Japanese sinology, studies on China itself often extend to China's neighbouring country (e.g., Korea, Japan, Vietnam, ancient cultures like Tangut, Khitan...), implying
 - questions of continuity or discontinuity of the normative function of literary sinitic in regard with vernaculars
 - questions of the mutual roles of different extant linguistic resources and vernaculars in regard with literary Chinese
- Usages of language in regard with a given culture regarded as crucial

- In China too, surge of interest in the last few years regarding rewriting, genre hopping, inter-generic adaptations
- Ex.:
 - 徐大军, 《元杂剧与小说关系研究》, 2006
 - 沈新林, 《同源而异派: 中国古代小说戏曲比较研究》, 2007
 - 范丽敏, 《互通, 因袭, 衍化: 宋元小说、讲唱与戏曲关系》, 2009
 - 徐文凯, 《有韵说部无声戏: 清代戏曲小说相互改编研究》, 2010
 - 陳妙丹, 《元明北雜劇改本研究》, 2017
- ➔ great awareness, to date, to question of adaptation of narrative plots or contents (many remarks on ideology)
- ➔ less awareness, to date, to purely linguistic aspects of rewritings / adaptations

- In TS: little interest in description and theorization of translational phenomena occurring within single languages
- How to define "translation"? Never-ending divide in the discipline of TS between “lumpers” and “splitters” (Chesterman 2016).
- To constitute a translation a transfer process:
 - "must have taken place between two languages/cultures"
 - "the resulting product must be assumed to be a translation by people in general"

(Toury, 1985, 1995)

- "Proper inclusion of intralingual translation [within the field of TS] on the grounds of its many similarities with interlingual translation, [...] the differences between intralingual and interlingual translation [being] more a question of degree than of kind." (Zethsen 2009)
- “There is no point where translation stops and adaptation starts.” (Ladmiral 2014)
- “‘Intralingual translation’: A desirable concept?” (Mossop, 2016)

- Karen Korning Zethsen
 - "Beyond Translation Proper—Extending the Field of Translation Studies" 2007
 - "Intralingual Translation: An Attempt at Description" 2009
- Korning Zethsen Karen et Hill-Madsen Aage
 - "Intralingual Translation and Its Place within Translation Studies – A Theoretical Discussion" 2016
- Özlem Berk Albachten
 - "Intralingual Translation: Discussion within Translation Studies and the Case of Turkey" 2014
- Karas Hilla
 - "Intralingual intertemporal translation as a relevant category in translation studies" 2016
- Matilde Nisbeth Jensen
 - "Optimising Comprehensibility in Interlingual Translation: The Need for Intralingual Translation" 2015

- We advocate
 - a more inclusive definition of “translation”
 - a broader definition including rewording, rewriting, commenting, continuous reinterpretation
- ➔ Compatible with practices largely present in middle period, premodern and early modern China

- 譚正璧 (1901-1991), 三言兩拍資料, 1980
- Lévy André & a. (ed.), *Inventaire analytique et critique du conte chinois en langue vulgaire* [Inventory of huaben, 話本小說總目提要], 1978–2006



- Methodology of textual comparison
- Few accurate descriptions of how adaptation / rewriting is conducted
- Importance of a careful analysis of textual transformations

List of textual transformations between ST and TT

Category 1:

Textual micro-strategies (types of translating / rewriting procedures)

→ *Denotational level (what the text says)*

- verbatim citation
- quasi-citation
- translation / replacement by (quasi-)synonym
- amplification
- amplified translation
- explicating translation / reformulating
- addition
- omission

Category 2 :

Stylistic characteristics

→ *Indexical level (quality of the language used)*

- literary Chinese
- vernacular Chinese
 - "standard" *guanhua* / dialect
- mixed language
- 3rd person narration
- 1st person narration
- dialogue
- textual displacements

→ Category 1 & 2 can be mixed ; several items in category 2 can coexist

→ Possibility of statistics

→ XML tool under construction; completion June 2018

- Blurred frontier, in the Chinese premodern tradition, between commentary and other forms of resemantization and re-entextualization
- Clear consciousness the literati of the time of the diglossic nature of written Chinese, and of the respective roles of levels

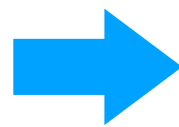
- 天下之文心少而里耳多；則小說之資於選言者少，而資於通俗者多。試今說話人當場描寫，可喜可愕，可悲可涕，可歌可舞……。雖小誦《孝經》、《論語》，其感人未必如是之捷且深也。噫！不通俗而能之乎？
- Under the Heaven, literary minds are few, while common ears are many; and as it happens, fiction lends itself less to the crafted language than to the colloquial. Well, just ask a storyteller to illustrate something on the spot, and you will see the rapture and the sensation, the grief and the tears, the singing and dancing! ... You could keep chanting the Classic of Filial Piety and the Analects, you will never succeed in moving people with such swiftness and such depth. Aye! How could achieve this, if you are not colloquial?

(《古今小說序》)

- 話須通俗方傳遠
- Only when the language is accessible to the vulgar is it able to carry far.

(《警世通言》12)

適有飛蛾來火上，媪佯以扇
撲之，燈滅，偽啟門點燈。



只見一個飛蛾在燈上旋轉，婆子
便把扇來一撲，故意撲滅了燈，
叫聲：「阿呀！老身自去點個燈
來。」

宋懋澄 (1569~ca. 1620), 《九籥集》, 11

馮夢龍 (1574-1646), 《古今小說》, 1

- 4 main influential factors in intralingual translation:
 - 1. Knowledge
 - 2. Time
 - 3. Culture
 - 4. Space

(Zethsen 2009)

- One would be tempted to add a 5th factor:
 - 5. Impact factor
- Cf. André Lefevere, *Translation, Rewriting, and the Manipulation of Literary Fame*, 1992
- a. Translation [of any kind] is nothing but a form of rewriting
 - "Translation is the most obviously recognizable type of rewriting."
 - "It is potentially the most influential because it is able to project the image of an author and/or a (series of) work(s) in another culture."
- b. Rewriting is powerful
 - "These images existed side by side with the realities they competed with, but the images always tended to reach more people than the corresponding realities did."
 - "The power wielded by these images [...] is enormous."

- Everything should not be borrowed from TS uncritically
- New findings in analysis of Yuan-Ming-early Qing China textual practices may affect the theory

→ Cf. 3 following presentations

- Ex.:
- Critique of Source Text vs./ Target Text duality
- For "splitters" within TS, the presence of a clear ST/TG relationship is a *sine qua non* condition of translation
- Ladmiral 1983 : "sourcier" ou "cibliste"
- Premodern Chinese textual practices invalidate this dichotomy
 - Cf. *huaben* novellas 話本小說: target text of some texts + source text to others

- Change in conceptual framework:
- Process of translation as metaliterature
- Definition of the product of translation, whatever the textual unit considered (full text or partial text), as a metatext
- One-way process vs./ networking processes
- Allows to broaden the scope of observation :
 - ➔ from the single verbal text derived from the process of translation
 - ➔ to the various traces of the text in the receiving culture
- Cf. works by:
 - Holmes (1970)
 - Popovič (1975 [2006])
 - Torop (1995 [2010])

- Closed text vs./ open text
- Target text (product of (classical) translation): form of closed text
- vs./
- Concept of metatext as an open text
- Intralingual translation as a non-normative operation endowed with the power to transform a closed text (the proto-text) into a linguistically and culturally open text
- cf. Bakhtinian dialogic nature of language, whereby a written utterance always echoes, and reworks, a whole set of previous (written) utterances

(Bakhtin, *Dialogic Imagination*, 1975; cf. "heteroglossia")

- + Notion of epistemic distance (Bisetto)

- What is the role of diglossia?
- Not paramount
- H / L dichotomy highly debatable
- The notion is criticized (cf. Vetrov 2011 ; Ross King: "Ditching 'Diglossia'", 2015)
- To be operative, the metatextual propensity of intralingual translation makes opportunistic use of a diglossic (or pluriglossic) situation, without having it as a necessary condition
- The central concept is rather:
 - the consciousness that there is always another potential text (voice) beneath a given text (voice)
 - that this other text has the propensity to open up a former text
 - cf. David Lurie (2011) on *kundoku* 訓讀
 - examples of *yanyi* 演義 (within literary sinitic)
- "Diglossic attraction"?
- whenever a second language exists, it exerts its attraction even within the realm of one single language in a diglossic situation
 - influence of factors such as:
 - extensive vernacularization
 - oral lessons in plain language
 - spread of education
 - widening of the lectorate

- **Conclusion**

- Intralingual translation
- A relatively new concept
 - still in its formative stage
 - adaptable
 - as yet not submitted to restrictive definitions
- Akin to commentary, but supposing a special attention to linguistic aspects of the text (utterance, style, lexicon)
- Akin to interpretation, but marked by deeds of “rewriting”, “rewording”, never completely severing the tie with the text it is meant to “open”
- Has relevance to intertextuality, but with tokens of recognizable proximity (e.g., presence of verbatim citations)
- Can take the form of amplification or adaptation, but with underlying agendas: new point of view, ideology, authorial voice...

Thank you!

謝謝！

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