

## Philosophy of Translation: Rationale, Scope and Methodology

By *CHEN Kaiju & YANG Jing* (Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Guangzhou, China) p.9

**Abstract:** Since the mid-20th century, translation studies has sped up its borrowing from disciplines such as linguistics, cultural studies and hermeneutics for its own theoretical development, and the philosophy of translation, which started to take shape around the 1980s, has by now established itself as an area of increasing importance. This article subjects the philosophy of translation to a comprehensive examination. It looks closely on the one hand into the different theoretical perspectives currently comprising this sub-discipline, and on the other into those interdisciplinary areas of philosophical studies, such as the philosophy of language, the philosophy of culture, and the philosophical hermeneutics, among which the philosophy of translation positions itself. Drawing on the theoretical resources offered by all these branches and areas of philosophical studies, the article proposes a new way of conceptualizing the philosophy of translation. The conception defines the sub-discipline, lays down the rationale for its formation, and identifies the sources of its theoretical grounds, its research methods and questions. It also reflects on the feasibility of turning the philosophy of translation into a full-fledged theoretical construct, and elaborates on theory's role in guiding the practices of translation.

**Keywords:** philosophy of translation; theoretical resources; feasibility; essential element; topic; research method

## China's National Capacity for Translation: Concept, Elements and Development Paths

By *ZHOU Zhongliang & REN Dongsheng* (Ocean University of China, Qingdao, China) p.17

**Abstract:** China's national capacity for translation is crucial for projecting its international image, communicating its cultural messages and improving its competence as a key participant in global governance. The present paper discusses the theoretical framework, structural elements and development paths for a program to build up China's translation capacity, through an analysis of the sequenced structure of agency and the conceptual content of "national capacity for translation" as a general term. Since this is a new topic area in translation studies, what has been concluded from the discussion is still tentative and much remains to be done before the issues related to the proposed program can be adequately addressed.

**Keywords:** national translation capacity; China's program for developing national translation capacity; theoretical framework; concept; structure

## The Direction and the Space for Further Development of Literary Translation Studies in China

By *SONG Xuezhi & HAN Yuze* (Jilin International Studies University, Changchun, China) p.24

**Abstract:** This paper explores the direction and the space for further developing Chinese literary translation studies. Taking as its points of reference both the traditional "inviting in the foreign" approach and the currently favored "sending out the Chinese" one to conducting theoretical inquiries, the paper argues that the two approaches actually complement each other and should be applied simultaneously. Adopting the former approach would direct research interests to topic areas such as language and its application, literariness and aesthetics, generative function and process, translation agency and translator behavior, as well as the relationship among translated literature, world literature and literature in general. Adopting the latter approach, on the other hand, would focus attention on a different set of issues, including compatibility between translation skills and cultural positioning, agreement between character images in translated works and the image of the Chinese people in general, correspondence between the criteria for assuring translation quality of individual works and the systemic requirements imposed by the project of cultural dissemination, balancing the quests for short-term and long-term effects, coordinating the need to promote international cooperation and the need to exercise controlling authority, and collaboration between literary studies and foreign languages studies as well. The identification of these research topics and interests is expected to help literary translation researchers gain a clearer sense of the direction in which they should devote their efforts for the growth and expansion of China's literary translation studies.

**Keywords:** literary translation; translation studies; "inviting in the foreign" approach; "sending out the Chinese" approach; development

## The Ideological and Cultural Underpinnings of the Disputes over Translated Terminology during the Late Qing and Early Republican Period

By *ZHANG Jinghua* (Hunan University of Science and Technology, Xiangtan, China) p.31

**Abstract:** A series of translation-related controversies broke out during the Late Qing and Early Republican period in China's

modern history. The initial debate on transliteration vs. semantic translation of imported Western terms quickly set off a whole series of large-scale disputes over translated terminology. Even though on the surface, these heated debates seem to have been provoked by academic or technical issues only, underneath one detects an ideological confrontation rooted in a still deeper-lying Sino-Western cultural conflict. What was at issue in the controversies over terminology translation, just as what was at issue over the reform of the Chinese language, the way to popularize education, the determination of ethnic identities, and the modernization of China's academy, can all have their root cause traced to a cultural conflict between China and the West. These early 20th-century debates were eventually settled when semantic translation was established as the preferred method while transliteration was assigned the role as an auxiliary strategy. In reaching a consensus on this solution, Chinese scholars at that time were able to evade the discourse trap of Western phonocentrism. The way they confronted and coped with the issue then still offers a useful lesson now to Chinese scholars who are committed to cultural self-confidence and intellectual independence.

**Keywords:** the Late Qing and Early Republican Period; Sino-Western cultural conflict; translated terminology; phonocentrism

### Mei Yi-pao's English Translation of *Mozi* and the Dissemination of the Mohist Thought in the West

By LIU Song (Northwestern Polytechnical University, Xi'an, China) p.39

**Abstract:** The 1929 publication of *The Ethical and Political Works of Motse* by Mei Yi-pao marks a milestone in English translation of *Mozi*. As the first complete rendition of the Chinese classic undertaken by a Chinese scholar, the publication represents an early initiative by modern Chinese academe to actively engage with its Western counterpart in introducing classical Chinese philosophical thoughts to the West. Drawing upon available primary sources such as the translator's memoirs, doctoral theses, and relevant Western Sinological works, this study reexamines Mei's version in reference to the social, historical and cultural milieu prevailing at the time when it was published, in terms of its textual features, the motives for undertaking the project, and the translation's influence on subsequent developments in the field of Sinology. Reading Mei Yi-pao's translation of *Mozi* anew serves not only to illuminate the manner in which modern Chinese intellectuals used translation as a medium for raising cultural self-awareness and publicizing the sentiments and visions characteristic of Chinese civilization, but also to offer a historical vantage point from which to rethink contemporary Chinese translators' responsibilities and roles in the on-going efforts to disseminate Chinese culture.

**Keywords:** Mei Yi-pao; *Mozi*; Chinese-English translation; translator; translation of Chinese classics

### English Translation of Chinese Non-fiction Literature: Problems and Solutions

By ZHAO Guoyue & ZHU Chaowei (Sichuan International Studies University, Chongqing, China) p.46

**Abstract:** As a result of China's drive to engage with the world and the world's growing interest in understanding China, more and more contemporary Chinese non-fiction literary works have been translated into English and circulated in the English-speaking world. Where it used to be foreign publishers alone that selected the source texts and made them available to an English-reading audience through what is known as "incoming translation," China's domestic publishers have also taken the matter into their own hand lately through what could be termed "outgoing translation." However, even though they are both engaged in publishing Chinese non-fiction for an international readership, the foreign and the domestic publishers differ significantly in their communicative intentions, thematic preferences and even the narrative types of their chosen source texts. While China's domestic publishers emphasize grand narratives aimed at projecting a positive image of their own country, foreign publishers prefer personal accounts of sufferings and hardship. The ways these two sets of translated works have been received in the English-speaking world are also vastly different; works produced through "outgoing translation" are not well-received, while those through "incoming translation" are widely read and reviewed. Overall, works with narratives of personal experiences tend to be more readily accepted by English-speaking readers than those with grand narratives. If text types affect the target readers' reception so significantly, the selection of source texts must also hold a key to improving their reception in the English-speaking countries.

**Keywords:** contemporary Chinese non-fiction literature; English-speaking world; outgoing translation; incoming translation