

Xiao Qian's Chinese-To-English Self-Translation in the 1940s

Authors : Xiangyu Yang

Abstract : Xiao Qian (1910-1999) was a prolific literary translator between Chinese and English in both directions and an influential commentator on Chinese translation practices for nearly 70 years (1931-1998). During his stay in Britain from 1939 to 1946, Xiao self-translated and published a series of short stories, essays, and feature articles. With Pedersen's theoretical framework, the paper finds that Xiao flexibly adopted seven translation strategies (i.e. phonemic retention, specification, direct translation, generalization, substitution, omission, and official equivalent) to deal with the expressions specific to Chinese culture, struggling to seek a balance between adequate translation and acceptable translation in a historical condition of the huge gap between China and the west in the early twentieth century. Besides, the study also discovers that Xiao's translation strategies were greatly influenced by his own translational purpose as well as the literary systems, ideologies, and patronage in China and Britain in the 1940s.

Keywords : self-translation, extralinguistic cultural reference, Xiao Qian, Pedersen

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