



A Space for Translation: Thresholds of Interpretation

Presentation Details	
Title of Paper:	The Interpretative Space of Ultratranslation: When a Text Is Rewritten into a Performance
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Abstract:	<p>The emergence of “ultratranslation” (超譯 <i>chaoyi</i>) in the early 2000s reformulates the concept of translation and expands one’s imagination of it with the introduction of further possibilities. Although it has come under intense criticism for betraying the original with highly subjective rewriting, ultratranslation, as a budding idea, calls for more academic attention and debates. Liao (2017) has discussed the issue and maintains that ultratranslation opens up a new realm for translation proper, extending its boundaries and moving it to a greater space where a text can be given a wider interpretation by rewriters based on contextual clues available, responding to readers with different interests and needs as well as situations of different communication media.</p> <p>Ultratranslation inevitably becomes more complex when a story printed on paper is transformed into a theatrical performance; however, the complexity may also bring forth a broadening scope of the knowledge about ultratranslation. Thus, the current study proposes to examine a stage-play about the Buddhist translator Kumarajiva (334-413), given by SunHope Taiwanese Opera Group, to (1) explore further the migrating spaces between the original and the rewritten, and (2) elaborate on the diverse interpretative space provided by ultratranslation. This paper argues that an ultratranslated text needs to expand the space of (re-)interpretation for target audiences. Through the contrast approach found in ultratranslation, both rewriters and target audiences are given an ampler space to go into the text and develop their power to (re-)interpret and/or (re-)shape a work.</p>

Reference

Liao Chia-hui 廖佳慧 (2017). *Fanyi lilun* 翻譯理論 [Translation Theories]. Taipei: Wunan, 144-154.

Author's Biography

Chia-Hui LIAO currently works as an assistant professor at the National Yunlin University of Science and Technology (Yuntech) in Taiwan. Her research interest lies primarily in how a work and/or a figure is received through different cultural contexts. She is also interested in fanlation and intralingual translation. Her recent project focuses on online translation devices and interpreting learning.