



A Space for Translation: Thresholds of Interpretation

Presentation Details	
Title of Paper:	Lost in THE DREAM: Cognitive Mapping and the Making of a Storyworld in <i>The Story of the Stone</i>
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Abstract:	<p>Cognitive mapping is a concept borrowed by literary scholars from psychology. It has been used in narratology to refer to “the process by which things and events are mentally modeled as being located somewhere in the world” (Herman 2001, 518). The result of this process is a cognitive map, i.e. the mental representation of the spatial layout of (a) storyworld(s). Cognitive narratology, taking human experience as the essence of narratives, believes that not only storytelling entails the construction of a world with spatial extension, but “telling a story necessitates modelling, and enabling others to model, an emergent constellation of spatially related entities” (534). Cognitive mapping is therefore “fundamental and obligatory” (518) for both making and understanding of narratives.</p> <p>The great classical Chinese novel, <i>The Story of the Stone</i> (《紅樓夢》), also known as <i>The Dream of the Red Chamber</i>, is particularly well-known for its topographic representation of a storyworld of self-contained totality and detailed completeness. With reference to David Hawkes’s English translation and various materials from the translator’s notebooks, this paper will demonstrate the translator’s (mental) cartographic effort to conjure up “maps in mind” in response to the textual spatial cues distributed throughout the narrative. It argues that the translator’s cognitive mapping offers explanations to some translational performances that have been too readily glossed over as insignificant, and sheds light on translator’s cognitive engagement as side-participant within the storyworld.</p>
Reference	Herman, David (2001). “Spatial Reference in Narrative Domains.” <i>Text</i> 21(4): 515-541.

Author's Biography

ZHOU Min, Leonora received her PhD in Translation from Department of Translation, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her dissertation, entitled “Narrativity in Translation: The Translator’s Textual Involvement in English Translations of Chinese *Ci* Poetry (詞)”, focuses on translation’s impact on the interplay between lyricism and narrativity in lyric poetry. She also holds an MPhil in translation studies with concentration on Chinese translations of Shakespeare’s Sonnets. Her research interests include poetry translation, lyric poetry, storytelling in translation, cognitive narratology, and intermediality studies.