



A Space for Translation: Thresholds of Interpretation

Presentation Details	
Title of Paper:	Translating Theatrical Space: A Study of Hong Shen's <i>Yama Zhao</i>
Speaker:	CHEN Yuanyuan, PhD Candidate, Department of Translation, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Abstract:	
<p><i>Yama Zhao</i> (《趙閣王》) is the first drama by Hong Shen (洪深, 1894-1955) after his return from the U.S. in 1922. Despite the failure of its premier in 1923, it remains a most important piece of work in the history of modern Chinese drama as it shows a strong sense of space of Hong as a dramatist, which distinguished him from other drama translators of his time. This paper starts with a debate in late 1920s on whether <i>Yama Zhao</i> was an original work of Hong's own or an imitation of Eugene O'Neil's <i>Emperor Jones</i>. A comparison between <i>Emperor Jones</i> and <i>Yama Zhao</i> shows that many spatial features of the former were kept in the latter, thus the author puts forward a third view that <i>Yama Zhao</i> could be taken as a creative translation of the original. Based on this, the paper continues to discuss the conversions in the translated work with attention to the social context, and concludes that through the adjustments of both stage settings and the character's inner conflicts, Hong managed to produce a Chinese social problem play (社會問題劇) in an expressionist way.</p>	

Author's Biography

CHEN Yuanyuan is a PhD Candidate at Department of Translation, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. She received her Master's Degree in Translation Studies from Graduate Institute of Interpretation and Translation, Shanghai International Studies University, and her Bachelor's Degree in English Translation from School of Translation Studies, Xi'an International Studies University. Her main research interests lie in Chinese translation history and modern Chinese literature, especially the roles of translators and drama translation in Republican China. She is currently working on a project about Hong Shen's translation and adaptation of western dramas in the 1920s, under the guidance of Professor Lawrence Wang-chi Wong. Ms. Chen is also a translator, she has published the Chinese translation of Frances Mayes' *In Tuscany* and the English translation of *A Zhu Ziqing Reader* (co-translated). She also contributed to the English translation of *Selected Essays on Chinese Classic Novels* and *Turkic-Speaking Peoples in China - Past and Present* (forthcoming), and her latest Chinese translation of Paul Theroux's *Riding the Iron Rooster* is to be published.