

## Benjamins Translation Library

The Benjamins Translation Library aims to stimulate research and training in translation and interpreting studies. The Library provides a forum for a variety of approaches (which may sometimes be conflicting) in a socio-cultural, historical, theoretical, applied and pedagogical context. The Library includes scholarly works, reference works, post-graduate text books and readers in the English language.

### General editor

Gideon Toury  
Tel Aviv University

### Associate editor

Miriam Shlesinger  
Bar Ilan University

### Advisory board

Marilyn Gaddis Rose  
Binghamton University

Yves Gambier  
Turku University

Daniel Gile  
Université Lumière Lyon 2 and ISIT Paris

Ulrich Heid  
University of Stuttgart

Eva Hung  
Chinese University of Hong Kong

W. John Hutchins  
University of East Anglia

Zuzana Jettmarová  
Charles University of Prague

Werner Koller  
Bergen University

Alet Kruger  
UNISA

José Lambert  
Catholic University of Leuven

Franz Pöchhacker  
University of Vienna

Rosa Rabadán  
University of León

Roda Roberts  
University of Ottawa

Juan C. Sager  
UMIST Manchester

Mary Snell-Hornby  
University of Vienna

Sonja Tirkkonen-Condit  
University of Joensuu

Lawrence Venuti  
Temple University

Wolfram Wilss  
University of Saarbrücken

Judith Woodsworth  
Mt. Saint Vincent University Halifax

Sue Ellen Wright  
Kent State University

# Twentieth-Century Chinese Translation Theory

Modes, issues and debates

OUCENG  
机密

Leo Tak-hung Chan


Lingnan University,  
Hong Kong



### Volume 51

Twentieth-Century Chinese Translation Theory: Modes, issues and debates  
by Leo Tak-hung Chan

John Benjamins Publishing Company  
Amsterdam/Philadelphia

™ The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences – Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1984.

## Table of contents

List of contributors	IX
Preface	XIII
<b>PART I</b>	<b>1</b>
1. The traditional approach: Impressionistic theories	3
2. “Modern” theories of the 1920s and 30s	15
3. Theories from a postcolonial perspective	29
4. End of the century: The impact of “new theories”	43
References for Chapters 1–4	60
<b>PART II</b>	
<b>A. Responses to Yan Fu</b>	<b>67</b>
1. Yan Fu: “Preface to <i>Tianyanlun</i> (Evolution and ethics)” (1901) <i>Tr. C. Y. Hsu</i>	69
2. Zheng Zhenduo: “How to translate literary texts” (1921) <i>Tr. Leo Chan</i>	72
3. Bian Zhilin: “Literary translation and sensitivity to language” (1983) <i>Tr. Gilbert Fong</i>	74
4. Ye Weilian: “Debunking claims of <i>Xin, Da</i> and <i>Ya</i> ” (1994) <i>Tr. Ye Weilian</i>	77
Notes to Articles 1–4	89
<b>B. Spiritual resonance</b>	<b>91</b>
5. Chen Xiying: “On translation” (1929) <i>Tr. Chapman Chen</i>	93
6. Zeng Xubai: “Spirit and fluency in translation” (1929) <i>Tr. Chapman Chen</i>	98
7. Fu Lei: “Preface to the retranslation of <i>Père Goriot</i> ” (1951) <i>Tr. May Wong</i>	102

### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Leo Tak-hung Chan

Twentieth-Century Chinese Translation Theory : Modes, issues and debates / Leo Tak-hung Chan.

p. cm. (Benjamins Translation Library, ISSN 0929-7316 ; v. 51)

Includes bibliographical references and indexes.

1. Translating and interpreting--China--History--20th century. I.

Title. II. Series.

P306.8.C6C49 2004

418'.02'095104-dc22

2004041142

ISBN 90 272 1657 6 (Eur.) / 1 58811 511 9 (US) (Hb; alk. paper)

© 2004 – John Benjamins B.V.

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form, by print, photoprint, microfilm, or any other means, without written permission from the publisher.

John Benjamins Publishing Co. · P.O. Box 36224 · 1020 ME Amsterdam · The Netherlands

John Benjamins North America · P.O. Box 27519 · Philadelphia PA 19118-0519 · USA

8. Qian Zhongshu: "The translations of Lin Shu" (1963) <i>Tr. George Kao</i>	104	23. Ai Siqu: "On translation" (1937) <i>Tr. John Lai</i>	195
Notes to Articles 5–8	115	Notes to Articles 19–23	198
<b>C. Art vs. science</b>	121	<b>F. The untranslatability of poetry</b>	201
9. Zhu Guangqian: "On translation" (1944) <i>Tr. Leo Chan</i>	123	24. Mao Dun: "Some thoughts on translating poetry" (1922) <i>Tr. Brian Holton</i>	203
10. Fu Lei: "Fragments of my translation experience" (1957) <i>Tr. Leo Chan</i>	126	25. Cheng Fangwu: "On translating poetry" (1923) <i>Tr. May Wong</i>	208
11. Huang Xuanfan: "Review of Si Guo's <i>Studies of Translation</i> " (1974) <i>Tr. Matthew Leung</i>	129	26. Bian Zhilin: "Translation and its positive/negative impact on modern Chinese poetry" (1987) <i>Tr. Kelly Chan</i>	211
12. Huang Xuanfan: "Translation and linguistic knowledge" (1974) <i>Tr. Matthew Leung</i>	134	27. Gu Zhengkun: "On multiple complementary norms and the translation of poetry" (1990) <i>Tr. Julie Chiu</i>	214
13. Jin Di: "The debate of art vs. science" (1987) <i>Tr. Priscilla Yip</i>	141	Notes to Articles 24–27	220
Notes to Articles 9–13	147	<b>G. Translation theory for China</b>	223
<b>D. The language of translation</b>	151	28. Dong Qiusi: "On building our translation theories" (1951) <i>Tr. Tan Zaixi</i>	225
14. Qu Qiubai: "On translation – A letter to Lu Xun" (1931) <i>Tr. Yau Wai Ping</i>	153	29. Luo Xinzhang: "Chinese translation theory, a system of its own" (1984) <i>Tr. Tan Zaixi</i>	230
15. Lu Xun: "A reply to Qu Qiubai" (1931) <i>Tr. Leo Chan</i>	158	30. Liu Miqing: "The basic paradigm of Chinese translation theory" (1990) <i>Tr. Han Yang</i>	236
16. Qu Qiubai: "Again on translation – A reply to Lu Xun" (1932) <i>Tr. Yau Wai Ping</i>	162	31. Sun Zhili: "Some thoughts on building our nation's translation theory" (1998) <i>Tr. Han Yang</i>	240
17. Fu Lei: "Letter to Lin Yiliang on translation" (1951) <i>Tr. Sara Ho</i>	168	32. Lin Zhang: "On theories in translation studies" (1998) <i>Tr. Leo Chan</i>	244
18. Yu Guangzhong: "Translation and creative writing" (1969) <i>Tr. Leo Chan</i>	173	Notes to Articles 28–32	246
Notes to Articles 14–18	175	<b>H. Creativity and translation</b>	249
<b>E. Literal translation vs. sense-translation</b>	179	33. Zheng Zhenduo: "Virgins and matchmakers" (1921) <i>Tr. Rachel Lung</i>	251
19. Liang Shiqiu: "On Mr. Lu Xun's 'Stiff translation'" (1929) <i>Tr. Evangeline Almberg</i>	181	34. Guo Moruo: "Letter to Zheng Zhenduo" (1921) <i>Tr. Rachel Lung</i>	252
20. Lu Xun: "'Stiff translation' and the class nature of literature" (1930) <i>Tr. Leo Chan</i>	184	35. Mao Dun: "The 'matchmaker' and the 'virgin'" (1934) <i>Tr. Laurence Wong</i>	254
21. Ye Gongchao, "On translation and language reform" (1931) <i>Tr. Rachel Lung</i>	188		
22. Mao Dun: "Literal translation, smooth translation, and distorted translation" (1934) <i>Tr. Leo Chan</i>	192		

36. Fang Ping: "Miscellaneous thoughts on translation" (1995)	
<i>Tr. Orlando Ho</i>	257
37. Xu Yuanchong: "Verbal translation and literary translation" (1995)	
<i>Tr. Orlando Ho</i>	261
38. Xu Jun and Yuan Xiaoyi: "For the sake of our common cause" (1995)	
<i>Tr. Orlando Ho</i>	264
Notes to Articles 33–38	268
Index	271

## List of contributors

**Evangeline AlMBERG** has a B. A. (Hons) from the University of Hong Kong and a Ph.D. from the University of Stockholm. She is currently a full professor at the University of Macao.

**Kelly Kar-yue Chan** is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Edinburgh and currently teaches at the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong.

**Leo Tak-hung Chan** is Head of the Department of Translation, Lingnan University, Hong Kong. His articles have appeared in *TTR*, *Babel*, *Across Languages and Cultures* and *The Translator*. His most recent publication is *One into Many: Translation and the Dissemination of Classical Chinese Literature* (Rodopi, 2003).

**Chapman Chen** currently teaches translation as Assistant Professor at the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies at Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

**Julie Chiu** is Assistant Professor of Translation at Lingnan University. She has published two books of translation and articles on the translation of fantasy novels and modern Chinese free verse. She is presently engaged in research on contemporary "short-short" stories and time in translation.

**Gilbert C. F. Fong** is Reader/Professor at the Department of Translation, Chinese University of Hong Kong. He translated many plays by Gao Xingjian, published in *The Other Shore* and *Snow in August*. He also edited *Studies on Hong Kong Drama* and *Plays from Hong Kong*, and is Editor of two journals.

**Han Yang** has a B. A. (Hons.) and a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of York, UK. She is currently an Assistant Professor in Language and Translation at the Open University of Hong Kong.

**Orlando Nang-kwok Ho** has a B. A. (Hons.) from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and a Master's degree from the University of New South Wales. Currently, he is doing part-time teaching at the Open University of Hong Kong.