

# **BERTopic Modeling for self-translation analysis: Eileen Chang as a case**

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## **Abstract**

Eileen Chang (張愛玲, 1920-1995)'s *Jinsuoji* (金鎖記, 1943) holds a significant place among her influential works. Current scholarship has devoted to examining *Jinsuoji* and its three self-translated versions: *The Rouge of the North* (1967), *Yuannu* (怨女 1966), and *The Golden Cangue* (1971). The focus revolves around two research questions: the textual additions and alterations in her self-translation and the underlying mechanisms for these changes. However, both questions are unable to be thoroughly addressed without a panoramic understanding of the contextual information in the additions and alterations. To address this, the present study employs BERTopic, a topic modeling technique based on deep learning technology, to condense the contextual information into cohesive and comparable word representations, or "topics". The paper first identifies all the topical alterations made by Chang, and then visually demonstrates and compares the narrative mechanisms, character development, and writing styles across the four versions. Finally, it explores the underlying reasons for Chang's additions and alterations. The finding reveals that Chang's rendering of the three texts is intertwined with her aesthetic persistence on a specific group of topics and sub-topics. The paper not only enhances comprehension of Chang's self-translation efforts but also offers methodological insights for future studies.

## **Biography**

Mr. Rui LU is a MPhil candidate in the Department of Translation at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He earned his BA in English and BE in Civil Engineering from Tianjin University, and completed his MA in Translation at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he was recognized as the top-ranked student and granted the Best Performance Award.

His research focuses on the relationship between translation, education, and publication in early republican China. His interests lie in translation studies, translation history, and digital humanities.