

A computational perspective of fan translation and professional translation: Case study of *The Legend of the Condor Heroes* of Louis Cha

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Abstract

The iconic “*Condor Trilogy*” by Louis Cha has inspired a diverse array of translations, including both collaborative fan translations and professional renditions. This study focuses on “*A Hero Born*” (2018) by Anna Holmwood, which translates the first nine chapters of the original “射雕英雄傳” (*The Legend of The Condor Heroes*), contrasted against a corresponding fan translation from an online forum community. Instead of adopting the traditional close reading approach, this research employs computational distant reading methodologies. It integrates analytical instruments to discern the subtle variances distinguishing fan translations from their professional counterparts, especially in facets of characterization in the fiction and their emotional resonance. Visualization techniques are utilized to delineate these distinctions, offering a discerning perspective into the convergences and divergences of the two translation versions. By unearthing these dynamics, this study illuminates the distinct approaches and priorities of fan translations versus professional translators when navigating texts rich in cultural elements and contexts. The exploration provides a deeper insight into how both groups negotiate and represent different characters’ in their respective translations.

Biography

Dr. Lidia Mengyuan ZHOU serves as a Lecturer at the Department of Translation, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Her primary areas of research encompass digital humanities within translation studies, Chinese-Portuguese-English translation/interpreting, and translation technology. She has contributed several articles to international peer-reviewed journals, addressing subjects such as comparative literature, dynamics in Chinese-Portuguese-English indirect translation, and poetry translation. In 2021-2022, she led a research endeavor titled “Image of Contemporary China in Portugal: Reception of Chinese Contemporary Literature (2000-2020)”, funded by the Macau Government. Additionally, she is the Principal Investigator for two digital humanities projects, funded by The CUHK, centered on the English and Portuguese translations of Louis Cha’s literary works.