

Unveiling Ideological Transformations: A Corpus-Based Analysis of Female Representations and Translation Strategies in Mo Yan's Novels

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Abstract

This study focuses on two representative works by Mo Yan, *Shengsi pilao* (Mo 2006) and *Fengru feitun* (Mo 1996), and their English translations, employing a corpus-based approach to examine female-related ideological markers and the translation strategies used to render them. This paper proposes two core research questions: 1. How does Mo Yan shape ideologies related to women? 2. What translation strategies do translators employ when translating these ideologies? The study constructs a parallel corpus and utilizes AntConc 4.2 for concordance, collocation analysis, and keyword analysis. Combining Jieba word segmentation and TextRank calculation, ideological markers are extracted and categorized based on word frequency, word weight, and a log-likelihood threshold (≥ 3.84). Macro-level analysis uses concordance to expand context, while micro-level analysis employs close reading to verify. Simultaneously, type-token ratio (TTR) and standardized type-token ratio (STTR) are used to quantify changes in lexical diversity. The study reveals that Mo Yan constructs a rich ideological network through female characters, encompassing trauma symbols, challenges to gender norms, symbols of systemic hierarchy, and symbols of vulgar culture. Goldblatt's English translation employs a mixed strategy primarily focused on domestication, resulting in a reduction of approximately 25.8% in the number of tokens. While some ideological functions are significantly weakened, the emotional continuity of the core family narrative is preserved. This study, combining corpus-based translation studies and critical discourse analysis, provides quantitative evidence on the impact of translation as a process of cultural negotiation on the cross-cultural transmission of ideology.

Keywords: Mo Yan; ideological marker; translation strategy; corpus; word weight