

PUBLIC SELECTION BASED ON QUALIFICATIONS AND INTERVIEW FOR THE AWARDING OF NO. 1 EXPERIENCED GRANT LASTING 24 MONTHS FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH PURSUANT TO ART. 22 OF LAW NO. 240/2010 AT THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES, LITERATURES AND CULTURES (A.R.F. 10/N3 - CENTRAL AND EAST ASIAN CULTURES - A.D. L-OR/21 - CHINESE AND SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES (PROJECT ECCELLENZADLLCS) -TYPE B

announced with decree of the Chancellor Rep. no. 697/2018 of 25.10.2018 and posted on the official registry of the University on 26.10.2018

RESEARCH PROJECT
"Heteroglossia and translation of Sinophone Literature"

Research structure: Department of Foreign languages, literatures and cultures

Duration of the grant: 24 months

Scientific Area: 10 - Antiquities, philology, literary studies, art history

Academic recruitment field: 10/N3 - Central and east Asian cultures

Academic discipline: L-OR/21 - Chinese and south Asian languages and literatures

Scientific Director: Prof. Tommaso Pellin

1. Objective

From a theoretical point of view, the objective of this research is to investigate issues related to the translation of Sinophone Literature, that is a literature written in Chinese, or in Sinitic languages, outside the cultural hegemony of China (Shih 2011; Tu 1994), by bilingual authors.

From a practical perspective, relying on the critical assumption that "Sinophone is multilingual, polyphonic, and also poly-scriptic" (Shih 2016, 106), the research intends to explore and produce new approaches and methodologies for translating texts that are intrinsically heteroglossic, and that show the process of hybridization of linguistic and cultural codes. Furthermore, the research aims at elaborating innovative strategies for preserving the richness of intertextual references and to enhance the study of self-translation practices. The project, therefore, is meant to be an original research in several disciplines: in the field of Translation Studies, China Studies, Cultural Studies and Literary Studies that focus on the influence and the interaction between languages and cultures.

2. Theoretical Framework

In the past two decades, Contemporary theorists of the concept of the "Sinophone" have been working on definitions, theories and transdisciplinary methodologies to approach the study of a literature produced in Chinese, or in Sinitic languages, but not confined to a single identity. They focus on the global nature (Shih, Tsai, Bernards 2013) and on the polyphony (Zhang 2014, 13) of the Sinophone literary text, as well as on the phenomenon of merging and converging codes that stems from experiences of transculturation. In this perspective, the project intends to develop a multidisciplinary discourse on Sinophone literary productions by conceptualizing the specific translation issues of heteroglossic literary texts, written by authors that are Chinese by origin but live in an extraterritorial reality, with a double consciousness. For instance, one of these issues could be represented by the complex phenomenon of intertextuality, which in the framework of linguistic and cultural hybridization acquires a double articulation.

3. Research Project Description

Drawing on the rich landscape of cultural, literary, ethnographic, political interpretations and possibilities of *Sinophone Studies*, the research entails a focus on Sinophone literary texts produced by de-territorialized authors. Some of them may have experienced exile, but all of them decided to build a dialectic interaction with the acquired homeland, e.g. the United States in modern times (Zhang Ailing, Lin Yutang) as well as in current times (Yan Geling, Ha Jin), or contemporary anglophone (Ma Jian, Yang Lian) or francophone (Gao Xingjian, Dai Sijie, François Cheng) Europe. They often represent the evolutionary plurality of the diasporic paradigm: marked by a nomadic Chineseness and an individual bilingualism (Hamers e Blanc 2004: 6), they make the effort of productively rephrasing their roots (Clifford 1997), as their creolized and polyphonic literary language reveals.

On this basis, the research attempts to conceive a taxonomy of issues linked to the process of translation from Chinese, derived from the heteroglossic and transcultural nature of the selected corpus, as to demonstrate that the fluid boundary between identity and otherness appears in the shape of an osmotic exchange of codes within the textual surface.

In this context, the study of the dynamics and of the products of self-translation carried out by the above-mentioned authors is meant to be a fundamental reference.

Ideally, a multiple perspective will guide the research:

1. epistemological profile: the research will contribute to shape the definition of "Sinophone", its meanings and implications, its object of study, the critical method of reading and interpreting it, in the domain of the developing field of Sinophone Studies.

2. theoretical and methodological profile: the research will participate in the articulation of new categories and approaches, in the field of Literary Translation Studies, that could be applied to modern and contemporary Sinophone texts.
3. pragmatic and analytic profile: the research will foster the creation of innovative strategies to read the polyphony of Sinophone and global literary texts, and to enhance the value of the complex paradigm of culture-specific and historical references, as well as the extralinguistic factors involved in the process of creation that permeate the creative process and product.

Keywords:

Translation, Sinophone, heteroglossia, literature, transculturality.

4. Timing and Schedule of activities

The research will be organized in different stages, over a 24-month period:

In the first stage (A) the bibliography and theoretical framework of reference will be identified, and the methodological premises of the research project will be defined.

In the second stage (B), some authors and productions will be selected and adopted as a case study. In this stage, the planning of the analytical work will also be defined.

In the third stage (C), the corpus will be analysed.

In the fourth and last stage (D), the outcomes of the previous phases will be disseminated in local, national and international contexts, and through the publication of several essays.

5. Expected results

Firstly, the project aims at providing a significant and multi-layered contribution to Translation Studies, in an international and transdisciplinary context:

- Chinese Studies and their more recent developments (*Sinophone Studies*), by producing new knowledge and approaches;
- Self-Translation Studies (Grutman 2013; Tanqueiro 2009), by identifying new case studies and issues;
- in the domain of literary productions that appear as the phenomenology of a plural self, interacting with and influenced by different languages and cultures.

Furthermore, from a historical-critical perspective, the research could encourage reflections on multilingual experimentations that have characterized some relevant stages of modern Chinese literature.

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