Introduction

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1 Translation and Comparative Studies: East and West in Dialogue

A international seminar titled “Translation and Comparative Cultural Studies: East and West in Dialogue” was held by the Center for Literary Translation Studies at Fudan University in May 2014 with delegates from different cities in Mainland China, Hong Kong, the USA, UK, Australia, Japan, Korea, etc. Here are three papers chosen to explore the emerging problems facing both the translators and scholars on translation studies nowadays.

Firstly, the role of Translation Studies. Translation might begin as early as the written language existed, but Translation Studies as an independent discipline appeared no earlier than the 1960s. However, it boomed up quickly and its close relation with other disciplines such as comparative literature, cultural studies and gender studies brings the possible sources of conflict between disciplines. Duncan Large’s paper here explores the future statue that Translation Studies might have by clarifying the relationship between Translation Studies and Comparative Literature.

Secondly, the new challenges and difficulties brought to the translators by the changing nature of the contemporary literary works. The changed role of language and the new poetics in the contemporary works forced not only the translators to find new translation method, but also the scholars on translation studies to

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reconsider the definition of translation. Interestingly, Meng Ji and Congrong Dai discuss the same problem from different view point at different universities, one in Australia and one in China, forming, in some sense, a kind of dialogue with papers.

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