



Translation as Discovery: Cultural Incommensurabilities in Cross-Cultural Research

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This paper explores translation as a means of research, comparing, for example: the different definitions (indeed, the different calendrical valuations) of "spring" in China and the West, the difference connotations of a drum in China and the West, the disjunctions between both "heart" and "mind" and 心, implicitness and ellipticalness as a value in Chinese, explicitness and articulateness as a virtue in English; the default color of jade as green in English, and as white in Chinese; the associations of white with purity in English and with death in Chinese.

The paper will explore the heuristic value of translation even, or especially, when it fails – when it is "impossible."