



The Translator in the Translation

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When scholars study the practice of the translators from their works, data are usually collected by comparing the translations with the source texts. Such a method allows researchers to find out significant changes made to the originals by the translators, but it does not provide useful information on how such changes may affect the reception of the translated texts. This is especially the case when the translators appear to have adopted a relatively conservative approach and made little alteration to the texts. In this paper, I propose a model to analyse the positioning of the translator as reflected in the translated text by applying concepts from narratology, including Seymour Chatman's idea of the narrative communication situation and Roger Fowler's notion of point of view. By looking at translation as a form of narration, the proposed analytical model addresses the following questions: what is the world-view projected in the translation? Who is/are speaking? What position does the translator assume in the narration? Under what circumstances and how does the translator manifest his or her presence in the translated narrative discourse? For illustration, examples will be drawn from Liang Yuchun's translation of Joseph Conrad's short story 'Youth' published by Beixin Shuju in 1932. I want to suggest that data collected through a textual analysis like this can form the basis for an investigation of the translation practice within specific social contexts.