



Is Kungfu Playable Ever After Beyond Chinese? – A Case Study of *Ludingji* in Its English and Japanese Translation

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An author such as Louis Cha deserves to be taken seriously, not simply in terms of readership and popularity, but also as an example of contemporary literature in Chinese. However, the particularities of his martial arts fictions and the corresponding difficulties in translation have made many translators flinch, for a bold translator would have to tackle at least three problems: 1) the myriad martial arts terms; 2) the fighting scenes; and 3) the cultural differences. In this paper, the writer will make a case study of *Ludingji* in its English and Japanese translation. He will investigate how the translator manipulates this novel into English through negotiation with different parts in the dialogue, making it the best seller after the preceding attempts to translate marital arts novels have proved unwelcome. He points out that serving as not only the mediator but also the participant of the dialogue, the translator resorts to either domestication or foreignization to accomplish a balance translation. The description will be focused on where the translator goes against the original in terms of the martial arts terms and fighting scene descriptions, which are essential to this genre of literature. During the course of that, comparisons will be made regarding translation strategies between the original, the English translation and the Japanese translation.