

## **Eileen Chang as Self-Translator**

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This paper aims to investigate the practice of self-translation in the literary works of Eileen Chang (Zhang Ailing 1920-1995), one of the most important modern Chinese writers of the twentieth century. Eileen Chang wrote in both Chinese and English and translated her works from Chinese into English and vice versa. Traditionally, translation has been regarded as a linear process of linguistics transformation. In recent decades, translation has been redefined as an important ongoing cultural negotiation with productive if not subversive power. Her life writing and self-translations are here seen as her ongoing textual and cultural re-creations of her own earlier writing. Her recreations include both a re-evaluation and a re-contextualization in different places and historical time periods, which she uses to expose the ideology embedded in her earlier texts and to see how it has been reconstituted with a certain critical distance. In my paper, I will examine the paradoxical relationship between Chang's writings and her self-translations. The reworkings in autobiographical writings and in both translation and adaptation are neither completely new nor entirely dependent on the prior texts. Instead, the different versions form an interdependent relationship, producing a meaning greater than any one of them can have alone.