

On the English Translation of the *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung*

Pingping HOU 侯萍萍

山東大學外國語學院

China's former supreme leader Mao Zedong (1893–1976) is universally regarded as one of the world's most influential political figures in the twentieth century. His thought has exerted huge influence on both China and the world at large. The massive circulation of the *Selected Works* in China and in the world was crucial in the spreading of the thought of Chairman Mao. In the process, translation played an indispensable role.

By focusing on the officially organized English translation of the *Selected Works*, this paper discusses the patronage of the translation act as well as its impact on the translation process and the translation product. It explores the organization of the translational act, the selection of translators, the major translation strategy as well as the publication and distribution of the *Selected Works*. The paper concludes that the English translation of the *Selected Works* was a highly political act and the impacts of the patronage on the translation were profound at both the macro and micro levels.

Key words: English translation; *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung*; Patronage