

Patronage in the Choice to Translate *Honglouloumeng*

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The choice of texts to be translated is the beginning of translation, but the first step of translation process does not happen accidentally. In translation, not all the translators have the right to choose to translate texts that they like, whereas in most cases they are under the power of sponsors, social and cultural ideology. Translators were also decided by the political, economic and cultural power relations in the choice of texts. The choice to translate *Honglouloumeng* into English is not a casual action for Yang Xianyi and Gladys Yang as well as David Hawkes. Actually the choice is decided by political, economic and cultural power relations, either overt or covert. Yang Xianyi and Gladys Yang were influenced greatly in their choice to translate *Honglouloumeng*, especially the political power relations of the source culture, while Hawkes had more freedom to the choice of the novel's translation.