蔡思果翻譯生涯鉤沉

張宇傑 香港大學中文學院

摘要

蔡思果 (1918 - 2004) 是當代散文家、翻譯家,聲名籍甚。在四十多年的翻譯生涯裏,翻譯了書籍二十餘本,短篇故事、單篇散文、詩歌共約六十篇,成績斐然。其翻譯妥貼而地道,甚具口碑。翻譯之餘,也研究翻譯。他以純正中文為骨幹的翻譯觀膾炙人口。他部分討論翻譯的專著,數十年來重印不絕。此外,蔡氏也是翻譯老師、文學翻譯批評家。思果雖然在中文譯壇名重望隆,至今卻未有專文探討其翻譯事業、評析其翻譯作品。本文將考諸載籍,爬疏其翻譯生涯,以對其翻譯事業作初步探研。

Frederick Tsai as a Translator: A Biographical Sketch

Abstract

Frederick Tsai (1918-2004) was a famous essayist and translator in Hong Kong. He was one of the few local translators who were also translation teachers, literary translation scholars, and literary translation critics. In a translation career spanning over forty years, he translated over twenty books and around sixty poems and short stories published in literary journals. His translations are widely acknowledged as both idiomatically accurate and faithful. In addition to performing translations, Tsai published four books on translation studies, in which he strongly advocated a sense of Chineseness in Chinese translationto employ the existing Chinese structures, phrases, and so on as far as possible to avoid translationese. His books have been well received and are deemed essential introductory reading in practical translation. As much as Tsai is a luminary in the field of translation, not much academic attention, if any at all, has been paid to him as a person, to his Chinese translations, and to his achievements as a translator. This essay unearths Tsai's life as a translator, serving as a preliminary step in investigating his translation career and achievements.