

# Literary Translation as a Touchstone of the Exchanges between Western and Chinese Medical Culture: A Case Study on *Qi Wang Hui* (1906)

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## **Abstract**

In early twentieth-century Hong Kong, the rendition of medical terminology in the translated detective stories of Chinese-language periodicals reflected translation as a touchstone of the early exchanges between Western and Chinese medical culture. Among them, the literary translation *Qi Wang Hui* (1906) is a case in point. In the Chinese version, the Western terms for medical instruments, drugs and diseases, among others, were inconsistently translated. Some of the terms were translated literally, with the original meaning largely preserved, whereas some others were translated using words from Traditional Chinese Medicine. Others were translated as Chinese referents of more general concepts. The different strategies for dealing with the translation of various terms reflected the unbalanced recognition of Western medical knowledge and technology in the Chinese cultural context.

## **Keywords**

medical terminology, translation, *Everything Matters*, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Western medicine