

# **Exploring the evolution of Chinese translators of Hispanic literature (1917–2015)**

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For a long period, the Hispanic literature has been categorized in China as “literature of disadvantaged countries (弱勢民族 ruòxiǎo mínzú)”. Since the first translation (“¡Adiós, Cordera!” of Clarín, translated by Zeng Xubai and Zeng Pu in 1917) to the present day, the history of Chinese translation of Hispanic literature has been almost a century. However, the flow of translations has been of small quantity compared to the volume of books translated from other languages with greater presence in China. Chronologically, the Chinese translation of Hispanic literature follows the general trend of translation of foreign literature, but it also has its own history that is not shared with other languages and has some features that can reflect the political, social and cultural situation of that particular moment in Chinese history.

In this regard, the present work focuses on the literary transfer from a semi-central/peripheral language (Spanish) to a peripheral language (Chinese) (Heilbron, 1999), especially the profile and role of translators as cultural mediators in the process of circulation of Hispanic literature in China, that have traditionally been less studied areas. The transition from indirect translation to direct translation, from writers-translators in the 1920s and 1930s to Hispanists-translators from the 1980s, as well as the professionalization of translation and its practices is closely related to the changes that Chinese society has undergone throughout the twentieth century.