

Zhao Yuanren As A Translator in Promoting the Use of Vernacular Chinese and the Development of the Chinese Children's Literature

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Zhao Yuanren is known by most Chinese as a well-known linguist, musician and philosopher, but seldom are people aware of his identity as a translator. In fact, Zhao Yuanren played an important role in the Chinese translation history since he was the first one to translate *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* into Chinese.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is one of the most widespread works around the world, next only to the Bible and works of Shakespeare. It is considered to be the best representative of nonsense literature, which characterizes wild imagination and the use of satire, parody, pun, riddle and wordplay.

In 1922, under the impact of the New Culture Movement, Zhao Yuanren translated the book into Chinese for the first time. Unlike most previous translation of children's literature which mostly used classical Chinese and aimed to educate the readers, Zhao translated the book into vernacular Chinese with no intention to educate his young readers. He added phonetic notation, "Exemplary Notation" and a comparison table of particular words in his translation; also he used an oral diction and lots of onomatopoeia and adopted a liberal translation strategy.

This paper discusses how Zhao Yuanren promoted the use of vernacular Chinese and influenced people's conception of children's literature through his translation. It also analyzes Zhao's role in the New Culture Movement. With these analysis, this paper aims to restore Zhao's significance in the Chinese translation history.