Nominalization in the Translation of Literary Prose from Chinese into English

(Based on the Three English Versions of *Hong Lou Meng*)

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DECLARATION

I certify that the information contained in this dissertation is the result of research work conducted under the supervision of Associate Professor Ilija Casule, Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Human Sciences, Macquarie University.

I certify that the research described in this dissertation has never been submitted to any other institution for an academic degree.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge all sources used and any help received in producing this dissertation have been acknowledged.

Yu Hou

Date:
ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate the use of nominalization in the translation of literary prose works from Chinese into English. Following the definition of English nominalization as a nominalized transform of a finite verbal form and based on complex condensation, this study describes English nominalization as adverbial and in the position of subject and object, condensing finite clausal structures.

Explicitation in translation, as a potential candidate for the status of translation universal, is currently claimed as one of the most thoroughly studied phenomena in translation studies. However, there is less research on implicitation in translation as a main objective of study. Therefore, this research project decides on implicitation in translation as a direct point of departure. Since English nominalization condenses finite clausal structures, this justifies its analysis in translation as a manifestation of implicitation.

Based on the use of nominalization mainly in the three English versions of the eighteenth century Chinese classical novel Hong Lou Meng (or Dream of the Red Chamber), and in the English versions of some other Chinese (classical and modern) novels, this study concludes that nominalization in the translation of literary prose from Chinese into English is predominantly used as adverbial, in the form of gerundive nominal, and in narrative. This study also concludes that the use of nominalization in literary prose translation from Chinese into English is potentially triggered by various factors including the grammatical characteristics of the Chinese language, lexicalization, the context and co-text of Chinese source texts, the translator’s stylistic considerations, the translator’s considerations of syntagmatic economy, social and cultural factors, and the content of the Chinese source texts.

Keywords: English nominalization; complex condensation; implicitation in translation; translation of Chinese literary prose into English; the English versions of Hong Lou Meng
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION I
ABSTRACT II
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS III
TABLE OF CONTENTS IV
ABBREVIATIONS VII
LIST OF TABLES VIII

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION 1
  1.0 Overview 1
  1.1 Research rationale 1
  1.2 Research objectives and questions 3
    1.2.1 Research objectives 3
    1.2.2 Research questions 3
  1.3 *Hong Lou Meng* and its English complete versions 4
    1.3.1 *HLM* and its story 4
    1.3.2 The three English complete versions 5
      1.3.2.1 Joly’s version 6
      1.3.2.2 The Yangs’ version 7
      1.3.2.3 Hawkes and Minford’s version 8
      1.3.2.4 Summary 9
  1.4 Outline 10

CHAPTER 2 EXPLICITATION AND IMPLICITATION IN TRANSLATION 12
  2.0 Overview 12
  2.1 Explicitation and implicitation in translation 13
    2.1.1 Definitions of explicitation and implicitation 13
    2.1.2 Explicitation hypothesis 14
    2.1.3 Asymmetry hypothesis 16
    2.1.4 Types of explicitation 17
  2.2 Latest empirical studies of explicitation and implicitation in translation 19
  2.3 Discussion of the empirical studies 28

CHAPTER 3 NOMINALIZATION – LITERATURE REVIEW 31
  3.1 English nominalization 31
    3.1.1 English nominalization and Jespersen’s nexus-substantive 31
    3.1.2 English nominalization and Mathesius’ complex condensation 33
    3.1.3 English nominalization and Radovanovic’s elaboration of complex condensation 34
    3.1.4 Lees’ transformational approach to English nominalization 35
    3.1.5 Chomsky’s lexicalist approach to English nominalization 37
    3.1.6 Quirk’s systematic correspondence approach to English nominalization 39
    3.1.7 Langacker’s cognitive approach to English nominalization 40
    3.1.8 Halliday’s systematic-functional approach to English nominalization 43
3.1.8.1 Grammatical metaphor 43
3.1.8.2 Functions of nominalization 44
3.1.8.2.1 Realignment function 44
3.1.8.2.2 Textual function 45
3.1.8.2.3 Presupposition function 46
3.1.8.2.4 A mode marker of written English 47
3.1.8.2.5 Register function 47
3.1.9 Summary 49

3.2 Chinese nominalization 52
3.2.1 Introduction 52
3.2.2 Endocentric construction approach to Chinese nominalization 54
3.2.3 Determiner phrase approach to Chinese (non)nominalization 55
3.2.4 Complementizer approach to Chinese (non)nominalization 57
3.2.5 Transformational approach to Chinese nominalization 59
3.2.6 Systemic-functional approach to Chinese nominalization 61
3.2.7 Correlated markedness and containing models for Chinese (non)nominalization 65
3.2.8 Summary 68

CHAPTER 4 METHODOLOGY 70
4.0 Introduction 70
4.1 Theoretical framework 70
4.2 Descriptive framework 71
4.3 Analytical framework 72
4.3.1 Some grammatical features of the Chinese language 72
4.3.2 Stylistic/discourse effects of English nominalization 76
4.3.3 English nominalization as part of the translator’s individual style 78
4.4 Summary 78

CHAPTER 5 NOMINALIZATION IN THE THREE ENGLISH VERSIONS OF HLM 80
5.0 Introduction 80
5.1 The NOM as adverbial 80
5.1.1 The NOM as a condenser of temporal meaning 80
5.1.2 The NOM as a condenser of causal meaning 120
5.1.3 The NOM as a condenser of purposive meaning 146
5.1.4 The NOM as a condenser of conditional meaning 163
5.1.5 The NOM as a condenser of concessive meaning 172
5.1.6 Summary 178
5.2 The NOM in the position of subject 183
5.2.1 The NOM as a condenser of nominal that-clauses 183
5.2.2 The NOM as a condenser of adverbial clauses 186
5.2.2.1 The NOM as a condenser of temporal meaning 186
5.2.2.2 The NOM as a condenser of causal meaning 189
5.2.2.3 The NOM as a condenser of conditional meaning 194
5.2.3 Summary 197
5.3 The NOM in the position of object 199

V
5.3.1 The NOM as complement of verbs 199
5.3.2 The NOM as complement of adjectives 209
5.3.3 The NOM as complement of nouns 212
  5.3.3.1 The NOM in a relative relation to its head noun 212
  5.3.3.2 The NOM in an appositive relation to its head noun 215
  5.3.3.3 The NOM in a complementation relation to its head noun 216
5.3.4 Summary 219
5.3.5 The NOM in periphrastic predicate constructions 223

CHAPTER 6 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION 234
  6.0 Overview 234
  6.1 Main characteristics of the NOM used in the three versions of HLM 234
  6.2 A general evaluation of the translators’ individual styles in HLM translation 236
    6.2.1 Joly’s individual style 236
    6.2.2 Hawkes’ individual style 239
    6.2.3 The Yangs’ individual style 241
  6.3 Potential factors triggering the NOM in HLM translation 243
    6.3.1 The grammatical features of the Chinese language 243
    6.3.2 Lexicalization 244
    6.3.3 The context and co-text of the original 245
    6.3.4 The translator’s considerations of syntagmatic economy 245
    6.3.5 The translator’s stylistic considerations 246
    6.3.6 Social and cultural factors 247
    6.3.7 The stylistic norm of the NOM in English literature 248
  6.4 The NOM used in the translation of other Chinese literary prose works 249
    6.4.1 A brief overview of the English translations of other Chinese literary prose works 250
    6.4.2 The NOM used in the translation of other Chinese literary prose works 251

CHAPTER 7 CONCLUSIONS 254
  7.0 Overview 254
  7.1 Conclusions 255
    7.1.1 Main features of nominalization used in the three English versions of HLM 255
    7.1.2 Potential factors triggering English nominalization in HLM translation 256
    7.1.3 Main features of nominalization in the translation of literary prose from Chinese into English 257
    7.1.4 Potential factors triggering nominalization in the translation of literary prose from Chinese into English 257
  7.2 Implications of the study 258
    7.2.1 Practical implication in Chinese-English translation teaching 258
    7.2.2 Implication in translation theory 259
    7.2.3 Implication in research of the English translations of HLM 260
    7.2.4 Implication in literary prose translation into English 262
  7.3 Limitations and future research 263

REFERENCES 266
# ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Adverb</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADJ</td>
<td>Adjective</td>
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<tr>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Aspect Marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATM</td>
<td>Attributive Marker</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Complement</td>
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<tr>
<td>CF</td>
<td>Classifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Complement Marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COS</td>
<td>Coverb Structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN</td>
<td>Derived Nominal</td>
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<tr>
<td>DO</td>
<td>Direct Object</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Exclamation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFS</td>
<td>Explicit Finite Structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GN</td>
<td>Gerundive Nominal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IO</td>
<td>Indirect Object</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEB</td>
<td>New Encyclopedia Britannica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOM</td>
<td>Nominal</td>
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<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Object</td>
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<td>P</td>
<td>Preposition</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Particle</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAM</td>
<td>Passive Marker</td>
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<tr>
<td>PP</td>
<td>Prepositional Phrase</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRO</td>
<td>Pronoun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td>Quantifier</td>
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<tr>
<td>QM</td>
<td>Question Marker</td>
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<td>RP</td>
<td>Reflective Pronoun</td>
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<td>S</td>
<td>Subject</td>
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<td>Subordinating particle</td>
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<td>V</td>
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<td>VN</td>
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<td>VP</td>
<td>Verbal Phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZN</td>
<td>Zero-derived Nominal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: The NOM as a condenser of temporal meaning in the first 56 chapters of the three versions of HLM 115

Table 2: The most frequently used collocations in the most frequently used types of constructions 116

Table 3: The correspondence of the 58 entries of the collocation ‘on + return’ used in Joly’s version 117

Table 4: The NOM as a condenser of causal meaning in the first 56 chapters of the three versions of HLM 144

Table 5: The NOM as a condenser of purposive meaning in the first 56 chapters of the three versions of HLM 160

Table 6: The NOM as a condenser of conditional meaning in the first 56 chapters of the three versions of HLM 171

Table 7: The NOM as a condenser of concessive meaning in the first 56 chapters of the three versions of HLM 176

Table 8: The NOM as adverbial in the first 56 chapters of the three versions of HLM 178

Table 9: The NOM in the position of subject in the first 56 chapters of the three versions of HLM 197

Table 10: The NOM in the position of object in the first 56 chapters of the three versions of HLM 219

Table 11: The NOM used in the first 56 chapters of the three versions of HLM 234

Table 12: Types of formal constructions used in the first 56 chapters of the three versions of HLM 235

Table 13: Periphrastic predicate constructions used in the first 56 chapters of the three versions of HLM 238

Table 14: The NOM used in four original English literary prose works 248

Table 15: The NOM used in the translation of other Chinese literary prose works 252