

College of Foreign Languages and Literatures, FJCU

Transition and Transformation: Explorations in Language, Literature, Culture, and Translation

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Paper Abstract (English)

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Title: Domesticating Shakespearean Sonnets: Unbound by the Line Number 14			
Fields of specialization: poetry translation, translation studies, Shakespeare studies			
ABSTRACT			
<p>This paper explores the translation and adaptation of Shakespeare's sonnets beyond the confines of their traditional 14-line structure, employing the lens of domestication translation theory. It addresses the challenge of translating these quintessentially English works into diverse linguistic and cultural contexts, particularly focusing on how adherence to or deviation from the original form impacts the reception and appreciation of these sonnets globally. Central to this study is a comparative analysis of selected sonnets translated into the Chinese language, highlighting those that diverge from the 14-line format. This analysis is enriched by insights from Shakespeare translators and translation theorists, blending practical translation experiences with theoretical perspectives. The paper evaluates how these translations, while straying from the original structure, succeed in capturing the essence and thematic depth of Shakespeare's work, thus making them more accessible and resonant with the target-language audiences. The study also delves into the historical, cultural, and aesthetic motivations behind choosing domestication over foreignization in poetry translation. It examines the critical reception of these non-traditional translations, analyzing their role in shaping the global understanding of Shakespeare's sonnets. In conclusion, this paper posits that flexible approaches to translating Shakespeare's sonnets, unshackled from strict structural adherence, not only challenge traditional norms but also contribute to a richer, more inclusive appreciation of these literary works across different cultures and languages.</p>			
Keywords: Sonnet, Shakespeare, Domestication, Lawrence Venuti, Walter Benjamin, poetry translation, Shakespeare studies			