**On the Indirect Translation of Contemporary Chinese Literature into European Portuguese: The Case of Mo Yan.**

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Indirect translation, here understood as the process of translating a text via a third language, is commonly used in translations between the so-called “(semi)peripheral (Heilbronn, 1999)” languages and cultures, for example, Chinese and Portuguese. As a Chinese investigator who studies in Portugal, I am interested in the Portuguese translations of Chinese literature, especially of contemporary Chinese literature, in which Mo Yan (1955- ) is an outstanding writer, insofar as he won the Nobel Prize in 2012, and has been largely translated since then. That is the reason for choosing him as the main object of my doctoral thesis. (The main *corpus* will consist of two famous novels by Mo Yan, *变 [Changes]* and *丰乳肥臀 [Big Breasts and Wide Hips]*, as well as the respective Portuguese and English translations.)

Being on the initial period of constructing a thesis, I would like to share some of my findings on indirect translation, and some possibilities of future studies. The key questions to which I would like to give answers through my research are: first, is indirect translation necessarily distant from the original text, or does it have to be a “poor copy” (Landers, 2001:131)? Second, what is the role of intermediate translator in an indirect translation? Third, what did the intermediate translators do in the translation process?

To address the first question, I will talk about the triangular relations between the three texts involved in an indirect translation, that is to say: if the mediating text (T2) is the source text, the target text (T3) is not so distant or “poor”; whereas if the original (T1) is seen as the source text, the target text (T3) is relatively distant. As to the second question, I would like to show three points: the contributions of an intermediate translator to the original work, the cooperation between writer and translator, and the different powers of the three languages (Casanova, 2004:20). When addressing the third topic based on the selected case study, several examples will be shown to prove my hypothesis that the intermediate translator has made a lot of changes during his translation, and that several elements have suffered more changes than others, for example, the metaphors.

**Bio-note**: PhD candidate in Translation Studies at the Catholic University of Portugal, with a bachelor’s degree in Portuguese Language and Culture and a master’s degree in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics. Her studies focus on the areas of indirect Translation, Chinese-Portuguese translation, Portuguese-Chinese translation and Chinese translation history. Guanyu Cheng’s work currently focuses on the comparison between the Portuguese and English translations of works of the Chinese writer Mo Yan, aiming to rethink the concept of indirect translation.