2nd East Asian Translation Studies Conference (EATS 2)

July 9th-10th, 2016 — Meiji University, Tōkyō

Translate to Educate: About the Fictional Identity of the Narrator in Late Ming and Early Qing Vernacular Short Story

Rainier Lanselle

Paris



École Pratique des Hautes Études

Centre de Recherche sur les Civilisations de l'Asie Orientale



1. Introduction

Why 'intralingual translation'?

- Theoretical relevance of the concept of intralingual translation in the context of classical China
 - I. Resemantization through hermeneutics
 - → culture of citation
 - → tradition commentary
 - → intertextuality

• "There is no point where translation stops and adaptation starts."

(Jean-René Ladmiral, *Sourcier ou cibliste*, 2014)

 "Translation is the most obviously recognizable type of rewriting."

> (André Lefevere, *Translation, Rewriting, and the Manipulation of Literary Fame*, 1992)

• "Intralingual translation or rewording is an interpretation of verbal signs by means of other signs of the same language." (Jakobson 1959)

→ "The meaning of any linguistic sign is its translation into some further, alternative sign."

> (Charles Sanders Peirce, cited by John Dewey, *Peirce's Theory of Linguistic Signs, Thought, and Meaning*, 1946)

Theoretical relevance of the concept of intralingual translation in the context of classical China

- II. Resemantization through linguistic relocation
 - → different levels of the same language
 - → diglossia

• Diglossia

• wen 文 ("literary", "written" speech)

vs./

- su 俗, tongsu 通俗 ("vulgar", "communicating with the vulgar")
 - → From the Tang (618-907) to the end of the empire (early 20th c.)

• The diglossic issue is central in fictional narrative literature from Song to Qing (2nd millenium)

→ novel

- → short story
- → drama
- Relationship between
 - achieving the proper transmission of the meaning
 - level of language used

文不甚深, 言不甚俗, 事紀其實, 亦庶幾乎史。蓋欲讀誦
者, 人人得而知之, 若詩所謂里巷歌謠之義也。

Jiang Daqi 蒋大器 (alias Yuyongzi 愚庸子), preface (1494) to Sanguo zhi tongsu yanyi 三國 志通俗演義 (*The Romance of the Three Kingdoms, Accessible to Common People*, 1522)

 "The text is not too profound, the speach not too vulgar, thus facts are true and pertain to History. Once you wish to have it read, everybody can be properly instructed, in a way akin to how [according to Zhu Xi] what the *Poems* conveyed was the meaning of the songs from the alleys and villages." 2. Intralingual translation and the narrator in late Mingearly Qing vernacular short story

- short story / novella
- huaben 話本
- history of the genre spanning from Song to early Qing (13th-17th s.)
- compiled in series
- starting in the 1620's, published collections achieved great popularity, with editors/authors like:

→ Feng Menglong 馮夢龍, 1574-1646

→ Ling Mengchu 凌濛初 1580-1644

- linguistic/diglossic question is crucial
- make-up of stories relying on a variety of rewriting procedures, implying:
 - ST / TT relationship
 - classical Chinese / vernacular Chinese relationship

- interplay of the oral and the written in Chinese popular literature
- often refered to by specialists of the genre, but not discussed in terms of intralingual translation
- question of classical / vernacular as a given fact not worthy of epistemological approach
- diglossia rarely addressed
 - → changes in methodology:
 - philological approach
 - language awareness

Different categories of rewriting / intralingual translation procedures in ST to TT relocation

- 1. Direct quotation from the source text into the target text
- 2. Translation, adaptation and amplification from classical Chinese to classical Chinese
- 3. Translation from classical Chinese into vernacular
- Free amplification from the source in classical Chinese into vernacular or into classical/vernacular mix

Presentation at EATS 1 "Circulation of Translation within East Asia", University of East Anglia, June 2014 A third factor of relevance in intralingual translation

- I. Resemantization through hermeneutics
- II. Resemantization through linguistic relocation

Resemantization through narratological and editorial shifts

- typically authors of fiction (novel, novellas...) are hard to identify
- double or multiple identities
- use of pseudonyms
- ambiguous status of editors / authors / rewriters / compilers...
- (example : Feng Menglong 馮夢龍, 1574-1646)

• within a narrative, the narrator takes fictional identities, according to the style / language used

- linked binarities :
 - classical / vernacular
 - oral / written
 - writer / storyteller

說話的,我且問你:那世上說謊的也盡多;少不得依經傍注,有個邊際,從沒有見你恁樣說瞞天謊的祖師。那白氏在家裡做夢,到龍華寺中歌曲,須不是親身下降,怎麼獨孤遐叔便見他的形像?這般沒根據的話,就騙三歲孩子也不肯信,如何哄得我過?看官有所不知:大凡夢者,想也,因也。

Feng Menglong 馮夢龍, 1574-1646, (ed.), *Stories to Awaken the World* (*Xingshi hengyan* 醒世恆言), chap. 25

 說話的,我且問你:嘗聞得古老傳說,那青泥白石,乃仙家糧糗,凡 人急切難遇,若有緣的嘗一嘗,便疾病不能侵,妖怪不能近,虎狼不 能傷;這李清兩件既已都曾飽食,況又在洞府中住過,雖則道心不 堅,打發回去,卻又原許他七十年後,還歸洞府,分明是個神仙了, 如何卻送在大蟲口裡?看官們莫要性急,待在下慢慢表白出來。那大 蟲不是平常吃人的虎,乃是個神虎,專與仙家看山守門的,是那童子 故意差來把李清驚嚇,只教他迷了來路,原非傷他性命。

Feng Menglong 馮夢龍, 1574-1646, (ed.), *Stories to Awaken the World* (*Xingshi hengyan* 醒世恆言), chap. 38

3. Storytelling and educating

- the storyteller creates a fictitious gap between a previous text and its "oral" explanation
- the gap is bridged through techniques of storytelling
 - Ink between storytelling function / teaching function
 - persona of the storyteller / persona of the schoolteacher

A narrative structure aimed at the transmission of knowledge

- concern about writing for an uneducated populace
- preserving the transmission of a message which otherwise would be lost

- 大抵唐人選言,入於文心;宋人通俗,諧於里耳。天下之文心少而里耳多; 則小說之資於選言者少,而資於通俗者多。試今說話人當場描寫,可喜可 愕,可悲可涕,可歌可舞;再欲捉刀,再欲下拜,再欲決脰,再欲捐金;怯 者勇,淫者貞,薄者敦,頑鈍者汗下。雖小誦《孝經》、《論語》,其感人 未必如是之捷且深也。噫!不通俗而能之乎? — Preface to Stories Old and New (Gujin xiaoshuo 今小說) (probab. by Feng Menglong)
- Generally speaking, Tang authors made the choice of a crafted language in order to appeal to literary minds; authors of the Song were colloquial in order to accord with the common ear. Under the Heaven, literary minds are few, while common ears are many; and as it happens, fiction lends itself less to the crafted language than to the colloquial. Well, just ask a storyteller to illustrate something on the spot, and you will see the rapture and the sensation, the grief and the tears, the singing and dancing! Let the storyteller go on and he will have people draw their swords, others prostrate themselves, others prepare to break someone's neck, or to donate money. The coward will find themselves brave, the lecherous chaste, the miser generous, and the unprincipled sweating with shame. You could keep chanting the *Classic of Filial Piety* and the *Analects*, you will never succeed in moving people with such swiftness and such depth. Aye! How could you, if you are not colloquial!?

- cf. the "4 main influential factors in intralingual translation" described by Zethsen:
 - 1. → Knowledge
 - 2. Time
 - 3. → Culture
 - 4. Space

(Karen Zethsen, 2009)

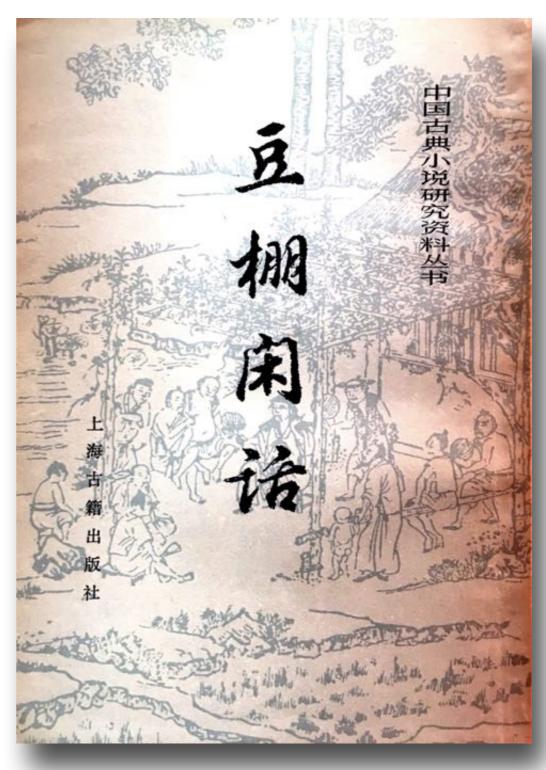
Widespread use of educating purpose in novella (*huaben* 話本) literature writing

- historical events
- great figures and heroes of the past
- social and political practices (past & present)
- travels
- religion
- current affairs and quasi-news
- •

- recently this educational purpose of vernacular literature has been challenged
- heritage of Andrew Plaks
- vernacular literature
 - → practices internal to literati milieus
 - → ironic dimension
- Shuhui Yang
 - the fictional identity of the narrator mainly carries the ego or secret agenda of the writer
 - → "storytellers' rhetoric" as strategies of "ventriloquism"

4. Idle Talk under the Bean Arbor

- Doupeng xianhua 豆棚閒話, Idle Talk under the Bean Arbor
- Author: 艾衲居士(道人) The Recluse (Man of the Way) Aina
- 1660's
- 12 chapters/stories



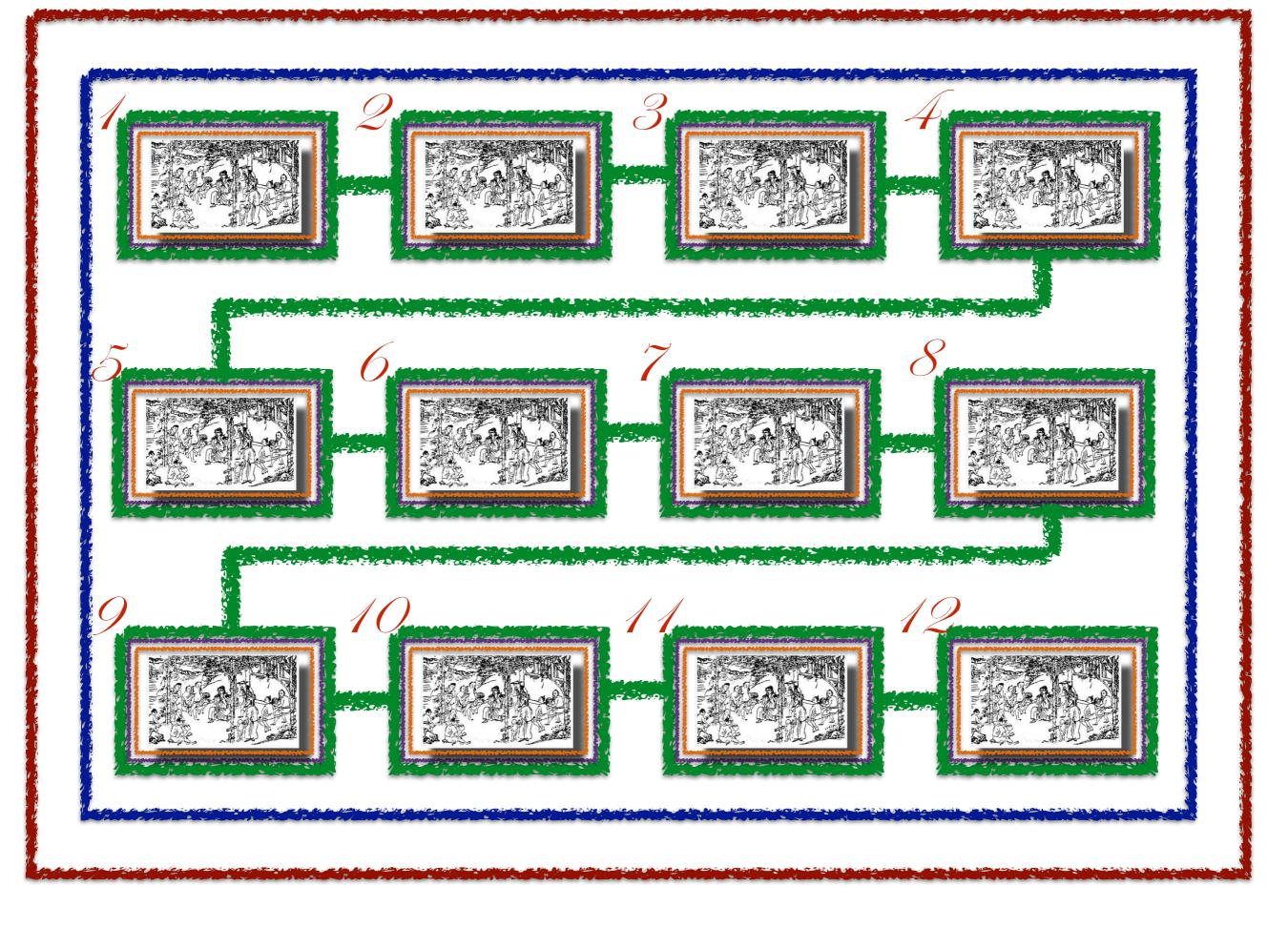
- complex narrative structure
- bean arbor as frame of a village assembly
- meeting days scattered along the seasons of a year
- at every gathering a new participant tells a story on a given theme
- unique frame structure in Chinese history of literature
 - → cf. Boccaccio's Decameron

The Author/Editor

The Narrator The Bean Arbor The Village Assembly The Speaker (Storyteller) of the Day The Story Told

VII OF A BOASTANCH AND SOUTH OF S

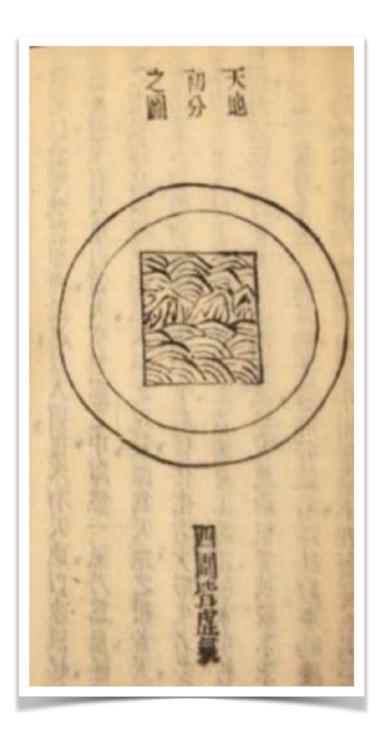
50:00



- first 11 chapters = stories (historical and contemporary themes)
- 12th chapter:
 - no narrative
 - comprehensive lesson of *lixue* 理學 (*daoxue* 道學) (= "neo-confucianism") by a schoolmaster
 - includes a account on neo-confucian cosmogony
 - includes a refutation of heterodox creeds (buddhism, taoism, popular religion, etc...)
 - → vulgate of basic knowledge about *lixue* (neoconfucianism)
 - note the identification of the schoolmaster with the (peasant) storyteller

The schoolmaster says 對眾人將手一拱,竟到中央椅上坐了道:『老仁翁要 The assembly says 我從那裡說起?』眾人道:「從未有天地以來說起, The schoolmaster says 何如?』齋長道:『未有天地以前,太空無窮之中渾 然一氣,乃為無極[...]或說來未必明白,取一張紙來 畫一圖你們去看。』[...] 那齋長取過一張紙來, 畫出 The assembly says — 圖與眾人觀看。眾人道: 『太極理氣怎麼就有陰 The schoolmaster says 陽、日月、星辰? 』齋長道: 『陽之精為日, 陰之精 為月。星辰浮運於天,俱以象顯。……』

The narrator — The villagers — The schoolmaster

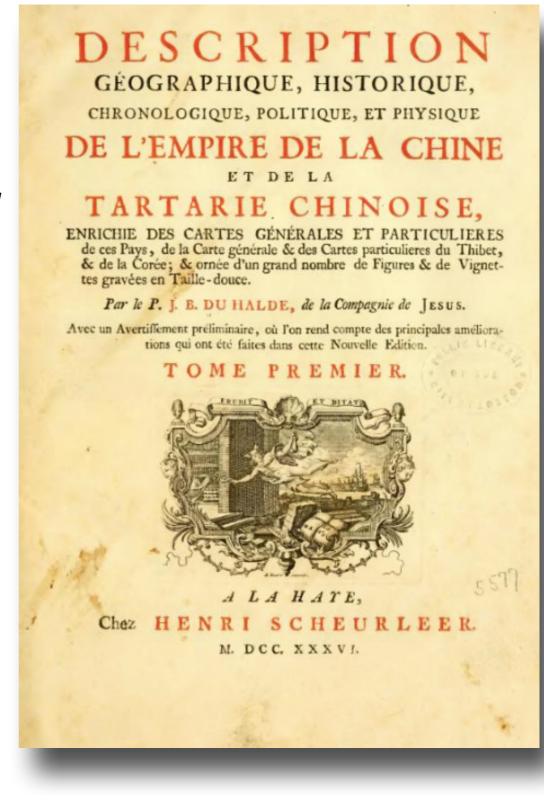




5. The unexpected translator

- Wu Huiyi 吳蕙儀
- PhD thesis, Paris, 2013
- "Traduire la chine au XVIIIe siècle. Les jésuites français traducteurs de textes chinois et la reconfiguration des connaissances européennes sur la Chine (1687–ca. 1740)"
- "Translating China French Jesuits translators of Chinese texts and the reconfiguration of European knowledge about China (1687–ca. 1740)"

- Jean-Baptiste Du Halde (1674-1743)
- Description géographique, historique, chronologique, politique, et physique de l'empire de la Chine et de la Tartarie chinoise...
- The Hague, 1735, 4 volumes
 - → published in England as:
- The General History of China Containing a Geographical, Historical, Chronological, Political and Physical Description of the Empire of China, Chinese-Tartary, Corea, and Thibet...
- London, 1738



DIALOGUE, Où un Philosophe Chinois moderne nommé Tchin expose son sentiment sur l'origine & l'état du Monde.

- "Dialogue, où un Philosophe Chinois moderne nomé Tchin expose son sentiment sur l'origine & l'état du Monde"
- "Dialogue in Which a Modern Chinese Philosopher, Named Tchin, Exposes his Opinion on the Origin and State of the World"
- Translation by Père François-Xavier Dentrecolles (1664-1741)

- the text is presented as a philosophical dialogue, translated from the Chinese, written by a "modern atheistic philosopher" ("philosophe moderne athée")
- the editor mentions the facts that it is the 12th dialogue of a book not otherwise identified ; editor and translator give no explanation on its origin
- this translation and its original text remained unidentified since the 1730's until Wu Huiyi's 吳蕙儀 PhD research

Voici ce que je pense, répondit le Philosophe ; ce qui dans le Ciel & sur la Terre, est le principe des productions les plus admirables ; cet Etre, ce Ki fortifie ceux qui sont foibles, & affoiblit ceux qui sont trop forts (a). Avant les (4) Voici le Texte Tien ti Tsao hos tchi ki pou Fou tché Tsoú Tchi Teoù Tu rché Sun tchi.

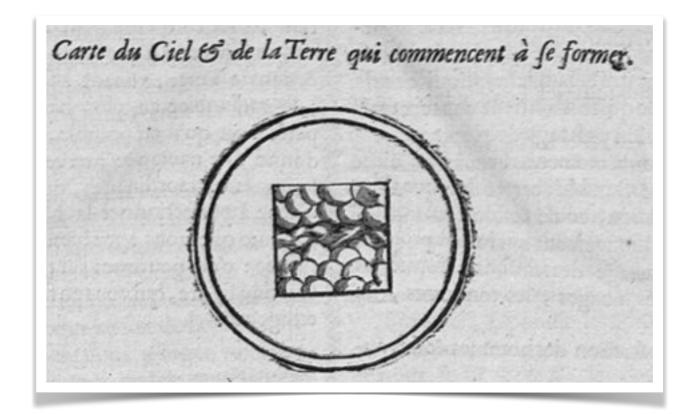
Tien ti Tsao hoa tchi ki pou tsou tché Tsoú Tchi Yeoù Yú tché Sun tchi

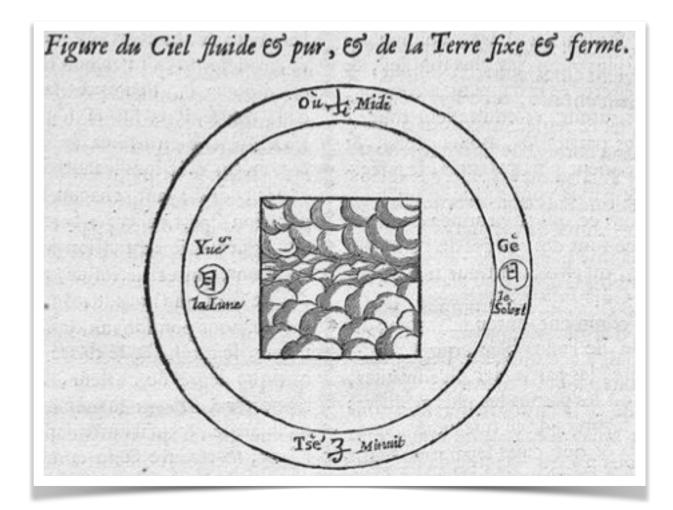


Doupeng xianhua 豆棚閒話, Idle Talk under the Bean Arbor chap. 12

 with the exception of references to the bean arbor → "the translation was globally acurate" ("la traduction a été globalement exacte")

- with the exception of references to the bean arbor → "the translation was globally acurate" ("la traduction a été globalement exacte")
- even the original diagrams were included and translated





- with the exception of references to the bean arbor \rightarrow "the translation" was globally acurate" ("la traduction a été globalement exacte")
- even the original diagrams were included and translated
- the translation was heavily annotated

DESCRIPTION DE L'EMPIRE DE LA CHINE, 60

lofophe, où j'en veux venir. Tous ces 2 Esprits (4) ne sont au fond & réellement qu'une masse de terre, diversement figurée. Quand on en conferve le fouvenir dans l'ame, c'eft à peu près de 🔅 même que lorsque je bois de l'eau, je 4 fonge à la fource d'où elle me vient, & 2 que je lui fçai gré du plaifir & de l'uti- 2 lité que j'en retire. Oferoit - on pouffer le blafphême jufqu'à prendre pour l'i- 4 mage du véritable Efprit (b) du Ciel & de 3 la Terre, qui est pur lui - même, tous 3 ces marmoufets d'argile, qui repréfentent tantôt un homme, tantôt une femme, placez au dehors & au dedans des & Pagodes, ou bien la figure d'un vieil- 3 lard, telle qu'on la met dans des maifons 🙎 particulieres.

nous raconte, lui disoit-on, bien des prodiges opérez par les Tching hoang, & les Tou ti; & ces prodiges font connoître, & prouvent leur pouvoir. Souvent & même on les voit fous la figure d'hommes vivans. Comment pouvez-vous dire qu'ils ne foient qu'une maffe de terre ?

(*) On voit ici l'embarras du Philosophe, par o la maniere dont il se débat en affez malhabile homme fur les prefliges, & fur d'autres événemens prodigieux, qui ne peuvent être opérez que par des Démons, & qu'il veut attribuer aux caufes naturelles. Il a affez de bonne foi pour ne pas nier ces effets merveilleux, comme feroient d'autres, qui, pour se tirer d'affaire , sont déterminez à n'admettre aucun événement qui foit contre l'ordre naturel. Mais auffi eft-il vrai de dire que l'évocation & les opérations du Démon font trop 4 revocation & les operations du Demon font trop ordinaires à la Chine pour pouvoir être niées. C'eft une chofe remarquable, que dans tous les Pays, où le Chriftianifme n'eft pas établi, le Démon y exerce un grand pouvoir fur les Peuples; & que ce pouvoir celle, dès que la vraye Religion y prend racine. Bien plus ce pouvoir de l'Efprit de ténebres eft entierement lié par la feule préfence d'un enfant Chrétien. C'eft de quoi on a une infi-nité d'exemples. nité d'exemples.

(b) Voici le texte Tien , Ti , Tfe , Gen, Tchin , Tchi, chis. Il paroît que par ces termes, Efprir du Ciel, notre Athée n'entend autre chose que le Ciel même. De même que par les Esprits des Montagnes & des Rivieres, il n'entend autre chose que les

Montagnes & les Rivieres que nous voyons. (c) Qu'il y ait des Efprits gardiens des Villes & des principsux endroits de l'Empire, c'eft une opinion très ancienne à la Chine. On voit encore

Il y a un tour à prendre, repliqua le Philotophe (c), pour expliquer les merveilles & les apparitions dont vous parlez. On voit des hommes, dont les talens font extraordinaires, & qui fe diftinguent du commun par leur courage & leur vertu. Il arrive quelquefois qu'ils font opprimez par la calomnie, ou qu'une mort précipitée les enleve, fans qu'ils ayent laissé après eux de postérité. Ces hommes fi extraordinaires & fi diftinguez des autres, ont une ame peu commune, qui ne se diffipe pas aisement. Les ames de ce caractere se retirent la plûpart dans les Pagodes, & y produifent des événemens qui furprennent. On parle d'un Ouen tien thang, qui fut maffacré fous la Dynastie des Yuen; d'un Ici le Philosophe fut interrompu. On & Yu tchung tfiao qui périt miférablement fous les Ming : leurs grandes actions ont fait croire aux Peuples qu'après leur mort ils étoient devenus Tching houng , ou gardiens des Villes.

> Ce qui fait le mérite d'un homme pendant fa vie, c'eft le Ki, cet air spiritueux, qui peut fubfifter encore quel-

Tching hoang. Notre Philosophe ne fait ici que chi-caner fur le nom de Tching hoang : le raisonne-nement dont il fe fert, est affez semblable à celui que certains Chinois opposent aux Missionnaires fur le nom de Tien rebu, c'est-à dire, Seigneur du Ciel, qu'on donne à Dieu. Avant que le Ciel fut créé, difent-ils, & ils croyent dire merveilles, il ne pouvoit y avoir un Tien eche , un Seigneur de ce qui n'étoit pas ; votre Tien rebu a donc commencé tout au plus avec le Ciel ? Comme on raconte beaucoup de faits finguliers, vrais ou faux, qui prouvent la protection accordée par le Tching baseg aux Villes & aux Habitans, & que d'ailleurs ce culte est reconnu & en usage dans la Secte Lit-téraire , notre Athée se donne la torture pour ajuster fes idées communes à fon fyftême. Il y a cer-taines ames, dit-il, qui ne fe diffipent point au fortir du corps, qui fubliftent encore, & qui cherchant un domicile, s'arrêtent à la demeure des Tching hang, où elles operent les merveilles qu'on raconte. Il eût été bien plus embarrallé fi en lui répondant conformément à fon extravagant fystême , on lui eût dit : vous qui vous applau-diffez d'avoir fecoïié le joug d'un Maître suprême, en refufant de le reconnoître ; que sçavez-vous fa les ames de vos plus grands ennemis ne feront pas du nombre de celles qui fublistent encore après la mort ? Ces ames n'étant plus retenues par la crainte des Loix, & vous n'ayant pas le pouvoir de maintenant les Mandarins les plus déchaînez con- tre l'idolâtrie populaire, avoir souvent recours au colere & de leur vengeance?

que

- though faithful, the translation is largely decontextualized and the meaning of the text recontextualized for an European audience
- the footnotes contain an argumentated refutation by the Jesuit translator of the "atheistic" arguments of the "Chinese philosopher"
- paradox:
 - the discourse of the schoolmaster is taken at face value and perfectly preserved in the globally faithful interlingual translation, and even enhanced: the "schoolmaster" becomes a "philosopher"
 - it is taken so seriously that it is enroled in its turn to serve in a dialogue between "Chinese" and European (theist) philosophy
 - the audience of the schoolmaster is extended far beyond the limites of the bean arbor, and presented as some influent, serious master

- the interlingual translation is accompanied by resemantization through:
 - shift in context
 - change of audience
 - change of status of the narrator
 - change in textual significance
- "C'est l'effacement du caractère fictif de l'original qui fausse le registre de lecture, et démultiplie les dimensions d'interprétation possible." (Wu Huiyi 吳 蕙儀)
- "It is the effacement of the fictional nature of the original that distorts the register of the reading, and multiplies the dimensions of possible interpretations"

5. Conclusion

confirmation of the educational efficiency of the fictional identity of the narrator as storyteller / schoolmaster

• Jesuit as foreign reader:

Identity of the narrator

- lacking the standard training of the Chinese literati
- reader of Chinese nevertheless
- → typical of the average, ordinary, Chinese tongsu 通俗 ("vernacular") reader
- average reader attracted by:
 - easy reading: use of easy classical or vernacular
 - "digest" charactersitics of the "lesson"
 - → cf. multiple, successive reprints of the book



- double fidelity of the translation:
 - 1. (Ch.) intralingual rewriting of the neo-confucian doxa as a digest for the average reader
 - 2. (Fr.) interlingual translation from the original Chinese to French
- double delocalization:
 - 1. (Ch.) accompanying a twin shift in identity of the narrator : from the confucian literati to the storyteller's den / village classroom
 - 2. (Fr.) from the context of fictional book into the context of philosophical exposé
- the intended audience can completely change without the text losing its impact



- contribution to the concept intralingual translation
- case of 2 interlocking translations (intra- & interlingual)
 - targetting new audiences (social / foreign)
 - rewriting / translation → capable of confering a new status to any given discourse
 - even when faithful, a translation is always to some extent a process of reappropriation / transformation (TT is no mirror image of ST)
 - intralingual translation is subsumed under a metalanguage functionning inside a given system of intertextuality (symbolized by the persona of the storyteller/schoolmaster); the text has its existence only under the condition of a proper "ecosystem"
 - interlingual translation is viable also on the condition of a proper ecosystem; it recreates its own metalanguage and signifying network

→ we may conclude to the **striking similarities** of the two translational procedures



謝謝!

merci !

rainier.lanselle@ephe.sorbonne.fr