



A Study of Translations of Two-part Allegorical Sayings in *Hong Lou Meng*

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Master of Arts in Translation Studies

by

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DECLARATION

The work presented in this thesis is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, original and my own, except as acknowledged in the text, and has not been submitted, either in whole or part, for a degree at this or any other university.

LUO MENGJIN



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ABSTRACT

Two-part allegorical saying is a Chinese culture-specific linguistic phenomenon. Cao Xueqin blends many two-part allegorical sayings in his *Hong Lou Meng*. In the latter part of the last century, two full English translations of *Hong Lou Meng* came into being, which are Yang Xianyi & Gladys Yang's *A Dream of Red Mansions* and David Hawkes & John Minford's *The Story of the Stone*. Since then, many studies regarding these two translations have been carried out. Previous studies suggest that Yang tends to use foreignization while Hawkes tends to use domestication. This thesis aims at finding out whether the Yangs and Hawkes demonstrate such tendencies in handling the two-part allegorical sayings in *Hong Lou Meng*. After analyzing every rendering of two-part allegorical saying and counting the number of times various translation strategies and methods are used, this study finds that the Yangs and Hawkes, instead of adhering to foreignization and domestication respectively, actually adopt similar translation strategies and methods in translating the two-part allegorical sayings in *Hong Lou Meng*.

Keywords: two-part allegorical saying, domestication, foreignization, translation methods

List of Abbreviations

HLM: Hong Lou Meng:

TPA: Two-part Allegorical Saying



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