



**On Translation of Fantasy Coinages from English to
Chinese**

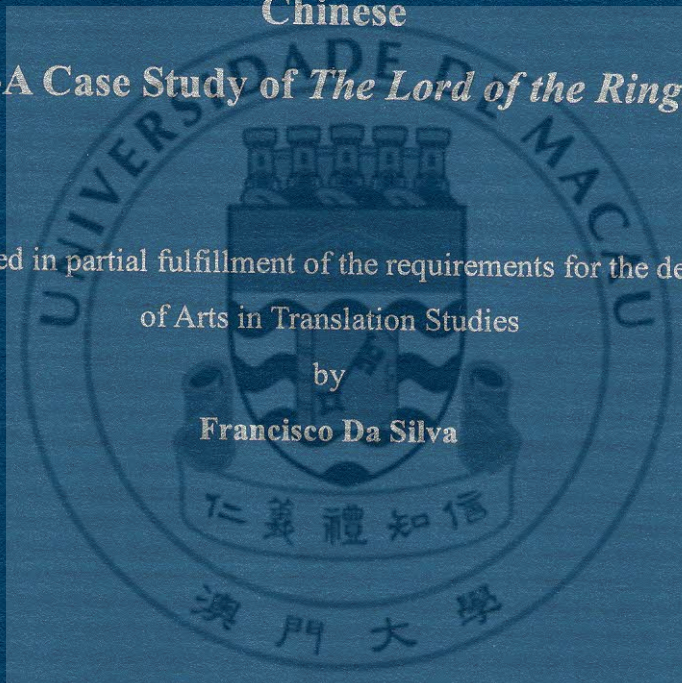
-A Case Study of *The Lord of the Rings*

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master

of Arts in Translation Studies

by

Francisco Da Silva



Supervisor: Dr. Li Jian, James

University of Macau

August 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	i
LIST OF TABLES	iii
LIST OF FIGURES	iv
DECLARATION	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
ABSTRACT	vii
I. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Aims and Objectives	2
1.3 Research Questions	2
1.4 Organization of the Thesis	3
II. LITERATURE REVIEW	4
2.1 Literature Identity of Fantasy Fiction	4
2.2 Intention of the Author	6
2.3 The Role of Neologism in Fantasy Fiction	7
2.4 Skopos (Purpose) of the Translation of Fantasy Fiction	9
2.5 Text Typology	10
2.6 Translation Equivalence	11
2.7 Summary	14
III. METHODOLOGY	15
3.1 Data for the Study	15
3.1.1 Introduction to J.R.R. Tolkien and <i>The Lord of The Rings</i>	15
3.1.2 Yilin's Version of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>	17
3.1.3 Zhu Xueheng's Version of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>	18
3.2 Translation Methods	19
3.3 Method of the Case Study	22
IV. STUDY RESULTS	25
4.1 Contextual Analysis	25

4.1.1 Translation Errors.....	25
4.1.2 Generalization and Reduction of Information.....	26
4.1.3 Stylistic Change of the Source Text.....	29
4.1.4 Explicit and Implicit Expressions	32
4.1.5 Word Selection of the Literal Translation.....	34
4.1.6 Adaptation VS Transliteration	35
4.1.7 Effects of Different Types of Transliteration.....	36
4.1.8 Inconsistency of Translation throughout the Story	38
4.1.9 Creating Information Surplus.....	40
4.1.10 Impact of Omission	41
4.2 Results of Quantitative Analysis.....	43
4.3 Summary of the Case Study.....	45
V. DISCUSSION	47
5.1 Understanding the Background Information	47
5.2 Understanding the Functions of Different Coinages	48
5.3 Increasing Explicitness of the Target Text.....	49
5.4 Identifying the Intended Readers of the Source Text.....	50
5.5 Avoid using Transliteration	51
VI. CONCLUSION.....	52
6.1 Summarizing the Study.....	52
6.2 Limitations	53
REFERENCES.....	55
APPENDIX.....	51
1 Things	51
2 Locations.....	52
3 Characters and Creatures	54
4 Books, Songs and Poems.....	55

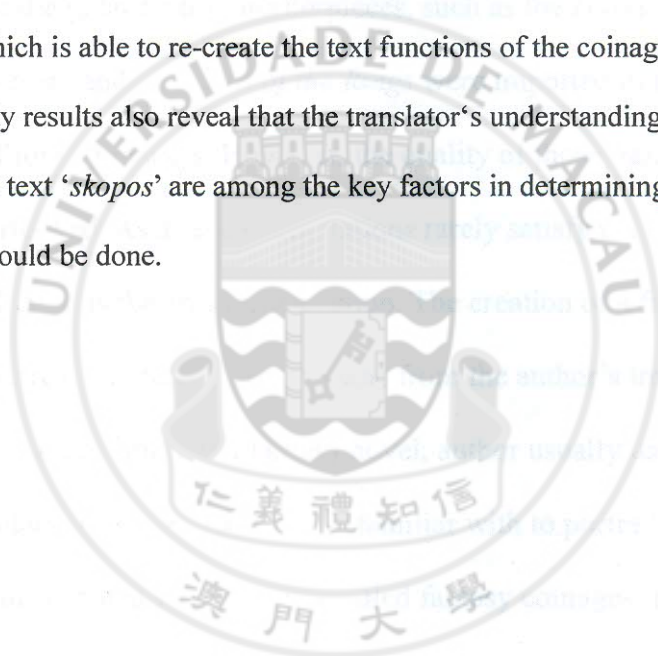
ABSTRACT

Western Fantasy fiction is one of the most popular genres in China nowadays. However, the Chinese versions of fantasy novels often failed to meet readers' expectations due to the poor translation quality. Among other reasons, the coinages appear in a fantasy fiction are very difficult to be translated from E-C as there are language and cultural differences between the West and the East. With such a background, the current thesis aims to carry out a comparative study on two Chinese versions of *The Lord of the Rings*. The two Chinese versions are published by Yilin Press of mainland China and Linking Books of Taiwan. The major questions to be answered through the research are: what are the commonly used translation strategies and methods in E-C translation of fantasy coinages the two versions? What are some common problems found in the translation of coinages in fantasy fiction? And what can be done to improve the translation of coinages from E-C?

The comparative study is separated into contextual and quantitative analyses. The contextual analysis aims to explore whether the translation of coinages can serve their intended functions in the target texts, as well as to estimate the possible responses from target readers through discussions. The quantitative analysis focuses on exploring the common translation methods used in the two Chinese versions of *The Lord of the Rings* when render fantasy coinages from E-C. The investigation follows the frameworks of Hans J. Vermeer's *Skopos* and Katherina Reiss' text typology

corresponding translation methods.

The findings of this study have several implications. First, the results of the contextual analysis show that readers may have difficulty understanding the context if the translated coinages lose their intended functions in the target text. Second, the stats of the quantitative analysis show that major difference between the two versions is the translation methods they used to translate fantasy coinages. The Yilin version predominately used transliteration. Hence, its translations usually involve significant reduction of information load. On the other hand, the Linking version is in favor of adaptation which is able to re-create the text functions of the coinages in the target text. The study results also reveal that the translator's understanding of the source text and the target text 'skopos' are among the key factors in determining how the translation should be done.



Keywords: fantasy fiction, coinages, *The Lord of the Rings*, *Skopos*, *Skopos*