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A Case Study of the Chinese Union Version of the *Holy Bible* from the Feminist Perspective

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for

Degree of Master of Arts in Translation Studies

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ABSTRACT

Today the original of the *Holy Bible* is no longer accessible to the majority of the world's population. However, to believers around the world, the *Holy Bible* in their own languages represents the words of God. Most versions of the *Holy Bible* in use nowadays are products of patriarchy, thus inevitably carry some gender-biased elements, which can appear to be perplexing or even unacceptable in an era when 'Feminist influences have penetrated every denomination'. In the last few decades, a series of retranslations and revision works have been completed from the feminist perspective in the Western world. Citing Western translation theories and feminist discourse on Bible translation, this thesis examines the *Chinese Union Version Bible* (1919) and its updated version, the *Revised Chinese Union Version* (2010) to see if the RCUV is more gender-conscious than its predecessor. For the purpose of investigation, the biblical "fault lines" and the gender-biased language challenged and revised by the feminists are selected and studied together with their corresponding Chinese verses in the CUV and the RCUV. The findings will show if the gender-biased lexis in the CUV has been updated or retained in the RCUV; they may also serve as useful reference information for future updates of the Chinese Bible.

Key Words: Bible translation, gender-conscious, gender-inclusive, feminist

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