

A Comparative Study of Gender Representations in Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* and its Chinese Translation

Wing Bo Tso

Department of English, Chu Hai College of Higher Education, Hong Kong, China

annatso(a)chuhai.edu.hk

ABSTRACT

Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* has caused controversy as well as enjoyed great popularity among readers worldwide. Its influence has created a great impact in the field of children's literature. The purpose of this thesis is two-fold. Firstly, the thesis analyzes gender representations in Pullman's trilogy in the context of how he rewrites female archetypes through the subversive re-inscription of Eve, the invention of daemons, the reinvention of 'femme fatale', and the new portrayal of Gypsy women.

Secondly, the thesis aims at comparing and examining how gender representations in the source text are translated, transformed and/or manipulated in its Chinese translation. With reference to Chinese gender ideology, which includes the Chinese concept of the *ying-yang* polarities, Buddhist notions of gender, the notion of the femme fatale, and the stereotypical image of Chinese grannies, the syntactic and semantic alterations made by the Chinese translator are investigated. Issues regarding how Chinese gender views may influence and alter the translation product are discussed in detail.

By studying the similarities and differences in gender representations between the texts, the thesis attempts to shed light on the gender ideology of both English and Chinese contemporary cultures.

KEYWORDS: children's literature, Chinese translation, female archetypes, gender ideology, Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*, stereotypes.

Completion of Thesis

Place: University of Birmingham, U.K.

Year: 2010

Supervisors: Dr Murray Knowles and Dr Carmen Caldas-Coulthard

Wing Bo Tso, abstract of Ph.D. thesis.