

Contextual Representation in Translation Paratexts: A Comparative Study of Paratexts in Different English Editions of *Fortress Besieged*

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ABSTRACT

This article seeks to study the ways in which different paratextual devices in English-language editions of *Fortress Besieged* interpret dynamic socio-political contexts for their target audiences. *Fortress Besieged* by Jeanne Kelly and Nathan K. Mao, the English translation of Zhongshu Qian's modern Chinese novel *Weicheng*, was republished and repackaged from 1979 to 2006, a period marked by ideological struggle, political change, and literary reform in China and throughout the globe. Applying Itamar Even-Zohar's polysystem theory and the paratextual framework proposed by Kathryn Batchelor, this article compares three selected editions of *Fortress Besieged* in terms of their publication contexts and paratextual materials, including both visual and verbal paratexts. Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that the paratexts in *Fortress Besieged* are redesigned to reflect the corresponding publishing environment. This is done by shifting the interpretation of modern Chinese literature away from political propaganda and toward high-value literature.

KEYWORDS: Chinese literature, *Fortress Besieged*, polysystem theory, socio-cultural contexts, verbal paratexts, visual paratexts

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本文旨在研究《围城》英译本中的副文本如何为其目标受众解释动态的社会政治背景。钱钟书的中国现代小说《围城》由 Jeanne Kelly 和 Nathan K. Mao 合作英译，在 1979 年至 2006 年间不断被重新出版并重新包装，这是中国乃至全球意识形态斗争、政治变革和文学改革的时期。本文应用 Itamar Even-Zohar 的多元系统理论和 Kathryn Batchelor 提出的副文本研究框架，从出版背景及视觉和语言副文本方面对《围城》英译本的三个选定版本进行了比较分析。结论得出，《围城》英译本中的副文本设计逐渐将对现代文学的解释从政治宣传转向高价值文学，以反映变化的出版环境。

KEYWORDS: 中国文学，《围城》，多元系统理论，社会文化背景，语言副文本，视觉副文本