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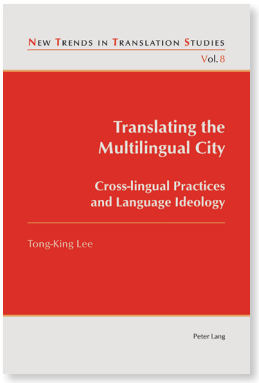

Tong-King Lee

Translating the Multilingual City

Cross-lingual Practices and Language Ideology

Oxford, Bern, Berlin, Bruxelles, Frankfurt am Main, New York, Wien, 2013. 166 pp., 1 fig., 5 tables

New Trends in Translation Studies. Vol. 8
Series Editor: Dr Jorge Díaz Cintas

pb. ISBN 978-3-0343-0850-2 CHF 48.– / €[D] 42.80 / €[A] 44.– / € 40.– / £ 32.– / US-$ 51.95

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Translation is a textual and discursive practice embedded in competing cultural identities and language ideologies; it is a site through which we can observe the operations and implications of language power. In this regard, multilingual societies provide fertile ground for the exploration of translation practice from the perspective of sociolinguistic tension. This book examines the relationship between translation-mediated multi-literate practice and language ideology in multilingual Singapore. It problematises literary translation in light of the power relation between the official languages in the city-state, with special emphasis on English and Chinese. Based on published translations and multilingual anthologies, it investigates the implications of such power relations for intercultural communication through translation. The book also discusses how the translational problems that accrue from language ideology may contribute to a nuanced understanding of cross-lingual practice and to the realisation of intercultural knowledge in multilingual Singapore.

CONTENTS: Language Ideological Relations and the Problem of Translation • The Bilingual Text in Translation: Paradoxes and Asymmetries • Reading the Cultural Other in Translation • Translation and Language Power Relations in Heterolingual Anthologies of Literature • Conclusion: Rethinking (Un)translatability and Intercultural Communication.

TONG-KING LEE is an assistant professor in translation at the University of Hong Kong.

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