Examples of Thick Translation in A Dream of Red Mansions

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The two English versions, A Dream of Red Mansions and The Story of the Stone, have different styles but same function. With different identities and translation purposes, these two versions try to fully comprehensively and perfectly reproduce the elegance and literary charm of the original. In the process of reproducing the original, the two versions, through different translation skills of thick translation, both realized the integration of “acceptability” and “comprehensiveness”. This paper compared examples of thick translation from the two versions, so as to prove that the existence of the two versions complements each other.

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Dream of the Red Chamber, also called The Story of the Stone, or Hongloumeng (simplified Chinese: 红楼梦; traditional Chinese: 紅樓夢; pinyin: Hónglóumèng), composed by Cao Xueqin, is one of China's Four Great Classical Novels. It was written some time in the middle of the 18th century during the Qing dynasty. Long considered a masterpiece of Chinese literature, the novel is generally acknowledged to be one of the pinnacles of Chinese fiction. "Redology" is the field of study devoted exclusively to this work.