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## Terminology Translation and the "Rebirth" of Comparative Literature in

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### Abstract

In their article "Terminology Translation and the 'Rebirth' of Comparative Literature in China" Peina Zhuang and Huan Pi discuss terminology translation during the rise of Comparative Literature in China. They argue that, while great headway has been made in Comparative Literature here, it is not free from the challenges inherent in terminology translation, an important part in inter-cultural dialogue. Analyzing the status quo in terminology translation from three aspects, namely, the lack of unity, standardization, and accuracy, they argue that more attention should be given to this aspect in the scholarship. In particular, they advocate more concrete empirical research, such as dictionary compilation, so as to avoid disputes on key terms, as a way of promoting the real and sustainable "prosperity" of Comparative Literature.

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When comparative literature lost its way was in trying to determine how comparison should take place, hence the drawing up of artificial boundaries and the prescriptiveness of some of the theories. This was particularly true of the so-called French school of comparative literature in the first half of the twentieth century. In contrast, other comparatists, notably in the United States, opted for an 'anything goes' approach, where comparative literature was loosely identified as any comparison happening between any kind of text, written, filmic, [End Page 7] musical, visual or wh In comparing poetry and prose translations, Bassnett-McGuire observes that there is a tendency for translators of the latter to "consider content as separable from form" (1991:110). The problem is not one of translators failing to create "readable texts", rather their failure "to consider the way in which individual sentences form part of the total structure...[which is] first and foremost a deficiency in reading" (Bassnett-McGuire 1991:115-6). In other words, translations are frequently begun without a great deal of consideration of the work as a whole, with sentences "translated at face va Comparative Literature. This section is highly selective and emphasizes those works likely to be of most value to researchers whose primary interest is literatures in English. For additional reference works in comparative literature, consult Thompson, Key Sources in Comparative and World Literature (S4850). For an evaluative survey of introductions to comparative literature, see Ulrich Weisstein, "Assessing the Assessors: An Anatomy of Comparative Literature Handbooks," *Sensus Communis: Contemporary*