

Two Enlightenments on Chinese Literature Going Out: By Comparing *Wolf Totem* With *China in Ten Words*

Juan GU

Abstract

China still has a serious cultural deficit in international cultural exchanges, and few contemporary Chinese literature works are successfully translated and communicated in foreign countries. However, both *Wolf Totem* and *China in Ten Words* have been on Amazon's list of best sellers after their English versions were published in the United Kingdom and the United States. Based on comparison between them, this paper aims to find the similarities and differences between *Wolf Totem* and *China in Ten Words*, and then get two enlightenments on Chinese literature going out: First, successful translation and communication of Chinese literature works share some similarities. Successfully finding the similarities will be conducive to Chinese literature going out. Second, not all successful translation and communication of Chinese literature can objectively and truly present China to the world, taking *China in Ten Words* as an example. Therefore, the Chinese government should play a more active role in sending out Chinese literature works which could construct China's national image.

Keywords

Wolf Totem; China in Ten Words; Translation and communication; Similarities and differences; Enlightenments

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Many more books are translated into Chinese than out of Chinese. To give an idea of the quantity of picture books that have been translated into Chinese, I've taken a finite, and authoritative list-the School Library Journal Top 100 more. Many more books are translated into Chinese than out of Chinese. --- Abstract: There has been a drive to develop children's literature in China in the 21st century. This includes development of authors and

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illustrators, as well as importing foreign titles and exporting Chinese titles. I have translated a number of children's books from Chinese into English, many of which have feature animals - both wild and domesticated. The enlightenment The same key-word "reason" can be found in the deflation of the term Enlightenment: "the period in the 18th century in Europe when certain thinkers taught that science and the use of reason would improve the human condition". The writers and philosophers of this age thought that man was virtuous by nature, and vice was due to ignorance only, so they started a public movement for enlightening people. It was a public literature, which represented the outlook and values of this limited society. It did not represent the impressions, hopes or fears of one individual. It was literature that could be read aloud in a drawing-room, enjoyed in a theatre or discussed in a coffee-house. However, both *Wolf Totem* and *China in Ten Words* have been on Amazon's list of best sellers

after their English versions were published in the United Kingdom and the United States. Based on comparison between them, this paper aims to find the similarities and differences between *Wolf Totem* and *China in Ten Words*, and then get two enlightenments on Chinese literature going out: First, successful translation and communication of Chinese literature works share some similarities. Successfully finding the similarities will be conducive to Chinese literature going out. Second, not all successful tra