

Homologous Power Dynamics: Shaping the Translation and Reception of Contemporary Chinese Literature in Brazil and Portugal

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The rise in the translation and reception of contemporary Chinese literature, particularly into Portuguese, mirrors broader shifts in global power dynamics. Yet, the nuances of this process within the Portuguese-speaking world remain underexplored. Drawing from Pierre Bourdieu's field theory, this study delves into the power structures inherent in the translation of Chinese contemporary literature in Brazil and Portugal from 2000 to 2022. It underscores the homologous relationships—essentially, power structure similarities—among the interconnected fields of translation, academia, education, and politics.

Beginning with an exposition on the notions of fields and homology in sociology, this research unveils the power dynamics embedded in translation production. It highlights how the homologous relationships between the field of translation and its academic, educational, and political counterparts shape translation practices. Using the translation of contemporary Chinese literature into Portuguese as a lens, the study argues that the power structure similarities shared among these fields play a pivotal role in determining which Chinese works are selected for translation, the methodologies employed, and the strategies for publishing and promoting these translations in Brazil and Portugal.

By mapping these intricate power dynamics, this research not only bridges Bourdieu's theoretical concept of homology with tangible phenomena but also amplifies the discourse in translation studies and Chinese literature scholarship, particularly in the Portuguese context. Through this, it underscores the inextricable link between power, translation, and the reception of literature in a globalized world.