

Bridging literary peripheries:

The role of transmediality in the promotion of Taiwanese literature in Catalonia

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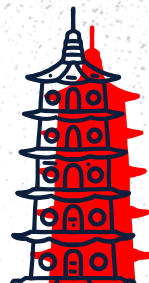




Table of contents

01

Introduction

Taiwan literature as world literature

02

Context

An overview of Taiwanese literature in Catalonia

03

Three case studies

Sanmao, Li Ang and Wu Ming-yi

04

Cross-media interactions

Impact in the inception and the reception of works

05

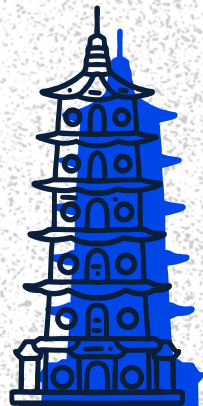
Concluding remarks

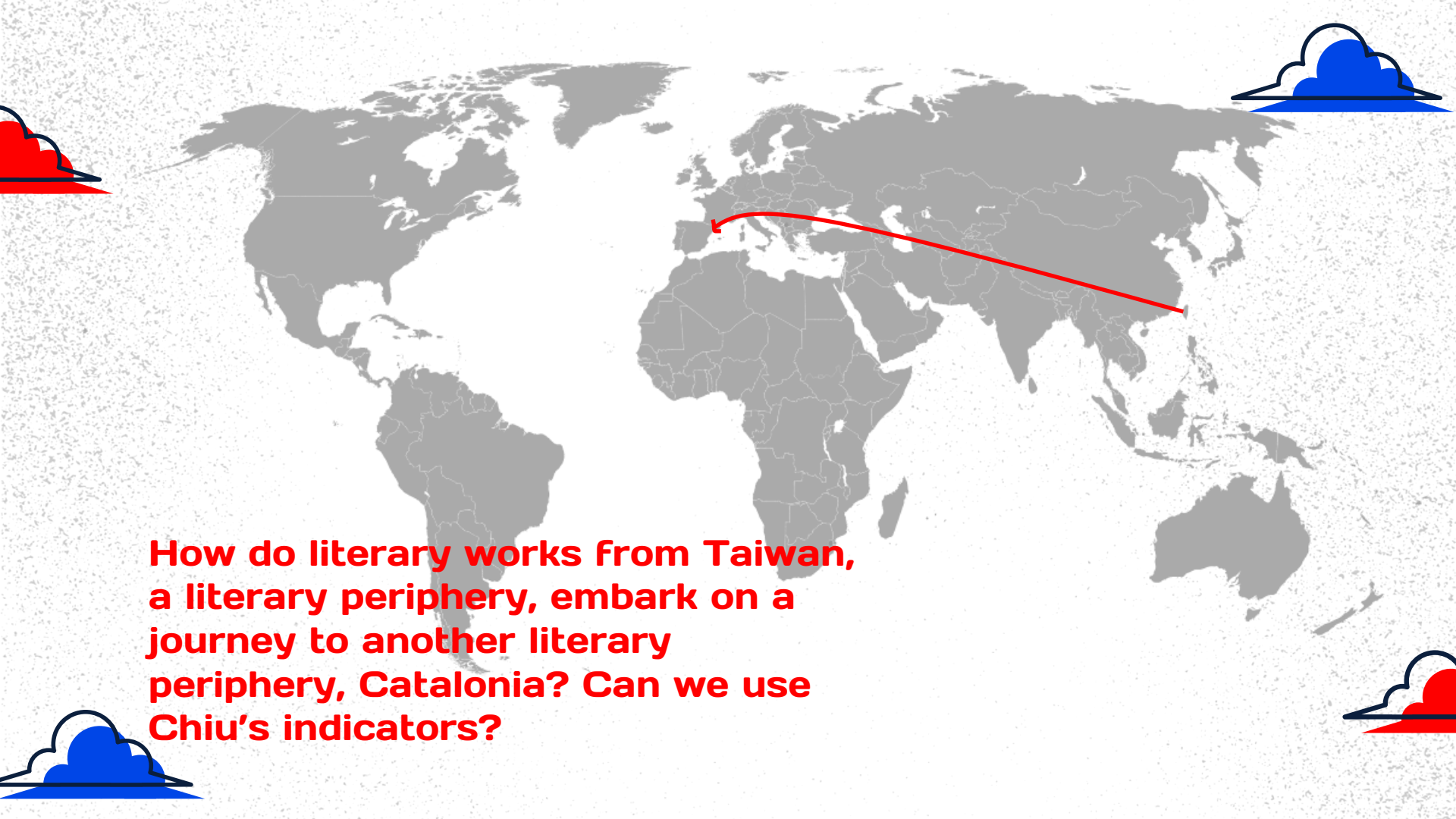




01

Introduction






**How do literary works from Taiwan,
a literary periphery, embark on a
journey to another literary
periphery, Catalonia? Can we use
Chiu's indicators?**

Taiwan literature as world literature

- Chiu (2018) analyses four works and demonstrates “how writers from the literary periphery ‘world the world’ and participate in the making of world literature”
- International Recognition Indicators according to Chiu (2018):
 - Translation
 - International Awards
 - Presence in International Anthologies or Websites
 - Book Reviews in Languages Other than Chinese
 - Special Issues or Reports in Languages Other than Chinese
 - Adaptations by Non-Chinese Communities
 - Research Publication in Languages other than Chinese
 - Invited Writer-in-Residency outside of Taiwan
- Chiu (2023) – Taiwan as world literature vs. Taiwan as sinophone literature

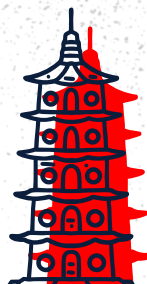


Objectives

- 
- To map these translations by genre and theme and to contextualize their publication by examining the roles of key agents and other contributing factors
 - To explore the role of **transmediality** in this literary journey from Taiwan to Catalonia by examining the extent to which various forms of media contribute either to the **inception** of these translations or to their **reception**.

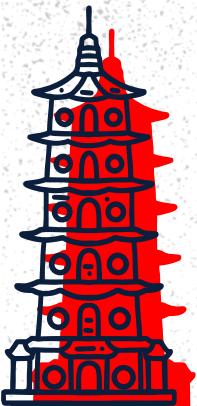
Method

- TXICC group's database of Chinese and Sinophone literature translated in Spain (Rovira-Esteva et al., 2019-2024) to map translations
- Collection and analysis of paratexts (with a special focus on digital epitexts) and various forms of media related to the translated works
- Insights from personal experience as translator of some of these works





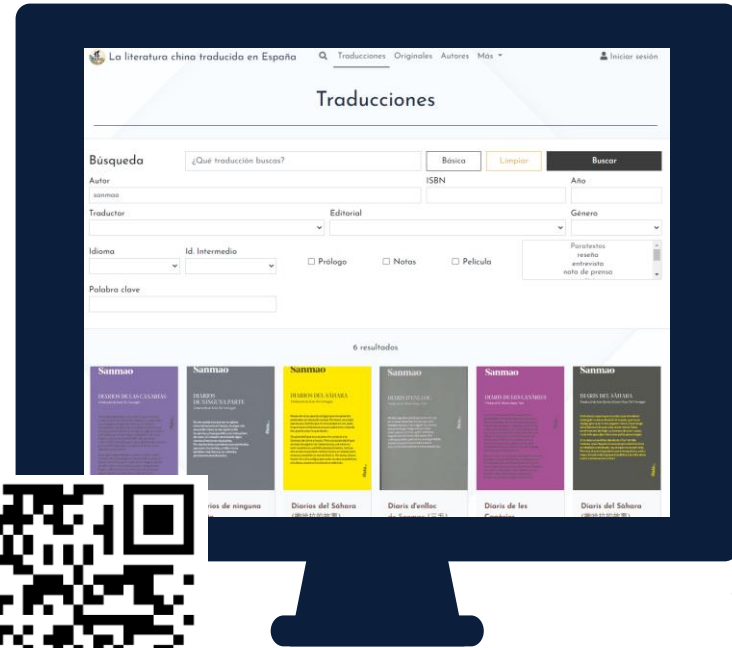
02 Taiwanese literature available in Catalonia



#TXICCLite

- A catalogue of all Chinese + Sinophone literature translated in Spain up to today
- 884 books (regularly updated)
- Focus on translation (mostly into Spanish and Catalan)

<https://dtieao.uab.cat/txicc/lite/>





Some quantitative data

58

Books by Taiwanese authors (6,6%)

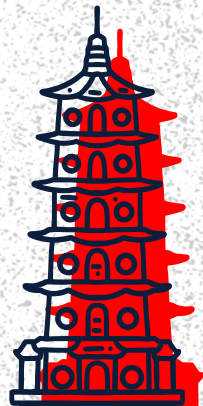


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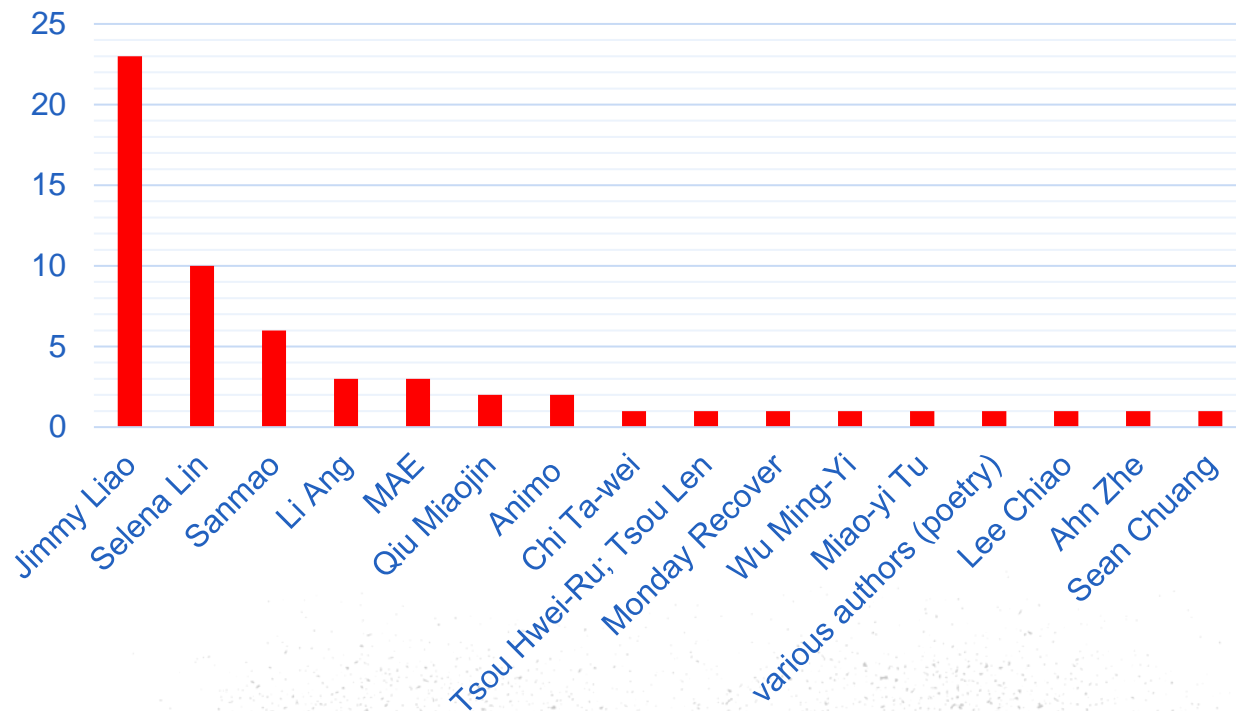
Taiwanese authors

23

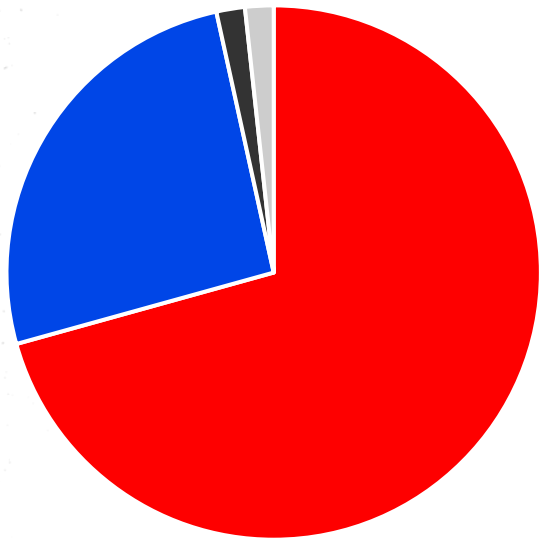
Books by Jimmy Liao translated into Spanish



Taiwanese authors and number of books published in Spain

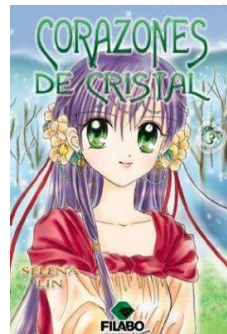
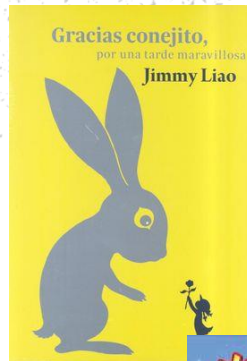
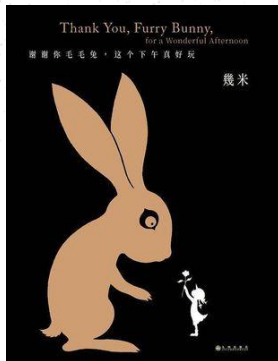


Genres



■ manhwa, picture books ■ fiction* ■ poetry ■ non-fiction

*Sanmao's stories have been considered fiction

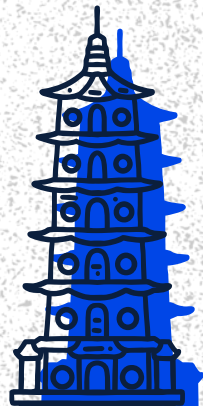




03

Three case studies

Sanmao, Li Ang and Wu Ming-yi



Sanmao

- First translations of Sanmao's works to Western languages in 2016
- 25 years after the author's death
- Key agents: Iolanda Batallé (editor), Helena Pons (former student at Translation and Interpreting Degree at UAB, working as editor in Batallé's publishing house at the time), Irene Tor-Carroggio's (translator, also former student at Translation and Interpreting Degree at UAB)
- Desire to publish Asian female writers (e.g. Sanmao, Han Kang)



Sanmao's works as world literature

International Recognition Indicators according to Chiu (2018):

- ✓ Translations into 14 languages (CA & ES first outside Asia)
- ✗ International awards
- ✓ Presence in international anthologies or websites: *Selecciones* (Spanish version of *Readers' digest*)
- ✓ Book reviews in languages other than Chinese: up to 20 reviews in Spanish or Catalan according to #TXICClite
- ✓ Special issues or reports in languages other than Chinese
 - ✓ Reports in general media (El País, La Vanguardia, El Mundo...)
 - ✓ Featured in the Catalan public television (TV3)
- ✓ Adaptations by non-Chinese communities: documentaries, song, booktrailers
- ✓ Research publication in languages other than Chinese: 4 articles in Spanish, 2 MA theses (one by renown poet Paloma Chen)
- ✓ Invited writer-in-residency outside of Taiwan



World literature, but so Sinophone

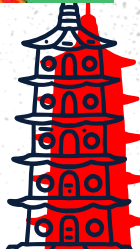
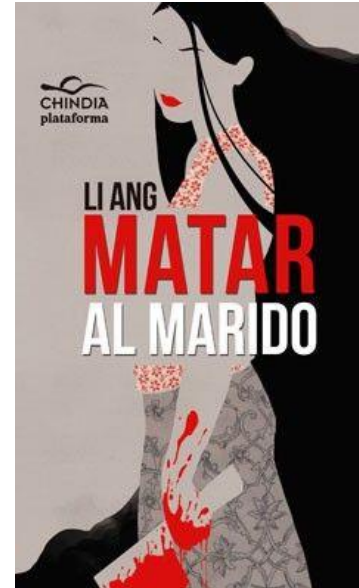


- Often presented as the “Chinese writer” who lived in the Canary islands, and as the Chinese icon for many generations of young women
- References to Chinese classics (e.g. 水浒传) and Tang poetry in her texts
- As Pai Hsien-yung, writers who keep strong bonds with PRC



Li Ang

- 2012: Spanish translation of 殺夫 based on Goldblatt & Yeung's translation into English
- 2020: Spanish translation of 有曲線的娃娃 by Alberto Poza
- 2021: Catalan translation of 殺夫 and 有曲線的娃娃
- Key agents: Helena Pons (former student at Translation and Interpreting Degree at UAB, working in Chindia), Alberto Poza (translator, PhD candidate working on gender and Taiwanese literature), Ricard Planas (editor, specialist in Sinophone literature)



Li Ang: the global multicultural model (Chiu 2018) from a local perspective

International Recognition Indicators according to Chiu (2018) updated:

- ☑ Until 2022, translations into 13 languages – Catalan translation despite Spanish being published for almost 10 years
- ☑ International awards: Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres
- ☑ Presence in international anthologies or websites: *Renditions* (Curvaceous dolls), *Chinese Literature Today* (Beef Noodles), among others (English was available, but Spanish/Catalan initiators and editors can read Chinese)
- ☑ Book reviews in languages other than Chinese: 6 reviews in Spanish or Catalan according to #TXICClite, more than 28 reviews in Instagram (#bookstagram)
- ☑ Invited writer-in-residency outside of Taiwan (but never in Catalonia/Spain)

No special issues/reports, adaptations or research publication in Spanish or Catalan



Li Ang, surfing feminist waves

The translation of 殺夫 into English, coincided partially with the **3rd feminist wave** and fit in with:

- the feminist agenda (gender oppression as a universal problem)
- the multiculturalist call for decentralising the 'whiteness' of Western feminist writing (Chiu 2018, 22)

Its translation into Catalan fits in with the **4th feminst wave**, still trying to decentralise the 'whiteness' of feminism



Featured in several book clubs (e.g. Vic, Teià, Pla d'Urgell...)



Wu Ming-yi

- 2022: Catalan translation (no Spanish translation yet)
- Key agents: Sílvia Fustegueres (translator, active book blogger and bookstagrammer), Javier Altayó (translator, currently in Taiwan), Toni Herrero and Gonzalo Rodríguez (Chronos editors)



Wu Ming-yi: the globalization model (Chiu 2018) in Catalonia

International Recognition Indicators according to Chiu (2018) updated:

- ☑ Translations into more than 18 languages – Catalan (2022), no Spanish translation
- ☑ International awards: Pen Translation award + Marcela de Juan for the translations into Catalan
- ☑ Presence in international anthologies or websites: importance of GoodReads and other international media for editors
- ☑ Book reviews in languages other than Chinese: 4 reviews in Catalan according to #TXICClite, 2 reviews by booktubers, more than 18 reviews in Instagram (#bookstagram)
- ☑ Invited writer-in-residency outside of Taiwan: author invited to 42 Festival in Barcelona

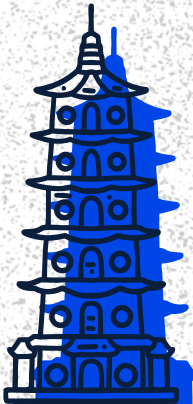
No special issues/reports, adaptations or research publication in Spanish or Catalan





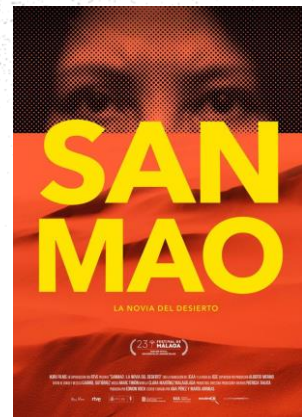
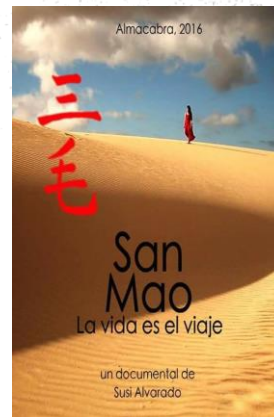
04

Cross-media interactions



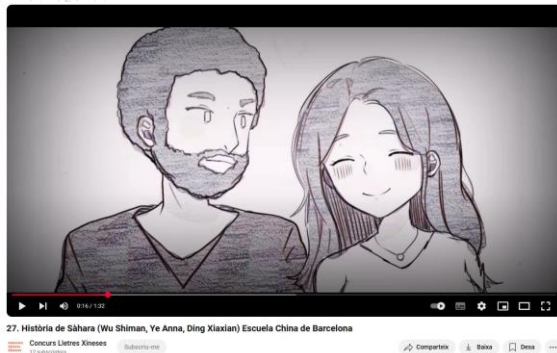


2013: Song by a Spanish hard rock group
based on her poem 夢中的橄欖樹



Two documentaries (2016, 2019)

Sanmao



2023: 28 booktrailers
by secondary
students as part of
Digitrans project
(Marin-Lacarta (2021-
2024))



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les_moves.lectures 15/2022.

Ambientada al Tansen rural dels anys 30, la protagonista està casada amb un home que treballa a l'estranger. Sent molt sang per tot arreu...

Parlariet i matricarles portats a un nivell màxim, i angonant i dura amb opressió, abusos, patiment, matriarcat, violència... Et fa de saber com acaba la pensat que el malson s'è. ajuda a digerir la millo...

El llibre fou publicat a Tansen l'any 1963 amb el títol de *La dictadura militar i una oligarquia albertonera* generant una polèmica sense precedents crec que...



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carlariclae Llegar-se el dia 1 sense resaca i amb un soliet radiat és una delícia ☺ He acabat 'Matar el marit' amb una sensació de buit informatiu ☹ En va costar enganxar-me a aquesta



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The Man with the Compound Eyes

Wu Ming-Yi, Darryl Sterk (Translator)

★★★★☆ 3.84 3,047 ratings · 456 reviews

On the island of Wayo Wayo, every second son must leave on the day he turns fifteen as a sacrifice to the Sea God. Atile'i is one such boy, but as the strongest swimmer and best sailor, he is determined to defy destiny and become the first to survive.

Alice Shih, who has lost her husband and son in a climbing accident, is quietly preparing to commit

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Strong connection between literary peripheries

- Chronos' Catalan edition is the 5th by number of ratings in GoodReads
- Of 456 reviews:
 - 314 in English
 - 18 in Italian, 18 in Catalan
 - 12 in Chinese, 12 in Vietnamese

The Man with the Compound Eyes > Editions

by Wu Ming-Yi First published 2011 expand details

Editions Showing 1-30 of 41 Format Sort by num ratings

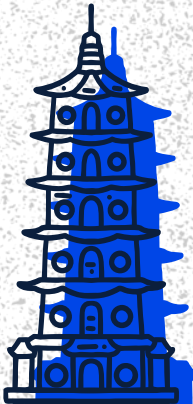
	The Man with the Compound Eyes (Kindle Edition) Published August 29th 2013 by Vintage Digital Kindle Edition, 304 pages more details	Want to Read ▾ Rate this book ★★★★★
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	The Man with the Compound Eyes (Paperback) Published September 29th 2014 by Vintage Books Paperback, 304 pages more details	Want to Read ▾ Rate this book ★★★★★
	複眼人 (Hardcover) Published February 2011 by 夏日出版社 誠品精裝版, Hardcover, 368 pages more details	Want to Read ▾ Rate this book ★★★★★
	The Man with the Compound Eyes (Kindle Edition) Published May 20th 2014 by Pantheon	Want to Read ▾





06

Concluding remarks





How is this literary journey possible?

- Key agents play a critical role: translators as initiators (not necessarily the translator of these works); small, independent publishing houses; academia
- Previous translation and reception in other languages (e.g. English, French) often regarded as important, but not always
- Strategic importance of non-English authors for editors + increasing importance of women writers



Transmediality in the inception and reception of these works



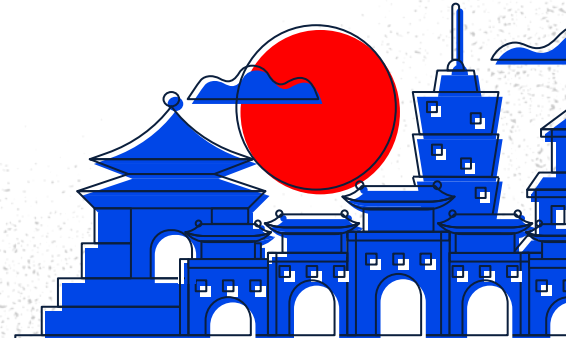
- In the inception: Sanmao's documentaries, GoodReads reviews in the case of Wu Ming-yi
- In the reception:
 - New semiotic narratives in Instagram
 - New hashtags are born: #literaturataiwanesa; #literaturasinòfona
 - Vitality of Catalan reviewers and creation in digital platforms (especially if compared to other major languages)



Further research



- Analysis of translations into Spanish and comparing this results with:
 - The case of *manhua* and picture books
 - Queer-sinophone Works
- Detailed semiotic and discourse analysis of reviews published in social media





Thanks!



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