## Translating Feminism in China: A Complex and Contested Terrain



Translating Feminism in China: Gender, Sexuality and **Censorship (Routledge Advances in Translation and Interpreting Studies)** by Howard Abadinsky



Language : English File size : 5469 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Print length : 212 pages X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



Translating feminism in China is a complex and contested terrain, shaped by historical, cultural, and political factors. This article explores the challenges and opportunities of translating feminist texts into Chinese, and the ways in which translation can shape and be shaped by feminist discourse in China.

#### The Historical Context of Feminism in China

The history of feminism in China is long and complex, dating back to the late 19th century. In the early 20th century, Chinese feminists were active in the struggle for women's suffrage, education, and employment rights. However, the rise of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in 1949 led to a significant shift in the feminist movement. The CCP adopted a policy of

"gender equality," but this was often interpreted as meaning that women should be subservient to men in the family and workplace.

In the 1980s, a new wave of feminism emerged in China. This was due in part to the country's economic reforms, which led to increased opportunities for women in education and employment. However, the feminist movement in China has continued to face challenges, including censorship, discrimination, and violence.

#### The Challenges of Translating Feminism into Chinese

Translating feminism into Chinese is a challenging task. This is due to a number of factors, including:

- The different cultural and historical contexts of feminism in China and the West. This can make it difficult to find accurate and culturally appropriate translations for feminist terms and concepts.
- The political sensitivity of feminism in China. The CCP has a long history of suppressing feminist activism, and this can make it difficult to translate feminist texts that are critical of the government.
- The lack of a strong tradition of feminist scholarship in China. This can make it difficult to find translators who are familiar with feminist theory and terminology.

### The Opportunities of Translating Feminism into Chinese

Despite the challenges, translating feminism into Chinese also presents a number of opportunities. This is because:

- Translation can help to raise awareness of feminism in China. By making feminist texts available in Chinese, translators can help to educate Chinese people about the history, theory, and practice of feminism.
- Translation can help to build solidarity between feminists in
   China and around the world. By sharing feminist texts across borders, translators can help to create a global feminist community.
- Translation can help to shape feminist discourse in China. By introducing new feminist ideas and concepts into Chinese, translators can help to expand the boundaries of feminist thought in China.

Translating feminism into Chinese is a complex and contested terrain, but it is also a vital one. By translating feminist texts into Chinese, translators can help to raise awareness of feminism in China, build solidarity between feminists in China and around the world, and shape feminist discourse in China.



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★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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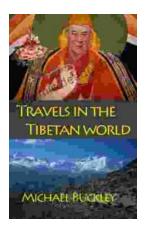
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