

## From Social Reform to Knowledge Dissemination: A Case Study of the Chinese (Re)translations of the Science Text *Evolution and Ethics and Other Essays*

Hua Tan  
Huazhong Normal University

**Abstract:** The article discusses the Chinese (re)translation of the science text *Evolution and Ethics and Other Essays*. There are four Chinese (re)translations of this science text over a period of a century and two decades. I attempt to make a comparative study of the four (re)translations from paratextual perspective to discuss the motivation of the retranslation of this science text. In the paratextual analysis, I investigated and compared the paratexts of the (re)translations, mainly peritexts, like covers, titles, prefaces, notes, etc., to discuss how they are used to help the promotion and spread of the retranslations of this science text. Following the analysis, I argued that the Chinese (re)translations of *Evolution and Ethics and Other Essays* involve a process of motivation transformation: from social reform to knowledge dissemination.

**Key words:** *Evolution and Ethics and Other Essays*; Retranslation; Science Text; Social Reform; Knowledge Dissemination; Paratextual Analysis