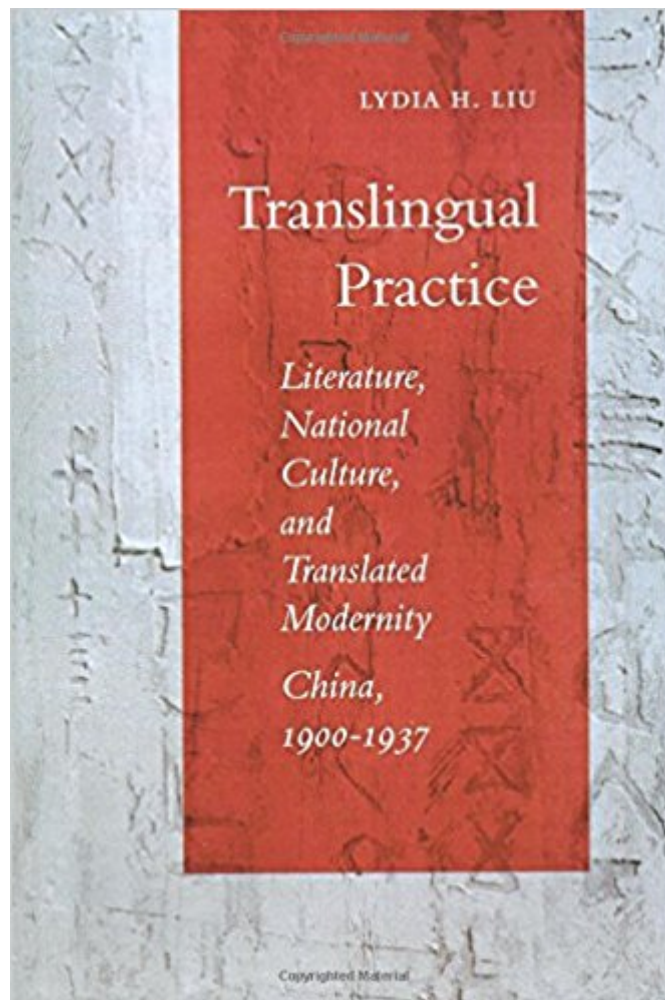




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Translingual Practice: Literature, National Culture, And Translated Modernity—China, 1900-1937



Synopsis

Are languages incommensurate? If so, how do people establish and maintain hypothetical equivalences between words and their meanings? What does it mean to translate one culture into the language of another on the basis of commonly conceived equivalences? This study—bridging contemporary theory, Chinese history, comparative literature, and culture studies—analyzes the historical interactions among China, Japan, and the West in terms of "translingual practice." By this term, the author refers to the process by which new words, meanings, discourses, and modes of representation arose, circulated, and acquired legitimacy in early modern China as it contacted/collided with European/Japanese languages and literatures. In reexamining the rise of modern Chinese literature in this context, the book asks three central questions: How did "modernity" and "the West" become legitimized in May fourth literary discourse? What happened to native agency in this complex process of legitimation? How did the Chinese national culture imagine and interpret its own moment of unfolding?

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Customer Reviews

This is best book (among those that I've read) on translation and modernity. Her close reading of Camel Xiangzi is beyond this world. Her examination of 'chineseness' is insightful. But, I would recommend this to those who has time to slow-read. If you read it in a hurry, it's doubtful how much you can get out of her sophisticated arguments.

The thesis underlying this book is quite innovative but I found the theoretical discourses rather derivative. The book is a mosaic of ideas of others and it's hard for me to distinguish what is original and what is derivative.

I find the book interesting and show it to my Japanese girl friend. But she says that the book contains some misunderstanding of the Japanese words. This book might look interesting to Chinese readers, but not convincing to the Japanese ones. I might want to confirm it and love to know what the Japanese experts think of this book.

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