

Translation policy at an institutional setting: A bibliometric study of China Foreign Languages Bureau from 1949 to 1999

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China Foreign Languages Bureau (FLB) is a governmental international propaganda establishment that has been operating since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. In its history of over half a century, FLB has been commissioning, producing and publishing translations in book form in different languages for global circulation, with genres ranging from political to legal, from literary to artistic. This paper focuses on the first fifty years of FLB (1949-1999). Through a bibliometric study of FLB's products, the author attempts, first of all, to find out what were translated, what languages were translated into, and statistically, what is the most translated genre and language in different historical periods. Secondly, the author endeavours to explore the translation policy on the levels of translation management, translation practice and translation belief (González Núñez, 2016) at such an institutional setting as FLB.

Governments not only develop translation policies in the “strict domain of public and political affairs”, but also “implement legal rules for the importation and export of all sorts of cultural products” (Meylaerts, 2011, p. 166). Existent researches on translation policy tend to focus on the former and explorations in the latter aspect are limited. This study will contribute to a better understanding of the translation policy at an institutional setting and its impact on the institutional practice of translation.

Keywords: China Foreign Languages Bureau, translation policy, bibliometric analysis, institutional translation

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