

## **Translating Short Stories from Chinese to Sinhala: Strategies and Methods**

Ven. N. Dhammadinna

*Centre for Chinese Studies, Department of Modern Languages,  
University of Kelaniya*

The present status of Sinhala translations of modern and contemporary Chinese short stories reveals a predominance in indirect translation (ITr) method. For example, Lu Xun's short stories have been indirectly translated into Sinhala from English. Indirect translation is heavily loaded with negative connotations (Ringmar, 2012) and is often considered as a poor copy of another translation since it often entails a loss of detail with each successive passage through the process. At times, this literary translation method is misused because it is claimed to be profitable for publishing companies interested in economising translation expenses. Using mixed-method methodology, this research demonstrates the current status of Sinhala translations of contemporary Chinese short stories that heavily depend on indirect translation. Moreover, Chinese and Sinhala belong to different language families and it is quite possible for unnatural expressions, misinterpretations, inevitable losses of intended meaning to occur in the translating process. Nevertheless, indirect translations can also lead to some positive results. Scholars are of the opinion that had it not been for this practice, certain literary works from cultures

across the world would not have been translated into many languages. Accordingly, this research suggests that indirect translation method should be used in the process of translating Chinese texts into Sinhala only where absolutely necessary, because it increases the distance from the source text and hinders the intended meaning.

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