

On the Translation of the Australian Miles Franklin Literary Award in China

Zhulin Han, Xinyu Shao

Australian Studies Center, Mudanjiang Normal University, Mudanjiang, China

Abstract: This article attempts to explore the introduction of the Miles Franklin Literary Award from Australia in China, with a focus on its impact on the Chinese literary scene and cultural exchange. By analyzing relevant literature and research findings, this article summarizes the process, impact, and limitations of introducing Australian literary awards in China, as well as their role in Sino-Australian cultural exchange. Additionally, this article discusses how to further promote the dissemination and understanding of Australian literary awards in China to enrich cross-cultural exchange and cooperation.

1. Introduction

Literary awards play an essential role on a global scale, not only as recognition of literary creativity but also as a medium for literary exchange and understanding, facilitating the cross-border dissemination of literary works and cultural values. In this context, the Miles Franklin Literary Award, as the highest honor in Australian literature, has garnered global attention. However, despite its international reputation, its translation and research in China remain relatively underdeveloped, creating a significant research gap that awaits deeper exploration.

Australian literature is notable not only for its rich cultural heritage but also for the impetus provided by literary awards. The Miles Franklin Literary Award, established in 1957 and named after the renowned Australian author Miles Franklin, is a case in point. This award is designed to inspire and promote the creation and publication of Australian literature. Annually, a panel of judges bestows the award upon an Australian writer in recognition of their outstanding contributions to Australian literature. With its substantial prize money and high prestige, it commands significant attention within the Australian literary community. However, in the context of China, this award remains relatively obscure, with limited research and translation efforts dedicated to it.

The research on the translation and reception of the Miles Franklin Literary Award in China holds profound significance for literary, cultural, and cross-border exchange studies. By delving into the processes and impact of this award's reception in China, we can gain a better understanding of the dissemination pathways of Australian literature in China. Additionally, this research allows for the exploration of the role and value of literary awards in global cultural exchange, providing insights and inspiration for promoting mutual understanding and respect among diverse cultures.

2. Introduction to the Miles Franklin Literary Award

The Miles Franklin Literary Award is the highest literary award in the Australian literary community, with a history and influence spanning half a century, symbolizing the legacy of Australian literature. The establishment and naming of this award carry profound literary traditions and historical significance.

Miles Franklin, born in 1879 and passing away in 1954,

was an outstanding Australian novelist known for her work "My Brilliant Career." Her novels were vibrant and deeply explored various aspects of Australian society and culture. In her will, Franklin bequeathed a sum of money to establish a literary award aimed at rewarding "Australian authors who create works that focus on Australian themes and exhibit a high literary value." In 1957, the Miles Franklin Literary Award was officially established, named after Miles Franklin, marking a significant milestone in the history of Australian literature. It injected new vitality and impetus into the development of Australian literature.

One of the distinctive features of the Miles Franklin Literary Award is its substantial monetary prize. Each year, the awardee receives a significant cash prize, which not only recognizes the winning work but also provides financial support for Australian writers to continue their literary endeavors. Additionally, the award places a strong emphasis on contributions to Australian literature, rewarding works that revolve around Australian themes or are set against the backdrop of Australian culture. This encourages the development of Australian literature and the promotion of national cultural characteristics.

Although the Miles Franklin Literary Award is an Australian literary award, its influence extends beyond national borders. Works that receive this award are often highly regarded for their literary value and cultural depth. Therefore, the works of award recipients also gain popularity on the international literary stage, contributing to the global dissemination and recognition of Australian literature. In summary, the establishment and development of the Miles Franklin Literary Award reflect the flourishing and diversification of Australian literature. By inspiring and rewarding exceptional Australian writers, this award has made outstanding contributions to the prosperity and international dissemination of Australian literature. It is not only an honor for literature but also vital support for the continuity of Australian literary heritage, signifying the ongoing prosperity and development of Australian literature.

3. The Translation Process of the Miles Franklin Literary Award in China

The introduction of Australian literature to China has been a long and complex process, with the Miles Franklin Literary Award playing a significant role. The translation process of this award reflects the development of Sino-Australian

cultural exchange and changes in Chinese readers' interest and awareness of Australian literature.

Cultural exchange between China and Australia began to take shape in the early 1980s. During this time, the Chinese domestic literary market gradually opened up to foreign works, introducing more literature from around the world. Australian literary works also began to pique the interest of Chinese translators and publishers. One of the earliest Australian literary works to be translated into Chinese was Patrick White's novel "Voss", which won the Miles Franklin Literary Award in 1957. This event marked the first contact of Chinese readers with this highly esteemed Australian literary award. The Chinese translation of "Voss" was published in 1991, sparking extensive discussions and attention. "Voss", an epic masterpiece based on the legendary explorer Ludwig Leichhardt, attracted numerous Chinese readers with its profound character portrayals and vivid scene depictions.

The successful translation of Patrick White's novel "Voss" paved the way for the dissemination of Australian literature in China and gave rise to the translation of more Australian literary works. Particularly notable is Randolph Stow's novel "To the Islands", which won the Miles Franklin Literary Award in 1958, further highlighting the significance of this award. The Chinese translation of this novel by Huang Yuanshen was published in 1993, generating widespread literary discussions.

The translation process of the Miles Franklin Literary Award has not only facilitated the dissemination of literary works but has also had a positive impact on Sino-Australian cultural exchange. Firstly, it has enriched the literary reading experience of Chinese readers, allowing them to gain a better understanding of Australian literary traditions, societal landscapes, and cultural values. This not only helps eliminate cultural misunderstandings but also promotes friendly relations between the two countries. Secondly, these works often involve unique Australian social and cultural realities. By reading these works, Chinese readers can gain a better understanding of Australian society and culture, thereby promoting cross-cultural understanding and exchange.

However, there are limitations in the translation of the Miles Franklin Literary Award in China. Firstly, the number of translated works is relatively limited and does not cover the entire history of the award and its winning works, leaving many outstanding works yet to be known to Chinese readers. Secondly, Australian literary works have relatively low recognition in the Chinese market, which may hinder the introduction and translation of more Australian literary works. Lastly, some works may require more explanation and background knowledge for Chinese readers to understand and appreciate due to cultural differences.

In summary, the translation process of the Miles Franklin Literary Award has to some extent promoted Sino-Australian cultural exchange, enriched the literary reading experience of Chinese readers, but there are still opportunities and potential for further promoting Australian literary works in China, requiring more effort and resources to deepen and expand Sino-Australian literary exchanges. This will contribute to strengthening cultural ties between the two countries, promoting cross-cultural understanding, and fostering cooperation.

4. The Impact of the Miles Franklin Literary Award on the Chinese Literature

The Miles Franklin Literary Award, as the highest honor in Australian literature, is not only revered within Australia but has also had a profound impact globally, including in China. Its influence on the Chinese literary scene can be observed in several key aspects:

Firstly, it serves as a catalyst for literary creation. The establishment of the Miles Franklin Literary Award, known for its substantial cash prize, has encouraged Chinese writers to explore and create works related to Australian literature. Australian authors who receive this award often offer unique perspectives on Australian society, history, and culture, garnering attention not only in Australia but also from international readers. Chinese writers, inspired by these works, endeavor to express their own understanding and reflections on Australia and other cultures through their literary creations. Furthermore, the success and influence of Australian literary works have ignited the creative enthusiasm of Chinese writers, motivating them to pay closer attention to the international literary stage. They have started to explore diverse cultural and contextual settings, broadening their perspectives on the diversity of human civilization.

Secondly, it fosters cross-cultural understanding. Australian literary works frequently delve into the unique cultural and historical backgrounds of Australia. Through translation and reading of these works, Chinese readers gain a better understanding of Australian society and culture. This cross-cultural reading experience broadens readers' horizons and enhances their comprehension of different cultures. By engaging with Australian literature, Chinese readers can explore various aspects of Australian culture, including Indigenous culture, immigrant experiences, and the natural environment. For instance, the novel "Cloudstreet," a recipient of the Miles Franklin Literary Award, delves deeply into themes such as family, community, and faith, reflecting the diversity and complexity of Australian society. Reading such works enables Chinese readers to better appreciate the multifaceted nature of Australian culture.

Thirdly, it promotes literary translation. To introduce Australian literary works, Chinese translators actively engage in translation efforts, improving their translation skills and contributing to the development of literary translation in China. Translation serves as a bridge for cross-cultural literary communication, enabling Australian literary works to reach Chinese readers. This enriches the diversity of the Chinese literary market and advances the development of literary translation while elevating the professionalism of Chinese translators. The translation of award-winning works from the Miles Franklin Literary Award has become a significant task in the translation community, with the quality and aesthetic standards of these translations gradually rising, making it easier for Chinese readers to appreciate and understand the essence of Australian literature.

In summary, the Miles Franklin Literary Award from Australia has had a profound impact on the Chinese literary landscape through its stimulation of literary creation, promotion of cross-cultural understanding, and advancement of literary translation. It not only enriches the Chinese literary market but also fosters cultural exchange and cooperation between China and Australia, providing valuable opportunities for cross-border literary exchange and dialogue.

The influence of such a literary award is not limited to the realm of literary creation but also encompasses literary translation and cultural understanding, contributing positively to cultural exchange between China and Australia.

5. The Role of the Miles Franklin Literary Award in Sino-Australian Cultural Exchange

The Miles Franklin Literary Award, as a respected literary award, not only holds a significant position within Australia but also plays a positive role in Sino-Australian cultural exchange. It helps deepen cultural exchange between China and Australia, promoting cross-cultural understanding and cooperation. The following are the roles of this award in Sino-Australian cultural exchange:

Firstly, the translation and introduction of the Miles Franklin Literary Award in Australia contribute to strengthening cultural exchange between China and Australia. By bringing Australian literary works into China, Chinese readers can gain a better understanding of Australia's literary traditions, social landscape, and cultural values. This not only helps to dispel cultural misunderstandings but also fosters friendly relations between the two countries. Simultaneously, this cultural exchange also influences the diversity of Australian literature. The interest and understanding of Chinese readers in Australian literature encourage Australian writers to pay more attention to the Chinese market and use their literary works to reflect various aspects of Sino-Australian cultural exchange and cooperation. This mutual influence and inspiration enrich and deepen cultural exchange between China and Australia.

Secondly, the translation and introduction of the Miles Franklin Literary Award in Australia not only facilitate Sino-Australian literary exchange but also propel the development of the field of literary translation. Chinese translators actively engage in translating these award-winning works, enhancing their translation skills and opening up new opportunities and challenges in the field of literary translation in China. Literary translation is a crucial component of cultural exchange, as it enables the transfer of ideas and emotions from one culture to another, facilitating cross-cultural communication. Through translation, Australian literary works are made accessible to Chinese readers, granting them the opportunity to appreciate the essence of Australian literature. This bidirectional literary translation enhances the deepening of Sino-Australian cultural exchange, contributes to reducing cultural barriers, and fosters cross-cultural understanding.

Thirdly, The introduction of the Miles Franklin Literary Award also provides rich material and topics for literary education and research in China. Chinese literary schools and research institutions can use these award-winning works to teach Australian literature courses, enriching students' literary knowledge and cross-cultural awareness. Additionally, researchers can delve into various aspects of Sino-Australian

cultural exchange, cross-cultural translation, and literary creation by studying these works, advancing related research. Literary works often reflect the diversity of society and culture. By studying these works, interdisciplinary exchange in literary research can be promoted, broadening the research horizon. The introduction of the Miles Franklin Literary Award provides valuable resources and innovations for Chinese literary education and research.

In conclusion, the Miles Franklin Literary Award has played an important role in Sino-Australian cultural exchange, promoting cultural mutual learning, the development of literary translation, and providing valuable resources for literary education and research. This cross-cultural exchange not only enhances mutual understanding and friendly relations between China and Australia but also broadens the fields and perspectives of literary research, contributing new dimensions to global cultural diversity.

6. Funding Projects

1. Basic Scientific Research Funds of Heilongjiang Provincial Universities in 2020: A Research on Huang Yuanshen's Australian Literary Translation(1355JG007)

2. Educational Science Planning Project of Heilongjiang Province in 2021: Research on Innovative MTI Talents Training Model Based on Serving Border Economic Development (GJB1421367)

3. Foreign Language Education Reform and Innovation Project of Heilongjiang Province Universities: A study on Foreign Language Education and International Talent Cultivation under Curriculum Ideology and Politics (HWX2022019-B)

4. Graduate Science and Technology Innovation Project of Mudanjiang Normal University in 2023: On Translation of SHALLOWS Under Translation Aesthetics. (kjcx2023-033mdjnu)

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