

FCTP – Freud Chinese Translation Project

China Focus Sigmund-Freud-Institute

Initial Situation

The original text of the Sigmund Freud works in German language is available in 2 versions:

1

Sigmund Freud: Gesammelte Werke (Collected Works), S. Fischer Verlag, Frankfurt a. M.: 17 volumes, 1 index volume, 1 supplementary volume. First published 1952.S.

Fischer Publishing House was awarded the rights by the exile publishing house "Imago Publishing Company", London in 1960. The first 17 volumes have no comment section, tutorials, and Footnotes.

2

Sigmund Freud Studienausgabe (Study Edition) in S. Fischer Verlag, Frankfurt a. M., 10 Volumes, 1 supplement, together 4929 pages. This edition includes a detailed commentary section in the form of preliminary editorial remarks on each work, and footnotes and an index based on the English Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud. Within the German-speaking part this issue represents the highest editorial standards.

Current translations of Freud's work in China

Since the nineteen twentieth some of Sigmund Freud's (1856-1939) basic works on psychoanalysis were translated in the Chinese language, beginning with *The Interpretation of Dreams*, *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*, *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*. These translations have following shortcomings:

1

The translators come from different non-psychoanalytical professional fields and generally their translations were not reviewed by professionally experienced psychoanalysts. For these reasons, the correctness and adequacy of these translations is doubtful.

2

Most of these translations are secondary translations from the English translation (Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud, S.E., 24 volumes) instead from the German original. The English Freud translation in the S.E. today is a criticized translation, moreover the Chinese translation is not even checked on their quality.

3

These translations apply only to parts of the Freudian Oeuvre. In addition to their questionable quality they are partially distorted and incomplete.

4

Also in Taiwan some Chinese translations of Freud's works were published. Against these translations the same objections as against the translations on the Chinese mainland have to be raised.

In summary it has to be stated that currently there is no authorized Chinese translation of the Sigmund Freud works. Most of the existing translations of single Freud works appear to be of doubtful quality, so that they need to be carefully reviewed and, if necessary, must be replaced by a first-time translation from the German original, that satisfies modern scientific and editorial standards.

Political framing

Thanks to the support of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Beijing the project is under the auspices of the Health Ministers from Germany, Austria and China, and the China Mental Health Association.

Concept

To test all problems in practice that are related with such a project, we designed a pilot phase in which at first one volume of Freud's Studienausgabe (Study Edition) is to be translated:

English: Sigmund Freud: Introductory Lectures on Psycho-Analysis (1916/17 [1915-17])
New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis (1933 [1932])

German: Sigmund Freud Studienausgabe, volume 1, edited by Alexander Mitscherlich, Angela Richards, James Strachey. Frankfurt a. M. (S. Fischer Verlag) 1997. 664
Pages

The focus of our project is the concept of a professional proofread translation. This means:

- The Freud lectures are translated by Chinese mother tongue speakers in Germany in cooperation with psychoanalyst (two translation couples).
- Each translation is counter-proofread by the other translator couple and checked by Prof. Lackner (University Nuernberg-Erlangen) together with Chinese mother tongue speaker. The sinologist Prof. Lackner was assigned by the German VW foundation, who finance our project, to exert the scientific control.

In the translation process we also look for the existing Chinese Freud translations in order to check the translation of central Freud concepts.

This concept has to secure a technically proven and good scientific quality of the Freud translation.

Accompanying a glossary of psychoanalytic terminology continuously is created, that shall form the basis for a consistent translation of key terms and for a unification of the Chinese psychoanalytic language use.

Furthermore additional footnotes are created to facilitate the understanding of the text at specific places to the Chinese reader.

Financing

The German VW foundation (program German-Plus).

Outlook

We plan to finish the translation of volume 1 (Studienausgabe) in summer 2016. If this will be done successfully we can start to find financial means for the translation of the whole Freud oeuvre in the German Studienausgabe.