

Chinese Historical Novels and Popular Military Talks Published in Osaka

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Abstract

A considerable number of translations of Chinese historical novels prefixed with the characters for “popular military talk” was published in Kyoto and Osaka during the early Edo period. This paper is focused on the translations of Chinese historical novel published by the bookstores in Osaka. The procedures followed are as follows: 1. To analyze the popular military talks published by the bookstores in Kyoto and Osaka and the propagation of Chinese novels from China to Edo Japan according to *Syoseki mokuoku* (書籍目錄); 2. To illustrate the compilation mode and characteristics of four translations published by Osaka bookstores, which are *Tuzoku goetsu gundan* (通俗吳越軍談), *Tuzoku buou gundan* (通俗武王軍談), *Tuzoku jūnichō gundan* (通俗十二朝軍談), and *Tsūzoku Sōshi gundan* (通俗宋史軍談); and 3. To discuss the cognition of Japanese readers with regards to “Jianyangben (建陽本).” Through different historical materials, the texts that foreign translations are based on, and the records in Chinese books, the author hopes this study of popular military talks can complement and further develop research on Chinese publishing culture.

Keywords: Chinese historical novel, Edo, popular military talk, Osaka bookstores, Jianyang