

**Titles of Mo Yan's books in translation into closer and farther languages:
Is nature or culture the main reason for changes?**

Maciek Stanaszek
Institute of Applied Linguistics
University of Warsaw
Warsaw, Poland
m.stanaszek@uw.edu.pl

Translating titles is one the most intriguing – because also the most complex – problems that researchers of, mainly literary, translation deal with. For many reasons, which I outline in the theoretical part of the present paper, the original meaning often undergoes much bigger modifications here than in other places of the translated text. The object of my investigation is some mysterious changes that occurred in translations of several titles of the novels and short stories by the Chinese Nobel Prize winner Mo Yan – translations into languages both close to us geographically and culturally (European ones: Romanic and Germanic) and far in this respect (Asian languages, such as Japanese and Korean). I end my considerations with speculations about the reasons of these changes drawing on analyses of interviews with some of the translations of Mo Yan's prose.