

# Unveiling Animal Agency: An Eco-Translational Approach to Realistic Wild Animal Stories

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## *Abstract*

Translating animal agency poses evolving challenges and opportunities for more nuanced ethical attunements with animal subjects, especially in light of Anthropocene realities and the ongoing shift from anthropocentric to post-anthropocentric ways of understanding the world. Drawing on ecologically informed frameworks such as “eco-translation,” “ecolinguistics,” and “narrative ethology,” this study examines the portrayals of animal behaviors, social mores, and family values in Chinese translations of Ernest Thompson Seton’s collection of animal stories *Wild Animals I Have Known* (1898). Focusing on the interplay of anthropomorphic projections and animal agency in the original and its translations, this study argues for an eco-translational approach to similar works, particularly within the genre of realistic animal stories. This approach refrains from fabricating pseudo-personhood for animals as mere automatized human cultural constructs. Instead, it seeks to analytically unveil pre-existing animal agency encoded in the source text or extrapolate it from the genre’s ethos. The study concludes with the potential strategies that emphasize the importance of unveiling animal agency as an indispensable component of eco-translation.

## *Keywords*

eco-translation, ecolinguistics, narrative ethology, animal agency,  
anthropomorphism

# 揭示動物能動性：寫實野生動物故事的生態翻譯路徑探究

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## 摘要

在「人類世」的語境下動物能動性的翻譯工作面臨新挑戰，特別是人類中心主義向後人類中心主義的認知轉型，提供了實現與動物主體更細膩倫理共感的機遇。本文以「生態翻譯」、「生態語言學」與「敘事動物行為學」等生態取向理論為框架，考察厄內斯特·湯普森·西頓的動物故事集《我所知道的野生動物》(1898)的中文譯本中動物行為、社會規範與家庭價值觀的呈現方式。文章重點分析原作及譯本中擬人化傾向與動物能動性的互動關係，主張在寫實動物故事等類似文本的翻譯中採用生態翻譯方法。該方法避免將動物簡單塑造造成自動化的人類文化產物，而是通過解析和揭示原文本中所蘊含的動物能動性，或從該文類旨趣推演其能動性。最後，本文提出若干翻譯策略，將動物能動性定位為生態翻譯實踐之不可或缺要素。

## 關鍵詞

生態翻譯、生態語言學、敘事行為動物學、  
動物能動性、擬人化