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Camellia Pham, “Colonial Translation Turned Vietnamization: Phạm Quỳnh and the Discourse of Transculturation”

This thesis problematizes and extends a reparative reading of Venuti’s view of a foreignizing approach to translation as more ethical than a domesticating one when the translation involves bringing a text from a majoritarian language into a minoritarian one. Offering a sophisticated approach to semiotics, linguistics, and literature, the author coins the term “French East Asian transculturation network” to name the many layers of influences and contexts considered. In effect, the author finds evidence that Pham Quỳnh’s translations negotiated Vietnamese nationalism, Japanese and Chinese cultures and literatures, in addition to French colonial ideology.