ABSTRACT

"Xin Da Ya" or "faithfulness, fluency and elegance", are the three cardinal elements of the succinct translation principle postulated by Yan Fu (1853 - 1921). Unlike any translation principle before it, "Xin Da Ya" together have been accepted as an infallible law guiding translation and grading translated works. No discussion of translation principle could go beyond the bounds of "Xin Da Ya". However, the discussants, in one way or another, extended and deepened the meanings and intentions of "Xin Da Ya" so much so that their connotations differed greatly from Yan Fu's original meanings. It is the aim of this study to examine the changes in the connotations of "Xin Da Ya" from 1899 - 1949.

The study is divided into seven chapters. Chapter one provides the rationale and a brief description of the approach of the study. Chapter two deals with Yan Fu's life, translation as well as an examination of his original connotations of "Xin Da Ya". Chapters three, four and five focus on the changes of the meanings of "Xin Da Ya" respectively. Chapter six aims to define the relationship between the three elements as a concise theory. Chapter seven summarises the discussions of the previous chapters.

As language develops and as the main concern of translation moves from translating writings on social sciences to foreign literature, the meanings of "Xin Da Ya" have also changed a great deal to suit the circumstances.