

# Review of: "Gestalt-based Research on the "Tian wen" Translation: A Theoretical Framework"

Elżbieta Tabakowska

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The main idea of the paper is fairly clear, but I have my doubts about its implementation. Applicability of main principles of Gestalt psychology to language, literature and to (literary) translation in particular, has been already demonstrated (e.g. work done by Margaret Freeman) and therefore I would expect the "theoretical framework" promised in the title to be that of cognitive linguistics. As is well known, it is based on Gestalt psychology, and I would expect more direct reference to its tenets. For instance, the fundamental notion of "image" is well defined in the cognitivist theory of language, and using the definition coined by Ezra Pound is rather unwarranted - fair enough, Pound WAS an imagist poet, but the Authors might profit from definitions offered by theorists of language of cognitivist persuasion (viz. Langacker, Turner, Taylor). Similarly, it seems profitable to use a well-grounded theory, e.g. that of conceptual integration, rather than a framework - interesting as it is - offered by a researcher who is not very well known to general reading public. The Authors might wish to compare the G-image theory to relevant aspects of the theory of cognitive linguistics - this seems an interesting project.

The principles of Gestalt are rather widely known, and their detailed presentation in a scholarly paper brings to mind a school textbook. Pointing out sources might suffice, and I would appreciate reference to original works of Gestalt psychology rather than secondary reference to Evans & Green.

The "living being" metaphor seems to me rather naive, and - more importantly - I lack clear criteria of classification of the three levels of G-images. This makes following the argument rather difficult.

It is hard to follow the paper without the knowledge of the poem. I understand it is too long to be quoted in its entirety, but a summary of the contents and a formal description would be welcome.

Some parts of the argument are rather difficult to follow (e.g. "A picture of the ST", "The translator should give full play to their psychological mechanisms"); when preparing the revised version of their paper the Authors might ask a native speaker to proofread their text, so that grammatical and stylistic errors are avoided.

To summarize: I suggest major revision.