In Chapter 3, it is assumed that the translating practices in the Taiwanese book market constitute a field of translation. It is supposed to be located in between the publishing field, the literary field and the academic field of Taiwan, where forces such as public services, mass media, educators, publishers, editors, writers, translators, readers, critics, reviewers and scholars interact and negotiate with one another. While encountering the external political, social and cultural forces, this translation field of fantasy literature in the Taiwanese book market is taking shape, constantly transforming and interacting with other fields. The interactions happening between the agents working within the field and the external forces, in return, influence this translation field and the outside world. It becomes a reciprocal loop.

To find a link between computer games, computer gamers, fantasy fans and fantasy translations, the connection between role-playing games and fantasy novels and the relationship between computer gamers and fantasy translators have been thoroughly elaborated. The translation of computer game manuals offers opportunities for translators to have an impact upon other gamers and can be viewed as the ad hoc translation of later translated fantasy books. With the support from computer gamers and later fantasy readers, these fantasy translators behaved differently from average translators when they interacted with other agents and institutes or encountered opportunities and criticism. The innovative strategies they adopted earned them visibility and fame and changed the translation norms and the translation field they were situated in. This proves that translators as social agents, along with the information revolution leading to new translating tasks, can exert a bigger influence and play more important roles than the general perception of translators as ranked second to writers.
The demography of fantasy readers in Taiwan is manifested by drawing a profile of the Net Generation who were born between 1977 and 1997. They grew up with the increasing usage of the Internet and personal computers in Taiwan. They were the initial game players and later, fantasy readers. They formed a social group of online communities and became fantasy translators’ support, in the form of social capital. Fantasy translators then accumulated this social capital as a bargain counter to negotiate with other agents and fields in society. Fantasy translators’ habitus-mediated strategies in relation to relevant agents and fields are revealed by investigating their personal backgrounds, their careers in the Taiwanese book market, and their attitudes and actions while encountering criticism and ascending to higher social trajectories.

**The role of agents in Bourdieu’s scheme**

The term ‘agency’ was coined by French philosopher Louis Althusser together with his notion of structure in 1971 (Rodriguez 2009). Agency can be understood as a drive, defined as ‘the willingness and ability to act’ (Kinnunen and Koskinen 2010). Agency, in contrast to structure, continues to be a topic in sociological debate. It is a concept used to express the degree of free will exercised by the individual in their social action. People express their agency according to the degree of constraint they experience from the structure (Walsh 1998: 33). ‘Agency’ is also defined as the capacity of a human being to take action and exercise control in formal or informal social groups (Somekh and Lewin 2005: 344). Therefore, an agent can be understood as an individual who expresses his or her agency in a structure. The notion of agent has been applied in translation studies since the mid-1990s, as sociological approaches developed. This concept of agent has been given different definitions in translation studies: (1) an agent is anyone in an intermediary position (e.g. a commissioner, a reviser, an editor, etc.) between a translator and an end user of a translation; (2) an agent of translation is any entity (a person, an institution, or even a journal) involved in a process of cultural innovation and exchange; (3) an agent is the subject, but socialized (Buzelin 2010: 6).

As social agents translators exercise their agency, which can be in opposition to social norms, to be a creative social force in a given society. The translator’s agency is demonstrated not only in their representation of the source text, but also in their selection of the source text, their cultural motivations for translation, and their adoption of strategies in accordance with the functions of the translation in the target culture (Cha 2003: 22).