

文学翻译赏析

Appreciation of Literary Translations

毛 莉 编著



甘肃文化出版社

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毛 莉 编著

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前 言

本书收集并赏析了古今中外体裁、题材及风格各异的文学翻译20篇，其中“汉译英”10篇，“英译汉”10篇。20篇赏析材料的原文绝大部分选自或节选自文学价值较高的中外文学经典名著，主要包括小说、散文、戏剧、诗歌、神话、寓言故事等文学体裁；译文也多选自国内外读者公认的优秀译本，对翻译学习者有较高的参考与借鉴价值。作者对所选的20篇材料进行了详细的语义、句法、修辞、文体风格等方面的赏析，语言深入浅出，通俗易懂，力求帮助翻译学习者提高文学翻译的技巧水平与鉴赏能力。

本书的主要读者对象是欲提高文学翻译水平与鉴赏能力的大学英语专业本科三、四年级学生，准备参加英语专业八级考试(英汉互译部分)的学生及广大翻译自学爱好者。

由于作者水平有限，不足之处在所难免，敬请读者批评指正。

毛 莉

二〇〇八年八月





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汉译英部分



一、钱钟书《围城》节选篇 及其译文赏析

【原文】（钱钟书《围城》节选篇）

苏小姐骂方鸿渐无耻，实在是冤枉的。他那时候窘得似乎甲板上人都在注意他，心里怪鲍小姐太做得出，恨不能说她几句。他虽然现在二十七岁，早订过婚，却没有恋爱训练。父亲是前清举人，在本乡江南一个小县里做大绅士。他们那县里人侨居在大都市的，干三种行业的十居其九：打铁，磨豆腐，抬轿子。土产中艺术品以泥娃娃为最出名；年轻人进大学，以学土木工程为最多。铁的硬，豆腐的淡而无味，轿子的容量狭小，再加上泥土气，这算他们的民风。就是发财做官的人，也欠大方。这县有个姓周的在上海开铁铺子发财，又跟同业的同乡组织一家小银行，名叫“点金银行”，自己荣任经理。他记起衣锦还乡那句成语，有一年乘清明节回县去祭祀扫墓，结识本地人士。方鸿渐的父亲是一乡之望，周经理少不得上门拜访，因此成了朋友，从朋友攀为亲家。鸿渐还在高中读书，随家里作主订了婚。未婚妻并没见面，只瞻仰过一张半身照相，也漠不关心。两年后到北平进大学，第一次经历男女同学的风味。看人家一对对谈情说爱，好不眼红。想起未婚妻高中读了一年书，便不进学校，在家实习家务，等嫁过来做能干媳妇，不由自主地对她厌恨。这样怨命，怨父亲，发了几天呆，忽然醒悟，壮着胆写信到家里要求解约。他国文曾得老子指授，在中学会考考过第二，所以这信文绉绉，没把之乎者也用错。信上说什么：“迩来触绪善感，欢寡愁殷，怀抱具有秋气。每揽镜自照，神寒形削，清癯非寿者相。窃恐我躬不阅，周女士或将貽误终身。尚望大人垂体下情，善为解铃，毋小不忍而成终天之恨。”他自以为这信措词凄婉，打得动铁石心肠。谁知道父亲快信来痛骂一顿：“吾不惜重资，命汝千里负笈，汝埋



头攻读之不暇，而有余闲照镜耶？汝非妇人女子，何须置镜？唯梨园子弟，身为丈夫而对镜顾影，为世所贱。吾不图汝甫离膝下，已濡染恶习，可叹可恨！且父母在，不言老，汝不善体高堂念远之情，以死相吓；丧心不孝，于斯而极！当是汝校男女同学，汝睹色起意，见异思迁；汝托词悲秋，吾知汝实为怀春，难逃老夫洞鉴也。若执迷不悔，吾将停止寄款，命汝休学回家，明年与汝弟同时结婚。细思吾言，慎之切切！”方鸿渐吓矮了半截，想不到老头子竟这样精明。忙写回信讨饶和解释，说：镜子是同室学生的，他并没有买；这几天吃美国鱼肝油丸、德国维他命片，身体精神好转，脸也丰满起来，只可惜药价太贵，舍不得钱；至于结婚一节，务请到毕业后举行，一来妨碍学业，二来他还不能养家，添他父亲负担，于心不安。他父亲收到这封信，证明自己的威严远及于几千里外，得意非凡，兴头上汇给儿子一笔钱，让他买补药。方鸿渐从此死心不敢妄想，开始读叔本华，常聪明地对同学们说：“世间哪有恋爱？压根是生殖冲动。”转眼已到大学第四年，只等明年毕业结婚。一天，父亲来封快信，上面说：“顷得汝岳丈电报，骇悉淑英病伤寒，为西医所误，遂于本月十三日下午四时长逝，殊甚痛惜。过门在即，好事多磨，皆汝无福所致也。”信后又添几句道：“塞翁失马，安知非福，使三年前结婚，则此番吾家破费不赀矣。然吾家积德之门，苟婚事早完，淑媳或可脱灾延寿。姻缘前定，何必过悲。但汝岳父处应去一信唁之。”鸿渐看了有犯人蒙赦的快活，但对那短命的女孩子，也稍微怜悯。自己既享自由之乐，愿意旁人减去悲哀，于是向未过门丈人处真去了一封吊唁的长信。周经理收到信，觉得这孩子知礼，便吩咐银行里文书科王主任作复。文科主任看见原信，向东家大大恭维这位未过门姑爷文理书法都好，并对死者情词深挚，想见天性极厚，定是个远道之器。周经理听得开心，叫主任回信说：女儿虽没过门，翁婿名分不改，生平只有一个女儿，本想好好热闹一下，现在把陪嫁办喜事的那笔款子加上方家聘金为女儿做生意所得利息，一共两万块钱，折合外汇一千三百镑，给方鸿渐明年毕业了做留学费。方鸿渐做梦都没想到这样的好运气，对他死去的未婚妻十分感激。他是个无用之人，学不了土木工程，在大学里从社会学系转哲学系，最后转入中国文学系毕业。学国文的人出洋“深造”，听来有些滑稽。事实上，惟有学中国文学的人非到外国留学不可。因为一切其他科目像数学、物理、哲学、心理、经济、法律等等都是从外国灌输进来的，早已洋气扑鼻；只有国文是国货土产，还需要外国



招牌，方可维持地位，真好像中国官吏、商人在本国剥削来的钱要换外汇，才能保持国币的原来价值。

【译文*】

Miss Su's condemnation of Fang Hung-chien for being shameless was actually unjust. At that moment he was so embarrassed that it seemed to him that everybody on deck was watching him. Inwardly he blamed Miss Pao for being too overt in her behavior and wished he could have said something to her about it. Although he was now twenty-seven and had been engaged before, he had had no training in love. His father had passed the second-degree examination under Manzu rule¹ and was a prominent squire in his native district south of the Yangtze.² Nine out of ten of the emigrants from this district living in big cities were now either blacksmiths, bean-curd makers, or sedanchair carriers. The most famous indigenous crafts were clay dolls; and for young men entering college, civil engineering was the most popular discipline. The intractability of iron, the insipidity of bean curd, the narrowness of sedan chairs, and in addition, the smell of earth could be called the local traits; even those who became rich or high officials lacked polish.

In the district a man named Chou had become wealthy from a blacksmith shop he opened in Shanghai. Together with some fellow villagers in the same business, he organized a small bank called the Golden Touch Bank,³ serving as manager himself. One year, remembering the saying about returning home clothed in glory, he chose the Ch'ing Ming Festival⁴ to return to his district to offer obeisance at the family temple, attend to the ancestral graves, and make acquaintances with local notables. Since Fang Hung-chien's father was one of the respected men in the community, in due time Chou paid him a visit. Thus they became friends and went on to become in-laws.

*此译文中 "I am therefore deeply concerned about the consequences of the possible brevity of my life: it would in that event be ruination for the rest of Miss Chou's life as well. Hence my sincerest wish is, that, out of kind consideration for my circumstances, Father would undertake to dissolve the agreement with grace and tact. Pray do not allow intolerance over a minor request to lead to everlasting woe" 一部分为胡定邦改译，其余部分均为Jeanne Kelly和Nathan K. Mao合译。



While Fang Hung-chien was still in high school, in compliance with his parents' decision, he became engaged. He had never met his fiancée; merely viewing a bust photograph of her had left him feeling indifferent. Two years later he went to Peking to enter a university and had his first taste of coeducation. Seeing couple after couple in love, he grew red-eyed with envy. When he thought how his fiancée had quit school after one year of high school to learn housekeeping at home in order to become a capable daughter-in-law, he felt an uncontrollable aversion toward her. Thus, bewailing his fate and feeling resentful toward his father, he went about in a half stupor for several days. Then suddenly he woke up, and mustering his courage, he wrote a letter home asking for release from the engagement.

Since he had received his father's guidance in literary composition and placed second in the high school general examination, his letter was couched in an elegant style without incorrectly using any of the various particles of literary Chinese. The letter went something like this: "I have of late been very restless and fitful, experiencing little joy and much grief. A feeling of 'autumnal melancholy'⁵ has suddenly possessed me, and every time I look into the mirror at my own reflection, so gaunt and dispirited, I feel it is not the face of one destined for longevity. I am therefore deeply concerned about the consequences of the possible brevity of my life: it would in that event be ruination for the rest of Miss Chou's life as well. Hence my sincerest wish it is, that, out of kind consideration for my circumstances, Father would undertake to dissolve the agreement with grace and tact. Pray do not allow intolerance over a minor request to lead to everlasting woe."

Since he felt the wording of the letter was sad and entreating enough to move a heart of stone, he was quite unprepared for the express letter which came from his father. It gave him a severe scolding:

I did not begrudge the expense of sending you hundreds of miles away to study. If you devoted yourself to your studies as you should, would you still have the leisure to look in a mirror? You are not a woman, so what need do you have of a mirror? That sort of thing is for actors only. A real man who gazes at himself in the mirror will only be scorned by society.



Never had I thought once you parted from me that you would pick up such base habits. Most deplorable and disgusting!

Moreover, it is said that "When one's parents are still living, a son should not speak of getting old." You have no consideration for your parents, who hold you dearly in their hearts, but frighten them with the talk of death. This is certainly neglect of filial duties to the extreme! It can only be the result of your attending a coeducational school—seeing women around has put ideas in your head. The sight of girls has made you think of change. Though you make excuses about "autumnal melancholy," I know full well that what ails you are the "yearnings of springtime."⁶ Nothing can escape this old-timer's sharp eye. If you carry on with this foolishness, I will cut off your funds and order you to discontinue your studies and return home. Next year you will get married at the same time as your brother. Give careful thought to my words and take them to heart.

Fang Hung-chien was shaken to the core, never expecting his father to be quite so shrewd. He wasted no time in getting off a reply begging forgiveness and explained that the mirror was his roommate's and not something he had bought himself. Within the last few days, after taking some American cod liver oil pills and German vitamin tablets, his health and spirits had taken a turn for the better, and his face had filled out, he assured his father, except that the high cost of medicine had been more than he could afford. As for his marriage, he would like to ask that it be postponed until after his graduation. For one thing, it would interfere with his schooling; for another he was still unable to support a family and would not feel right about adding to his father's responsibilities.

When his father received the letter, which proved that the father's authority had reached across several hundred miles, his father was extremely gratified. In high spirits, his father sent him a sum of money so he could buy tonic medicine. From then on, he buried his feelings and dared not indulge in vain hopes. He began reading Schopenhauer and would often say wisely to his classmates, "Where is romantic love in the world? It's entirely the reproductive urge." In no time at all he was a senior in college and was to marry the year



following his graduation.

One day an express letter came from his father. It read as follows: "I have just received a telegram from your father-in-law. I was greatly shocked to learn that Shu-ying was stricken with typhoid fever, and due to the negligence of a Western-trained doctor, she passed away at four o'clock in the afternoon on the thirteenth of this month. I am deeply sorry. Marriage was so close at hand; all good things have unexpected setbacks. It is all due to your lack of good fortune."

The postscript read: "This may be a blessing in disguise.⁷ If you had married three years earlier, this would have cost us a large sum of money. But with a family of such virtue as ours, if the marriage had taken place earlier, perhaps Shu-ying would have been spared this calamity and lived a long life. One's marriage is predestined, and you have no cause to be overly grieved. You should, however, send a letter of condolence to your father-in-law."

Fang Hung-chien read this with the joy of a pardoned criminal. But for the girl whose life had been cut short he felt a tinge of pity. While exulting in his own freedom, he wanted to help lessen others' grief. He therefore wrote a long letter of commiseration to his would-be father-in-law.

When Mr. Chou received the letter, he felt that the young man knew etiquette, and so he instructed the bank's chief-secretary Mr. Wang to send a reply. When Chief-secretary Wang read Fang Hung-chien's letter, he had high praise for his boss's would-be son-in-law, remarking that the young man's calligraphy and literary style were both excellent, and that the expression of his feelings for the deceased was deep and genuine, indicative of a very kind heart and talent that would take him far. Delighted with all this, Chou instructed Wang to reply in the following manner: "Although my daughter was never wed, our in-law relationship will remain unchanged. I had but one daughter and had originally planned to give her a grand wedding. Now I am going to give the entire amount, which I had set aside for the wedding and the dowry, along with the earnings from investments made with your family's betrothal present—altogether a sum of over twenty thousand dollars or one thousand three hundred British pounds—to finance your education abroad after your graduation from



college next year.”

Even in his dreams Fang Hung-chien had never conceived of such a stroke of good fortune and felt profound gratitude toward his deceased fiancée. He was a worthless sort, who could never learn civil engineering, and while at the university he had switched his major from sociology to philosophy before finally settling down as a Chinese literature major.

It may sound a bit absurd for someone majoring in Chinese to go abroad for advanced study. In fact, however, it is only for those studying Chinese literature that it is absolutely necessary to study abroad, since all other subjects such as mathematics, physics, philosophy, psychology, economics, and law, which have been imported from abroad have already been Westernized. Chinese literature, the only native product, is still in need of a foreign trademark before it can hold its own, just as Chinese officials and merchants have to convert the money they have fleeced at home into foreign exchange to maintain the original value of the national currency.

Notes:

1. The traditional Chinese civil examination system offered three academic degrees, which were conducted at three different levels—the county (or prefecture), the province, and the national capital. Successful candidates at these three levels were known respectively as *hsiu-ts'ai*, *chu-jen*, and *chin-shih*. For a quick reference, see: Y. W. Ma and Joseph S. M. Lau, eds., *Traditional Chinese Stories: Themes and Variations* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1978), p. xvi.

2. The land south of the Yangtze River in eastern China was known as the cultural and political center of China, noted for the glitter of its cities and the lush green of its countryside.

3. Literally, “Turn-to-gold-at-a-touch Bank.” From the Taoist story of a man who could turn stones to gold by a touch of his finger, comparable to the “Midas touch.”

4. A festival (“Clear and Bright”), usually around April 5, during which the Chinese worship at the graves.



5. Literally, to lament the autumn—to regret the passing of the summer of life. An allusion from *Songs of the South* (*Ch'u tz'u*), a collection of poems associated with the state of Ch'u to the south in the Yangtze Valley. The earliest of the Ch'u poems are probably not any older than the third century B. C.

6. Literally, to harbor the amorous thoughts of spring. An allusion from the *Book of Odes* (*Shih ching*), a collection of 305 songs dating from about 1100 to 600 B. C. The arrangement is attributed to Confucius, who considered the book a model of poetic expression.

7. Literally, “just like the old frontiersman losing a horse, who knows but that which seems a misfortune may be a blessing in disguise.”

【赏析】

《围城》是集中体现钱钟书先生(1910—1998)风趣才智、艺术技巧及语言功力的一部小说。小说没有离奇曲折、跌宕起伏的情节结构,也没有感人肺腑、动人心弦的故事内容,但正是那娓娓道来、看似平淡无奇的描述中处处洋溢着一种轻松调侃的行文风格,一种纵横恣肆、信手拈来却又不留痕迹的幽默讽刺,读来令人回味无穷、爱不释手。

在以上《围城》的节选段落中,作者用饶有风趣的笔墨勾勒了方鸿渐的出身、订婚、就学等方面的情况,中间还通过父子两人四封往来的家信对二人的性格做了一番入木三分的精彩刻画,语言凝练生动,含蓄幽默,颇具使人发笑的喜剧效果。英语译文也竭力在传达原文意义的基础上,保留原文的形式风格与艺术效果。虽说由于语言结构本身和社会文化等方面难以逾越的差异,译文同原文相比,还是有一定的差距,但可以看出,译者在翻译此段文字时做了很多努力,译文也还可以称得上是一个相当不错的译文。

具体说来,这段译文的精彩之处主要表现在以下三个方面:

(一) 译者注意到了原文几封家信中的文体变异及其特定的变异功能,在其译文中也采用了相应的变异文体,使译文基本获得了与原文相近似的艺术塑造效果

在原文中,方鸿渐的父亲前后共写了两封家信:第一封信对方鸿渐的



退婚要求进行了拒绝与斥责，第二封信将周家女儿的死讯告知儿子。这两封家信在语言上都采用了非常正式的古汉语，同全篇的现代汉语白话文相比，可以说是一种文体上的变异。在小说等文学作品中，这种变异往往具有其特定的社会指示功能，常常能够间接地暗示出一些关于人物身份、社会地位等方面的信息。小说《围城》所处的社会时代背景是20世纪三四十年代的中国社会，在当时的社会语境下，正式古文体的社会指示功能主要有两个：1. 代表上层体面阶层的权威话语；2. 体现顽固、守旧和迂腐。这里，通过古汉语变体，方鸿渐父亲那种高高在上、迂腐保守、独断专行的性格特征栩栩如生地跃然纸上。针对这一特点，译文也使用了一些较正式的书面语词汇和结构，有些地方还使用了古体词，例如：begrudge, what need do you have of a mirror, parted, have no consideration for, is neglect of, due to the negligence of, passed away, so close at hand, ails (古体词)……很好地传递了原文的文体变异功能。

在这段文字中，方鸿渐一前一后写给父亲的信有两封。有趣的是，这两封信的文体风格迥然不同：第一封要求退婚的信仿照父亲的文体风格，“文绉绉”，咬文嚼字，矫揉造作，同此段落中其它部分较随便的口语白话体相比，形成了一个明显的变异；第二封信是方鸿渐要求解除婚约的要求遭父亲拒绝、责骂后，“矮了半截”、忐忑不安地“讨饶和解释”的回信，用的是现代汉语口语白话体，尽管同段落中其它部分的文体风格相吻合，但同其它几封家信(方鸿渐的第一封信、父亲的前后两封信)相比，又形成了一个变异。

仔细分析一下这两次变异，我们不难发现其变异背后的缘由及其特定的指示功能：

第一封信可以说是方鸿渐斗着胆子向父亲写的：在封建家长制熏陶下成长起来的方鸿渐性格懦弱，一向对父亲俯首帖耳，“还在高中读书”，就“随家里作主订了婚”，平时对父亲的话不敢说半个不字。这时到北平读大学，受了周围新思想、新环境的影响，“看人家一对对谈情说爱，好不眼红”，“妄想”自己也能自主一回，将婚约解除。因此，这封信之所以用仿照父亲的古文体，背后正暗示了方鸿渐想要模仿正式古文体的权威语气，同老子好好“平等对话”一回的强烈愿望。可惜的是，儿子毕竟是儿子，多少有点儿畏惧老子，用语虽然正式，却“底气不足”，一些夸张性的词语，如“貽误终身”、“终天之恨”，以及一些故意做作的词语，如“怀抱具