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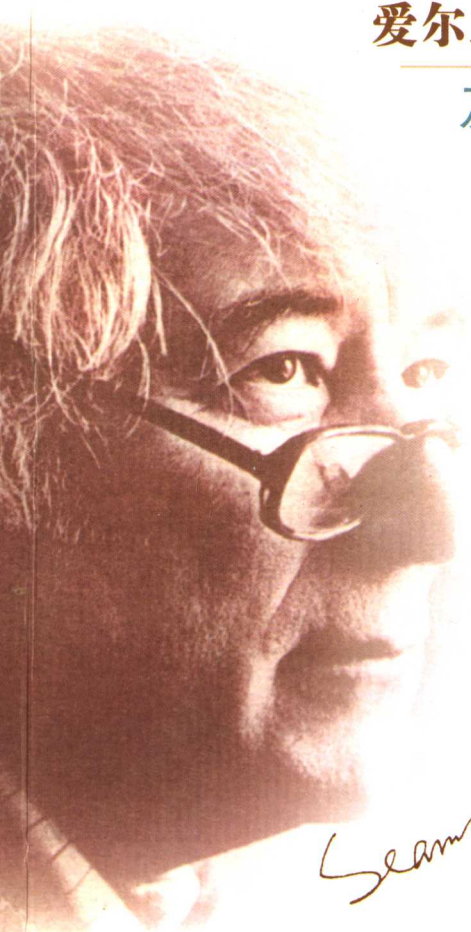
Irish-British Poet

Seamus Heaney and His Balancing Cultural Strategy

爱尔兰 - 英国诗人谢默斯·希尼

及其文化平衡策略

李成坚 著



Seamus Heaney

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作者与谢默斯·希尼合影

李成坚博士，女，1969年出生于湖南湘潭。电子科技大学外国语学院副教授。攻读硕士和博士学位期间，先后师从湖南师范大学外语学院蒋洪新教授和中山大学外语学院区銈教授。主要研究方向为当代英国、爱尔兰诗歌及文化研究。现已在《当代外国文学》《外国文学研究》《外语与外语教学》《外国文学动态》《四川外国语学院学报》等刊物上发表学术论文十余篇。

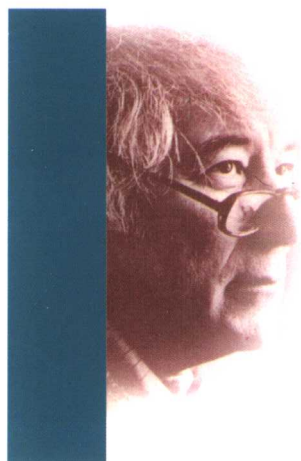
2003年4月至2004年3月，获国家留学基金管理委员会项目资助，先后在英国雷丁大学英文系、北爱尔兰女王大学英文学院学习，并成为女王大学谢默斯·希尼诗歌研究中心的首位访问学者。

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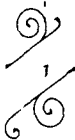
序

英国的爱尔兰裔作家在英国文学史上是一个很有影响的特殊群体，就连麦克米伦公司出版的多卷本英国文学史也要单列一卷《英国-爱尔兰文学》。我国已故的王佐良先生在主编多卷本《英国文学史》时也力主研究区域文学，他是把少数族裔文学也归入区域文学来研究的。

以往对英国爱尔兰裔作家的研究多集中在他们对主流文学的贡献。其实，少数族裔作家和一般的少数族裔人群一样，在文化认同上存在许多矛盾和困惑。这些矛盾和困惑影响着他们的创作。谢默斯·希尼同样对自己的文化身份进行过反复思考，根据李成坚的研究，希尼最后采取了文化融合的态度。

从中国传统文化的角度来看，这种和谐的境界是最符合宇宙的基本活动规律的。可惜的是，即使在今天的中国，主流文化仍然或多或少会忽略少数族裔文化的存在。比如某权威电视台举办的歌手大奖赛，综合素质测试中有关少数族裔文化的题目几乎为零，这对参赛的少数族裔歌手是不公平的，因为他们即使唱得再好，面对基于汉文化的试题往往发挥得不好，于是影响总分和名次。

至于谢默斯·希尼，作为1995年诺贝尔文学奖得主，他作为地处北爱尔兰首府贝尔法斯特的母校女王大学带来了荣誉，诗人的母校也以希尼为荣，于2004年2月成立了“谢默斯·希尼诗





歌研究中心”。该中心云集了克兰·卡尔森、默芙·默高钦、施内德·默里西等当代著名诗人，以及埃德拉·朗利、弗朗·布里顿等爱尔兰文学的优秀评论家。

李成坚是希尼诗歌研究中心的第一个外国访问学者，其实在该中心正式宣布成立之前她已经在那里访学。中心成立后，李成坚负责该中心图书资料的整理工作。她的关于希尼文化身份的研究得到了研究中心主任、诗人克兰·卡尔森及其他专家的大力帮助与支持。诗人及学者们就爱尔兰文化及身份问题和李成坚展开了深入探讨，并对她的论文写作给予了许多建设性意见，提供了大量珍贵的资料。

李成坚是我指导的博士，但在谢默斯·希尼研究方面比我的建树要大。从她掌握的资料，建立的学术联系，当然更重要的是从她的研究成果来看，李成坚已经是一位谢默斯·希尼研究专家。

细心的读者可能注意到，这部专著的封面印有“EPSI Publications No. 2”的字样。EPSI 是中山大学英美语言文学研究中心英诗研究所的缩写。我深信，在李成坚博士的这部专著之后大家能看到更多 EPSI 研究成果陆续出版。

区 鉷

2006 年 2 月 12 日元宵佳节于康乐园味闲室

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Preface

My first confrontation with the name of Seamus Heaney back-dated to my graduate years in Hunan Normal University from 1996 to 1999. It was in 1997 that I was encouraged by my supervisor Professor Jiang Hongxin to pick up Seamus Heaney as the topic for a term paper. Though I finished the term paper and got it published on the fifth issue of *Journal of Hunan Normal University* in 1997, I just had a shallow dip and then stopped. I didn't expect that I would pick it up again and chose it as the topic of my PhD dissertation.

During the three years' researches from 2001 to 2004, I kept reading Heaney's poetry and relevant materials by the scholars home and abroad. But, a question was always haunting in my mind that how to label Heaney in literary history, a British or an Irish poet? Why seldom scholars touch upon Heaney's *An Open Letter* published in 1983, in which he stated publicly himself as "an Irish". In the process of clarifying this question, the issue of identity becomes the perspective of my dissertation. The perspective helps me, on the one hand, to find a clue in interpreting Heaney's poetic career and the features, and on the other hand, to set the Irish history as background to widen my view from mere-



ly textual reading to cultural studies. The whole structure and main contents of this book go as follows:

The book takes the issue of identity as a starting point to label Seamus Heaney as an Irish-British poet, basing on Heaney's two citizenships and cultural identities. With the perspective of the "bi-location" feature, the author argues that, in Heaney's three different poetic stages from the 1960s to the 1990s, the poet endeavors persistently to seek balance between Irish and British/English influences, which enable him finally to put forward his balancing cultural strategy or advocacy; to proclaim more than one cultural identity, to keep two-mindedness and to redefine the notion of Irishness as a flexible definition and a mix-up.

Then, the book analyses the formative reasons by tracing back Heaney's personal life experience and cultural factors, arguing that the Belfast Group in the 1960s, Irish literary exemplars of Patrick Kavanagh, W. B. Yeats, James Joyce and Louis MacNeice, the foundation and activities of Field Day Theater Company in the 1980s and the poet's activities as a critic and a translator since the 1970s become the decisive factors in the formation of the cultural strategy. In the last chapter, the dissertation draws a conclusion that the balancing strategy is definitely of great help and significance in the maintenance of both the parochial and the universal, in the flourish of contemporary Irish literature/culture, and political introjections and rapprochement between two partitioned communities in contemporary Northern Ireland. However, the book also points out that the post-colonial perspective and theoretic framework, in a sense, has become the main obstacle in the popularization of the balancing advocacy. Further dialogues are called for within today's Northern Irish cultural debates. This serves the conclusion of the whole book.

As concerned with the outcome of this book, first of all, great thanks should be given to my supervisor, Professor Ou Hong, who provided me constructive suggestions and especially encouraged me four years ago to prepare a project for the fund of China Scholarship Council. During my three years in Guangzhou, Professor Ou's celerity with academic wisdom has taught us to seek the core of some topic. Beside, his paternal tolerance and understanding offers us a free space under the heavy pressure of studies.

Second, I would like to thank the School of English of Queen's University Belfast for inviting me to do a five-month research at Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry when I was holding the position as visiting scholar in Reading University from April 2003 to March 2004. Officially inaugurated on February 16, 2004, Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry is the first poetic center named after a poet from Ireland.

In the Centre, the poets Ciaran Carson (also Head of the Centre), Medbh McGuckian and Sinead Morrissey, and novelist Glenn Patterson were kind enough to be interviewed over the issues of identity and cultural influences. This helped me deepen my knowledge on contemporary Irish writing.

In the School, professors Edna Longley, Fran Brearton attended my lecture given on December 10, giving me advice and sending me books to broaden my view. All these people have helped me to clarify some ambiguous points while writing my dissertation. Moreover, the poetry and prose readings held almost every week excited me again and again and deeply impressed me with the boom of today's Northern Irish literature. I had the tremendous opportunity to talk with those active poets from the British

Isles on every literary activity. This five-month experience is definitely of great importance and instruction in my study on Seamus Heaney.

Then, my special thanks should go to my two friends Sinead Morrissey, poetess and writer-in-residence in Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry, and Dr. Elodie Aviotte, majoring in Northern Irish politics. They spared their precious time to examine the draft of my dissertation, discussed with me carefully and corrected the mistakes and ambiguities in my dissertation.

I am grateful for the generous help I received from those professors who have read my dissertations and given me instructive suggestions in the writing of the dissertation.

I should say thanks to my parents and my husband. It is them who have given me spiritual encouragement when I suffered from great difficulties in my life. Without any blame and complains on the past, they always support me in the choices and decisions I make. Their constant trust and support helped me to rebuild self-confidence and encouraged me to be better.

Finally, great thanks should go to Professor Zhang Wenpeng from University of Electronic Science and Technology, Professor Luo Yiming from Xinan University and Ms. Jiang Yuemei from the Sichuan People's Publishing House. It is a great honor for me to acquire their great help in getting the book published. Without their efficient and careful work, the book would be impossible in such a short time to face with the public.

Biographical Outline

- 1939 Born 13 April, the eldest of nine children. Family home is the farm "Mossbawn", in County Derry, Northern Ireland.
- 1945-1951 Attends the local Anahorish School.
- 1947 UK Education Act makes extended education more accessible to the children of less-well-off families. In Northern Ireland, especially, opens up educational opportunities for Catholics.
1951. 7 Attends, as a boarder, St. Columb's College, Derry. Among the other graduates of St. Columb's are the nationalist politician John Hume, left-wing journalist Eamonn McCann, literary critic and poet Seamus Deane, and the playwright Brian Friel.
- 1953 Family moves from "Mossbawn" to a nearby farm called "The Wood", which Heaney's father has inherited from an uncle. At about this time, Heaney's 4-year-old brother, Christopher, is killed in a road accident—an incident which the poet writes about in "Mid-Term Break".
- 1957-1961 Attends Queen's University, Belfast. Graduates with 1st class degree in English Language and Literature. Is urged to undertake postgraduate work at Oxford,



- but decides to become a school teacher instead.
1961. 2 Attends St. Joseph's College of Education, Andersonstown, Belfast, and obtains his Teacher's Training Diploma. During his time at St. Joseph's, Heaney writes an extended essay on Northern Irish literary magazines and encounters the work of local poets such as John Hewitt.
- 1962 Joins staff of St. Thomas's Secondary School, Ballymurphy, Belfast. The headmaster is the short-story writer Michael McLaverty, who introduces Heaney to the work of the Irish poet Patrick Kavanagh.
1962. 6 Part-time postgraduate work at Queen's.
- 1963 Philip Hobsbaum establishes Belfast Group. Members include: Michael Longley, Stewart Parker, and James Simmons.
- 1965 August; marries Marie Devlin. Devlin was born in Ardboe in County Tyrone. She attended St Mary's College of Education in Belfast from 1958 to 1962 and taught at St. Columcille's school in County Down.
- 1966 *Death of a Naturalist* published. Hobsbaum moves to Glasgow; Heaney joins Queen's faculty. Belfast Group continues to meet at Heaney's and includes younger members such as Paul Muldoon, Frank Ormsby, and Michael Foley. July: Heaney's son Michael born.
- 1967 Heaney receives the Somerset Maugham Award.
- 1968 February; second son, Christopher, born. Receives the Cholmondeley Award.
1968. 9 Repression of Civil Rights movement prompts a renewal of conflict in Northern Ireland.

- 1969 *Door into the Dark* published. August: British troops deployed in Derry and Belfast.
1970. 1 Teaches as guest lecturer at University of California, Berkeley.
- 1971 August: internment introduced in Northern Ireland. By the end of the year, a total of 1,576 people have been imprisoned without benefit of trial.
- 1972 30 January, "Bloody Sunday": soldiers from the British Army paratroop regiment open fire on unarmed Civil Rights demonstrators in Derry. Thirteen protesters are killed, a further twelve are wounded. August: the Heaneys move to Glanmore, in the Republic of Ireland. Makes his first attempts at translating the medieval Irish poem *Buile Suibne*. November: *Wintering Out* published.
- 1973 April: daughter, Catherine Ann, born.
- 1975 *North* published. Receives the W. H. Smith Award and Duff Cooper Prize. October: joins faculty of Carysfort Teacher Training College.
- 1979 November: Heaney and family move to Sandymount, near Dublin.
- 1979 *Field Work* published. Spends a term at Harvard University as one of a series of temporary successors to the American poet Robert Lowell.
- 1980 *Preoccupations*, his first collection of essays, published. *Selected Poems 1965-1975* published.
1980. 1 Nationalist prisoners in Northern Ireland stage a series of hunger strikes, seeking the reintroduction of political (as opposed to criminal) status. Ten prisoners would eventually die on the protest, including Francis



- Hughes of Bellaghy, near Heaney's birthplace.
- 1981 Leaves Carysfort.
- 1982 January: starts a five-year contract at Harvard, to teach one semester a year. Publishes (as co-editor with Ted Hughes) an anthology of poems entitled *The Rattle Bag*.
- 1983 *An Open Letter* published as a pamphlet by Field Day in Ireland. The verse letter objects to his work being included in an anthology of British poetry. His translation of *Buile Suibhne*, entitled *Sweeney Astray*, is published in Ireland.
- 1984 *Station Island* published. *Sweeney Astray* published in UK. Elected to Boylston Chair of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard. October: mother dies.
- 1986 October: father dies.
- 1987 *Haw Lantern* published. Receives the Whitbread Award.
- 1988 *Government of the Tongue*, his second collection of essays, published. Becomes Professor of Poetry at Oxford University (for a term of five years).
- 1990 *The Cure at Troy*, Heaney's version of Sophocles' *Philoctetes*, performed in Derry and published in London. *New Selected Poems* published.
- 1991 *Seeing Things* published.
- 1994 First round of ceasefires in Northern Ireland (August).
- 1995 October: Heaney awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. *Redress of Poetry* published.
- 1996 *The Spirit Level* published. Heaney receives Commonwealth Award. Resigns as Boylston Professor at

- Harvard, to become Emerson Poet in Residence.
IRA ceasefire terminated (9 February).
- 1997 *Spirit Level* named Whitbread Book of the Year. IRA
ceasefire renewed (9 July).
- 1998 *Opened Ground: Poems 1966-1996* published. Good
Friday' Agreement signed by British and Irish govern-
ment and by most Northern Irish political parties, in-
cluding Sinn Fein and the Ulster Unionist Party (A-
pril).
- 1999 Heaney's translation of *Beowulf* published.
- 2000 *Beowulf* receives the Whitbread Poetry Award.
- 2001 *Electric Light* published.
- 2002 *Finders Keepers, Selected Prose 1971-2001* pub-
lished.
2003. 2 Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry founded in the
School of English of Queen's University, Belfast.

Abbreviations

- B *Beowulf* (London: Faber and Faber, 1999)
- DD *Door into the Dark* (London: Faber and Faber, 1969)
- DN *Death of a Naturalist* (London: Faber and Faber, 1966)
- EL *Electric Light* (London: Faber and Faber, 2001)
- FK *Finders Keepers, Selected Prose 1971-2001* (London: Faber and Faber, 2002)
- FW *Field Work* (London: Faber and Faber, 1979)
- GT *The Government of the Tongue: The 1986 T. S. Eliot Memorial Lectures and Other Critical Writings* (London: Faber and Faber, 1988)
- HL *The Haw Lantern* (London: Faber and Faber, 1987)
- N *North* (London: Faber and Faber, 1975)
- OG *Opened Ground: Poems 1966-1996* (London: Faber and Faber, 1998)
- OL *An Open Letter* (Ireland's Field Day. Then by Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1996)
- P *Preoccupations: Selected Prose 1968-1978* (London: Faber and Faber, 1980)
- PW *The Place of Writing* (Atlanta: Scholars Press for Emory University, 1989)
- RP *The Redress of Poetry: Oxford Lectures* (London: Faber and Faber, 1995)