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中国元素的文学性译述探究

——首届中国当代优秀作品国际翻译大赛部分译文评析

摘要:作为评委之一,笔者以首届中国当代优秀作品国际翻译大赛的部分英译文为例,从一特殊角度,就其中若干典型问题,作出比较与评析。在借鉴语篇分析的基础上,以"狭义语境"和"广义语境"的有效结合为前提、对原文的中国元素在总体上有所把握,进而力求高质量的对外翻译。就文学翻译策略而言,本文使用了"译述"的概念,即"翻译"加"叙述"与"描述";"译"中有"述","述"中有"意"。同时,对于中国文学英译里的"对等值"、"地道化"、"文学性"等作出具体的分析与阐释。

关键词:中国文学英译、中国元素、语境理解、"译述"、文学性语言

随着 2013 年 (即首届) 中国当代优秀作品国际翻译大赛的圆满结束,引发了众多中国文学翻译者的广泛兴趣,也提出了一些问题。

在国际交往中,不难发现,中国人对西方的了解,远胜于西方对于我们的了解,而其间文学作品起到了重要的桥梁作用,即长期以来在文学翻译上,存在着"逆差"— 无论在数量或质量方面,"进"远远大于"出",这与中国的崛起和软实力的现状是不相符的。

如果说"非文学"领域,如政治学、经济学、社会学、逻辑学、哲学、管理学、心理学、历史学、医学等是"硬件",那么文学作品则是"软件",更感性、隐形、潜移,因而也更形象、广泛、深层、有感染力。无疑,相比其它类型的翻译,文学翻译更具再创作性,对译者的语言、文化、艺术素养及悟性的要求也更高。如美国著名翻译学家兰德斯(Landers)说,Literary translation is the most demanding types of translation (Landers, 2008:7)(文学翻译是一种最难的翻译类型),而美国汉学家罗慕士(Roberts Moss)认为,中国人不宜把母语译成外语,因为往往费力不讨好(朱振武,2012/3:4)。

固然,本次大赛获奖者中外国译者占据多数,但中国优秀译者也不乏其人。 归纳起来,各有优势,也各有问题。本文拟从一评委角度,以部分英译文为例, 就其中若干典型问题,作一比较与评析。

1. 中国元素的语境感悟

一般认为,所谓"中国元素"更多地存在于中国的哲学、思想、政治、经济、文化、教育、制度等之中,其实最潜移默化的,渗透在中国的文学里。作为译者,没有人为其标明哪些是中国元素;他们需要从汉文字的深层涵义中去理解、挖掘和感悟。可以说,没有理解就没有翻译,而没有透彻的理解,便容易出现翻译中的误解、偏差或遗失;对于中国文学的外译,更是如此。

就文学翻译的理解,有学者建议分为"表层理解"和"深层理解"(张保红,2011:3),但亦不妨引入语篇分析的概念,即"语内衔接"和"语外衔接";前者可理解为"狭义语境",后者为"广义语境",二者的有效结合一特欧里(Toury)将其整合为源语文本、源语文化、译语文本、译语文化及其外围背景、译语语言资源等,从而形成科学(sciences qua sciences)(Toury, Gideon,1995:36-39)—奠定高质量文学翻译的基础。

就苏童的《人民的鱼》(下简称《鱼》)而言,小说按时序讲述了中国市井生活中作为邻居的两个女人的故事,作者独具匠心,以"鱼"为主线一提鱼、送鱼、做鱼、吃鱼、经营鱼一贯穿全篇,完成了对一现实主题的形象化诠释。译者应意识到,这里的"鱼"已经不能仅仅限于狭义语境来理解。广读其作品,会发现青年作家苏童善于以一种意像来统领创作,如他的《1934的逃亡》、《逃》等均以"逃"为主题意像,而《蛇为什么会飞》、《白雪猪头》则分别是"蛇"和"猪头"。故这里的"鱼"不再单纯是生物意义上的食品,而是一个文化符号和艺术象征,其所揭示的是急剧的社会变迁和人们观念的转化。

以广义语境而论,所谓"人民的鱼",在作品中物化为方方面面:人民捉鱼、人民吃鱼、人民送鱼、人民利用鱼疏通关系、人民手中的鱼及吃鱼的方式与权力和身份的关系、人民利用鱼创造价值、人民富裕生活与鱼的关联等等。因而,其中至少蕴涵这样一些中国元素:中国的官场文化、市井里中年妇女间的典型关系、社会主义市场经济的急速发展、中国一般民众的商业和平等意识的增强、高低贵贱观念的转变、对"三十年河东,三十年河西"的理解、百姓间来往和客套的表达方式、以及作者的中国式幽默和荒诞笔调,等等。进而,作者以巧妙而深刻的笔触描绘出了看似平静而潜藏激流的生活,举重若轻,耐人寻味。译者只有对于这些因素在整体上具有相当全面而深刻的理解,才有了下笔翻译的基础,因而不会距原作的主旨和表述相去甚远。

具体而言,《鱼》中主角的老公居林生是"我们街上最大的干部"、"科级干部",许多人译成 the biggest official/top official, keji official/section – level official等,似乎可以理解,但深加分析,便知对中国地方的一个基层干部,更确切地应

称其为 cadre 这一具有中国特色的身份。类似的,如"干部要能上能下"A cadre should be ready to take a lower as well as a higher post), "深化干部人事制度改革 (Deepen the reform of the cadre and personnel system)等,故此处不妨译为 the highest – ranking cadre on our street,而"科级干部"以 office – level cadre 似更"基

女主角柳月芳在收到众多的各种鱼之后,大家每每可以听到她清脆的声音:"过年来吃饭,一定要来啊,不来看我以后怎么骂你!"熟悉中国民情的人不难知道,这是一种"发狠的客气",当然多少也露出她家得势时的一些霸气,但基调还是友善的,而这对于外国译者,可能多少是个难题,故出现了许多这样的译文:Make sure that you will come. If you don't, see how I will scold you later!"/Come to eat for the Lunar New Year. You absolutely must come—if you don't, you'll hear something horrible from me!/You have to come for dinner during the Spring Festival! You will see how I treat you if you don't come. 亦有以第三人称叙述的(而作者此处有意改换第一人称叙述是有其用意的,但许多译者并未领会,对此下节亦有论及),如 She often ordered guests to have meals at her house in the Spring Festival, otherwise she would abuse them!/In her ringing voice order the guests to come again soon for a reunion,and threatened what a talk she would give them if they failed to do so 等,显然,都离了谱。其实,在理解了其内涵实质后,不妨口语化为:"Come here for dinner on the eve of the Festival. You must come,or I'll be mad at you!"/… Baby, you've got to come,or I'll be crazy about you! 等。

层"。

当柳月芳被送来的无休无止的鱼群所困扰时,牢骚道:还不如送钱呢,每条至少五十元,于是"居林生听得火了,冲出来对妻子嚷道,好,我让他们送五十块钱来一你还有没有一点觉悟了?你是要让我犯法蹲学习班去吧?"其中,"觉悟"和"蹲学习班"很有涵义。很多参赛者将"觉悟"译成 social/political consciousness/integrity/enlightenment等,其实都不妥,因为角度错了;这里丈夫不是在指责妻子"没觉悟",而是站在同一立场,责怪她太"不注意",会惹出麻烦,故实则为 political awareness/common sense 等。同时,这里的"学习班"也不是一般意义上的 study class,learning course,class for further studies等,而是中共纪律处罚、乃至之后法律制裁的一个前奏,故不妨用 the party's disciplinary detention/to be disciplined by the party 等;然而,有的翻译成 Do you intend to land me in jail?则又有些"过"了,因还没有到那一步。所以,正如傅雷所说,"本来任何译文总是在'过与不及'两个极端中荡来荡去,而在中文为尤甚"(傅雷,984:84)。

说到柳月芳的职务,"她是个街道办事处的妇女干部,与人打交道的,现在

却被迫与鱼群打成一片",其中的"打成一片"出自"与群众打成一片",是中共政治生活中的一个术语,有着特殊涵义,若译成 Liu, in charge of women's affairs at the street neighborhood office, normally dealt with people. But now she was forced to deal with fish. 固然通顺,但未译出其典故意味,故不妨考虑选择这样一些用语:…become integrated with/become a harmonious whole/be one with/be fused with/ identify oneself with/make into one/merge with/become one with 等等。

而当居林生仕途失意后,沦落到带领一家到其以前看不起的邻居所开的鱼头店就餐,不得不吃以前认为"有失身份"的人才吃的鱼头时,发生了这样一幕:

"居林生毕竟是居林生,能够认清形势,也善于表态,他的表态豁达而仁慈。这又不是什么原则问题,他说,上鱼头就上鱼头吧,谁爱吃谁吃,什么事都应该百花齐放百家争鸣嘛,鱼头又不是其他什么头,本来就可以吃的"。这里面话中有话,充满涵义:居先生至此不改的官场做派、既死要面子又善打圆场;而"百花齐放、百家争鸣"出自新中国历史上的一个政治运动,故是一种调侃式的"牵强附会",若只是以"狭义语境"草草翻译过去,便意味全无,如 Mr. Ju is after all Mr. Ju, who is very skillful in detecting the situation and manipulating his attitude. He is seemingly kind and open. He said, fish head can be eaten by anyone, whoever eats at his free will since it has always been eatable. 这当中,至少有几处可以改进,如 After all, Mr. Ju, being an old hand in the officialdom, …"This is not a matter of principle",he said, …"Whatever we do, we should follow the principle of 'letting a hundred flowers bloom and a hundred schools of thought contend'. Fish head is not other head, it's edible."从而,更好地显出人物性格和用典效果。

又如,乔叶《月牙泉》(下简称《泉》) 中的那个"老拖", 女主人公"我"在求他办事时,"他先是露出为难的神情 — 先抑后扬,是常用的江湖手段",其中的"江湖"被许多译者忽略了,一般译成 is a common trick of men of the world/a scam usually practiced then/a ruse commonly employed by them 等。其实,"江湖"在中国社会文化里有着特殊涵义:除了 all corners of the country, a vagabond life (吴光华,1999)之意外,更主要还有与官方相对、黑社会、私下流行、潜规则等涵义,这里作者想揭示的是像"老拖"这样表面道貌岸然的官员,实际行的也是这一套,这两个字是点睛之笔,不可不译,故不妨为 a common wily - fox move of the hidden rules/one of the common tricks in sub-community等。

再如,"这时候才忽然悟到:让我得体面对的那些人,我对他们看似尊重,实际上是一种皮不沾肉地看不起"。对"皮不沾肉地"一语,典型的参赛译文,如 I merely appear to respect but actually despise/what I actually felt was something of a detached contempt 等,意思不能算错,但不免显得苍白、乏力。其实不妨稍加探

究:该句是从中国俗语"皮笑肉不笑"脱胎而来的,但又不再单纯具有 simperingly/crafty/ a foxy smile/cold smile/ force oneself to smile/ put on a false smile 等涵义;作者在此使用该语是很有用意的:因"他"和女主人公"我"之前有过"皮肉关系"、"他"现在还想继续发生这种关系,而"我"此时已厌烦此人此事,故在翻译中不妨处理为…the lowest despise covered/hypocrisy and despise 等,

即一种强烈而又需掩饰的鄙夷,或一种不得不作出的"伪善"加"看不起"。

可见,文学翻译中的理解是具体化的思维解释,"是从作品的有机整体出发,披文入情,沿波讨源,因形体味,深入到作品内部的深层世界,对文本营构系统的各个层面进行具体化的品味与认知。它是以理性为主导的感性认识和理性认识高度统一的解读心理活动"(曹明海,1997:117)。而对于中国文学作品的英译,特别是对其中国元素的内涵,既需要理性的认知,也不乏感性的领悟,进而对其具有狭义语境和广义语境的综合把握。

2. "译文"与"译述"的再现

这里的"译文"不是名词,而是动宾词组,即"翻译文字",而"译述"是并列结构,两个都是动词,即"翻译"加"叙述"或"描述";换言之,"译"中有"述","述"中有"意"。"译述"与"译意"的不同之处,在于其更加注重文学翻译中的叙述性。

对于原文固然要忠实,但又不可"愚忠",特别是汉英文学翻译,不可拘泥于文字,而要有目的语读者意识,注重语言与文化的融通、翻译过程的观察、描写、叙述和解释(Toury, 1995: 36-39)。

具体而言,"鱼不懂事,年年有鱼,年年有余,连小学生都懂得其中的奥秘,鱼类自己却不懂"(《鱼》),典型的译文,如 Fish didn't know the business; fish every year means abundance every year. Even an elementary school student knew the trick but the fish themselves didn't. 显然有些"愚忠"了。其实,"鱼"、"余""年"等,当中渗透着中国的语言和文化,故应在行文中最大限度地体现出来,试比较: They don't know that "there is fish every year" rhymes with "there is surplus every year" because they don't know how to read. Naturally, they don't know "fish" and "surplus" are homophones in Chinese as it is taught in primary school.

"现在的社会风气— 真是的,今年过年我们家缺只鸭子,就是没有人想到送只鸭子来"(《鱼》),这个"真是的"可能很容易难为一些母语非汉语者,如译成 The general mood of society is really happening. 完全扭曲了原意。实则是 Social ethos is going to the dogs these days/… is really deteriorating/bad … 等。

在《泉》中,"听涛宾馆的生意一直不好,车马稀落,门可罗雀,我琢磨着

俗话所谓的淡出鸟来,那些鸟的具象大约就是这几只罗雀",其中的"门可罗雀"是一中国成语典故,此处怎样能既译出中国味道,又不显突兀;或者,既平叙出其中涵义,又不失中国特色?是要稍费斟酌。参赛译文,如 For the Tingtao Hotel, life has always been hard, with few cars stopping by and occasional birds landing in the lobby. There is a common saying about such a place, that it is so little frequented by people that it will invite the birds, and I guess those birds refer to the couple of sparrows in this case. 显然,未能把握住原文的精髓。试比较:Business of the hotel has never been good. Guests are so few that you can set up a trap to catch sparrows on the doorstep. I wonder that maybe "sparrow" in the famous allusion "catch sparrows on the doorstep" is the embodiment of "bird" in the old saying "nothing but bird" in Chinese. 或许,还可加些注释,如"To catch sparrows on the doorstep" is an idiom derived from a story and is used to describe a place where people are few. In the Han dynasty government official Duke Jai held a powerful position that many friends,… 从而使叙述更加准确而丰富。

在刘震云的《塔铺》(下简称《铺》)中,当老爹面对"三个五尺高的儿子,一下子都到了向他要媳妇的年龄,是够他喝一壶的",许多译文将"喝一壶"落到了实处,如 Three grown up sons had all reached the age of marriage, which was enough for him to drink a bottle of wine/…to see him drink it up. 似乎是要庆祝,喝喜酒,其实意思满拧;实则该表述在此为 a huge burden for him/more than enough to get on his nerves 等。

"……可看到地方上风气恁坏,贪官污吏尽吃小鸡,便想来复习,将来一旦考中……"(《铺》),参赛者译成 … But the local atmosphere was bad as the corrupt officers always eat chickens, so he wanted to review for one day to be … "尽吃小鸡"便是 always eat chickens? 如此便只是"译文"而没有"述意",是"表层理解"(surface realization)而非实质内涵(valence)(Toury, 2007: 72),实则为 … the local officials were very corruptive, and they take a lot of bribes, so he wanted to come to enroll… 甚至可以更发挥一些: … then he had seen too much dark side of the local government, as corrupt bureaucrats kept bullying and oppressing the people, so he decided to come for the preparatory class…等。

在考试前马老师讲话:"现在可是要大家的好看了。考不上丢人,但违反纪律被人捏胡出去——就裹秆草埋老头,丢个大人!"(《铺》),可以看出,许多译者在努力诠释这一中国俗语,如 If you don't pass, you lose your face, but if you don't abide the rules and be sent out, you would be shameless just as the old saying like: buried old man in wheat straw - discarded a big man. 但效果未必见佳。那么,

是否可以在英文语库里找到一种对不同事物的描述有表达对应递进意思的词语?如 burn: It is easy to burn out the record but not so easy to turn out the shame (消除纪录容易,消除耻辱不易),故不妨译为: You will feel it burn indeed if you can't pass the exam, but if you break the rules of the exam, you will burn out whatever face you've got!

又如,"(进复习班一看,许多人都认识,有的还是四年前中学时的同学),经过一番社会的颠沛流离,现在又聚到了一起"(《铺》),典型的参赛译文,如 Through the social wandering, we have come together again as students …,但认真推敲,便会发现,这里的"颠沛流离"其实并非是 social 而恰是"个人"、"自我的",故如不妨稍加诠释、发挥,译为 After these years of drifting around, all the toiling and moiling, we were now back together to the school.

开学那天,老师的开场白:"列位去年没考中,照顾了我今年的饭碗,以后 还望列位多多关照"(《铺》)。此话带有调侃、自嘲的味道,翻译时需细致把握 其中的微妙, 否则便会走偏, 如 All of you didn't pass the examination, so let me have a bowl of dish to eat, and I hope you care my eating - bowl more than ever. / To you I'm indebted for keeping my job this year, and I do look forward to the honor of your patronage in the future. 如此译来,老师的意思便是:同学们,继续不要通过 考试,以便给我留着饭碗!难道老师可以在课堂上这样讲吗?那么补习班还有什 么意义? 所以, 后半句至少应有这样的意思: ··· From now on, please pay your due attention and we can cooperate well/... we can take care for each other 等。在 《泉》中,当"我"看了会议日程,道:"唉,都是一帮打杀多年的老油条,有 什么业务可讨论的,因此实质性的内容就是选举"。其中"打杀多年的老油条" 颇有意味。通读全篇,可以看出作者对这些老家伙以开学术会议为名而行个人淫 乐为实是充满鄙夷的, 若用 those sophisticated veterans/skillful men 等褒义词汇, 显然是有悖原文的,故不妨译为: Ah, these were a bunch of seasoned old foxes/ these wily old birds who have seen and experienced so much, what real business was there to discuss? The only item of substance was the election 等。

还是在《泉》中:

手机铃响, 肖的短信又到了:"一年不见, 你更好看了。"

[&]quot;得了吧你"。

[&]quot;火龙果很新鲜,多吃些。"

[&]quot;嗯。"

[&]quot;嗯一声就完?"

这个坏家伙。我看了他一眼,他迎着我的目光,笑了。

其中"得了吧你"和"嗯一声就完?"话中有话,别有涵义。第一句显然是 "我"感觉出了他的奉承,译文若敷衍过去,如"Yeah, yeah"显然没有译出其 中味道和相应情绪:但鉴于是老领导,其回复又不能太无礼、尖刻,如 You are a liar/Shame on you! 等, 故不妨译为: "Save it, you" / "Save your flatter" 等; 而 第二句, 若译成 "That's all?"亦显乏味, 因对方短短几个字中是"充满期待" 的,故不妨变通为 "That's all I get?" 并可增译词语 with a voice full of suggestion 等。又如,以上提及的"先抑后扬"(他先是露出为难的神情——先抑后扬,是 常用的江湖手段). 原本是中国诗词的一种朗诵方法. 释为 read with a rising and falling rhythm; in measured tones; in cadence, modulation in tone 等, 而此处是一种 处世策略。大部分的参赛译文, 类似于 Damp it before appreciating it, 其中的 it 是 指"此事",这样对象就理解错了;实则,其对象是"人": I should firstly lower (your expectations) before (I can deliver) it, 故不妨译为 lowering expectations before delivering 等。在《铺》中,"他是干部子弟(父亲在公社当民政)",典型的 参赛译文, 如 He was the son of a local official (his father used to work in the commune as a governmental staff), 如前所述, 其中的 local official, governmental staff 与中国基层的政情有所出入,故不妨译为 His father was a commune cadre in charge of civil affairs. 前者看似很"译", 但实际却远离其"意"; 后者随"译"而 "述", 却不乏"译"味。因而, 在文学翻译中, 好的"译"往往是在"述"中 自然而平实地实现的,而好的"述"正是对"译"的出色理解与升华。由此又涉 及到翻译中的"忠实"问题。就中国小说的翻译而言,"译文"往往可以得到语 言、文字层面的忠实,而"译述"更能得到实质涵义上的再现。正如如林语堂 所言:"译者对于原文有字字了解而无字字译出之责任。译者所应忠实的,不是 原文的零字, 乃零字所组成的语意"(林语堂, 2009: 491)。故其要义, 在得其 精而忘其粗,在其内而忘其外,得其意而忘其言。同时,为了叙述的生动性和立 体化,作者经常以第三人称与第一人称交叉运用(在《鱼》和《泉》中尤为突 出),而许多译者,却将此忽略,一概以第三人称述之。如"死去的鱼保持沉 默,幸存的活鱼大多瞪着迷惘的眼睛,这是什么地方?他们要拿我们怎么样?" (《鱼》)。参赛译文,如 Dead fish kept silent, surviving ones opened their eyes wide, wondering where this is and what they will do with them. 试比较: The dead fish remained silent while most of the surviving ones opened their perplexed eyes wide. "Where's this place? What are they gonna do with us?"又如,上述对于柳月芳的 "不来看我以后怎么骂你!"的第三与第一人称的翻译,均显不同效果。须知,

这种叙述上的变换与交叉,实质上也是一种"译"与"述"的结合,是一种阐释。王宁认为,"我们今天所提出的翻译的概念,已经不仅仅是从一种语言转变成另外一种语言的纯技术形式的翻译,而且也是从一种形式转化成另外一种形式,从一种文化转化为另外一种文化的文化'转化'(transformation)、"阐释"(interpretation)和"再现"(representation)(王宁,2006:8)。其实,进一步分析,"再现"实则是"转化"的结果,而"转化"(特别是在文学翻译中)通常需在"阐释"中进行。

3. "对等值"、"地道化"、"文学性"

小说中的一种文学表述,往往可以有多种不同的翻译转述。在阅读了众多的 参赛译文后,感到在某种意义上、就某一具体部分,是否可以将其译法大致分为 这样三类:竭力使译文具有相应的等值、刻意追求地道化、以及在不同程度上更 具有文学性。

林语堂曾以"对他很佩服"一句为例,说明至少可以有三种译文(林语堂,2009:492)。对此不妨稍加改造,理解为—

"对他很佩服"

I admire him greatly. 「对等值〕

I take off my hat to him. [地道化]

I admire him profoundly. [文学性]

其中的"对等值"多指语言文字层面的对应性,"地道化"则多以口语表述 为特征,而"文学性"则主要取决于其在具体语境中的恰当功能。

美国翻译学家兰德斯(Landers)也以葡语为例(其实中文亦如是),说明:"Nāo vou lá"(我不去那里)可译为: I do not go there/I don't go there/I am not going there/I shall not go there/I shan't go there/I will not go there/I won't go there/I am not going to there/I'm not going to go there/I ain't going there/I ain't goin't there (Landers, 2008: 8)等,其中可以体现多种元素,如情感、语气、身份、心境、环境、时间、地域、口音、人际关系等等。总之,其具体的文学性要以在文学作品中对于人物塑造、情节叙述、主题表现的作用和功力加以判断。

具体而言,在《铺》中,当"我"的心爱姑娘突然嫁给了别人的时候, "我"不顾一切地跑到了她家门口,可是—

"许久, 我没动"。归纳参赛译文, 似有下列大类:

For a long time, I didn't move at all. 「对等值〕

It took me ages to move. 「地道化]

For a century, I stood there without taking one more step. 「文学性]

单纯的"对等值"是应避免的,而"地道化"也不等于"文学性",因为要据具体语境而言。文中的"我"是位勤奋好学、有文化素养、重感情的男青年,故以第三种语言的表述在此处更具文学性 — For a century,在生活中是不可能的,显然是一种文学的夸张,而 taking one more step 又异常具体,形成了鲜明的对比。

可以说,从"对等值"到"地道化"再到"文学性",其主观、加工、"再创作"的成分愈大。

描写人物,是小说的显著特征和灵魂,而小说通过语言来塑造人物。小说可以通过描写音容笑貌、心理活动、对话问答、环境气氛等来刻画人物,这就对小说语言的艺术特性(特别是个性化)提出了极高的要求,也是作品成败的关键;就译者而言,对此需特别敏感,不放过一丝一毫。

在《泉》中,"我"是个文化人,而姐姐是个农村"老土",又是在这样一个文明、庄重的场合,所以当听到姐姐说—

"一口一个裤衩,真够难听的。我想纠正她,但很快明白没有必要"。典型的译文,如"Underpants" coming from her mouth sounds so annoying to me. I wanted to correct her, but immediately realized that there's no need to. 应当意识到,出自姐姐嘴的"裤衩"应不同于一般人说的,这样才会让妹妹难堪,而 underpants 或undershorts/drawers 等,都太显"正规",不如 bottoms 等,虽然似乎不"准确"、不"等值",但却符合其身份、性格及口语化特点;而"难听",这里也不是一般的 annoy,而是带有 rustic/bucolic 的味道;"纠正"她,亦非平常的 correct/rectify/redress 等,而是想要让她"文明"起来,故不妨用 civilize /enlighten /refine 等。整句不妨译为 Listening to her "bottoms" all the time,a bit rustic to me. I had the urge to civilize her terms,but curbed it right away,realizing there was actually no point.

关于找个情人,姐姐说"瞅准了,能有的话,也有一个。要不是,这一辈子,老亏"。参赛译文,如 When you find a right one, take him. Otherwise, the whole lifetime we have are on the disadvantage side. 显然太文邹、书卷气了,既不口语化,更不像个农村妇女说的。试比较: Spot a good one, go for it. We've got to do something for ourselves in this life. 要的是简短、急促、明了和土气。

相比之下,作为艺术家的"我"则要文雅许多: "我合上杂志。不能再看了。这篇狗屁小散文勾出了我的难过"。其中尽管用了"狗屁",但那是一种自言自语的气话,若译成 shit article 等,未免有失身份,故不妨译为 I shut the magazine, couldn't read anymore… This piece of nonsense essay had fished my sadness out to surface. 其中的 shut, fished sadness out to surface 已尽表其愤懑之情。

在《铺》中,学员王全家的麦焦发黄,等人去割,不割就焦到了地里。于 是—

王全那高大的老婆又来了,但这次不骂,是一本正经地商量: "地里麦子焦了,你回去割不割?割咱就割,不割就让它龟孙焦到地里!" 然后不等王全回答,撅着屁股就走了。

其中的"焦"、"龟孙"都是河南农村的土语,前者表客观,后者表情绪;翻译之前,切记明了其意,而许多译文为 burn/flame/blaze/fire 和 the grandson of turtle/son of a gun 等,显然在准确性和贴切性上,颇有不妥。试比较:Our wheat crops are about to scorch,are you coming back to reap them or not? If you are, let's go. Or, we just leave the damn crops withering in the field! 而"撅着屁股就走了"实际是一种忿忿情绪的表露,若译成 walking away with her butt sticking up 则好像是她的一种生理特征。实则,不妨译为 she left straight away without turning around 等。

同样,在贾平凹的《倒流河》(下简称《河》)中,当亲戚们听说他们所入股的由立本经营的小煤矿,在过去一年不但没有赚钱,反而还要他们再缴三万,于是,"饭没吃毕,屁股一拧都出门走了"。这个"屁股一拧"地走,显然也是情绪,译文不宜往身态方面去转述,如 they went with a twist of their buttocks…那样会多少让人费解:这些人走路的毛病?地方习俗?故不妨译为 Full of resentment, they flung off so determinedly without even finishing their meal 等。

文学语言固然来自生活,但又不等于照搬生活,而是经过艺术加工过的语言,如老舍所说,文学语言并不是另造的一套话语,如"烧饼"就叫"烧饼",不能叫"饼烧",但我们仍不能把文学语言等同于日常语言;因为文学是用语言编织出来的事件,表现的是艺术真实(李荣启,2005:67)。对此,文学译者也应有十分清晰的认识。

在《铺》中,在叙述学员宿舍的周围环境时—"玉米地西边是条小河。许 多男生半夜起来解手,就对着庄稼乱滋"。

参赛译文,如 When they got up and went to toilet, they just urinate against the crops…可问:哪里来的通常意义上的 toilet?这不但与"一群农民学生"此时的生活境况格格不入,而且 urinate 也过于直白。作为文学叙述,还应有必要的"讲究",试比较: There is a river to the west of the cornfield. At nights, male students would conveniently "water" the crops in the field as they got up to relieve themselves. 前后译文相比,前者虽比较"对等",但与"地道"和"文学"的表述,似无太大关系。

在《泉》中、当那个老家伙又发短信让"我"过去"亲热"时、于是一

"不好意思。"想了半天,我用这四个字回了他。

这四个字是双关的,既可以理解为怕姐姐看出端倪而觉得羞惭,也可以理解为对他的致歉。整天办杂志,这点语言的小技巧,我还是擅长的。

参赛译文, 如 "I'm sorry I can't come." I thought for a long while and came up with these words. It is a paronomasia which can be interpreted in two ways: Either I'm saying I can't come because I'll be ashamed if my sister finds it out, or I'm just simply refusing. Working for a magazine all these years had made me a master of the tricks of language. 其叙述,不免过于平铺而苍白。试比较:"Wish I could…" After racking my brain, this was how I replied. The response left it open – he could read it as though I were embarrassed about my sister smelling us out, or he could read it as though I were apologizing to him. Having worked with the magazine for so long, I am now pretty much at home with manipulating language. 当然,这也不尽完美,还可更富文学性。

同时,中文里一些文学描述方式,套用到英文,有时也未必奏效;譬如, 叠词。

在《铺》中,"我"爹在费尽周折,送来那本教材后 — 这时我们都恢复了常态。爹开始用疑问的眼光打量李爱莲。我忙解释: "这是我的同学,叫李爱莲。"

李爱莲脸登时红了,有些不好意思。

爹笑了,眼里闪着狡猾的光:"同学,同学,你们看吧,你们看吧。"

其中,爹的话中透着惊喜,其言外之意: "好哇,你不但在这里读书补习,还找到了女朋友! 好好读吧!"为了表述爹的这种感情,译文大都紧随原文: Dad smiled, cunning light coming from his eyes: "Classmate, classmate, you use it and you use it."然而,不但并非地道、达意,且没有表明"你们"(因英文 you 的局限),故不妨改变修辞方式: Dad grinned wisely, "'Classmates'? yes! Now you two can share this book, go ahead!"

再如,(东边天上有朝霞,是红的,红红的光,在她脸的一侧,打上了一层金黄的颜色。)"我忽然意识到,她是一个姑娘,一个很美很美的姑娘"。典型译文,如 I suddenly realized that she was a girl, a very very beautiful girl. 似乎,"我"现在才意识到"她是一个 girl"(而非 lesbian?),且两个 very 也可变通一下: All of a sudden, it dawned on me: she was a lovely girl, very pretty!

又如,在《鱼》中,"姐夫就是这么一种人,他是活该活该活该!"足见其痛恨程度。参赛译文,如 My brother - in - law was just this type of person - serves him right, serves him right! 重复三次,未必达到原文同样效果。因而,不妨稍加变通: My brother - in - law is just one of them. He actually deserves

everything he gets, everything!

然而,有些该重叠的地方,却被译者忽略了。如在《泉》中,在叙道酒店浴室与房间间的玻璃隔断时,"有一次我和肖在宾馆里约会,那个宾馆也是这种格局,我正在洗澡,肖把百叶窗一点一点地拉了上去,让我一丝不挂的身体湿淋淋地暴露在他的面前",参赛译文,如 Once, Xiao dated me in a hotel with this kind of glass wall. I was in the middle of a shower when he pulled up the louver, exposing me in front of him, naked and wet. 固然不错,但还应考虑这样的因素:这位"德高望重"的肖领导,与年轻女子"我"的约会,是一种婚外情,而"肖把百叶窗一点一点地拉上去"的猥琐动作,恰与其平时的道貌岸然形成鲜明对比,故不应将其省略,而不妨译为 ··· he slowly pulled the blind up, inch by inch, until my naked body in the shower was completely exposed before him!

值得注意的是,作者的一些幽默、荒诞笔法,常常容易被译者(特别是外国译者)所忽略。例如,《河》中,主人公立本想往上爬,要求其助手宋鱼弄些"钱钱肉"(驴鞭,即驴那个部位的肉),以讨好领导。待宋鱼备好五根又大又粗的驴鞭后,上面分别贴了纸条:"书记的","县长的","主任的","主席的",和"我的",这是作者的灰色幽默,然而有的译者为了明确意图,分别为 For Party Secretary,For County Magistrate,For Director…,其中一个介词 For 令味道全无;其实,简单译为 … each one is labeled as "Party Secretary","County Magistrate","Director" … 即可。

再如,"老笨撇了撇嘴,又说:三十多岁的人了,连个肚子都没鼓起来,看人家多富态! 宋鱼说:有本事的搞大别人的肚子,没本事的才把自己的肚子搞大"。对最后一句,典型的参赛译文,如 The clever ones to give other people a big belly. The stupid ones only make their own bellies big. 中国人似乎都不难发现,其中没有译出其所特指和调侃味道。"搞大别人的肚子",这里不是指任何 other people a big belly,而是特指婚外情之中所发生的事,故不妨译为 The really able men impregnate others in an affair, while the least able ones just to inflate their own bellies 等。

此外,优秀的文学作品,经常会有些"藏巧于拙"的笔法。如上所述,《鱼》中的主人公一家,在破落后,不得已,来到以前曾施惠过的邻居家所开的鱼头店,吃以前不屑于吃的鱼头时,其胸无点墨的儿子,赋诗一首:

年年有鱼 年年有余 有鱼的世界多么美丽 有鱼的世界多么富裕

让人容易联想到《红楼梦》中薛蟠的歪诗:"女儿悲,嫁个男人大乌龟;女儿愁,闰房钻出个大马猴"之类,而有的译文却非常工整,如一

Year in and year out,

They are fishy;

Year in and year out,

There is plenty.

Beautiful is the world that has fish.

The world that has fish is wealthy.

其实,作者的意图是,只要主人公一家来此吃鱼头,便达目的,而其子的诗越烂,便越有味道。故"歪诗"还须"歪译":

There are fish every year.

There are abundance every year.

A world with fish is so beautiful.

A world with fish is so wonderful.

当然,还可有不同的"歪法",以更增其文学效果。

林语堂说,"译者所能谋达到之忠实,即比较的忠实之谓,非绝对的忠实之谓"。"一百分的忠实,只是一种梦想。翻译者能达七八成或八九成之忠实,已为人事上可能之极端"(林语堂,2009:491)。在这个意义上,文学翻译是一种永远的遗憾艺术,而这也正是其独特魅力所在。"译者和原作者达到了一种心灵上的契合,这种契合超越了空间和时间上的限制,打破了种族和文化上的樊笼,在译者而言,得到的是一种创造上的满足"(林以亮,1984:228)。

正如兰德斯所言: It is commonly thought that translators deal with words, but this is only partly true. Whatever their branch of translation, they also deal with ideas. And literary translators deal with cultures. In a very real sense, Time magazine was right when over a decade ago it called literary translators "couriers of culture" (Landers, 2008: 72) (人们一般认为译者只是翻译语言,但其实并不完全如此; 无论具体翻译内容,译者都需与思想观念打交道。文学翻译则更需理解文化。《时代》杂志于十多年前将文学译者称之为"文化使者",再确切不过)。所以,文学翻译,特别是对于中国文学的外译,正因其有难度、包含深奥的中国元素、需不断探究各种翻译策略和转述方式、更具艺术性,因而才更体现其特殊意义;对于文学翻译者,也就更显出其文化使者的价值。