



A NEW ANNOTATED ENGLISH VERSION OF THE ANALECTS OF CONFUCIUS

最新英文全译全注本 严修鸿 骆世平 中英文校阅

吴国珍 今译、英译及英注



海峡出版发行集团 【福建教育出版社



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序(一)

两千五百多年前,中国伟大的思想家、政治家、教育家孔子为了拯救乱世,毅然开门办学。经过四十多个春秋的辛勤耕耘,孔子培养出一大批优秀人才,世称弟子三千贤人七十。孔子去世以后,七十子之徒想起恩师当年对他们的教育,那一幕幕情景如在昨日,而今哲人已逝,绝不能让那些记录恩师教诲的手稿处于散乱状态,于是他们酝酿着要集体编写一本关于恩师道德教诲的书。这本书他们编出来了,它就是《论语》。《论语》一经问世,便受到历代政治界和学术界的高度重视,被称之为"五经之辖辖,六艺之喉衿"(赵岐《孟子题辞序》)。《论语》所载十分广博,"孔子一生仕止久速,造次颠沛,纂修删述,盛德大业,靡一不具《论语》,及门弟子德行气质,学问造诣,浅深高下,进止得丧,靡一不具《论语》"(朱彝尊《经义考》卷二百十一引谭贞默语)。尽管如此,《论语》仍有它的主导思想倾向,它主要记载孔子对弟子门人的道德教诲,是一部讲伦理道德的书。中华民族传统文化是一种伦理型文化,而《论语》对塑造民族文化特色厥功甚伟。

在中外文化交流过程中,《论语》很早就走出国门,大约在公元3世纪,《论语》传到亚洲各国,16世纪传到欧洲。1593年,利玛窦将儒家"四书"译为拉丁文,其后《论语》陆续被译为法、英、德、俄等各种文字。首部权威的《论语》英译本(1861年出版)出自英国传教士理雅各(James Legge)。清末民初学者辜鸿铭、现代学者林语堂也都翻译了《论语》的部分章节,此外还有其他数十种英译本。这些《论语》英译本不仅使外国人认识了中国的圣人孔子,而且帮助他们更好地了解了中国文化。

中国大陆目前权威的《论语》英译本,是湖南出版社 1992 年重新校注出版的 汉英对照"四书",书中《论语》采用的是理雅各的英译。理雅各是 19 世纪英国 人,文化的隔阂以及英语本身的与时俱进,都使他的《论语》英译本存在诸多不 尽如人意之处。

吴国珍先生毕生从事英语教育,作为一名中国学者,他深感目前中国乃至世界都非常需要一本更新、更准确的《论语》英译著作,首先是在中文方面要能够正确地诠释《论语》章句的含义,然后译成符合英语语法规范和语言习惯的英文,

最后还要让全书有可读性。本着神圣的责任感和使命感,吴先生以赤诚的态度,披阅五载有余,数易其稿,写成《〈论语〉最新英文全译全注本》一书。我有幸作为本书的首批读者,拜读了这部凝聚了译者多年心血的作品。该书融资料性、趣味性和可读性为一炉,亦专亦精,亦信亦达,亦雅亦俗,是一本不可多得的适合各种层次中外读者的《论语》译本。它的出版,应该是嘉惠中外读者的美事。

孔子当年曾有"道不行,乘桴浮于海"之叹,而今由中国政府支持的几百家 孔子学院遍布全球,孔子再一次以中国形象代言人身份走向世界,充当中外经济 文化交流的友好使者。愿吴先生这本《〈论语〉最新英文全译全注本》在全球孔子 热中发挥应有的作用,让全球更多的人了解孔子。

**陈桐生** 2010 年 9 月 16 日 写于云山诗意

# Preface (I)

About two thousand and five hundred years ago, Confucius, China's great thinker, statesman and educationist, started his educational career for the purpose of saving the kingdom from social disorder. He worked hard for over forty years and trained a great number of men of excellent abilities, believed to be three thousand disciples with seventy standouts. When Confucius passed away, some of his talented disciples, having recalled the past vivid situation where they received education from their dear master, soon decided that they should not leave the teacher's teaching records scattered, but must compile a book bearing the teacher's instructions instead. They did work together to compile the book, and that is the *Analects of Confucius*.

Ever since its birth, the Analects of Confucius has attracted great attentions from both political and scholastic circles in all times. It was honored as "the linchpin of the Five Classics and the command of the Six Skills". (see Zhao Qi's Preface to the Works of Mencius) The Analects has a very wide recording range. "It bears all facts reflecting the ups and downs of Confucius' career in and out of office, the recompiling and abridgement he did to some ancient classics, the excellent virtue he represented and the great merits he made. Also included in it are the virtuous deeds and personalities of his disciples, their academic accomplishments, their moral grading, and their success and failure." (see Zhu Yizun's Textual Research of the Clas-

① Zhao Qi was a most prominent scholar in the Eastern Han Dynasty (25—220). The Five Classics he referred to are the Book of Poetry, the Book of History, the Book of Rites, the Book of Changes and Zuoqiu Ming's Expounding on the Spring and Autumn Annals. The Six Skills he referred to were earlier ancient China's teaching subjects, namely, rites, music, archery, charioteering, writing and arithmetic.

sics) In spite of its diversified contents, the *Analects* has its dominant ideological inclination. It mainly records the moral instructions Confucius rendered his disciples, and may thus be seen as a textbook of ethics education. The traditional culture of the Chinese nation is a culture characterized by ethics education and the *Analects* has contributed very greatly to such characteristics.

With the cultural exchanges between China and other countries, the *Analects* has long before found its way into the world. It spread to some Asian countries in about A. D. 300, and reached Europe in the sixteenth century. In 1593, Matteo Ricci (1552—1610) translated the *Four Books*, the four classical books of Confucianism, into the Latin language. Since then its French, English, German and Russian versions have appeared one after another.

The first prestigious English version of the *Analects* was created by James Legge (1815—1897) and published in 1861. Chinese scholars Gu Hongming (1857—1928) and Lin Yutang (1895—1976) also put some chapters of the *Analects* into English. And there are scores of other English versions by other people. All those have not only helped foreigners to know about China's sage Confucius, but also provided them with better opportunities to know about the Chinese culture.

In mainland China today, the prestigious English version of the *Analects* is the one created by James Legge. It is one of his four versions of the *Four Books* published by Hunan Publishing House in 1992. James Legge was a British of the nineteenth century. His English translation might not be suitable for today due to the changes of the language as well as his non-Chinese cultural background.

Mr. Wu Guozhen, the author of this book, is an occupational English teacher who, as a native Chinese scholar, feels that today China and the world badly need a new, accurately-translated English version of the *Analects*, one that has correct interpretation of the *Analects* in the modern Chinese language, one that has good English translation of its original text, and one that is easy to read and enjoy. For more than five years Mr. Wu, who has made it his responsibility and mission to do the translation, has been working diligently and earnestly at it and, having made several revised versions, he has finally completed his book entitled *A New Annotated English Version of the Analects of Confucius*. I am lucky to be one of the first to read his book and I feel that his version will be suitable for different kinds of readers both at

① Zhu Yizun was a most prominent scholar in the Qing Dynasty (1636—1911). He made a 300-volume annotation to almost all ancient China's classical works.

home and abroad who wish to study the Analects, as it bears accurate, professional interpretation of Confucius' original. It may be either a data resource for a researcher or an interesting story book for a common reader. The publication of Wu's version should be a good thing for readers of Confucius in China and in other countries.

Unlike the situation where Confucius used to think of lying in reclusion in the sea while complaining about his doctrines' not being carried out, the world today sees hundreds of Confucius Institutes set up everywhere with the support of the Chinese government. And now Confucius re-appears on the world stage acting as Mr. Image for China and the goodwill ambassador in the economic and cultural exchanges between China and other countries. I sincerely hope that Mr. Wu's work will do its bit in helping the world to know more about Confucius amid the renewal world-wide enthusiasm for Confucius.

> Chen Tongsheng Sept. 16, 2010 in Yunshan Shiyi

序 (二)

由吴国珍先生翻译和注释的《〈论语〉最新英文全译全注本》即将由福建教育出版社出版。受吴先生委托,该书中英文审阅者之一的严修鸿教授找到我,请我为该书写一篇序。严教授虽与我同为中国音韵学研究会的会员,但我与他并不熟。我与吴先生更是素不相识。为不熟悉的朋友的书写序,似乎有违我的初衷。但是有两个因素促成我还是拿起了笔。

第一是看到该书已先请了陈桐生教授作序。陈教授我也未曾卜面,但他的学问我却曾领略过。几年前我应邀担任 Frontiers in China 文学卷的英译主审,有时也直接看一点稿子,正好校读过陈教授论七十子后学的文章的译文,当时就颇为作者的眼光和学识所折服,认为是几十年来罕见的好文章,填补了中国思想史上一个重大的空白。后来又看到过他关于《史记》与先秦文献关系的一些研究,对他的学识留下了深刻的印象。有这样的一位学者肯替吴先生的新书作序,本书在中文原文的理解和把握上应该会有过人之处。

第二是打开严教授寄给我的书稿,粗粗翻阅了几页,就已经感到这本书的翻译与前些年我看到过的其他一些已出版和未出版的书稿不同,字里行间感受得到译者的功力和所付出的努力。在众多的《论语》英译本中,应该说这本书的特色和优点还是比较鲜明的,在当今译书蜂出、鱼龙混杂的情势下,值得提出来加以绍介。

《论语》的英文译本如从 19 世纪末算起,迄今无虑已有数十种,翻译者有国外著名汉学家如理雅各和韦利,有美国大诗人庞德,有香港著名翻译家刘殿爵 (D. C. Lau),有精通多国外文的奇才辜鸿铭,有中英文双绝的大文豪林语堂,还有海内外时贤的众多译本。光近几年出版的就有好几种,出版社送到我手头请我审读的也有过两种。实际上我多少已感到有点"审美疲劳"了。在这种情况下,严教授跟我联系,我最初是想一口回绝的。但读了吴先生的新译本之后,我改变了主意。我觉得吴先生的新译本实际上提出了几个值得当今典籍英译界思考的重要问题。

首先,为谁翻译?读者对象是谁?在中国经济发展、国势崛起的新形势下,

几乎无一译者不在声称他的翻译是为了向世界弘扬中国文化。但我发现,多数译 本心目中的实际阅读对象恐怕并非外国人,而是国内学英文的读者。何以见得? 只要看有没有注释、用什么语言注释就可以了。我们知道,《论语》这样的书是不 好读的,对今天国内的年轻人来说已是如此,对外国人就更其如此。一个负责任 的翻译者如果真正考虑到海外读者的需要,一定会采用学者型的翻译方法,在翻 译的同时加上必要的注释,而这些注释必须要用英文来做。在海外和中国香港出 版的中国古籍英译作品多数正是这样做的,而反观大陆这些年新出版的译本,有 的完全不加注,只有中英对照和文白对照,让读者自己去摸索;有的加了注,甚 至是"详注",但这些注都是用中文做的。让我不解的是,我不知这样的注是给谁 看的。我想也许更多是给译者自己以及国内的人看的,因为对于主要企图通过英 文来学习《论语》的外国人来说,这样的注不仅等于没注,而且更增加了阅读的 难度(因为译者必然以为既然有了注,很多内容在译文里就不必交代了),因而外 国读者读译文会感到更晦涩。这说明有的译者在翻译时心里根本没有读者,只管 在那里为译而译, 甚至是为自我欣赏而译。吴先生的书, 通篇用英文注释, 这在 国内出版的英译典籍中还不多见,就《论语》而言,更可能是第一部。这是我要 肯定的第一点。

加注不加注,体现了一种译者对读者的责任心。而如何加,是简注还是详注, 如何处理译文和注的关系, 也是需要技巧的。也许有人认为, 加注会增加读者阅 读的负担,最好的办法是把注的内容融合在译文里,这样译、读两便,译文看起 来也更清洁。这个说法不是没有道理,前人也曾实践过,譬如韦利和刘殿爵先生 的译本,就有不少这样蕴含性的翻译。但据我看来,严格实行融注于译恐怕只是 个理想状态,实际上不可能办到。努力这样做的韦利和刘殿爵两位先生最终还是 不得不加了一些注,因为有些东西不加注是不行的,例如  $5.18^{\circ}$  的"臧文仲居 蔡",如果不加注,这个"蔡"是没法使人明白是什么以及干什么用的。至于详注 好还是略注好,那也得看需要,看怎么样才能说得更清楚,更能使读者明了。还 是上面那个例子,刘殿爵先生对"蔡"(giant tortoise)给了一个简注"whose shell is used for divination",但语焉不详,喜欢追根究底的读者读了仍会不得要领。吴 国珍先生在这里给了一个几乎半页篇幅的长注,才把这件事的缘由,包括"蔡" 表示"龟甲"的得名由来,说得清清楚楚。因此究竟是详注好还是略注好,从目 前外国人了解中国远不如中国人了解外国,以及人们了解古代远不如了解现代的 实际情况来看,我觉得还是相对详细一些比较好。此外,融注于译的翻译方法, 有时还会造成译文的过于滞重,距原本简洁的原文过远,这会是另外一种损失。 韦利和刘殿爵先生都是英文的大家,但我看他们的译文,有时就不免繁碎,就是

① 5.18 指此处文字或事件出自本书正文第 5 章第 18 节。

这个原因。而吴先生采取了注译分开,以详注为主的方法,虽然要多花许多精力, 但读者能得到的益处是明显的。这是我想肯定的第二点。

除了注释之外,吴先生还做了两件重要的事情,这也是因为他心里真正放了 读者。—件事是他在书前饱含深情地写了一篇颇为详细的孔子传记。我们知道, 随着孔子学院在全世界遍地开花,现在的外国人可能都或多或少听说过中国的孔 子。但孔子到底是怎样一个人?他的生活经历如何?他的思想是如何成熟起来的? 他对中国文化的贡献究竟在哪里?可能不要说外国人,连中国的年轻人在内,都 知者寥寥。而不了解孔子的生平,对阅读和理解《论语》就会大打折扣。可以说, 吴先生的这篇长文,是《论语》翻译不可缺少的一个组成部分,在向世界推介孔 子方面的意义不在翻译之下。吴先生做的另一件事是在书前提供了 21 条重要的术 语解释。术语解释 (glossary) 与术语索引 (index) 乃至"重要概念中英文对照" (如《大中华文库》有的册子做的那样) 不同,那是作者在吃透全书、深思熟虑之 后,对书中最关键的一些术语作出的融会贯通的解释,以帮助读者理解。这对译 者的功力要求相当高。有的译者显然没有做讨这样的工作,因而同一个术语(如 道、仁、义、礼等)往往随文随机处理,结果随意性很大,这对理解孔子的思想 是很不利的;有的勉强想"一以贯之",但由于古汉语一字多义的现象非常普遍, 勉强定于一,必然造成过于牵强,有时在不同的上下文中会显得扞格难通。因而, 一个术语表的整理工作,既是为读者着想,也是为译者自己着想。这也是译者工 作认真的一个表现。记得在中译外的著作中,做过这样工作给我留下较深印象的 有刘殿爵先生翻译的《论语》、《老子》和施友忠先生翻译的《文心雕龙》。但这三 种书均是在香港出版的。在大陆出版的翻译著作中,能这样认真做的还真不多见。 吴先生的这本书,可说是开了一个好头。他虽只列了21条,但内容相当丰富,涉 及时代背景、专门术语及文化背景三个方面,其中第三个方面只有一条,就是介 绍中国的姓名字号,这是阅读中国古书必不可少的知识,也是对外翻译中的一个 难点。在书前就对此进行总的交代,对读者来说无疑十分方便。

一百多年来,《论语》的英译不绝如缕,其中不乏大家的作品。珠玉在前,后 人的继作如何在前人的基础上有所突破和超越,这不是光凭愿望就能实现的,而 需要有明确的认识和切实的措施。所谓明确的认识,是对大家、名家,在看到他 们成就的同时,能看到他们由于时代和个人等各种因素造成的"所短",因而相信 自己有可能弥补前人的不足。所谓切实的措施,是利用今天时代提供的和自身的 条件,来实际地实现这种弥补。百年来诸家的《论语》翻译已为我们提供了光辉 的榜样,他们各有所长,也各有不足,为后人提供了学习的基础和超越的可能。 举例来说,"学术型翻译"的典范无过于理雅各,但他的译文过于拘泥字句,有时 "过强"的学术考虑掩盖了通俗性,使其译文拗口凝重,让人难以享受到阅读的愉 悦。韦利是 20 世纪上半叶西方最出色的汉学家,但他一辈子没有来过中国,有时 依据的资料有些陈旧。庞德的翻译不失诗人本色,但他"攻其一点,不及其余",随意发挥、再创造的味道太浓,很难相信那是信实的翻译。辜鸿铭和林语堂都是传播中国文化的高手,都非常注意读者的感受。但辜失之于迎合过度,以至于到了反"格义"的地步,以儒学去"就"西方的基督教,今天看来,失真之处颇多。林则更重普及,文字优美,但他的《论语》是选译加重新组合,有时并不十分妥当。例如学而篇 1.1 "子曰:学而时习之,不亦说乎?有朋自远方来,不亦乐乎?人不知而不愠,不亦君子乎?"明明三个问句,他却只翻译了第一个。至少说明他不了解这三个问句间的内在联系。比较而言,前人的《论语》翻译中,最成功的是刘殿爵教授。刘先生非常注意中文的训诂和英文的字斟句酌,他是继承理雅各传统注重考释的人,但他的做法是把注释尽量组织进译文里,造成的结果是注释过简而译文有时过长,反而影响了阅读。另外他的文字精确有余而可读性时有不足,例如 1.9 "曾子曰:'慎终追远,民德归厚矣。'"刘先生译成:"Tseng Tzu said,'Conduct the funeral of your parents with meticulous care and let not sacrifices to your remote ancestors be forgotten,and the virtue of the common people will incline towards fullness.'"这就显得有些滞重了。

明白了前人的不足,如果能有意识地、有针对性地从相反的方向去努力,例如兼顾学术性和通俗性,兼顾受者文化和正确传播中国文化,兼顾文字的准确和语言的流畅,等等,我们就有可能取得新的突破。而吴国珍先生的新译文,正是在这些方面都进行了可贵的努力。试以上引的最后一段为例,吴先生的译文是:Zengzi said,"Prudently perform funeral rites to the dead and permanently remember the forefathers,and the civic morality will resume its excellence."词量减少了近半,但意思并没减少。文后吴先生加了一条注,对儒家的孝道进行了解释。其总体效果就比刘译要好得多。

上面最后一例涉及翻译中另一个重要问题,即译文的语言问题。对于中国典籍英译应使用的语言,译界并没有统一的意见。大致有两派主张,一派主张因为翻译的是古典,因此应力求古朴高雅,用字精确,不避古词大词,风格上不避繁重;一派则从受者角度出发,主张简洁明快,便利阅读。前一派可称作学院派,后一派可称作通俗派。从前人实践来看,理雅各是最典型的学院派,韦利、刘殿爵,以及陈荣捷等都是学院派。林语堂是典型的通俗派,英国的 James R. Ware 也是,庞德按说也是,但他的"通俗"是另一种路子,不是他那样的诗人是学不来的。以我看来,最理想的是将两者结合,做到"深入浅出",以学者的态度深钻原文,而出之以浅易的英文,达到通俗易晓的效果。这一目标似乎高,但并非完全不可及,其实林语堂在某种程度上已经做出了榜样,就看我们能不能沿着他的路子走下去。当然,"以浅易出之"并不意味着降低对译文语言的要求,这样的要求也许比用艰深的语言更高。英国 19 世纪的散文大家赫兹列曾经写过一篇文章《论

平实之体》(On Familiar Style),其中说到,"平实之体不易为也。或以为平实之体即俚俗之体,直抒胸臆即信笔涂抹,此言非也。其实反之,较之他种文体,平实之体要求尤严,用词尤求精当。"(见潘文国译《赫兹列散文精选》第 230 页)这话是一百多年前说的,而 20 世纪以来的英文也正沿着这个方向在走。从最近十来年国外出版的《论语》英译本,如 Raymond Dawson (1993)、David Hinton (1998)、Edward Gilman Slingerland (2001)等的英译本来看,他们的译文都有这种倾向。反观国内近些年的一些译本,则走的是另两种路子,一种是语言生硬、词不达意,甚至为了体现"直译"、"异化",有意无意地制造出一些"中国式英文"却还自我感觉良好;一种是在浅白上走过了头,成了"浅薄",读起来像读中学生的造句练习,索然无味。这使我们益发感到,译文的语言问题不可小觑。据吴国珍先生告知,他的译文标准是"简单的英文",但我发现,他的"简单"不是"浅易"(simple)或"浅俗"(vulgar),而是"朴实"(plain),亦即赫兹列主张的"平实"(familiar)。他的译文流畅简洁,颇具可读性,有的地方简约精到,还颇能传达原文的神韵。这是很难得的。

作为晚出的译本,一个明显的优势是可以吸收最新的学术研究成果。同样,一个新的译本能不能反映学界新的研究成果也是对其是否有新意、值得作为"新"书推出的试金石。《论语》已经有了不下 30 种译本,但我们仍需要不时推出新的译本,此无它,就是希望新的译本能够及时反映《论语》研究的新成果。而有志于此的新的译者也应以此为己任。所谓"新"是指学术上在前人研究成果的基础上对陈说有所创新,而不像有些人认为的表面上的"新"(有的译稿把采用简体字和用汉语拼音字母来注音也看作是"新",令人不觉好笑)。

《论语》研究已经有了两千多年的历史,要全面"突破"、"创新"确实不容易也不大可能,但细节上的新见还是不断涌现的,就看译者有没有眼光去发现。我很高兴地看到,吴先生的译本在这方面作了可贵的努力。不妨举两个例子。一个是 9.1 的"子罕言利与命与仁",这句话一向有两种断句,一种是中间不断开,一种是在"利"后断开而读第一个"与"为去声,取其"赞许"之意。两种断句意思大不相同,前者认为孔子"罕言"的内容包括了"利、命、仁"三件,后者则认为孔子"罕言"亦即不赞成的只有"利",而对"命"与"仁"是赞许的。以前的学界多持前说,现在的学界则多持后说,因为这更符合孔子的思想实际(即以《论语》而言,"仁"就绝不是孔子"罕言"的东西)。检查英译本,我们发现迄今为止的翻译,几种最有影响的著名译本几乎全持前说,如:

- 1. The subjects of which the Master seldom spoke were profitableness, and also the appointments of Heaven, and perfect virtue. (James Legge, 1890)
- 2. He seldom spoke of profits, destiny, and total manhood. (Ezra Pound, 1933)

- 3. The Master seldom spoke of profit or fate or Goodness. (Arthur Waley, 1938)
- 4. Confucius seldom talked about profit, destiny, and humanity. (Wing-Tsit Chan, 1963)
- 5. The occasions on which the Master talked about profit, Destiny and benevolence were rare. (D. C. Lau, 1983)
- 6. The master seldom spoke of profit and fate and humaneness. (Raymond Dawson, 1993)

而持后说的译本我只见到两种:

- 1. The master rarely spoke of profit; his attachment was to fate and to Manhood-at-its-best. (James R. Ware, 1955)
- 2. Confucius seldom talked about gains, and yet he was for heavenly principles and benevolence. (王福林, 1997)

显然,这两家的影响与前面数家完全无法比拟。而当我看到吴先生的下列翻译时,确实感到了一种新意:

The Master seldom talked about profit-making, but he believed in destiny and upheld benevolence.

吴先生的译文之所以正确,是因为一方面我们承认孔子极少言利,另一方面对他经常谈及命和仁却无任何疑义。孔子谈命,强调的是顺应自然而非违背之,与此同时他把"仁"提到了最高的思想境界,将其定为最高道德标准,赋予其"爱人"和"道德完善"的特征。"仁"字在整篇《论语》中的出现,竟达 109 处之多!

再如 9. 26 "子曰:'三军可夺帅也,匹夫不可夺志也。'"对于这个"夺"字,古今中外几乎所有注释者都理解为"抢夺、掠夺、剥夺"等,英文则相应的是carried off, rob, seize, deprived of 等,上面两位对"子罕"采取新断句的译者也分别译作 snatched away 和 captured and taken away。但我们发现这个理解是错的,是把"夺"当作"敚"的通假字了。实际上从"夺"(繁体"奪")的字形来看,其本义应是"鸟脱手",即脱离的意思。我们高兴地发现,吴先生正是这么翻译的:

The Master said, "While a great army might do without its commander, a man cannot go without an ambition."

此译甚得予心。

至于译文中还有个别词句或有商量或推敲的余地,那是所有翻译都难免的。相信吴先生会在出版过程中精益求精,不断完善。我们期待着他能打造出一个精品。我也希望我们的读者在阅读中如有发现此类问题,能提出宝贵的意见,以助

作者进一步完善。因为我坚信,批评是促进典籍英译进步的必要一步;而基于一 篇可谓成功的译作的批评,则其裨益尤多。

中国古籍英译是当前译界一个热点,几乎所有学过外语而又爱好翻译的人都在跃跃欲试,有的甚至原文也不甚理解就找一位搞中文的朋友来"合作",匆匆上马。但我们觉得,"爱做"不等于"能做"。典籍英译有其自己的门槛,有其自身对译者的要求。吴先生已经 60 多岁,2005 年退休后,闭门读书,潜心钻研五年多后方始有今天的成绩。他的精心打磨的精神为今天年轻的翻译爱好者树立了一个榜样。故我乐于为之作序。

潘文国 2011 年 9 月 26 日 写于卧霞居

# Preface ( [] )

At a time when A New Annotated English Version of the Analects of Confucius, a book translated and annotated by Mr. Wu Guozhen, is to be published by Fujian Education Press, I received a request from Prof. Yan Xiuhong, one of the reviewers of the book, who at the request of Mr. Wu asked me to write a preface for the book. Yan and I, both members of Chinese Association for Phonological Studies, were not on familiar terms with each other, not to speak of Mr. Wu, but I did start to write, although I used to be reluctant to write a preface for an unconversant person. I did so for two reasons.

First, I was inspired by the fact that Prof. Chen Tongsheng had already written a preface to Mr. Wu's book. I have never met Chen yet I highly appreciated his great learning. A few years ago when I was translation reviewer-in-chief for the journal of Frontiers in China (literature volume), I read through a few manuscripts and one of them was the English version of Chen's paper on the academic activities of the seventy Confucian disciples. I immediately got filled with admiration of Chen's visual scope and academic wisdom, believing that it was one of the few best articles that I had ever read for decades, and that it had filled up a big gap for the evolution of Chinese thought during the pre-Qin period. Later I had more opportunities to get access to some of his researches on the relation between Sima Qian's Records of the Historian and the pre-Qin classical documents. I was deeply impressed by his knowledgeableness. Now that a scholar like Chen would write a preface for Mr. Wu's new book, I believed that the book will certainly have something that beyond others' reach in understanding and dealing with the original text he was to translate.

The second reason is that when I browsed through Mr. Wu's manuscript sent to me by Prof. Yan, I soon got the feeling that this book is different from those books and manuscripts I had read for the past few years, and was impressed by the translator's ability and painstaking efforts shown between the lines. Compared with