

# A Study on the English Translation of the Poetry by Mu-rong Xi

**Advisor:** 吳敏華

## **Researchers:**

李宜靜 1100402020

李幸純 1100402021

郭雅菁 1100402028

戴汶汶 1100402031

溫雅茹 1100402032

李怡蓓 1100402039

廖羿喬 1100402067

The background of the slide is a reproduction of a painting, likely J.M.W. Turner's 'Rainy Day, Great Street, London' or a similar work. It depicts a scene with a path or a narrow waterway, possibly a canal or a street, lined with buildings and trees. The scene is rendered in a soft, atmospheric style with a palette dominated by blues, greys, and muted colors, suggesting a rainy or overcast day. The brushwork is visible and expressive, characteristic of the Impressionist movement.

# 1. Modern poetry

# Modern Poetry

## 1.1 What is Modern Chinese Poetry?

- The modern Chinese poetry was triggered by the appeal to vernacular Chinese (the May fourth Movement).
- The poetry's major concern is neither rhyme nor tone.
- A good poem is rich in imagery.



# Modern Poetry

## 1.2 The Origin of Modern Poetry

- **Since the ancient time, there has been a representative form of literature in every age:**
  - Tang Dynasty → Tang poetry
  - Song Dynasty → Song poetry
  - Yuan Dynasty → Yuan verse
  - Ming Dynasty and the Ching Dynasty → novel
  - Republic of China era → modern poetry

# Modern Poetry

## 1.3 Formal characteristics of modern poetry

- **Lined Poems**

- Branch poetry is developed into free poetry and metrical poetry.

- **Prose Poetry**

- Prose poetry may be full of poetic emotions and illusions that give readers a sense of beauty and imagination.

- **Typographic Poetry**

- The impression of typographic poetry is the arrangement of words or symbols.



# Modern Poetry

## 1.4 The Features of New Poetry

- **Sensation**
  - Du Ye ( 渡也 ) mentioned that the most important quality of a poem is to move and inspire its readers.
- **Creativity**
  - Creativity refers to the following poetic abilities: acuity, fluency, flexibility, originality and refinement.
- **Style**
  - A poetic quality can be decided by subjective factors and objective factors.

A painting of a pond with lily pads and flowers, framed by a dense forest of trees. The scene is captured in a soft, impressionistic style with visible brushstrokes. The water is a mix of light blues and greens, reflecting the sky and the surrounding foliage. The lily pads are various shades of green, some with yellow centers, and a few pink flowers are scattered among them. The trees in the background are tall and thin, with a dense canopy of light green and yellow leaves, creating a sense of depth and enclosure.

## **2. The Works of Mu-rong Xi**



# The Works of Mu-rong Xi

- **Creative Concepts**

- The creator is to express his/her true self.
- The creation is an expression of life and a focus of energy.

- **Poetic Features**

- Delicate, fresh, soft, creative and lyrical.

- **The Evaluation**

- Marketability, popularity and romantic tendency.



The background is a reproduction of a painting, likely by J.M.W. Turner, depicting a pond with lily pads and water lilies. The scene is rendered with soft, visible brushstrokes, capturing the shimmering light on the water's surface. The colors are a mix of greens, blues, and yellows, creating a serene and somewhat abstract atmosphere. The text '3. Translation Theory' is centered over the middle of the image in a bold, black, serif font.

# 3. Translation Theory

# Translation Theory

- In Chinese grammar, you don't have to change the form of characters because of the number, tense, voice and gender.
- Guang-zhong Yu ( 余光中 ) said, "Translation is truly an effective tool to compare literatures because an adequate translator has to take both literatures' natures and features into thoughtful consideration."
- Although there is "Euphuism" in English, the perfect antithesis of Chinese poetry can not be rendered with full satisfaction in the English language.



# Translation Theory

- In the process of translation, we face not only differences in culture and language, but we have to deal with polysemy and other linguistic and literary problems.
- The foundation of a good translation is to determine the direction and properties of the translation correctly. In the field of translation, there are certain rules and regulations to follow.

# Translation Theory

- “The Six Theories Regarding Poetic Translation” is a summary of Xu Yuan-chong’s perspective on literary translation.
- **Identification** ( 譯者一也 )
  - Since two languages are different, it is difficult to achieve complete identification between the source and the target languages.
- **Re-creation** ( 譯者藝也 )
  - A translated text should only be based on the original text.
- **Innovation** ( 譯者異也 )
  - In some special circumstances, a translated text must be innovated.



# Translation Theory

- **Imitation** ( 譯者依也 )
  - Therefore, the art of translation is a search for "Identification" between "Innovation" and "Imitation."
- **Recreation** ( 譯者怡也 )
  - The purpose of poetic translation is to please and delight.
- **Rendition** ( 譯者易也 )
  - It refers to the relationship between the original works and their transformed translations.
- A theory that can improve the practice of translation is a good translation theory.



## **4. Translation results**



# Poem 1: 青春（巨蟹座）

所有的結局都已寫好  
所有的淚水都已啟程  
卻忽然忘了是怎麼樣的一個開始  
在那個古老的不再回來的夏日  
無論我如何的去追索  
年輕的你只如雲影擦過  
而你微笑的面容極淺極淡  
逐漸隱沒在日後的群嵐  
遂翻開那發黃的扉頁  
命運將它裝訂得極其拙劣  
含著淚 我一讀再讀  
卻不得不承認  
青春是一本太倉促的書



# Poem 1: Youth (Cancer)

All of the endings have been written.

All of the tears have already set out.

But suddenly I forget how it all started

In that ancient summer that never comes back.

No matter how I pursued,

The youthful you grazed by just like a shadow of a cloud.

And your smiling face was so shallow and pale,

Gradually vanishing in the mountain mists behind the sun.

Then I open that yellowish title page,

Which Fate bound extremely clumsily.

With tears in my eyes, I study it again and again.

And I have to admit:

Youth is such a hasty book.



## Poem 2: 盼望

其實 我盼望的  
也不過就只是那一瞬  
我從沒要求過 你給我  
你的一生  
如果能在開滿了梔子花的山坡上  
與你相遇 如果能  
深深地愛過一次再別離

那麼 再長久的一生  
不也就只是 就只是  
回首時  
那短短的一瞬

# Poem 2: Hope

Actually, what I hope for  
is just the moment.

I have never asked you to give me  
your whole life.

If we can, on the hill covered with cape jasmine flowers,  
Meet with each other, and if we can  
Deeply fall in love before we separate,  
Then, no matter how long life may be,  
Isn't it just, just  
A short moment when we look back?

# Poem 3: 詠嘆調

不管我是要哭泣著  
或是 微笑著與你道別  
人生原是一場難分悲喜的  
演出 而當燈光照過來時  
我就必須要唱出  
那最最艱難的一幕  
請你屏息靜聽 然後  
再熱烈地為我喝采  
我終生所愛慕的人啊  
曲終人散後  
不管我是要哭泣著  
或是 微笑著與你道別  
我都會慶幸曾與你同臺



# Poem 3: An Aria

No matter whether I would cryingly  
Or smilingly say goodbye to you,  
Life is a performance hard to tell sadness from joy.  
When the light focuses on me,  
I would have to sing that  
Most difficult scene.  
Please listen with bated breath and then  
Cheer for me ardently.  
The one whom I love in my whole life!  
After the end of the show,  
No matter whether I would cryingly  
Or smilingly say goodbye to you,  
I would be glad that I have been on the same stage with you.

# Poem 4: 曉鏡

我以為  
我已經把你藏好了  
藏在  
那樣深 那樣冷的  
昔日的心底

我以為  
只要絕口不提  
只要讓日子繼續地過去  
你就終於  
終於會變成一個  
古老的秘密

可是 不眠的夜  
仍然太長 而  
早生的白髮 又洩漏了  
我的悲傷

# Poem 4: The Morning Mirror

I think  
I have already hidden you well,  
Hidden you in  
That deep, and cold  
Bottom of my heart of the old days.

I think  
As long as I never mention it,  
As long as we let the time pass by continuously,  
You will finally,  
Finally, become an  
Ancient secret.

But, the wakeful night  
Still is too long.  
And my premature gray hair blunders out  
My sadness.





# 5. Conclusion and Observations

# Conclusion and Observations

- This academic research project has made us ponder over the art as well as philosophy of translation.
- Difference
  - Subject
  - Grammar
  - Culture
- Chinese-English translation is not only a challenge to a translator's rendition skills, but it also involves a rather large scope of professional knowledge.

The background of the slide is a reproduction of a painting, likely J.M.W. Turner's 'Rain, Steam, and Great Bridge' or a similar work. It depicts a scene with a body of water, possibly a pond or a river, with numerous lily pads floating on the surface. The water is rendered with soft, dappled colors of blue, green, and white, suggesting reflections and light. In the foreground and background, there are vertical, textured strokes representing reeds or willow trees, some in shades of brown and green. The overall style is impressionistic, with a focus on light and color rather than sharp detail.

**Thank you for your listening**