

國立澎湖科技大學應用外語系

實務專題計畫

席慕蓉新詩英譯研究

A Study on the English Translation of the Poetry by

Mu-rong Xi

學生姓名：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

指導教授：吳敏華 博士

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Abstract

Poetry is a *genre* of literature that expresses beauty, feeling as well as thought by means of a particular literary form which may be suitable to be sung or recited. Although poems feature in their own formal characteristics, they are sometimes connected with other forms of art, such as drama, hymn, lyrics, romance, prose, and so forth. If the poems are sung or recited along with music, they are called songs or lyrics, which poets use to show their own feelings, thoughts and emotions. Mu-rong Xi has written a good number of household lyrical poems since the 1970s onwards. As a female poet, she even made it to claim a peculiar “*her-story*” in the *history* of Modern Chinese poetry in Taiwan dominated by male poets. As a record-setter for best-selling in the poetic field, Mu-rong Xi’s major themes lie in love, romance, life, eternity, nostalgia, etc. seen from a female perspective. The way she applies syntax and vocabulary makes her poetry abound in vivid and intense haunting imagery. She seldom appeals to abstruse lexicons or obscure sentence patterns; her simple, uncomplicated wording as well as repetitive sentence structure makes her poems soft, smooth, and highly approachable to the reader. Therefore, we chose fourteen representative poems from Mu-rong Xi’s important Chinese new poetry works to be the subject matter of our research project. Before we engaged ourselves in Chinese-English rendition, we probed into the art and philosophy of translation as proposed by different translation scholars. We paid particular attention to the peculiarities of literary or poetic translation. Then, with the guidelines of translation in our mind, we tried our best to translate Mu-rong Xi’s Chinese new poems into equivalent English without losing their original meaning, flavor, charm as well as ambience. On the one hand, we hope to train and better our Chinese-English translation skills with this practical study. On the other, we hope that not only Taiwanese/ Chinese readers but also foreign/English readers can come to glance at the charm and beauty of Mu-rong Xi’s poetry with the humble help provided by our research project.

Keywords: Mu-rong Xi, New poetry, translation

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李宜靜、李幸純、郭雅菁、戴汶汶、溫雅茹、李怡蓓、廖羿喬

國立澎湖科技大學

摘要

詩歌是文學體裁的一種，並體現出美感、適宜吟詠的文學形式。詩能夠自成一格，也能與其他藝術相結合，如詩劇、聖詩、歌詞或散文詩，文字配上音樂則稱為歌。詩人用詩歌來表達自己情感、思維與情緒。從 70 年代開始，席慕蓉創作了許多膾炙人口的情詩，而在台灣現代詩史中，她是個非常特殊的案例，很少有詩人能夠像她一樣，自首本詩集出版後就不斷在創造現代詩銷售的新紀錄。席慕蓉的新詩風格是從女性的認知為出發點來描寫愛情、人生、鄉愁等為主。詩中語句、詞彙的使用方式讓作品呈現出強烈的畫面感，較少使用艱深的詞彙或句型，淺顯易懂的用語與重複的句型使她的詩歌舒緩柔和且平易近人。面對這麼深受華人讀者群喜愛的作品，我們認為將「席慕蓉新詩英譯」是讓更多人看見台灣文學之美的重要環節。因此，我們從席慕蓉重要詩集作品中，選擇了 14 首中文新詩作為這此研究中英翻譯實踐之主題。透過對翻譯理論的剖析與探討，我們嘗試將席慕蓉詩歌用英文完整翻譯而不失原來的意境與風貌。新詩雖深受西洋文學影響，但由於中文詩經常省略主詞且不受文法限制，再加上文化上的差異，表面上的文字有時候表達的是不一樣的意思，所以要翻譯成英文不僅充滿挑戰，還是一門學問。通過相關翻譯理論的探討，我們深刻了解到如果讀者因為文化、環境或時空背景等因素，而無法體會原文要表達的意境，譯者應該設法活用譯出語並調整譯文，儘量讓譯文讀者享有原文讀者閱讀原文的感受。本次研究將席慕蓉詩歌與英譯作結合，目的除了訓練中譯英的翻譯技巧，我們也希望可以藉由這份研究使得席慕蓉詩歌不只在台灣廣受吟詠，也能讓外國讀者咏出席慕蓉詩歌的意境，達到將台灣文學國際化的效果。

關鍵詞：席慕蓉、新詩、翻譯