2020「興大翻譯獎」翻譯比賽評審講評

【英譯中】

In 1964, Eugene Nida proposed the concept of "dynamic equivalence" in translation, which is based on the principle of equivalent effect: "the relationship between receptor and message should be substantially the same as that which existed between the original receptors and the message". When translating literary works such as this one, it is important to determine what the author is trying to convey, and expressing it in the translation, rather than simply writing down the same words in a different language. For example, when the source text says a peacock "lacks the brain to know why", it is not necessarily a good idea to translate it into something like 沒有 頭腦, because now the text could mean the peacock physically lacks the organ known as a brain. Instead, the translator should consider what the writer is trying to express here, namely that the peacock does not know, or is not smart enough to know, why it craves attention. Consequently, a translation such as 不明白 or 無法理解 would work better here. The best translations were the ones that were able to demonstrate this principle of equivalent effect, to try to create the same effect on the reader in the target language.

翻譯的「信達雅」原則,譯者大多耳熟能詳。第一個要求是「信」,如果對原文理解 不足甚至誤讀,當然不可能得到好的譯文,只是「信」或忠實並非僅在單字單詞的層面, 一個蘿蔔一個坑或貼著原文語法硬譯。1964年,尤金·奈達(Eugene Nida)根據等效的 原則,提出了翻譯時應製造「動態對等」(dynamic equivalence)的概念:「譯文傳達的 訊息與譯文讀者之間的關係應與原文的訊息與原文讀者之間的關係實質上對等」。這就進 入了「達」的層次,在訊息正確之外,要照顧到譯文的寫作品質。因此,翻譯文學作品時, 應該要判斷原文作者欲傳達的訊息為何,並且轉化成合乎譯文的語法與文字譯出。舉例來 說,原文提到孔雀「lacks the brain to know why」,便不適合譯為「沒有頭腦」,因為可 能會造成譯文讀者誤解為「沒有『頭腦這個器官』」之意。譯者應該思考原作者想表達的 意思,也就是孔雀不知道或沒有聰明到能知道為什麼牠會渴求關注,因此,譯為「不明白」 或「無法理解」會是比較貼近原文文意的譯法。另外,原文中提及「when prehistory turned to history」,多數的參賽者照字面直譯為「當史前時代轉變為歷史時代」、「當史 前時代進入歷史時代」,看似正確,訊息卻不夠明確,有種搔不到癢處的感覺。史前到歷 史時代最大的差別便是「文字記載」,因此有參賽者譯為「隨著歷史記載的出現」,便能 完全傳達原文的效果,因而顯得出彩。總而言之,最好的譯文應該要能展現等效的原則, 讓譯文讀者感受到與原文讀者相同的效果。譯者是半個作家,譯文本身要能夠獨立成章, 而不是原文的註腳。然而過猶不及,進入決選的同學,母語應是以中文佔多數,譯入自 己熟悉慣用的語言,另一個可能的缺失是「雅而不信」,譯文文字雖優美,譯句亦自然, 卻脫離原文的訊息太遠,這就不是嚴格意義的翻譯,反而更像是改寫了。

另外想特別一提的是,英文某些字詞在翻譯成中文時特別容易翻錯,這可能是參賽者在翻譯時未能透徹理解這些字詞的意義或是未注意到中英文的細微差異。舉例來說,until 一字在英文中常常被誤譯為「直到……才……」,但其實 until 一字應為「某動作持續到某時(停止)」之意。舉 Longman Online Dictionary of Contemporary English 的定義為例,「If something happens until a particular time, it continues and then stops at that time」。例如

此次初賽時原文「The idea that spending a lot of time in cyberspace might have an ill effect on mental health has until recently been intuitively sensible but hard to prove」,許多參賽者都有類似以下的譯文:「花太多時間上網會對心理層面帶來負面影響的這個說法直到最近才被直觀認為是合理的,但很難被證實」,並不正確。此句較適當的譯法應為「一直以來,人們認為花很多時間在網路上會對心理健康有負面影響,這種觀點看起來合理,但卻難以驗證。直到最近,才終於有人證實這樣的看法。」也就是說,The idea has been intuitively sensible but hard to prove(一直以來,這個想法直覺上是合理的但難以證實)until recently(一直持續到最近才有所改變)。諸如此類的例子,在中英對譯時屢見不鮮,譯者下筆前一定要徹底了解字詞定義,才不容易誤譯。