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恒管譯站

Wen Wei Po

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「荒唐言」怎麼譯

學校剛請來閔福德教授(Prof. John Minford)主講文學翻譯。閔教授是英國漢學家,英譯過《紅樓夢》和《聊齋誌異》等,不少人慕名到校聽他講課。想起當年大學老師說,文學翻譯是翻譯的最高境界,我一直覺得境界太高,根本做不到,譬如霍克思(David Hawkes)譯《紅樓夢》裡的緣起詩:

這是一流的翻譯,格律工巧,不過夠癡夠味夠荒唐嗎?不夠吧。試想想,把「我愛你」譯為I love you是差天共地,那是英國人對家犬也說的話,譯個大概還可以,深情剖白卻有待「升呢」。相信我,我每年都問女學生:「如果情人向你求婚,你喜歡他說『我愛你』還是I love you?」,十居其八喜歡中文,嫌英文不夠情深,而文學又偏偏多深情。

文學難譯「無情」文字不難

所以我認為翻譯只適用於冷冰冰的東西,譯來「志在得個知字」那種,例如法律文件:

為明確甲乙雙方合作中權利與義務,保障雙方合法權益,本着互惠互利的原則,雙方同意簽定如下合同:

To define the rights and obligations of Party A and Party B in their cooperation and to safeguard their legal rights and interests, under the principle of mutual benefit, both Parties agree to enter into the following contract.

這是何等無情無癮的文字,卻足夠。

要中西方心心相印,共享文學,除非世界夠globalized(全球化),即是夠standardized(標準化)。可惜今天所謂globalization往往是westernization(西方化),惟有寄望「一帶一路」成功,到時中國人個個唱John Lennon,老外個個唱韓紅。■恒生管理學院商務翻譯學系助理教授李劍雄博士

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