

Liang Shiqiu' s translation



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Part 1



Life

- Rich family ,Beijing ,1903.
- Essayist, phonologist, scholar and literary critic.
- Authority in China to study Shakespeare.



Study

- Tsinghua University
- Harvard University.
- Peking University





Part 2

- Peter Pan
- Wuthering Heights
- Meditations
- Cicero
- Shakespeare





沉思录

Marcus Aurelius Meditations

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一个罗马皇帝的人生思考
每个人都会有需要谈它的时候

一生珍藏

华文出版社



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DE SENECTUTE,
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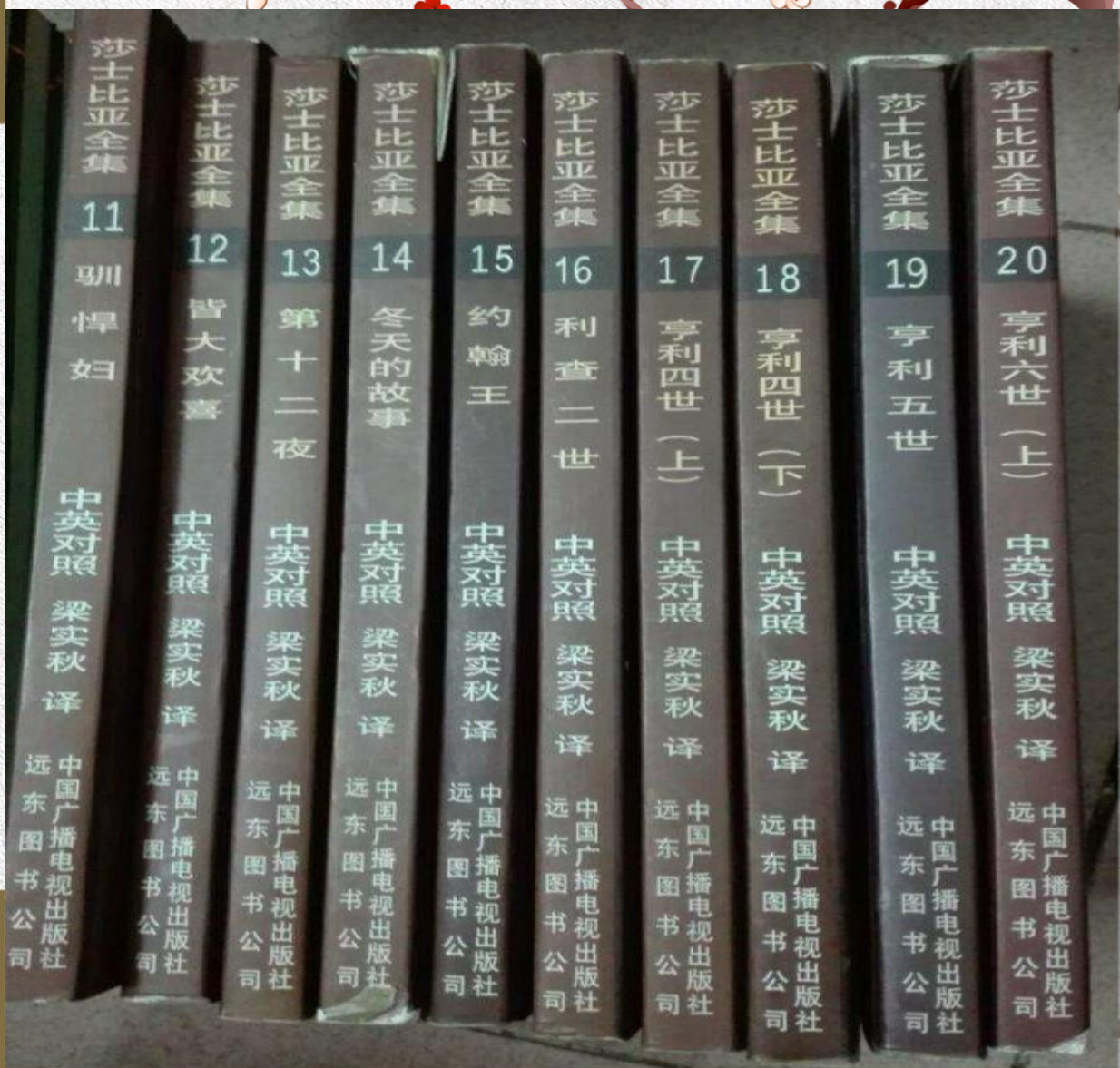
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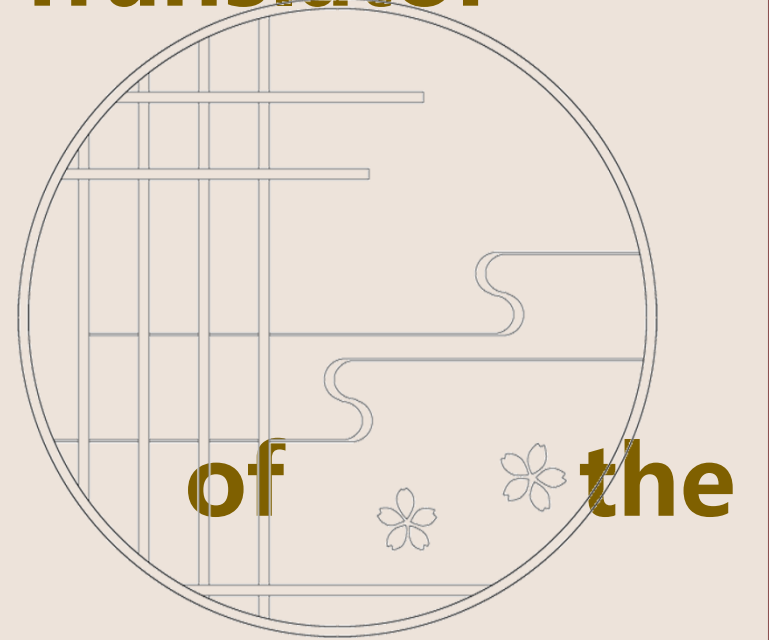


Part 3



Idea of the Translator

Methods Translation



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Idea of Translator

01

Translator should not translate the works of the third language

02

Translator must be faithful to the original

03

Translator should keep readers in mind



Methods of Translation

01 Literal translation on the basis of sentence level



Liang Shiqiu's translation took sentences as its basic units and took the whole text into consideration at the same time. It tried to reproduce both the content and the style of the original works and retained as much as possible the figures of speech. Sometimes, free translation was also adopted when it was really impossible for him to do literal translation. In the literal translation, Liang Shiqiu tried to be flexible, not rigid translation rules, and in free translation, he tried to avoid any fabrication.

Example in *The Part of King Henry the Fourth*

HOTSPUR The king is kind; and well we know the king
Knows at what time to promise, when to pay.
My father and my uncle and myself
Did give him that same royalty he wears;
And when he was not six-and-twenty strong,
Sick in the world's regard, wretched and low,
A poor unminded outlaw sneaking home,
My father gave him welcome to the shore;
And when he heard him swear and vow to God
He came but to be Duke of Lancaster,
To sue his livery and beg his peace,
With tears of innocency and terms of zeal,
My father, in kind heart and pity mov'd,
Swore him assistance and perform'd it too. (ACT IV, SCENE III)

国王是很宽厚;我们深知国王晓得在什么时候做诺言,什么时候去偿付。我的父亲我的叔父和我自己把他现在所享受的帝王之尊送给他了;当初他手下不过二十六个人,没人看得起他,狼狈不堪,一个可怜的无人注意的流囚偷偷的回家了,我的父亲在海岸上首致欢迎;他听见他对上帝发誓,他回来只是要做兰卡斯特公爵,请求恢复产权,与国王和好,流着天真的眼泪,说着效忠的言词,我的父亲心肠太好,被怜悯心所动,就答应帮助他,而且真帮助了。(梁实秋, 2001: 185)



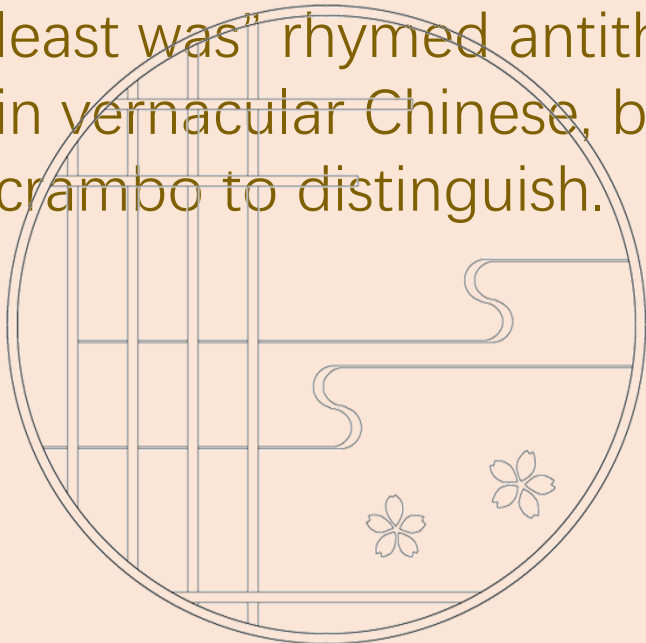
Methods of Translation

02 Poetry into Prose



Liang Shiqiu translated Shakespeare mainly in the form of prose. The second item in the introductory remarks to each play of his translation is as follows:

(ii). Most part of the source text was written in blank verse. A few were prose and the least was "rhymed antithetic parallelism". The translation is mainly in the form of prose in vernacular Chinese, but all the rhymes and episodes are translated in the form of crambo to distinguish.



Example in *The Life and Death of Julius Caesar*

O! then that we could come by Caesar's spirit,
And not dismember Caesar. But, alas!
Caesar must bleed for it. And, gentle friends,
Let's kill him boldly, but not wrathfully;
Let's carve him as a carcass fit for hounds:
And after seem to chide'em. This shall make
Our purpose necessary and not envious;
Which so appearing to the common eyes,
We shall be call'd purgers, not murderers.
And, for Mark Antony, think not of him;
For he can do no more than Caesar's arm
When Caesar's head is off. (ACT II SCENE I)

啊！但愿我们能够捉捕西撒的精神而无需肢解西撒。但是，哎呀！西撒一定要因此而流血的。好朋友们，我们要勇敢的杀掉他，但不是愤怒的；我们把他切割成为献给神明的祭品，不是宰割一具尸体拿去喂狗；我们的心要像是狡诈的主人们，激起他们的仆人们做出暴行，事后再作出谴责他们的样子。这样便可使人看出，我们的行动乃是出于不得已，而不是由于嫉恨；在一般人心目中，我们将被称为扫除恶势力的志士，而不是凶手。至于马克安东尼，不必考虑他；因为西撒的头被砍掉之后，他不见得能比西撒的一条胳膊更为有力。（梁实秋，2001: 65）

Methods of Translation

03 Annotation



Having in mind the spirit of seriousness and the responsibility for readers, Liang Shiqiu adopted the annotation frequently in his translation of Shakespeare. He annotated the puns and allusions at the end of each play of his translation when they are hard to be properly translated into another language. This was influenced by his literary thought of "ponderance of literature". Examples from Anthony and Cleopatra given as follows could better explain Liang Shiqiu's employment of the annotation.



Example in *The Othello*

You'll have your daughter conversed with a Barbary horse.(ACT / SCENE II)

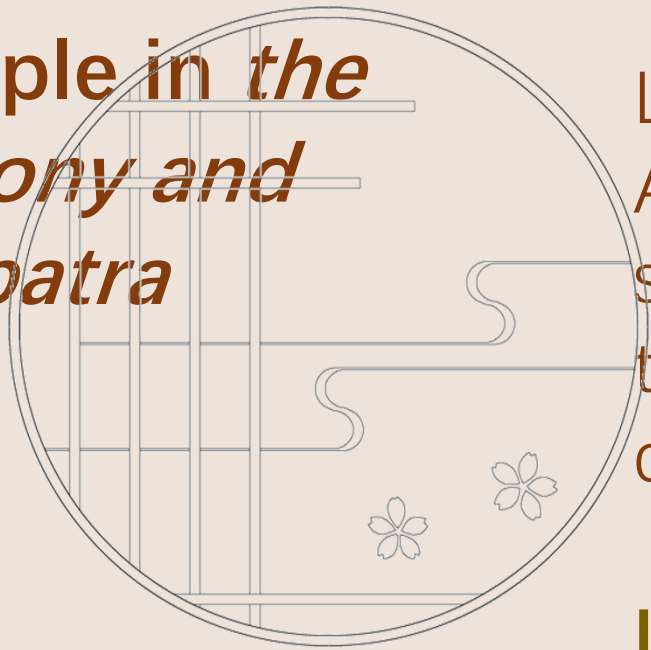
Liang Shiqiu's version:

那么你的女儿可就要被一匹巴巴里的马给奸了。
注: Barbary 即 Moorish 摩尔人的.

Here Liang Shiqiu's translation of the name Barbary and his notes on the site allude to the dark-skinned Moorish *Othello*, keeping the reader's imagination vivid and revealing of the characters' subtle relationships.



Example in *the Anthony and Cleopatra*



Lord Alexas, sweet Alexas, most any thing Alexas, Almost most absolute Alexas, where's the soothsayer that you praised so to the queen? O! that I knew this husband, which, you say, must charge his horns with garlands. (ACT I SCENE II)

Liang Shiqiu's version:

阿来克萨斯先生，亲爱的阿来克萨斯，最最什么的阿来克萨斯，几乎是最最到无以复加的阿来克萨斯，你在女王面前绝口称赞的预言家在哪里呢？啊！我真想认识那个丈夫，据你说他是一一定要在他的角上戴花圈的。（梁实秋，2001：17）

注：④ 头上长角是男人的耻辱的标记，表示其妻不贞。戴花圈表示光荣。



Evaluation of him

Part 4

Liu Bingshan (刘柄善), a research scholar in the study of Shakespeare, also expressed his opinion about Liang 's translation:

*We didn' t know that there was a translation of **The Complete Works of Shakespeare** in Taiwan until recent years. Liang' s translation is not characterized by beautiful words and expressions, but by its faithfulness to the original. Liang avoided tampering with the original text, never evaded translation difficulties, always tried to be faithful to the original...In general,Liang' s translation is reliable and smooth. Those who haven' t learnt English but want to know Shakespeare can see a truer Shakespeare by reading Liang' s version. (1991: 87)*



Evaluation of him



Professor Wu Xizhen(吴奚真), also a great translator, observed:

Translating Shakespeare is a huge task, as well as Professor Liang's lifelong career. His translations are much like academic versions. Thanks to his profound knowledge and excellent writing skill, Liang had a thorough understanding of Shakespeare and sufficiently conveyed the meaning of Shakespeare in the Chinese versions. His translations are faithful without losing elegance and fluency. (Chen Zishan, 1992: 57)

Evaluation of him

Professor He Qixin (何其莘) spoke highly of Liang's translations:

*Though most of the translations of Shakespeare available could meet the need of common readers, as to critics, playwrights, and particularly scholars who want a translation which is faithful, and includes the research fruit of Shakespeare over several hundred years at home and abroad, Liang' stranslation is no doubt the one closest to these two requirements.
(2002: 2)*



Summary



Throughout his life, Liang Shiqiu's contribution in translation is undoubtedly a valuable treasure in the history of modern Chinese literature. As a summary of more than 60 years of translation experience, *Faith in Translation* embodies the essence of his translation thoughts. The attitude of being responsible for readers and the concept of attaching importance to the research work of the translator are worth learning from later generations.



Thank you!

