

# Fishing in Snow

Lei Fangyuan November 16th,2020

## Abstract

*Fishing in Snow* is a classical poem by Liu Zongyuan, a poet of the Tang Dynasty. Currently, more than ten famous scholars from domestic and abroad have translated this poem. In China, this poem was selected into elementary school textbook and many Foreign-Chinese textbooks, and it is a well-known poem. As the cultural exchanges between various ethnic groups and countries have become closer, *Fishing in Snow* have also been translated and introduced by many foreign scholars around the world. It became a carrier of language and cultural exchanges between ethnic groups. This article will analyze the different translation versions of this poem and introduce the seven strategies of poetry translation.

**Key words:** *Fishing in Snow*; Poetry translation; Strategies

## 摘要

《江雪》是唐朝诗人柳宗元经典的诗作。目前已有十余位中外著名学者对《江雪》进行了翻译。在中国，这首诗被选入国内小学课本和许多对外汉语教材之中，是脍炙人口的名篇。随着各民族、各国家间的文化交往日益密切，《江雪》也被众多外国学者翻译介绍到世界各地，成为了民族间语言与文化交流的载体。本文将分析《江雪》的不同译文，以及介绍诗歌翻译的七大策略。

**关键词:** 《江雪》；诗歌翻译；策略

### 一、《江雪》简介 (A brief introduction of *Fishing in Snow*)

Before appreciating the four English translations, we might as well make a brief analysis of Liu Zongyuan's original works:

As we all know, *Fishing in Snow* is a five-character quatrain. It was written during the poet Liu Zongyuan's exile in Yongzhou. Due to the setbacks in his career, he suffered from a great mental blow. This poem, in line with the description of the fisherman who lives in seclusion, dispels Liu's political frustration and depression, and entrusts his great priggish and lonely spirit.

在赏析四个英译本之前，我们不妨先对柳宗元的原作进行一个简要的分析：众所周知，《江雪》是一首五言绝句，为唐诗人柳宗元谪居永州期间所作。当时柳宗元被贬到永州，由于仕途遭受挫折，他在精神上受到很大打击。这首诗体现的就是他借助对隐居山水的渔翁的歌咏，排遣自己在政治上失意的苦闷和压抑，寄托自己清高孤傲的情怀。

原文:

## 江 雪

千山鸟飞绝，  
万径人踪灭。  
孤舟蓑笠翁，  
独钓寒江雪。

## 二、译文赏析与比较 (Translation Appreciation and Comparison)

Next, let us appreciate the four English translation versions.

下面，就让我们一起来赏析下四种不同的英译版本。

### 1、译文赏析 (Translation Appreciation)

译文1:

#### *Fishing in snow*

From hill to hill no bird in flight ;  
From path to path no man in sight.  
A lonely fisherman afloat,  
Is fishing snow in lonely boat.

《汉英对照唐诗三百首》，2000:55 [1]

译文2:

#### *River Snow*

These thousand peaks cut off the flight of birds,  
On all the trails, human tracks are gone.  
A single boat-coat——hat——an old man,  
Alone fishing chill river snow.

Gary Snyder, 转引自 Weinberger, 2003:139[2]

译文3:

#### *River Snow*

A thousand peaks: no more birds in flight,  
Ten thousand paths: all trace of people gone.  
In a lone boat, rain cloak and hat of reeds,  
An old man' s fishing the cold river snow.

David Hinton, 转引自 Weinberger, 2003 [3]

译文4:

*River Snow*  
A hundred mountains and **no bird**,  
A thousand paths without **a footprint**,  
A little boat, **a bamboo cloak**,  
**An old man** fishing in the cold river-snow.

Witter Bynner, 1929:550[4]

## 二、译文比较 (Translation Comparison)

1、诗名: **江雪**

译文一: *Fishing in Snow* 译文二: *River Snow* 译文三: *River Snow* 译文四: *River Snow*

2、原诗: **千山**鸟飞绝,万径人踪灭。

译文一: hill 译文二: peaks 译文三: peaks 译文四: mountains

3、原诗: **千山**鸟飞绝,万径人踪灭。

译文一: From hill to hill no bird in flight ; From path to path no man in sight.

译文四: A hundred mountains and no bird:A thousand paths without a footprint.

4、原诗: **千山**鸟飞绝,万径人踪灭。

译文一: From hill to hill no bird in flight ;From path to path no man in sight.

译文二: These **thousand** peaks **cut off** the flight of birds

5、原诗: **孤舟**蓑笠翁,独钓寒江雪。

译文一: lonely 译文二: single 译文三: lone 译文四: little

6、原诗: **孤舟****蓑笠翁**,独钓寒江雪。

译文一: **fisherman** 译文二: A single boat—**boat—hat—an old man**

译文三: In a lone boat,**rain cloak and hat of reeds** 译文四: A little boat, **a bamboo cloak**

7、原诗: **孤舟**蓑笠翁,独**钓寒江雪**。

译文一: Is fishing snow in lonely boat.

译文二: Alone fishing chill river snow.

译文三: An old man' s fishing the cold river snow.

译文四: An old man fishing in the cold river-snow.

## 三、诗歌翻译策略 (Translation Strategies of Poetry)

Due to information conversion at two levels of language and culture ,coupled with the rhyme and unique aesthetics characteristics of poetry.Some scholars believed that literary translation is difficult, while poetry translation is even more difficult .Regarding the principles and strategies adopted by poetry translation,various poetry schools at domestic and abroad have also expressed their opinions.Lefevere,a translation theorist in the field of translation studies, lists the following seven poem translation mode:

由于涉及到语言和文化两个层面的信息转换,加之诗歌本身的韵律与独有的美学特点,所以有学者认为文学翻译难,而诗歌翻译更难。对于诗歌翻译所秉承的原则和策略,中外各诗歌翻译流派也各抒己见。译学界的翻译理论家列夫维尔列举出以下七种译诗模式:

#### 1、音位翻译方法 (Phonemic Translation)

This translation method only considers the sound that is faithful to the original ,and does not consider other factors.

这种翻译方法只考虑忠实于原作的声音,不考虑其他因素。

#### 2、直译法 (Literal Translation)

This translation method advocates that the translation is faithful to the meaning of the text.

这种翻译方法主张译文忠实于文本的意义。

#### 3、散文翻译法 (Poetry into Prose)

在历史上,把诗歌翻译成散文,一度受到译者和读者的青睐。译文一般优美,忠于原文意义。

Historically, translating poetry into prose was once favored by translators and readers. The translation is generally beautiful and faithful to the original meaning.

#### 4、韵律翻译法 (Metrical Translation)

Try to follow the rhythm of the original text and retain the original form to the greatest extent.

力图步原文的韵律,以最大程度保留原文的形式。

#### 5、谐韵翻译法 (Rhyme)

It is necessary to pay attention to the pitch of the translation and to make the translation rhyme.

既要注意译文的音步,又要使译文押韵。

#### 6、无韵诗翻译法 (Blank Verse)

The rhythm and rhyme of blank poems are relatively free, but both traditional and self-created rhythms must be observed.

无韵诗的节奏和押韵比较自由,但不论传统韵律还是自创韵律,都还得遵守。

#### 7、解释和拟作 (Interpretation and Imitation)

Including rewriting and drafting. The rewriting mainly retains the essence of the original text; the proposed composition uses the original title and a certain point as the starting point to create his own new poems.

包含改写、拟作。改写主要保留原文的实质;拟作则以原作的标题和某一点为出发点,创作自己的新诗。

There is no denying that these seven poetry translation modes have their pros and cons.which method is adopted to translate poems depends on the benevolent ,and the wise see the wisdom.In my opinion,a good opinion requires the translator to use different translation strategies flexibly in translation.

无庸讳言,这七种译诗模式各有利弊,采取哪种方式进行诗歌翻译都是仁者见仁,智者见智。一篇好的译文,需要译者在翻译中灵活运用不同的翻译策略。

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