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"三美论"视角下诗歌翻译探究

——《蜀道难》两译本比较研究

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摘要

诗歌作为一种特殊的文学体裁,风格多变、形式多样。诗歌对于后人研究当时的政治、民情、风俗、文化、历史变迁等都有重要意义。本文将从"意美"、"音美"、"形美"三个方面入手,对李白《蜀道难》的两种译本进行对比分析,探究"三美论"在诗歌翻译中的运用,以及对我国诗歌翻译的影响与指导意义。

关键词

《蜀道难》,三美论,意美,音美,形美

On Poem Translation from the Perspective of Three Beauties Theory

—A Comparative Study of Two English Versions of *Difficult Is the Way to Shu*

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Abstract

As a special literary genre, poetry has various styles and forms. And the Poetry is of great significance for later generations to study the politics, habits, customs, culture and historical changes of that time. From such three aspects of meaning, sound and form, this paper will make a comparative analysis of the two versions of Li Bai's *Difficult Is the Way to Shu*, and explore the application of

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the Three Beauties Theory in poetry translation, as well as its influence and guiding significance on Chinese poetry translation.

Keywords

Difficult Is the Way to Shu, Three Beauties Theory, Meaning, Sound, Form

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1. 引言

唐代是我国诗歌发展的鼎盛阶段。许多杰出的诗人将我国的诗歌发展推向高峰。唐诗是诗歌发展的代表之一,是世界文学宝库中的一颗璀璨的明珠。数千年之后许多诗歌至今为人们广为流传。唐代之前的诗歌体裁为古体诗。古体诗从诗句的字数看,有所谓四言诗、五言诗、七言诗和杂言诗等形式。四言是四个字一句,五言是五个字一句,七言是七个字一句。唐代以后,形成另外一种诗歌体裁,称为近体诗。在近体诗篇中句数、字数、押韵都有严格的要求,讲究平仄对仗。近体诗在中国诗歌发展史上具有重要地位,近体诗对于历史文化的研究有重要意义。李白是唐代杰出的浪漫主义诗人,以豪放飘逸著称,其诗歌也是被译者翻译的选择。而诗歌翻译也一直是对译者挑战比较大的翻译类型。对于诗歌翻译采用什么样的翻译理论,译者也各执一词。诗歌翻译发展初期,一些译者把绝对"忠实"作为翻译的唯一标准,围绕"直译"与"意译"、"异化"与"归化"、"形似"与"神似"展开争论。诗歌翻译不单纯是文字语言的转换,更是诗歌文化内涵的表达与输出。本文从许渊冲提出的"三美论"翻译原则出发,对李白诗歌《蜀道难》的两个译本进行对比鉴赏,从意、音、形三个角度分析唐诗英译的翻译方法和原则,探讨"三美论"翻译原则在诗歌翻译中的借鉴意义。

2. "三美论"简介

翻译不仅是两种语言与文字的转换,更是文化的交流与传播。翻译是两种语言的内容与形式的转换,在翻译的过程中译者需要处理源语言和目的语直接按的矛盾。翻译中经常会出现几个常见的矛盾,如理解与表达的矛盾,忠实与通顺的矛盾,直译与意译的矛盾。翻译的标准是什么,从来都没有定论。就忠实与通顺而言,著名翻译家提出过"信、达、雅"的翻译标准,即忠实、通顺、达意、译文风格要高雅;从直译与意译方面而言,无论直译还是意译,译者都把译文忠实于原文内容放在第一位,如果只是忠实于原文形式而忽略内容,那就既非直译也非意译,而是硬译。翻译家许渊冲先生认为翻译是一种语言转换为另一种语言的艺术,主要是解决原文内容和译文形式之间的矛盾[1]。许渊冲先生一生致力于中国典籍的翻译,在长期的翻译实践和理论研究的基础之上提出了自己的翻译理论,如三美论、三化论和三之论。三美以三似为基础,分别是意似、音似、形似。

2.1. 意美

意美以意似为基础,指的是传达原文的内容,不能错译、漏译、多译。但意美与意似并不等同,意似并不一定能传达原文的意美。中国诗歌主要是七言和五言。许渊冲先生认为七言诗译成英语可以考虑用亚历山大体,也就是指每行十二个音节的抑扬格诗句;五言诗可以考虑用英雄体,也就是指每行十个音节的抑扬格诗句[1]。

2.2. 音美

音美指的是诗歌要有节奏、押韵、读起来朗朗上口,这便是诗词的音美[1]。遗憾地是,诗歌翻译中音美对译者的要求很高,真正能达到意美,又能做到音美的译者少之又少。

2.3. 形美

关于诗歌的形美,至少要做到大致整齐。许渊冲先生主张三美之中,首先要追求意美,其次是音美,再次是形美[2]。也就是说,如果在翻译过程中无法做到"三美",那首先要尽可能传达原文的意美;在传达原文意美的前提下,再尽可能传达原文的音美;最后在传达原文意美和音美的前提下,尽可能传达原文的形美;努力做到三美齐备。但是无论如何,都要尽可能传达原文的意美和音美。

3. 《蜀道难》两译本对比

本文选取的研究材料为李白的《蜀道难》,译文1为孙大雨先生所译,译文2为许渊冲先生所译。 原文:

《蜀道难》李白

噫吁嚱, 危乎高哉! 蜀道之难, 难于上青天! 蚕丛及鱼凫, 开国何茫然! 尔来四万八千岁, 不与秦塞通人烟。 西当太白有鸟道, 可以横绝峨眉巅。地崩山摧壮士死, 然后天梯石栈相钩连。上有六龙回日之高标, 下有冲波逆折 之回川。黄鹤之飞尚不得过, 猿猱欲度愁攀援。青泥何盘盘, 百步九折萦岩峦。扪参历井仰胁息, 以手抚膺坐长叹。

问君西游何时还? 畏途巉岩不可攀。但见悲鸟号古木,雄飞雌从绕林间。又闻子规啼夜月,愁空山。蜀道之难,难于上青天,使人听此凋朱颜! 连峰去天不盈尺,枯松倒挂倚绝壁。飞湍瀑流争喧豗,砯崖转石万壑雷。其险也如此,嗟尔远道之人胡为乎来哉!

剑阁峥嵘而崔嵬,一夫当关,万夫莫开。所守或匪亲,化为狼与豺。朝避猛虎,夕避长蛇;磨牙吮血,杀人如麻。锦城虽云乐,不如早还家。蜀道之难,难于上青天,侧身西望长咨嗟。

译文 1:

Difficult Is the Way to Shu -A Pindaric Ode

-The Poem in Triple-syllabic Measures-

Yi-Xu-xi!

How dangerously high and steep, the way to Shu

Is more difficult than ascending the blue sky!

Can-cong and Yu-fu, it is mysteriously unknown how

They began to found their remotely ancient state.

Since then for forty-eight millenia

It had been separated from the Qin terrain.

In the west, it connecteth Noble White Alp with a bird's

Flight route, and joineth with the topmost peak of E-mei.

The earth yawned, the mountain crumbled, the five giants died;

And then heavenward steps and rock-hewn flights of stairs are thus conjoined.

Up above there is the highest clift for Xihe

To drive and turn his six dragons of the sun-chariot round,

And down below there are the clashing currents of the whirling stream.

Yellow storks could not fly over that and gibbons and hapales

Would be troubled by trying to climb up over it.

The Blue Sod Alps twist and turn in winding about;

They twine round nine times to form peaks and pinnacles while whirling forth.

They pierce into the sky; on them you could touch the brilliant stars

While holding your breath and pressing a palm against your breast for heaving sighs.

Let me ask you when you would turn back from journeying west wards:

The fearful way and the sheer precipitous clifts are impassable and insurmountable.

You would only see sad birds crying on old trees;

The males followed by their females round the forests.

You would hear the cuckoos wailing at the moon, gasping out their griefs on bare mountain crests;

The way to Shu is more difficult than ascending the azure sky;

The sad cries of the cuckoos would make their hearers hasten to become old.

The chain of sharp peaks and pinnacles leaves the sky not a foot;

Withered pines hang beside the precipitous crags.

Flying rapids and dashing cataracts vie in their roarings;

The clashing of water against the rocks reverberates thunderbolts in ten thousands of hollows.

Such are the dangers, alas! why do you distant travellers come hither!

The Sword steeple towereth high up over dizzy flights of steps:

Let one valiant man block the pass, and ten thousand others can not go through.

If the keeper is not an imperial kin, he might turn out to be a wolf or a hyena.

At morn, beware of tigers fierce; at dusk, look out for gigantic serpents!

They would grind their teeth and swallow blood, and butcher people like mowing down hemp.

Although the city of officials robed in gold-threaded brocade is a city pleasurable,

It is better to forgo it for your own homes.

The way to Shu is more difficult than ascending the blue;

One turning to look west ward could but heave long sighs. [3]

译文 2:

Hard is the Road to shu

Li Bai

Oho! Behold! How Steep! How high!

The road to Shu is harder than to climb the sky.

Since the two pioneers

Put the kingdom in order,

Have passed forty-eight thousand years,

And few have tried to pass it border.

There's a bird track o'er Great White Mountain to the west,

Which cuts through Mountain Eyebrows by the crest.

The crest crumbled, five serpent-killing heroes slain,

Along the cliffs a rocky path was hacked then.

Above stand peaks too high for the sun to pass o'er;

Below the torrents run back and forth, churn and roar,

Even the Golden Crane can't fly across;

How to climb over, gibbons are at a loss.

What tortuous mountain path Green Mud Ridge faces!

Around the top we turn nine turns each hundred paces.

Looking up breathless, I can touch the stars nearby;

Beating my breast, I sink aground with long, long sigh.

When will you come back from this journey to the west?

How can you climb up dangerous path and mountain crest,

Where you can hear on ancient trees but sad birds wail

And see the female birds fly, followed by the male?

And hear home-going cuckoos weep

Beneath the moon in mountains deep?

The road to Shu is harder than to climb the sky,

On hearing this, your cheeks would lose their rosy dye.

Between the sky and peaks there is not a foot's space,

And ancient pines hang, head down, from the cliff's surface.

And cataracts and torrents dash on boulders under,

Roaring like thousands of echoes of thunder.

So dangerous these places are,

Alas! Why should you come here from afar?

Rugged is the path between the cliffs so steep and high,

Guarded by one

And forced by none.

Disloyal guards

Would turn wolves and pards,

Man-eating tigers at day-break

And at dusk blood-sucking long snake.

One may make merry in the Town of Silk, I know,

But I would rather homeward go.

The road to Shu is harder than to climb the sky,

I'd turn and westward look with long, long sigh. [4]

首先,从诗歌的形式来看,原诗字数以七言为主,但三言、四言、五言乃至十一言错落分布于各个诗行中[5]。翻译时译者必须考虑原诗的形式美。从两个不同的版本来看,译文 2 看起来整体形式更加整齐,更有气势磅礴之感;其次从诗歌的音韵来说,不难看出原诗的每一句都押韵,各句尾字都押韵,如青天,茫然,人烟,回川等。而译文 2 的每一句的最后一个单词都押韵,读起来更加朗朗上口,也更符合原诗的风格;最后从诗歌的意境来说,本诗描写的是诗人送友人入蜀时的场景,作者从首句"噫吁嚱"开始,开篇就奠定了全诗蜀道难的整体基调。虽然译文 1 完整地翻译了诗歌的内容,但是忽略了原诗给读者的感受,是描写蜀地的崎岖惊险,感叹蜀地山川奇险壮丽的景象,诗歌翻译与其他体裁的翻译有明显区别之处,而译文 2 言简意赅,给人一种震撼之感,从意境方面来看,更能展现出原诗作者想要传达给读者的感受。

4. "三美论"视角下两译本比较鉴赏

4.1. "形美"层面的对比分析

正如上文中提到,原诗体现出一种气势磅礴之感,译者要充分体会诗人当时的心情,在翻译时要尽

可能地贴近原诗的风格,首先在形式上要与原诗保持一致。接下来本文对两种不同版本的译文从形式方面进行对比,表1和表2在"形美"层面对两个版本进行对比。

Table 1. Comparison of two versions from the "form" 表 1. 两种译文在"形美"层面的对比

原文 Source Text	一夫当关,万夫莫开。
译文 1 Target Text (Version 1)	Let one valiant man block the pass, the ten thousand other cannot go through.
译文 2 Target Text (Version 2)	Guarded by one And forced by none

原诗此句是描写蜀地地形的典型代表,即只要有一人把守关隘,纵使千军万马也难攻占。原文每句是四言,虽然字数不多,但言简意赅,恰好能体现蜀地山川奇险的景象。再看两种不同的译文,译文 1 虽然在内容上完整地翻译的原文的意义,但是失去了原诗的风格;而译文 2 用了三四个单词,从形式上与原诗更加对应,且再现了原诗的风格。更贴近于原文要表达的壮阔、雄伟之感。

Table 2. Comparison of two versions from the "form" **麦 2.** 两种译文在"形美"层面的对比

原文 Source Text	青泥何盘盘,百步九折萦岩峦。
译文 1 Target Text (Version 1)	The Blue Sod Alps twist and turn in winding about; They twine round nine times to form peaks and pinnacles while whirling forth.
译文 2 Target Text (Version 2)	What tortuous mountain path Green Mud Ridge faces ! Around the top we turn nine turns each hundred paces .

表 2 中,原诗此句诗意在表达青泥岭的曲折与山峦的盘旋,百步之内山峦萦绕曲折,且原诗此句中"盘"和"峦"除了押韵之外,前句为五言,后句为七言,形式基本对应。译文 1 的前后两句形式相差较多,而译文 2 从形式上完全对应,且"faces"和"paces"押尾韵,符合原诗的特点。

4.2. "音美"层面的对比分析

一般而言为了达到音美方面的要求,译者会通过多种多样的手段实现音美,比如使用头韵、尾韵和行内韵的修辞手法。这样能够增加诗歌的节奏感和音乐感。而且使诗歌更加生动简洁,让读者读起来悦耳动听,朗朗上口,见表 3 和表 4。

从音美而言,译文 2 使用了行内韵和尾韵的修辞手法,使诗歌读起来别有韵味,读后余音绕梁,回味无穷。其次,原诗并没有押韵,但译文 2 除了音韵方面与原诗靠近之外,从形式上来说对仗整齐,与原诗更加接近,不仅达到了音美的要求,形式上也紧贴原文。

全诗最后两句咏叹更像是诗歌的主旋律激荡着读者的心弦。也是诗人再一次点题,刻画蜀道之难的特点,见表 4。

通过对比,从形式上来说,两个版本的译文在形式上都与原文相符,整体形式整齐对应;但从"音美"方面进行比较,译文 2 更具有音韵美。首先"sky"和"sign"两个词押头韵,都以字母"s"开头,

其次两个词又押尾韵,另外第二句的最后第三个词"long long sign"与原诗的"长咨嗟"相得益彰,除了读起来具有诗意,意义上也更贴近原文。

Table 3. Comparison of two versions from the "sound" 表 3. 两种译文在"音美"层面的对比

原文 Source Text	地崩山摧壮士死,然后天梯石栈相钩连。
译文 1 Target Text (Version 1)	The earth yawned, the mountain crumbled, the five giants died, And then heavenward steps and rock-hewn flights of stairs are thus conjointed.
译文 2 Target Text (Version 2)	After the mountain crumbled and road-builders died , A rocky path was hacked along the mountain side .

Table 4. Comparison of two versions from the "sound" 表 4. 两种译文在"音美"层面的对比

原文 Source Text	蜀道之难,难于上青天,侧身西望长咨嗟。
译文 1 Target Text (Version 1)	The way to Shu is more difficult than ascending the blue; One turning to look west ward could but heave long sighs.
译文 2 Target Text (Version 2)	The road to Shu is harder than to climb the sky , I'd turn and westward look with long, long sigh .

4.3. "意美"层面的对比分析

意美,也就是意境层面的对等,被认为是诗歌翻译的最高境界。对于诗歌的"意美",许渊冲认为如果在翻译过程中没有实现意美,就称不上为上乘的译文。

在表达意境层面,作者通过在原诗中使用具有丰富文化内涵的词语,来反映一些历史故事,以及文化内涵。如原诗中的"秦塞"、"太白"、"青泥"、"锦城"。

通过对比来看,译文 1 大多采用音译或者音译加类别的翻译策略,而译文 2 大多采用名称泛化或者省略、合并的翻译方法,见表 5。

Table 5. Translation of cultural-loaded words

 表 5. 具有文化内涵的词语的翻译

原文 Source Text	秦塞	太白	青泥	剑阁	锦城
译文 1 Target Text (Version 1)	Qin terrain	Noble White Alp	Blue Sod Alps	The Sword steeple	The city of official
译文 2 Target Text (Version 2)	Border	White Mountains	Green Mud Ridge	Rugged is the path	The Town of Silk

第一、"秦塞"指的是秦的关塞,指秦地。秦地四周有山川险阻,故称"四塞之地"。译文 1 采用了音译加意译的方法,既紧贴原诗形式,又传达了文化内涵。译文 2 直译为 border,虽然翻译简明流畅,但失去了原文的文化内涵。第二、"太白"指的是太白山,又名太乙山,在长安西(今陕西眉县、太白县一带),两个译本很相似,作者个人认为这种地名的翻译可以采用音译的方法,可以尝试 Taibai Mountain

的译法。第三、"青泥"指的是青泥岭,在今甘肃徽县南,陕西略阳县北。《元和郡县志》卷二十二: "青泥岭,在县西北五十三里,接溪山东,即今通路也。悬崖万仞,山多云雨,行者屡逢泥淖,故号青泥岭[6]。"两个译本基本相近,译文 1 采用的颜色词是 blue,而译文 2 采用的是 green。原文是"青",作者觉得译文 1 给人的意境更好一些,因为 blue 一词在英文中有"忧郁"、"悲观"、"冷清"之意,更符合原文所描述的意境。第四、原诗中的"剑阁"是指四川剑阁县北七里大、小剑山间的一座雄关,即剑门关。所以如果要在意境方面贴近原文,本文认为译文 1 更妥帖一些,也就是将其翻译成一个专业地名。第五、"锦城"的译法,古代成都以产棉闻名,朝廷曾经设官于此,专收棉织品,故称锦城或锦官城。从两个版本的译文来看,译文 2 更能反映原诗的文化与内涵。

除了上述富有文化内涵的词语之外,此诗中还有一些文化负载词,诗人通过这些词背后的神话故事,以及夸张的手法展现了蜀道之难。比如"蚕丛","鱼凫","扪参历井","子规"等感情色彩浓厚的自然景观和现象,渲染全诗空寂苍凉之感,详见下列表 6~9。

Table 6. Two versions of "Can-cong" and "Yu-fu" 表 6. "蚕丛" 和"鱼凫"的两种译法

原文 Source Text	蚕丛及鱼凫,开国何茫然!
译文 1 Target Text (Version 1)	Can-cong and Yu-fu, it is mysteriously unknown how They began to found their remotely ancient state.
译文 2 Target Text (Version 2)	Since the two pioneers Put the kingdom in order,

蚕丛和鱼凫是传说中古蜀国两位国王的名字;但难以考证。译文 1 是采用了音译直译的方法,译文 2 把两个词组合在一起翻译成了 two pioneers,两个译本都读的通。但如果从传达原文的意境来说,可以把两个译本进行结合,也就是先音译,采用拼音的方式,然后再进行备注说明,进一步解释说明蚕丛和 鱼凫代表的含义。

Table 7. Two versions of "Shen" and "Jing" 表 7. "参"和"井"的两种译法

原文 Source Text	扪参历井仰胁息,以手抚膺坐长叹。
译文 1 Target Text (Version 1)	They pierce into the sky; on them you could touch the brilliant stars While holding your breath and pressing a palm against your breast for heaving sighs.
译文 2 Target Text (Version 2)	Looking up breathless, I can touch the stars nearby; Beating my breast, I sink aground with long, long sigh.

扪参历井:参、井在古代指的是天上的二星宿名(古代共有二十八星宿,天文学家用来观测日、月运行)。古人把天上的星宿分别对应地上的州国,叫做"分野",通过观测天象来占卜地上所属州国的吉凶。 扪,用手摸。历,经过。两个译本比较相近,把参合井都翻译成了星星,作者认为可以在后面进行注释,这样更有利于读者了解背后的含义。

原诗中的"子规"指杜鹃鸟。据《华阳国志蜀志》,古有蜀王杜宇,号望帝,后禅位出奔,其时子规鸟鸣,蜀人因思念杜宇,故觉此鸟鸣悲切。两个版本的译文都采用的是直译,其实并没有译出词语代表的文化内涵意义。可以采用注释的方式,详细地说明该词代表的深意。

Table 8. Two versions of "Zi Gui" 表 8. "子规"的两种译法

原文 Source Text	又闻子规啼夜月,愁空山。
译文 1 Target Text (Version 1)	You would hear the cuckoos wailing at the moon, gasping out their griefs on bare mountain crests;
译文 2 Target Text (Version 2)	And hear home-going cuckoos weep Beneath the moon in mountains deep?

Table 9. Comparison of two versions from the "meaning" 表 9. 两种译文在"意美"层面的对比

原文 Source Text	地崩山摧壮士死,然后天梯石栈相钩连。
译文 1 Target Text (Version 1)	The earth yawned, the mountain crumbled, the five giants died, And then heavenward steps and rock-hewn flights of stairs are thus conjointed.
译文 2 Target Text (Version 2)	After the mountain crumbled and road-builders died , A rocky path was hacked along the mountain side .

"地崩山摧壮士死"本是一个神话故事。《华阳国志·蜀志》:相传秦惠王想征服蜀国,知道蜀王好色,便答应送给他五个美女。蜀王派五位壮士去接人。回到梓潼(今四川剑阁之南)的时候,看见一条大蛇进入穴中,一位壮士抓住了它的尾巴,其余四人也来相助,用力往外拽。不多时,山崩地裂,壮士和美女都被压死。山分为五岭,入蜀之路遂通。这便是有名的"五丁开山"的故事[7]。译文1采用了直译,符合神话故事中的描述;译文2翻译为开路者,实际是一种意译,但是也符合故事的结局,最后开了入蜀之路。

5. 小结

本文首先从"意美"、"音美"、"形美"三个方面介绍了许渊冲先生提出的"三美论",其次分析对比了两个不同版本的译文。再次从形美、音美、意美三方面对李白《蜀道难》的两种不同译文进行了详细的对比分析,发现只有达到三个层面的对等,并且传递原诗的意美、形美、音美,才能最大限度地达到原诗传达的意境。文学翻译者可以应用许渊冲的"三美论"原则来指导自己的翻译实践,使译文达到更高的水平。

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