

谈小说《浮躁》英译本的一些错误

胡明亮

本文以贾平凹小说《浮躁》的英译本为例，试图探讨一下汉译英常见的三类错误及其原因。第一类错误来源于对词语的误解，第二类错误来源于对语篇中指代成分所指的误解，第三类错误来源于对句子或者语篇结构的误解。文章认为，对于汉译英来说，第一类由词语的误解造成的错误最多，第二类由指代成分所指的误解造成的错误少一些，第三类由结构的误解造成的错误最少。在分析这些错误的时候，也试图指出错译可能对英译本读者产生的影响。①

一、对词语意义的误解

1.1 有些错误是比较明显的，比如例（1）的“嘴”，例（2）的“还嘟哝了一句”，以及例（3）的“双手”。

（1）小水就笑骂英英太“造孽”，拉着上船，伸手拧她那张薄薄的嘴，……（21页）

With a laugh, Water Girl scolded Yingying for being so "sinful," then took her on board and pinched her playfully on the arm. (23页)

（2）妇人将三根人参取出交给蔡大安，还嘟哝了一句，……（36页）

She brought the three roots of ginseng and handed them over without a murmur. (39页)

（3）那双手……在船板上将六枚铜钱一溜儿撒开；……（4页）

Han Wenju's hand shook as he tossed six copper coins onto the wooden planks, where they clanked around. (5页)

例（1）把“嘴”改为“胳膊”，是不是为了避免文化上的隔膜？小水拧英英的嘴，是因为英英说了玩笑话（见例29）。改为“胳膊”，读者也许就没有这样的认识了。例（2）是不小心翻译错了。例（3），应该是两只手握住铜钱，摇一摇，再撒在船板上。一只手不知是怎么摇、怎么撒的？

1.2 母语不是汉语的人，难免会误解一些词语的意思。

（4）田中正回到旧屋，乡信用社信贷员蔡大安已坐在中堂八仙桌旁。（35页）

When Tian entered his house, Cai Da'an, the credit manager of the co-op, was sitting beside the octagonal table in the living room. (38页)

（5）州河上的阴阳师戴着一副石头镜揣着一个罗盘，……（4页）

The Zhou River fortune-teller, stone glass and compass in hand, ... (4页)

（6）韩文举卜了“六十四卦金钱课”，又请教了不静岗的和尚，认定腊月二十三日结婚。（23页）

After the *Book of Sixty-Four Diagrams* and the abbot from Restless Hill were consulted, the wedding was set for the twenty-third day of the intercalary month. (25页)

（7）以致是野枣刺也长得粗若一握了。（4页）

...wild dates, whose needles are as thick as a man's hand. (4页)

例（4），“八仙桌”是四边形，不是八角形。例（5），“石

头镜”是天然水晶镜片做的眼镜，是“戴”着的，不是拿在手里的。英文读者看了 *stone glass and compass in hand*，不知懂不懂？例（6），“腊月”是阴历十二月，不知为何翻译成 *the intercalary month*，那是指“闰月”。例（7），“粗若一握”，是手握住的（比如锄把）那么粗，而不是像手那么粗。例（4）到例（7）的误解和误译，都不是大错，但会给英文本读者一种不同于作家原意的印象：中国人坐在“八角形”的桌子旁，手里拿着“石头镜”，小水在“另外加的月份”结婚，枣刺可以长得跟“人手”一样粗。

1.3 当然，词语通常有多种可能的意思，但在特定的上下文里，意思应该还是比较明确的。

（8）两岔镇方圆的人守着州河万斛的水，多少年里田地里总是旱。（5页）

The people in the area around Crossroads Township conserved every drop of water in the Zhou River, yet for years there hadn't been enough for the fields.（5页）

（9）自后，被爹一双眼睛盯死，……（9页）

Golden Dog, back home, could feel his father's eyes boring into him,（10页）

（10）恰当时岩上正过一支队伍。队伍是武斗的，从两岔镇来，皆拿有铁棍榔头，凶神恶煞地吓人。（11页）

...just as a platoon of soldiers came into view. They were fighting men on their way back from Crossroads Township, armed with iron clubs and hammers, all mean and scary-looking.（12页）

（11）金狗摇头，一篙点在岸上的石头，船嗦嗦地顺一条铁丝溜到河心。（14页）

Golden Dog just shook his head. A pole had been erected on a boulder on the riverbank, and the boat slipped noisily out in to the middle of the river on the cable fastened to it.（16页）

（12）画是拙劣的，但态度十分庄重，每每画到困处，痴眼看一看大梁下心平气和端庄威严的佛爷，心里就祈祷：佛爷大慈大悲，我为你添色着彩，你也该保佑金狗成家立业才是！（16页）

The quality of the painting was inferior, but an aura of solemnity surrounded his work. Every time he was overcome by the difficulty of his job, he gazed down at the Buddha, so serene, so dignified and majestic, and mumbled a prayer: Merciful Buddha, I'm painting this for you, so please look after Golden Dog, help him get married and start a career.（17页）

（13）金狗没在，小水请了矮子画匠在两只核桃木陪箱上漆画“连理枝”，“鸳鸯鸟”，又画了“看山狗”，……（23页）

Golden Dog was away, Water Girl asked his father to paint the phrases *Tree of Love* and *Mandarin Ducks* on walnut chests, as well as pictures of mountain watchdogs.（25页）

例（8），“守着”就是“在跟前”，不是“保留”或者“节约”的意思。例（9），“盯死”是“看守得很紧”，如果翻译成 *eyes boring into him*，则是“狠狠地盯着他看”。例（10），“队伍”不一定就是 *soldiers*（士兵）。例（11），“一篙点在……”应该理解为“用篙在……点了一下”，既是动量短语，又表示用具是“篙”。翻译成 *a pole had been erected*，就让读者不知所云了。例（12），“困处”读 *kun4-chu4*，应该是“感到困倦的时候”。是说金狗的爹（瘸子画匠）为庙上彩，画到累的时候，就稍微歇口气，看看佛像，为金狗祈祷。例（13），

漆画”是画，不是写字。

1.4 有时，单就词语本身，甚至在同一上下文里，都会有不同的理解。但是如果考虑故事的文化背景，词语的意思就很清楚了。而翻译的错误，正是因为没有某些文化知识。

(14) 回家偷了爹买回的贴窗纸，糊了一顶大烟灯，拿在田家巩家门口放。烟灯升天，果然明亮，就大呼小叫与人家孩子比灯大灯高。(10页)

He went home and, without telling his father, took some brand-new window paper and made an enormous lantern, which he put in front of the Tian and Gong houses. It glowed brightly when he lit it, and he was in noisy high spirits as he compared the size and brilliance of his lantern with what the other youngsters had put up.

(11页)

(15) 后来文攻武卫，互相残杀，乱得象闹土匪。砸屋脊上的五禽六兽，批各阶层的牛鬼蛇神。(10页)

Before long, murderous fighting erupted among the groups. It was like a bandit invasion. Birds and animals were slaughtered; "ox demons and snake spirits" of all classes were attacked. (11页)

(16) 金狗低头看着那一双脚，脚蹠很高，玲珑如是小兽蹄儿，不卒看的却是那一双白布面圆口鞋。(18页)

Golden Dog gazed at the arches of her feet, like the nimble paws of a tiny animal. He didn't much like the curved openings of her white slippers. (19页)

例(14)“放”不是 to put, 是 to release。从“烟灯升天”看，烟灯点燃后靠热气上升。例(15)，不是真的“屠杀动物”，是破坏屋脊上的具有“封建迷信色彩”的动物形装饰物。例

(16) 金狗讨厌的是小水为亡夫穿的白孝鞋，不是白鞋的圆口(the curved openings of her white slippers)。

1.5 对有关社会结构的了解也很重要。《浮躁》一书中的行政结构是：商州地区(或者市)，下边是州城和白石寨县等县级行政区，再下边是两岔镇公社(或者乡)，最下边是仙游川村。但是，因为英文译本没有把这些交代清楚，所以读者看了《浮躁》英译本，很难弄明白小说中的社会结构。下面各例的错误涉及到“商州”、“州城”、“白石寨”、“县委”、“县纪委”、“两岔镇”、“仙游川”等行政单位。

(17) 两岔镇的穷在商州出了名，……(6页)

The poverty of Crossroads Township was well known, even in Zhou City. (6页)

(18) 这支游击队作战勇敢，以两岔镇为据点，沿州河向白石寨向州城进攻，……(7页)

Choosing Crossroads Township as their headquarters and fighting bravely, they staged a series of raids along the Zhou River from White Rock Stockade all the way to Zhou City, ... (7页)

(19) 解放后，田老七任了白石寨兵役局长，巩宝山任了白石寨县委书记，……(7页)

When Liberation came, Tian the Seventh became director of the White Rock Stockade military office, and Gong Baoshan the White Rock Stockade party secretary. (7页)

(20) 韩文举也是喝多了，说出田中正与嫂嫂通奸丑事，这雷大空第二天就去了乡政府，告状到乡党委书记。书记、社长与田中正皆有隙，只是苦于没有把柄起事，收到大空状子，批了许多过分言辞，呈送给县纪委，且又在两岔镇上放出风声，一时议论汤沸，差不多的人都知道田家内部的丑闻。(33页)

Han, by then drunk, told others about Tian's adultery, and the next day Lei Dakong went to the township government office, where he filed a complaint with the party secretary, who, along with the commune director, held a grudge against Tian and had long endured the lack of evidence against him. They embellished upon Lei Dakong's complaint as best they could and sent it up to the county committee, at the same time spreading the word throughout Crossroads Township. The talk was about nothing else, and before long it was the rare villager who didn't know all about Tian Zhongzheng's sordid behavior.

(35页)

(21) 乡政府生产干事田一申也便搞来二十袋水泥，…… (34页)

Tian Yisheng, a production manager for the county government, managed to appropriate twenty sacks of cement... (37页)

(22) 只来过仙游川田家探视过一次病，就凡乡政府一应大小之事，两人一商量也便决定了。(39页)

They paid a single visit to Stream of Wandering Spirits to check on his health, then assumed management of all the affairs of government for the village. (42页)

例(17)和例(18)，翻译者没有弄清楚两岔镇和商州的关系，不知道前者隶属于后者。也不知道“商州”和“州城”的关系，都翻译成 Zhou City。例(19)，没有翻译“县委”，也没有说县委书记在县兵役局长之上。例(20)，“县纪委”

(County party discipline committee) 翻译成“县委”(county committee)，两者是不同的。汉语原文的第35页，田中正抱怨说，“材料不呈送县委要送纪委”，绕过了他的亲戚县委书记田有善。与其相对应的英译本39页是：“Instead of reporting to the county committee, they went straight to the party discipline committee!” 可见，翻译者知道两者不同。但从 straight to 可看出，译者不清楚“县委”大还是“县纪委”大。例(21)，“乡”和“县”不分。例(22)，把“乡”错译为“村”。

1.6 碰到小说中的方言土语，就是中国人也摸不准，别说母语不是汉语的外国汉学家了。下面的这些例子，说明方言土语给翻译者造成的困难。

(23) 镇街在河的北岸，长虫的尻子，没深没浅地，长，且七折八折全乱了规矩。屋舍皆高瘦，却讲究黑漆门面，吊两柄铁打的门环，二道接檐，滚槽瓦当，脊顶耸起白灰勾勒而两角斜斜飞翔，俨然是翼于水上的形势。(3页)

The town's main street, located on the northern bank, meanders along like the ass of a snake--no bumps, no hollows--from one end of town to the other and is bordered on both sides by black gates adorned with two large rings. The tall, narrow houses behind them are connected by eaves topped by roof tiles whose tips swoop up into the air like wings soaring above the water. (3页)

(24) 金狗看着妇人的神色，觉得一种恶心，但随之就很痛快了，他不知怎么就做了一个“指炮”儿，响着很脆的声，连那妇人也莫名其妙。(40页)

Golden Dog looked at her with disgust, but he was in no mood to be upset for long. Without knowing why, he pointed his finger like a pistol and made a loud popping noise that confused the woman. (43页)

(25) 县委下午文件下来，原先的书记被调回县城了，听说是照顾他，让他到县剧团当团长！‘要着气，领一台戏’，这是照顾他了！田中正就任命代理书记，你知道现

在代理是什么含义吗？（41页）

A directive came down from the county committee this afternoon. The township secretary has been transferred to the county seat. It's supposed to be a good move for him, since he's been made director of the county drama troupe! Like they say, 'If you want to let off steam, put on a play!' Yes, a good move for him. Tian Zhongzheng has been appointed acting party secretary. You know what the word acting implies these days, don't you? (44页)

成语“没头没脑”，是没有头脑。另一个成语“没轻没重”，意思是说话不管轻重随便说。那么，例（23）的“没深没浅”应该如何解释呢？第一种解释是“没头没脑”式，就是英语译者理解的“没有深的和浅的地方”，也就是不深也不浅。但我认为应该是第二种解释，就是镇街“不论深浅”地蜿蜒。“二道接檐”不是房子被屋檐连接起来，而是指该房子的建筑特征，即延长的屋檐。例（24），“指炮儿”就是用手指打的“榧子”，英语应该是 to snap one's fingers。如果把“做了一个‘指炮’儿”译成 pointed his finger like a pistol，给英文读者的完全是一个错误的意象。例（25），公社书记告公社副主任田中正的状，反而被免职调走。例（25）就是田中正的亲信蔡大安对村里人讲的。“要着气，领一班戏”，是说领导剧团是一件麻烦事。可是，英语 to let off steam，意为“发火”，“泄愤”，甚至有“松弛紧张情绪”的意思。显然不合乎作者受气、挨骂的原意。②

1.7 有些翻译，在上下文里也是可以的。但是，如果仔细追究，会发现那种译法会改变的作家的原意。

（26）“福运，你想吃不想吃葬饭？抬大头！”“福运，憋足劲，上哟！”（45页）

"Fuyun, how'd you like to join the funeral banquet? Come here and hold up the front end! Fuyun, don't waste that strength of yours. Come up here!" (48页)

（27）小水也可怜他，想一场婚事既然她已公认为孙家人，也便灰沓沓去孙家伺候了半月，喂汤灌药，接屎接尿，只说病好了还好赖做他的媳妇，没想男人命短，竟翻翻白眼死去了。（27页）

Water Girl felt sorry for him, and since her marriage into his family was an accomplished fact, she returned to the Sun home, where she cared for him for a couple of weeks, feeding him broth, giving him his medication, helping him urinate and defecate, and telling him what a good wife she'd be after he was well. But it wasn't to be, for one day his eyes rolled up in his head and he was gone. (29-30页)

（28）金狗的船便在州河上下行运，吸引了更多年轻人，河面已是一派热闹了。（43页）

Golden Dog's boat plied the river, attracting the attention of the younger men, and before long the river was again bustling. (46页)

（29）抢去了也好，我是张口货，他得管我一天三顿好吃的，吃了人参想燕窝，还要吃他娘的心，看他肯不肯！（21页）

That's what I need, since I have an appetite that demands three square meals a day, one that craves bird's-nest soup while it's feasting on ginseng. And while I'm at it, maybe I'll take a bite out of his damned heart. (23页)

例（26）是别人让福运帮忙抬棺材的话。“憋足劲”是“准备好用最大的劲”，不是“别浪费力气”（not to waste one's

strength)。“上叻!”是别人在为福运等抬棺材的人喊号子,让大家一起抬。如果说 come up here, 读者以为是让福运过去。例(27),“只说”是“原来以为”、“希望”等,不是“告诉他”。“好赖”是“不管怎么样”。翻译成 what a good wife she'd be after he was well, 意思成了“他的病好了以后,她(小水)会当个好妻子”。可是小水正在伺候他,就是他的好妻子。为什么等好了以后才是“好妻子”呢?例(28),“吸引了”不仅表示吸引了注意力,而且也表示使更多年轻人参加了河上运输。例(29),说话的人并不是在骂人,就是“吃他母亲的心”的意思。译成 his mother's heart 会好得多。

二、对话篇中指代成分所指的误解

3.1 汉语语篇中,小句省略主语或者宾语等名词短语的情况比英语多。省略的部分,本文称为空位成分。汉译英时,常常需要翻译者找到省略部分的所指,在英译文中补出省略的部分。所以,有些错误,是对空位成分所指的误解造成的。

(30) 一个猫子没下水去。水底里摸到那个麻袋,踹踹,肉肉的,软,不知装的是人是兽。(12页)

He dived into the water and swam straight to the bottom, where he touched the bag. Whatever was inside was kicking and felt soft and fleshy. Was it an animal or a person? (13页)

(31) 小水就又在公社灶上干下去,只是待田中正不亲不疏,背地里碰着书记和社长议论田中正不是时,也附和几句,漫不经心的,不火不温,字字却揭在痛处。

(32页)

She went back to the commune and worked as always, except that now she treated Tian indifferently, keeping a proper distance. When the party secretary or the commune director complained about him, her part was to remain aloof and composed though every word pained her.

(34页)

(32) 在麻子铁匠铺喝酒,少不得被酒鬼麻子灌醉。同伙醉了,小水留一留说说便罢,金狗醉了却死留。金狗夜里就不回船上。(46页)

No one who drank in Pockface's blacksmith shop ever left sober. After the young men were drunk, Water Girl would politely offer to let them stay over, but they always left. Golden Dog, on the other hand, refused to leave no matter how drunk he was, and didn't return to his boat.

(50页)

例(30),不是麻袋里的人蹬脚,是金狗用脚踢一踢,试探一下那个麻袋。例(31),翻译者对“也附和几句”的空位主语的所指有误解。省略的主语是小水,句子的意思是小水也会跟书记和社长说田中正的坏话。后面的“揭在痛处”,是小水的话刺在田中正的痛处,不是别人说的话让小水难受。例(32),谁“死留”呢?不是金狗“死留”下来,是小水“死留”金狗。可见,这样的主语省略句最容易译错。

3.2 除了空位成分以外,带有“这”、“那”的短语,以及“人家”等,也是指代成分。先看带“这”和“那”的短语。

(33) 沿山的那面街房,后墙就蹬在石坎上,.....

(3页)

The rear walls of the houses touch the rocky slopes and (3页)

(34) [镇街在河的北岸.....。屋舍皆高瘦.....。沿山的那面街房.....。]背河的这面街房,却故意不连贯,三家五家了隔有一巷,黑幽幽的,将一阶石级直垂河边,日里月里水的波光闪现其上,恍惚间如是铁的链环。(3页)

The houses on the northern bank of the river

are separated according to a design that has lanes running between every three or four of them and steps leading down to the riverbank, giving the vague impression of metal chains when the flagstones reflect the light from the sun or the moon. (3 页)

- (3 5) [讲起这段历史, 州河岸上的人就最早论起仙游川的风水, 那时自然还未产生阴阳师的“出天子”的“圣地”之说, 但仍考证说此村背靠巫岭, ……。村前沟口的两个石崖属巫岭伸展过来的余脉, ……。面临州, ……。] 且河对岸两岔镇依山而筑, 势如屏风, 不漏不泄, 大涵真元, 活该干部在这村子聚了窝了! 但是, 仙游川有十个姓氏, 同是一村风水, 偏偏只荫福了田家、巩家? (7 页)

No wonder the corps of cadres settled in Crossroads Township, which had arisen across the river to serve as a huge screen to protect the village and infuse it with the proper spirit. But since the people of Stream of Wandering Spirits are divided among ten surnames, all sharing in the auspiciousness of the location, why did only the Tian and Gong clans prosper? (8 页)

- (3 6) 州志上记载: 州河源于秦岭南坡羊家沟, 一棵枯树下冒了一个泉眼, 指头般粗细。但正因为流动是河的出路和前途, 这股水并没有干涸, 一路汇聚而下, 竟经过陕、豫、鄂三省, 于湖北均县入汉江时已浩浩淼淼, 不可一世。(15 页)

The Zhou Prefecture almanac records that the source of the Zhou River is in Yang Family Channel, on the southern slope of the Qin Range, where there's a spring the size of a finger beneath a desiccated tree. Flowing into a riverbed that stretches far, the well has not dried up. Its output travels downward and picks up water along the way, through Shaanxi, Henan, and Hubei. At Hubei's Jun County it merges with the Han River to become a proud and mighty river. (16 页)

例(3 3), 读了上文, 就知道作者是在描述镇街。一边是靠山的房子, 一边是靠河的房子。前边讲了街两边房屋的特征, 这部分开始说“沿山的那面街房”的后墙, 不是说街两边所有房屋的后墙。英译文的 the houses, 却让人以为是所有的房子。例

(3 4), 看了整个段落, 才知道, 作者是在描述镇街的布局。大街在河的北岸, 讲了大街靠山一边的房屋, 接下来讲镇街靠河一边的房屋, 这些房屋的门是朝大街开的, 所以说是“背河的这面街房”。但是英文翻译者没有看出来, 就顺手翻译成“河北岸的房屋”, 把“河北岸”镇街两边的房屋都包括了。例(3 5), 整个段落是说仙游川的。但是因为“且河对岸两岔镇”一句的干扰, 翻译者把句中的“这村子”翻译成了“两岔镇”。另外, “干部在这村子聚了窝了”是说这个村子产生了很多干部。例

(3 6), 首先, “这股水没有干涸”是说河水没有干涸, 不是说“泉眼”(the well) 没有干涸。另外, 州河入汉江时已经很浩大了。不是说入了汉江才变得浩大。

我们再看对“人家”等名词短语所指的误解。

- (3 7) 实在无东西可送, 就赶去帮忙, 脸上笑笑的对人家说一番恭维。(3 4 页)

Those who had nothing to give rolled up their sleeves and went to work, smiling and flattering everyone they saw. (3 7 页)

- (3 8) 妇人就说了: “坐什么江山? 田家闹革命的时候, 人家还在山上作山大王, 咱的人脑袋挂在州城门上, 现在人家倒坐了州府大堂!” (4 0 页)

"In charge of what?" she fired back. "When the Tians

making revolution, we were up in the mountains holding sway, even though some of our heads hung on the city wall. But now somebody else occupies the statehouse!" (43页)

- (39) 下葬那天, 村人都站着看, 孝子婆娘穿了拖地的麻衣, 头上缠了孝巾, 一直遮过面颊, 哭得长一声短一声的(心西)惶。就在这婆娘揭了孝巾稍向旁边一瞥, 瞥见了远处目瞪口呆的金狗, 哭声一驻, 立即又撕肠裂肚地嚎啕, 低声却催抬棺人急步去了墓地。(13页)

On the day of the funeral, the villagers looked on as the grieving womenfolk walked by, wailing bitterly, in full-length mourning clothes, their heads and faces covered by hempen hoods. When they moved to the side of the road and parted their hoods slightly, they saw Golden Dog standing off in the distance, his eyes staring blankly, his jaw hanging slack. After a momentary pause in the wailing, they really let loose, and under their breath they whispered to the pallbearers to hurry the coffin to the graveyard.

(14页)

- (40) 你日后要扯什么紧俏布, 你来找我, 别人不行, 你来还不走个后门吗?(21页)

The next time you need some yardage, a nice piece of fabric, come see me. Don't go to anyone else. I'll be your back-door supplier. (23页)

例(37), 这里的“人家”是指请大家帮助盖新房子的田中正家, 不是所有的人。例(38), 妇人是田中正的寡嫂, 是田家的人。两个“人家”都是指现在掌握市政府权利的巩家。巩家前辈曾经占山为王, 所以, 英译用 we (我们) 是不对的。后边的 our heads 是田家闹革命人头落地, 译对了。最后一句的 somebody else 也对, 是说别人特别是巩家的。例(39), 显然, 译者误解了“孝子婆娘”的所指了。其实是假死者田中正的妻子, 应该用“她”, 而不是“她们”。例(40), “紧俏布”是大家都想买但是很难买到的布。“别人不行”, 是“别人来找我”不行, 不是“找别人不行”。意思是, 当了县供销社售货员的英英“不帮助别人”。下句“你来”正好证明英英是在说找她帮忙的人。

三、对结构的误解

2.1 先看对小句结构的误解。这类错误较少。

- (41) 妇人说: “.....那是农械厂长顺送我治关节炎的呀!” (36页)

"The manager of the agricultural instruments plant gave them to me for my arthritis," Yingying's mother objected. (39页)

- (42) 她站起来, 还笑了笑, 说: “伯伯, 看你想到什么地方去了! 咱这不是很好吗, 什么日子还不是人过?” (23页)

Getting to her feet, she smiled and said, "Uncle, you look like you have the itch to travel. What's wrong with what we have here? We have to play the cards we're dealt...."

(24页)

- (43) 金狗却越发死硬, 就是不去田家, 就在又一个早晨, 偏从田家门前经过, 咿咿呀呀唱着往州河行船去了。(43页)

But Golden Dog, who was more inflexible than ever, refused to go. In fact, early the next morning, he walked smartly past the Tians' house, loudly singing about how he was on his way to the Zhou River to set out in his boat. (46页)

例(41) 属于结构的误解。是“农械厂的长顺”给了她三根人

参。不是“农械厂长”。例（4 2），这个“想到什么地方去”，不是“想去什么地方”，是“有什么想法”的意思。小说前边（2 2 页）提到“韩文举因为不能给侄女小水找个工作而感到歉疚。例（4 3），对“唱着往州河划船去了”的结构理解得不对。“唱着往州河行船”，一边唱，一边去州河边划船，不是“唱有关行船的歌”。

2.2 误解了语篇中各小句或者句子之间的关系，也会造成翻译错误。

（4 4）金狗五年前走时，河里只有梭子船，老鸭船，鸭梢船，小鳊子，数年里上游植树造林，又修了无数大小水库，流量顿减，荆紫关的鸭梢船行到白石寨就再不上驶了。（1 5 页）

When Golden Dog had left the area five years earlier, only shuttle boats, gander skiffs, ducktail skiffs, and loach skiffs plied the river; the banks of the upper reaches were well forested and accommodated several reservoirs. But as the quantity of water decreased, the ducktail skiffs from Purple Thistle Pass sailing up to White Rock Stockade began to go no farther. (1 6 - 1 7 页)

（4 5）如今巩宝山已作了州的专员，仙游川的巩家族人大大小小都出去工作，田家只有一人在白石寨任书记。田中正是田老七、田老六的外甥，可惜舅舅都没有婚娶，田中正作了个两岔镇公社社长，多少年里还一直是个副的。（2 8 页）

Decades passed, but nothing changed, and Gong Baoshan was now in charge of Zhou City. Every member of his clan, young or old, had a position, but all the Tian clan could boast was the post of party secretary of White Rock Stockade. Tian Zhongzheng was the nephew of Tian the Sixth and Tian the Seventh, but since his uncle had never married, he had served for all these years as assistant director of the Crossroads Township commune--always a bridegroom, never a bride. (3 0 - 3 1 页)

（4 6）田家也是船工出身哩，鸭子船也撑坏了十几只，枪林弹雨的……（4 0 页）

The Tian clan started out as boatmen, and we lost a dozen gander skiffs in a hail of gunfire..." (4 3 页)

（4 7）英英就说：“你以为我家什么都好吗？我爹死得早，我和我娘全凭叔叔和小娘照顾，可祸不单行，我小娘就瘫了，她也是没福的人，叔叔“文革”中受批斗，她身子好好的，担惊受怕，叔叔恢复工作了，她却一场中风，至今半死不活地躺着。我和叔叔一走，家里就剩下我娘，既要料理地里，也要照看小娘，日子也是乱糟糟的，我要是象你，该多邋遢就多邋遢了？！”（2 9 页）

"You probably think I come from a privileged background, don't you?" Yingying said. "Well, my father died young, and Mother and I had to rely on the kindness of my aunt and uncle. But the bad times just kept coming, because my aunt had a paralytic stroke. Just another unfortunate woman. During the Cultural Revolution, when Uncle was attacked, she was in perfect health and could take everything that came. Then when Uncle's position was restored, she had a stroke, and now she spends her time lying on her back, half-dead. When Uncle and I weren't home, it was up to Mother to take care of things and look after Auntie as well. What horrible days! If I were you, I'd grab everything coming to me!" (3 1 - 3 2 页)

（4 8）却偏偏当了五年兵，回来了只在州河里撑梭子船！撑

船也竟被人眼红?! (40页)

...he'd spent five years in the army, only to return to ply a boat on the Zhou River. And then, on top of it all, he had to contend with the envy of others! (43页)

例(44), “数年里.....修了无数大小水库”跟“水量顿减”

被分为两个句子, 两者的因果关系没有明确表达出来。例

(45), 除了“商州”、“白石寨县”和“两岔镇公社”的关系不清楚以外, 有些句子之间的逻辑关系也不清楚。“可惜舅舅

都没有婚娶”跟“田中正作了个两岔镇公社社长”, 不是因果关系。

“可惜”是接前边对田家仕途的描写的, 意思是如果两个舅舅

有孩子, 田家的势力会大一些。后边说田中正一直是乡政府的

副职, 也是进一步说明田家的势力弱一些。例(46), “撑

坏”是“用坏”, “鸭子船也撑坏了十几只”不一定就是下句

“枪林弹雨”造成的。“枪林弹雨的”, 是说田家前辈曾经历过

很多危险。例(47), 这一段是英英劝小水别自暴自弃, 要大胆

追求, 要打扮自己。[注2]“我要是象你”一句, 是说英英在家庭

的复杂情况下, 如果跟小水的想法一样, 是不是也应该不打扮,

很邋遢才是? 反问句, 表示即使处境不好, 也应该照顾自己。③

例(48)的意思是, 金狗没想到, 干撑船这样的苦差事, 也会

让英英的妈嫉妒。英文成了“跟别人的妒忌斗争”。

四、结语

第一类错误, 主要是因为对词语意思的理解有误, 跟句子、

语篇的结构关系不大。而词义的理解, 又跟对有关文化和社会的

了解密切相关。第二类错误, 主要是语篇中词语的照应关系(又

叫复指关系)的误解。这两类错误, 都是由词语意义的误解造成。

可见, 汉译英的主要困难, 是在语义上, 在语境以及更大的文化

背景上。相比之下, 第三类结构方面的错误就少得多。

当然, 研究翻译会面临很多困难。首先, 学界对翻译的标准

没有定论, 忠实和灵活之间的矛盾, 很难解决。其次, 本文所引

译例, 很多属于细微末节, 并不影响大局。本文更强调对原文的

忠实, 也许可以为翻译理论界提供一些参考。

注释:

①贾平凹, 《浮躁》, 作家出版社, 1988年, 第1-3

章。英译本为 Howard Goldblatt 翻译的Turbulence

(Baton Rouge and London: Louisiana State University

Press, 1991)。例句的页数分别为中文本和英文本的页数。

②参看《皮五赖子》第13章: “你是活死人吗? 我们夫妻

着气, 你为什么不上来拉下子? 你想看笑话吗?” “你们夫妻着

气, 要动厨刀, 哪个敢拉?” 参看网址: garden.hn.cni nfo.net/

laoyang/story/pi ngshu/pi wu/13.htm。

③另外, 例(47)的“我和叔叔一走”是说现在的事, 英语

译文应该用现在时态。

(2001年9月9日)

[Back to my papers](#)

[Back to my main page?](#)