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# 厦门大学

## 硕士学位论文

### 《像我们一样的盗贼》第六章至第十章汉译及其翻译技巧评析

#### Chinese Translation of Chapter Six to Chapter Ten of *Thieves Like Us* and An Analysis of the Translation

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## Abstract

Edward Anderson was a brilliant story-teller who had painted a picture of restless life of lower class during the Great Depression. His second and last published novel *Thieves Like Us* is a classic portrait of small-time Depression era bank robbery. There are twenty-five chapters of this novel, with chapter six to chapter ten telling what happened when the three protagonists robbed banks. All that the readers want to know about them can be found in the five chapters, including their life background, the motivation of robbing the banks, and their love and feelings.

The translation of these chapters is a journey of feeling –to feel the personality of the three thieves, the life of the lower class group and also the writer’s talent in mastering the story. Interesting topics show up during the process of the language and culture transformation, for example, American slang (old-fashioned), informal talks. This thesis will analyze the language used in the chapters that exactly reflects people’s real life and culture with distinguished features during the period after the World War II.

*Thieves Like Us* is classified as pulp fiction and it’s rather new academic study for the American literature study and English to Chinese translation.

The thesis includes four chapters. Chapter one is a brief introduction of the writer, the novel and the stages of the translation. Chapter two is the source text of chapter five to chapter ten and their Chinese translation. Chapter three is an analysis of problems during translating and the strategies for the solution. Chapter three is very important because it shows the comprehension of the translator to the novel and her pain-taking decisions to achieve the goal of smooth reading for the target language readers. Chapter four is a concise conclusion of the whole thesis.

**Key words:** American slang; informal talks; language and culture transformation; literary translation





## 摘要

爱德华·安德森是少数能将美国大萧条时期底层人群的生活真实地描绘出来的作家之一。他的小说《像我们一样的盗贼》反映了那个时代处于社会底层的人群的彷徨和迷茫。这本小说真实笔法耐人寻味，这也是本文作者选择其作为翻译原文的原因。《像我们一样的盗贼》一共有二十五章，第六章到第十章展示了三个主人公抢劫银行全过程及其内心世界。在这简练的五章中，读者能找到他们想要了解的一手材料，比如，主人公的生活经历、抢劫银行的动机以及他们的矛盾的情感世界等。选定作为翻译原文的这五章反映了三位鲜活个性的人物，当然也反映了当时的时代特征。

该小说的翻译过程也是一场感受之旅——感受“盗贼”的人性、感受底层人群的世界，当然还有欣赏该小说作者——安德森在小说结构及叙事方面的才能。翻译的过程中出现了很多值得探究的有趣话题，比如，美国俚语（旧时），非正式用语等等。此次翻译实践的意义也就在于分析 20 世纪 30 年代的各色人群所使用的语言以及二战后大萧条时期的文化特征。

《像我们一样的盗贼》被归类为低俗小说，该小说的研究无论在美国文学领域还是在英汉翻译领域中均属新颖话题。

该论文分为四个主要部分。第一章简明地介绍了小说的作者、小说的背景，以及该翻译实践的准备工作的。第二章包括小说原文及译文，本论文作者挑选了小说的第六章至第十章进行了翻译。第三章是小说翻译过程中出现的问题和应对策略。这是本论文中非常重要的一章，因为这一章反映了译者对小说的诠释以及她为了让目标读者顺畅地阅读译文而在翻译技巧上所作的努力。第四章是对本论文简要的总结。

**关键词：**美国俚语 非正式用语 语言转化 文化意义转化 文学翻译



## Table of Contents

<b>Abstract(English)</b> .....	<b>I</b>
<b>Abstract(Chinese )</b> .....	<b>II</b>
<b>Chapter 1 Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1 The Uniqueness of <i>Thieves Like Us</i></b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1.1 Edward Anderson and <i>Thieves Like Us</i> .....	1
1.1.2 Film Adaption of <i>Thieves Like Us</i> .....	2
<b>1.2 Preparing to Translate</b> .....	<b>3</b>
1.2.1 Setting Principles for the Translation.....	3
1.2.2 Stages of Translation.....	3
<b>Chapter 2 <i>Thieves Like Us</i> and Its Chinese Translation</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>2.1 Source Text of <i>Thieves Like Us</i></b> .....	<b>5</b>
2.1.1 Chapter Six of <i>Thieves Like Us</i> .....	5
2.1.2 Chapter Seven of <i>Thieves Like Us</i> .....	10
2.1.3 Chapter Eight of <i>Thieves Like Us</i> .....	15
2.1.4 Chapter Nine of <i>Thieves Like Us</i> .....	23
2.1.5 Chapter Ten of <i>Thieves Like Us</i> .....	29
<b>2.2 Chinese Translation of <i>Thieves Like Us</i></b> .....	<b>36</b>
2.2.1 Chinese Translation of Chapter Six .....	36
2.2.2 Chinese Translation of Chapter Seven.....	40
2.2.3 Chinese Translation of Chapter Eight.....	44
2.2.4 Chinese Translation of Chapter Nine.....	50
2.2.5 Chinese Translation of Chapter Ten.....	55
<b>Chapter 3 Studies on the Chinese Translation of <i>Thieves Like Us</i></b> ..	<b>61</b>
<b>3.1 Language Transformation in the Process of Translating</b> .....	<b>61</b>
3.1.1 Nouns .....	61

3.1. 2 Elucidation of Verbs' Denotation .....	64
3.1. 3 Grammatical Errors.....	67
3.1.4 Idioms .....	68
3.1.5 Expression of Numbers.....	71
3.1.6 American Slang .....	71
<b>3.2 Style and Tone.....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>3.3 Paragraph Translation .....</b>	<b>76</b>
3.3.1 Sentences Arrangement.....	76
3.3.2 Reduction of Ambiguity.....	77
<b>3.4 Cultures in Translation.....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Chapter 4 Conclusion .....</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>References .....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Acknowledgements .....</b>	<b>84</b>

廈門大學博碩

# 目 录

摘要（外文） .....	I
摘要（中文） .....	II
<b>第一章 背景介绍 .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1 《像我们一样的盗贼》的独特性 .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1.1 爱德华·安德森和《像我们一样的盗贼》 .....	1
1.1.2 《像我们一样的盗贼》的电影改编.....	2
<b>1.2 译前准备 .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.2.1 设定翻译的准则.....	3
1.2.2 翻译的步骤.....	3
<b>第二章 《像我们一样的盗贼》英文原文及中文译文.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.1 《像我们一样的盗贼》英文原文 .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1.1 英文原文第六章.....	5
2.1.2 英文原文第七章.....	10
2.1.3 英文原文第八章.....	15
2.1.4 英文原文第九章.....	23
2.1.5 英文原文第十章.....	29
<b>2.2 《像我们一样的盗贼》中文译文 .....</b>	<b>36</b>
2.2.1 中文译文第六章.....	36
2.2.2 中文译文第七章.....	40
2.2.3 中文译文第八章.....	44
2.2.4 中文译文第九章.....	50
2.2.5 中文译文第十章.....	55
<b>第三章 《像我们一样的盗贼》翻译问题及应对策略.....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>3.1 翻译过程中的语言转化 .....</b>	<b>61</b>
3.1.1 名词的转化.....	61

3.1.2 动词的转化.....	64
3.1.3 语法错误.....	67
3.1.4 习语.....	68
3.1.5 数字的表达.....	71
3.1.6 美国俚语.....	71
<b>3.2 风格和语调 .....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>3.3 段落组合 .....</b>	<b>76</b>
3.3.1 语句的调整.....	76
3.3.2 模糊性语句处理.....	77
<b>3.4 文化转化 .....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>第四章 总结 .....</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>参考文献 .....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>致谢.....</b>	<b>84</b>

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## Chapter 1 Introduction

### 1.1 The Uniqueness of *Thieves Like Us*

#### 1.1.1 Edward Anderson and *Thieves Like Us*

Born in Weatherford, Texas, Edward Anderson grew up in various towns in that state and in Oklahoma. He began working for newspaper as a teenager and by the time he was 25 he had held jobs on about two dozen papers around the Southwest. For a time he settled down at his parents' house in Abilene, Texas, where neighbor and friend, John Knox, a busy pulp writer, gave him pointers on writing and peddling stories. (Lee Server, 2002: 11)

After Anderson hit the road of writing pulp fictions, he had created two books: *Hungry Men* and *Thieves Like Us*. The novel *Thieves Like Us* was a story about bank robbers, the kind of young people like Bonnie and Clyde (the most notorious crime couple in American history of the Great Depression), who had turned to crime because there seemed no other way to survive, and whose exploits made them folk heroes among the poor and dispossessed. The sort of sentiment Anderson had expressed in the novel is: "The difference between a bank president and a bank bandit is that the robbery of the banker is legal. The bandit has more guts". (*Ibid.* 12)

The story is realistic and that contributed for the firsthand details is what Anderson already knew about crime from his journalism. Furthermore, the writer himself turned to one of his cousin in Texas who was doing time for armed robbery and who generously shared the secrets of his unlawful experience. Anderson wrote a gang of bandits-Bowie, Chicamaw and T-Dub-roaming the Texas-Oklahoma byways, small-time criminals who dream of robbing enough for a small grubstake and money to pay for their burial. (*Ibid.* 12)

*Thieves Like Us* is written in the third person; but Anderson had instinctive gifts as a novelist, and the book takes us in and out of Bowie's mind without any seeming



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