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硕 士 学 位 论 文

《多元人与单元人》的汉译及翻译技巧评析

*Multis and Monos: Its Chinese Translation and an Analysis of the Skills  
Used in Its Translation*

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## 摘要

翻译是一种语言文字的实践,是用一种语言文字把另一种语言文字所表达的思想准确而完整地重新表达出来的语言实践活动,是语言艺术的再创造。英汉两种语言在结构和搭配上存在很大差异,有各自不同的特点,掌握一定的翻译技巧对译文的质量起着至关重要的作用。翻译技巧不同会使译文风格千差万别,翻译技巧是否得当直接影响译文的质量。美国著名作家雨果·德·加利丝教授被称为“人工智能之父”,他善于创造新词;长短句相间,富于文采;前后照应,结构紧凑。他的作品具有研究翻译技巧的价值。

本文旨在通过翻译雨果·德·加利丝的代表作《多元人与单元人》分析总结翻译过程中所使用的多种英译汉翻译技巧。文章中首先载录了《多元人与单元人》的英文原文。翻译的范围是原书的第 261 页至 341 页,讨论的是美国、中国和印度三个国家政治经济文化等方面的情况。继而遵循“信达雅”的翻译原则对原文进行英译汉的翻译,在此基础上根据具体译文的文体、内容、人物等特点选择合适的措辞,以增加译文的文采。最后从词汇翻译、句子翻译和语篇翻译三个角度分别讨论了英译汉的翻译技巧。一是从词汇翻译角度分别讨论了多义词、外来语、新造词、习语这四种类型词汇的翻译技巧;二是从句子翻译的角度,基于句子语序差异和英汉两种语言表达方式的差异,讨论了四种句子翻译技巧:顺译法、逆译法、分译法和综合法;三是从语篇翻译的角度,在原译文的基础上讲解了一些改译的例子。

**关键词:** 多元人与单元人; 翻译技巧; 英译汉

## Abstract

Translation is the linguistic practice, which is to make a faithful representation in one language of what is written or said in another language. In other words, it is an art of re-creation in terms of language. There are great differences between English and Chinese in structures, collocations and characteristics. Therefore, translation skills and techniques are crucial to the quality and fidelity of the translation. Different kinds of translation skills directly influence the style and quality of translation results. Hugo de Garis, a famous American writer, who is known as “Father of the Artificial Brain”, is expert at creating novel words. The beauty of his works lies in the use of rhetorical devices, charming literary grace and compact structure. His works are of great academic value to the research of translation skills.

In this thesis I have discussed the translation skills used in translating Hugo Garis’s masterpiece *Multis and Monos*. The original version of *Multis and Monos* that has been translated by me is reproduced in the first chapter. It is taken from Page 261 to Page 341 of his book, discussing the political, economical and cultural situations in the United States, China and India. Chapter Two presents my Chinese version of the chosen text. The translation is done according to the translating principles of faithfulness, expressiveness and elegance. Appropriate dictions are used to increase the literary grace of the translation in line with the literary style, contents, characters and other features of the translation. In the final chapter, the Chinese translation is analyzed from the angle of lexicology, syntax and textology. In respect of lexicology, four kinds of words (polysemy, borrowed words, newly-coined words and idioms) are focused. With regard to syntax, based on the different sequences of sentences and different ways of expressions between English and Chinese, four translation skills on sentences are introduced: sequential, reversing, splitting and recasting. With reference to textology, some examples of revised translation have been discussed.

**Key words:** *Multis and Monos*; translation skill; English-Chinese translation

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## 第一章 《多元人与单元人》英语原文

### U.S.

#### Brutal

America is brutal. There are many examples of its brutality towards others and itself. The greatest holocaust in history is not well known. I had to wander through the Native American Museum in Washington DC to be made conscious of the fact that US settlers killed off an estimated 90 million American natives (“redskins”) with their long swords, guns, and germs.

Mind you, Australia was not much better, but on a smaller scale. I remember as a child in Australia, looking at a skeleton in a museum of the last Tasmanian aborigine. The white settlers in Tasmania used to go on “abo hunts” because they didn't have enough foxes, British style, so they would “have to do” with “abos”. They managed to kill them all off, a true and completely successful “Endlosung”, Nazi style.

I suspect that due to America's premature independence, and its philosophy of allowing migrants of many nationalities to come to America, a strong sense of alienation arose in the country, a lack of caring. I felt this strongly when I was living in the US. People seemed to care about each other far less than in all the other 6 countries I have lived in. It makes sense to me why. When the guy next door (so to speak) has a different skin color, has a different religion, different beliefs, different values, speaks a different language, comes from a different country, then how on earth can you have much in common with him? You can't, so you tend to ignore him, not care about him, because he's just “too different”.

American is full of cultural differences. I think the US pays a heavy price for its degree of difference, i.e. in the form of a deep seated, even unconscious, level of cultural alienation. The Japanese call the US a “mongrel nation”. Relative to the extreme homogeneity of Japan, that view would be entirely appropriate. The two



cultures are polar opposites on that score. Japan is probably the most homogeneous culture on the planet, and the US must be one of the most heterogeneous.

This lack of caring is reinforced by what I see as a kind of “genetic filtering” of the US population. Consider what kind of person in Europe chose to migrate. Not your socially integrated, popular, kind person. Migrants were often the selfish, non groupist, ambitious, striving, gutsy, “rugged individualists”. The stronger the reputation America gained for attracting such kinds of people, the more such kinds of people were attracted. America now is a nation of such individualists, uncaring, uncouth, and callous.

Consider the result. America is now one of the few countries left in the world (at the time of writing) that does not yet have a national health service. It is the only industrialized nation in the world that does not have one. One of the basic criteria to describe a nation as civilized is that it takes care of the basic physical health of its citizens, but America doesn't even do that. There are some 45 million Americans who don't have health insurance. They die prematurely due to lack of treatment because they can't afford it. That aspect alone of the US made me disgusted. It was another of the several main reasons why I decided to no longer live in the country. In my view, it wasn't worthy enough, not civilized enough.

But there's more. America matured along with the repeater rifle. Everyone had a gun living in the “wild west”. Having a gun is part of American culture, and is deeply ingrained into the American mentality. The result? Oh, about 30,000 gun murders each year, compared to Japan's 100, because the Japanese have more sense than to give its citizens such deadly weapons. Most countries place severe constraints on gun ownership, but not in the US. As a result, criminals can still get guns easily and rob people and kill them in the streets. It's a national scandal, what the Germans call “Kultur Schande”.

Imagine how Americans will feel with a global media when they sense the huge social pressure against them by the vast majority of the world's population in relation to America's “blind spot” regarding the private ownership of guns.

What about the death penalty? In the US, the legal system of the country “murders its murderers”. It commits the same crime against the criminals who murder. Such illogicality and brutality is seen to be quite normal in the US. The few other countries in the world that still murder their murderers are not the most civilized on the planet, countries like, Iran, North Korea, China (which kills more criminals than the rest of the world combined), etc. Not a record to be proud of.

Turkey has been trying for years to become a member of the EU. It is a matter of national pride for the Turks. They measure themselves by how well they “stack up” against the prosperous civilized nations of Western Europe, whom the Turks admire. Unfortunately for the Turks, the EU keeps rejecting them. At one attempt, the main reason for rejection was the Turkish death penalty. Turkey was rejected on that criterion alone as being “insufficiently civilized”. If hypothetically, the US asks to join the EU (the Atlantic Union?) then the EU would reject it too, for the same reason. America is not sufficiently civilized.

#### Mono Media

Most Americans, due to their lack of international television (that is now the norm in Western Europe), are very insular minded. American insularity is partly understandable of course. Countries in Europe are the size of states in the US. An American has to make much more of an effort and to pay more to leave his country than a continental European has to do to leave his. It is not surprising that Europeans are more multilingual and more multi-culturally sophisticated than Americans.

Most countries know more about America, than America knows about them. That is partly due to American movies, but mostly due to the fact of the insularity of the US media. In Europe I could zap cultures. One of the main reasons I believe why Europe is now pioneering the creation of the post-nation state, the regional state, the “Union”, is due to the fact that Europeans can see each other’s national television channels. It generates a sense of European community feeling. For example in Brussels I could watch TV from the UK, France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, and the US (CNN). America has nothing like that.

Imagine the impact of such multi-cultural television on one's mind. Do you want to know what the French think about the German decision on a particular economic issue? Zap, to a French news channel. You listen, you understand. Want to hear the German side on the same issue? Zap, to a German news channel. You listen, you understand. Now you see both points of view. You see that they are both right and both wrong. You think that the two sides should talk more to each other. The two sides could do that more easily with a global language. In fact that is more the case now. There have been times when the national European leaders have locked themselves behind closed doors with no interpreters to thrash things out. They could all speak English well enough to do that.

If America is to learn about the superiorities of other cultures before it really descends into mediocrity this century, it needs to internationalize its media, and to push the learning of foreign languages in the schools. Americans are paragons of monos, inter-culturally incompetent and naive, with a poor sense of history and cultural relativity. They misinterpreted the Vietnamese who were fighting to get rid of their American colonialists, who replaced the French. They misunderstood the Arab Islamist mentality in Iraq. Will they ever learn? Not while their media is so provincial. Things need to change or America will simply not be a player in the 21st century. The more sophisticated parts of the world will simply ignore the US. As the French say, "Petit con, Americain". I won't even try to translate that. It's not complimentary.

#### Jews

There are roughly as many Jews living in America as there are in Palestine. So what the Israelis do is of great interest to America's Jews. After the Arabs flew three planes into the US World Trade Center and the Pentagon, I remember having a discussion with a group of Americans soon after, when I was asked for my opinion on the events. (Ironically, my first working day in America was the very day all that happened, i.e. "9/11", i.e. September the 11th, 2001).

Once I had finished my spiel, I sensed a shocked, deeply resentful reaction on their part. I sensed that they did not understand me at all. It made me feel quite

alienated, and feel how “out of touch” America is with its own mono-cultured view of the world.

I said to them, that 9/11 was mostly brought upon the US by itself, its just deserts, given the massive injustice that the US has committed against the Palestinians. A few thousand American deaths is very small beer in comparison to what America has done to millions of Palestinians, i.e. robbing them of their land, because of America’s Jews. Here is the logic I gave them.

It takes a lot of land to house millions of Jews. The two basic tenets of the Zionist philosophy is that a) the Jews should have their own country (fair enough), and b) that that country should be in Palestine (not fair – the Palestinians had been living there for 2000 years, since the Romans defeated the Jewish uprising and caused the Jewish Diaspora). Soon after the Nazi holocaust of the Jews (killing 6 million of them, including the mother of my second wife by the way, at Auschwitz), the western world felt a lot of pity for the Jews, and a lot of guilt.

For centuries before, the Jews were the planet’s most hated people. The Spaniards threw them out, the English threw them out, the French threw them out, the Poles hated them, and the Russians pogromed them regularly. No one liked the Jews, which is why they so desperately wanted to have their own country. Choosing to colonize Palestine was just that, a form of theft, of colonization, but this was not in the 19th century, as the European powers did in Africa, and the Far East. This was in the middle of the 20th century. Paradoxically, America abhorred what the Japanese were trying to do in China (i.e. colonize it, copying what the European powers did to the country in the 19th century), but turned a blind eye to what the Zionist Jews were doing in Palestine at about the same time.

By this stage millions of Jews were living in the US, and these Jews were smart, intellectually filtered. Prior to the holocaust, Jews were not popular in the US, so only the smarter ones were allowed in. The average IQ of American Jews is as much above the average white IQ, as is the average white IQ is above the average black IQ in the US, i.e. by a full standard deviation, i.e. usually 15 points. It is not surprising that

Jews have won a third of the Nobel Prizes. They are a very bright cultural group. It's a pity however their level of humanity is not equally praiseworthy.

Being smart, a lot of them congregated in Washington DC to help steer American legislation in favor of Israel. For example, the Jewish community bribed the Truman reelection committee \$2M so that President Truman would vote for the US recognition of the freshly created state of Israel. Many other Jews had control of America's media outlets, so they could influence American public opinion that way too. High intelligence goes with power. That's normal. But America's Jews were spectacularly successful in their manipulation of foreign policy in the Middle East. As a result, about half of America's total annual foreign aid budget for the planet goes to Israel each year, billions of dollars a year.

Each time, when the Arabs went to war with Israel, it became routine for the Israelis to go to the US to get military aid, with the result that so far Israel has won all its wars against the Arabs. Israel also has the nuclear bomb. One wonders how much of a role the US played in that. So today, we see millions of Palestinian refugees dispossessed of their land by an Israeli Zionist/Colonialist philosophy, backed up by the Jews in the US, and by US foreign "aid" to Israel.

If I were an Arab intellectual I would hate America, I would hate the country viscerally. I would probably have been one of the guys in the WTC (World Trade Center) planes. But I'm not an Arab. I try to see things from the point of view of the policy makers in Washington DC, who are not Jews. Who is manipulating whom? Are America's Jews brainwashing the American politicians to feed them gigabucks? Or are the non Jewish US politicians paying a few paltry billion dollars a year to have an ally in the Middle East in case a real war breaks out there, and the US loses its oil source?

If the US lost its major oil source (60% of US oil comes from overseas), it would very probably go to war to get it back. At the present time the US government supports very undemocratic Arab regimes, who in return give Americans relatively cheap oil. America's whole life style is built around the car.

For example, I used to think nothing of driving 100 miles from the small Mormon town where my university job was, to the state's capital city, Salt Lake City. I did that nearly every weekend for years, to escape the doldrums of small town life, and the "total alienation" I felt towards the Mormons and their childishly gullible religious beliefs. The Mormons comprised three quarters of the town's population. Spending weekends in a small town after having lived the cosmopolitan lifestyle of Brussels was unthinkable for me at the time. Admittedly I did not have a gas guzzling SUV (Sports Utility Vehicle) but I still burned up a lot of fuel, and so too do most Americans. It's the American norm.

So, US politicians realize that if gas prices in the US went up to \$5 or even \$10 a gallon, the American public would be screaming for war. So propping up Israel, and suppressing a few million Palestinians' rights, may be a small price to pay.

The Chinese are now probably making the same kind of dirty deals in other 3rd world countries, as it strives to fuel (literally) its own burgeoning economy. When you are a political leader, you have to make some dirty compromises, choosing the lesser evil. America has been doing it for years, and has lost a lot of friends in the process.

## **China**

PRO

Energetic

The most remarkable aspect of the Chinese I find is their incredible energy. Nearly everywhere I go (at least in the eastern part of the country and particularly in the coastal cities) I see a people infected with the same virus, i.e. to get richer, to improve their life style. The country's economy is growing so fast it makes my westerner's head spin. In most of the cities I have visited, in nearly every direction one looks one can see the characteristic T shape of construction cranes. They are everywhere. The country looks like a building site.

I now live in China, having moved here full time a year ago. I'll talk about why, a bit later. Outside my apartment block for foreign university staff, construction workers were working at night to beautify the side street in front of my building. Those workers had several jobs. They did their day job, and then earned extra money by working a bit at night as well.

One wonders where the incredible motivation to get richer comes from. Is it Chinese face? (i.e. the powerful Chinese desire not to lose prestige with, or be criticized by, ones peers or superiors). Is it more a question of national pride? China was treated very badly by the Western Powers in the 19th century. It wasn't really until Mao's time that China finally put a halt to western colonial maneuvering in the country. Mao brought MacArthur to a military stalemate during the Korean War.

Since Deng Xiaoping opened up the country to the economies of the west in the late 1970s, I can imagine that millions of Chinese have been exposed to western, particularly American movies, which show the American material standard of living. This must have come as a shock to the Chinese to learn how far behind they had fallen relative to the leading western nations. Until 1850, China still had the largest economy in the world.

China has been the globally dominant nation for many centuries if not millennia. It is part of Chinese intellectuals' self image to be a member of the "middle country", which is how the Chinese name their country ("Zhung Guo" pronounced "Joong Gwor") which means literally "middle country", with the implication that all its many neighboring countries were barbarians, which they were.

The Chinese invented paper, printing, gunpowder, rockets, the compass, etc. I remember about a year before I left the US for China, I interrupted an American professor in a talk he was giving, on the impact of printing on politics, when he said "After Gutenberg invented the printed book ...". I simply stood up quietly and said, "Actually, the Chinese had printed books 6 centuries before Gutenberg". He just stared at me, dumbfounded. He didn't know what I was talking about.

China's famous admiral of the Chinese fleet, Zheng He, set sail with hundreds of large treasure ships in the 15th century that were 5 times the size of Columbus's little

ships. He made several voyages, sailing from China to the West African coast. There is a British historian who claims loudly that Zheng He circumnavigated the globe, and discovered America 70 years before Columbus, etc. If this can be verified, then think of the impact it will have on US-Chinese relations as their rivalry for global dominance grows in the coming decades of the 21st century, as “big China” eventually dwarfs “little America”.

The population of China is more than four times larger than the US population, and its economic growth rate is three times larger. China may do to the US in the 21st century, what the US did to the UK in the 20th century. The US population is about 5 times larger than the UK population.

I suspect there are several main reasons to account for China’s incredible economic growth, the largest in the world, at about 10% per year for the past few decades. One is the sheer size of the population, so there are genetically lots of ambitious, capable people who get things done, and thus act as a model to others. Also, the climate is not too hot and debilitating, the way it is in a lot of India, another major up-and-coming player of the 21st century. I suspect another is national pride. Chinese people want to be back in their old position of global dominance, to return to their “natural place” as “Number One”.

The 21st Century is China’s

After 5 years of living in America, becoming increasingly frustrated by its many inferiorities, I began to consider seriously the idea of actually migrating to China. I had been visiting China almost yearly since 1995, being intrigued by the country, its culture and its incredibly rich history, 5000 years of it, the longest unbroken culture on the planet. I kept coming back.

I began to weigh the pros with the cons, because obviously for a westerner, China has many cons along with its fabulous potential. Eventually, I decided to take the plunge and got myself a job as a professor in one of the country’s top universities. I guess I’m a bit of a “cultural adventurer”. Anyone who has lived in 7 countries the way I have would have to be.



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