

WOC207 / CHINESE408 Translation Workshop: The Reflection of Meaning

FINAL PROJECT: A FEW REMINDERS

- If you want feedback from me on a draft, make an appointment with me. I'll give you feedback directly on Zoom.
 - Hours that work for me are **8-11 a.m.** and **anytime after 9 p.m.** (China time).
 - My schedule books up quite quickly in the last week of class, so the nearer we get to the end of the week, the greater the chance I might not have time.
 - Generally I'm **not free** on the weekend.
- Your translation is due at **midnight on Sunday, China time**. Your translator's note is due at **midnight on Tuesday, China time**.
- If you're working on the same text with a partner or with a group, each of you should write your translator's note **individually**.
- **Length of translated text:** If you're choosing your own text, pick an excerpt **roughly equivalent in length** to the texts of the translation challenges we've done. **Quality** is better than quantity here – I'd rather you produce a shorter translation you had time to polish than a longer translation you rushed to finish.
- Don't forget to budget time to consult native speakers of your L2, or any other informants. Generally the more conversations you have with others about your text, the better the translation is likely to be!
- How to submit: Please upload your files to our **SharePoint folder**.

Advice on translator's notes:

Keep in mind that my main goal in having you write translators' notes is to see what you've

learned from this class. Most importantly, I'm hoping that you will have: a) learned to think about language in a more conscious, nuanced manner; and b) learned some useful new ideas that might help you be a more effective translator, or a more discerning reader of translated texts, in the future.

The best translator's notes generally show me this by doing two things:

1. They engage with at least one of the **key ideas** we've explored in this class (genre, style, voice, metaphor, ambiguity, etc.) or with a different idea that you find important. Usually they will have a clear **focus**, saying a lot about this central idea and

Length of translator's note: For this one I don't have a strict word limit. Generally speaking, **1000 words in English (or 1500 字 in Chinese)** is a good target.

connecting many examples to it, rather than giving many different examples that illustrate different ideas.

2. They **describe** and **analyze** the language of the text, rather than simply narrate the process of translating it. Though I have no problem with a bit of storytelling, I'm most interested in seeing you think carefully and consciously about the language itself—and the best translator's notes do mostly that.

Note: Another thing your translator's note could do is make an **argument** about the choices you've made in your translation. This might be a good use of your translator's note if you know that some of the decisions you've made might be debatable. What are your reasons for adopting the style you did, or making the choices you did? How might you answer possible objections to your way of translation?

Finally, don't forget that **style** counts for something! Show me you're a good writer. A sense of your own personal voice is a good thing. As is, of course, the accurate English (if you're an EAP-track student) or Chinese (if you're a CSL-track student). ***Special note for CSL-track students:*** *Please don't forget that one of my goals is to see if you can use Chinese to think about some of the key ideas we've explored in this class. Hopefully you will have retained of that vocabulary from our class discussions!*

Notes on grading:

I'll grade the final, and calculate your course grade, based on the criteria I laid out in [this document](#), so I'd suggest you review it.

Note on how I grade Chinese texts: *Any judgments I make on the accuracy, effectiveness, or suitability of a text in Chinese are based on input from at least one DKU CSL teacher. Since I don't have the same reading sensitivity as a native speaker, I make sure to consult one when making a grading decision.*