



CE Translation of *Pei Du-A Well-known Prime Minister in Tang Dynasty* Guided by Prof. Xu Yuanchong's Excellence Theory

Wu Bo ¹, Ji Lingzhu ^{2*}

¹ Senior Student of Foreign Languages Dept. Taiyuan Normal University, City of Jinzhong, Shanxi Province, PR China

² Associate Professor, Taiyuan Normal University, City of Jinzhong, Shanxi Province, PR China

* Corresponding Author: **Ji Lingzhu**

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Abstract

With language in a heroic and vigorous writing style, the source text of this translation project, *Pei Du-A Well-known Prime Minister in Tang dynasty*, presents the readers an honorable and upright image of Pei Du with historical narration and discussion: returning treasure belts, pacifying Huaixi Rebellion and reigning the eunuchs. Guided by the Excellence Theory put forward by Prof. Xu Yuanchong, the translator adopted the strategy of foreignization and the method of transliteration plus annotation for some terminologies, and the strategy of domestication and the method of addition and free translation to better target language readers' experiences in reading, since the source text is distinctive with rich historical background and quotations of ancient Chinese, such as the poem *Congratulations to Duke of Jin (Pei Du) at the Peach Orchard by Night* written by Han Yu and some ancient Chinese official titles.

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1. Introduction

Since corruption is a socio-historical phenomenon, an inveterate global ailment and an issue of great concern to the general public, the firm stance of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese government is to combat corruption and build a clean government. It is also the common aspiration of all humanity and the common task faced by all governments and parties to combat corruption and safeguard integrity. Hence the Chinese government keeps strengthening international anti-corruption exchanges and cooperation. China will continue to play a positive role in international and regional anti-corruption exchanges and cooperation and endeavor, together with other countries, to build a clean, just, harmonious China and a fine world.

Pei Du was a well-known honorable prime minister in Mid-Tang Dynasty and regarded by many people to be a role model for the officials in present China, therefore translating the source text, *Pei Du-A Well-known Prime Minister in Tang dynasty*, is in line with the present and forever anti-corruption stand of Chinese government and the governments of other countries. What Pei Du did over one thousand years ago still sheds light on people's understanding of the essence of a clean and honest government. The translation is guided by Theory of Excellence by Professor Xu Yuanchong.

Majored in translation, the translator has learned many translation theories and the applications in many translated works and articles. He finds that the translation process between Chinese and English is somewhat different from that between other western languages. Compared with hypotactic Indo-European languages, Chinese is paratactic with more concise writing but condensed meaning. This translation practice project is a good opportunity for the translator to experience the translation process from Chinese to English, reflect about the translation process and strengthen self-cultivation. The glorious deeds and legend of Pei Du and the ancient Chinese quoted in this article had the author at once. Pei Du was well versed in letters and military technology as well as his noble character, a typical hero in the Chinese tradition. He had performed formidable feats, among which two momentous deeds were expounded on in this article that is, pacifying Huaixi Rebellion and fighting against the eunuch's dictatorship.

The text carries the translator along into a turbulent historical river where the hero, Pei Du, was there standing in the eye of storm and fighting against the unexpected tides without retreat. Although he might fail to conquer the monstrous billows, the translator still touches the ripple he agitated and is motivated by his heroic deeds to follow the footsteps of this hero over one thousand years ago in the translation process.

Besides, there is a lot of classical Chinese even a poem of Tang Dynasty quoted in the original text, which contains typical Chinese characteristics. With the great renewal of the Chinese nation, the translator has every confidence with his mother tongue. He believes the surpassingly beautiful and artistic Chinese can also catch attention of the readers in the world. Also he maintains the idea that the literary translation theory of the Chinese school is never second to none. Therefore, how to transfer the meaning from the condensed and vague Chinese into specific and accurate English is the most challenging part in the process of translation.

2. Translation process

2.1 Preparations

A natural tendency before an event is to batten down the hatches. The same applies to a translation project. Before this translation practice, the translator has consulted three types of information including historical records, dictionaries and internet resources. Since the original text is a mini biography of Pei Du with some discussions to some extent, a wealth of background knowledge is definitely necessary to express the meaning accurately and fairly. From this perspective, the author referred to the *Old Book of Tang*, *New Book of Tang* and *History as a Mirror*. Besides, a number of ancient Chinese official titles appeared in the original text, like 校书郎 and 县尉. To avoid translation mismatches, the author turned to a dictionary named *Chinese-English Dictionary of Ming Government Official Titles*, plus some help of Wikipedia and the tutor. Finally, by means of search engines like Google, the translator solved the problem of terminology, such as 命珪, 贞观之治 and 开元盛世.

2.2 Translation Theory and Strategies

Theory

This project takes the **Theory of Excellence** proposed by Prof. Xu Yuanzhong as the theoretical guidance. Mr. Xu Yuanzhong was a professor of English in Beijing University

who had engaged in translation for over sixty years and won the Aurora Borealis Prize for Outstanding Translation of Literature. Xu Yuanchong maintains that “the literary translation is the unity of two languages as well as culture, during which the translated text are supposed to be enhanced compared with the original text. Lexis is the gene of a language and culture. In the process of translation, lexis with the same reference of two different languages may or may not be equal therewith one may outperformed the other in respect of readability and artistic tension. It’s naturally good that the two languages are equal; if not, we must seek the outperformed one and in this case the unity means enhancement. Literary translation should change the shortcomings of the source language, strive for the equivalence and exploit the advantages of the target language as the optimal solution. To change the shortcomings of the source languages we may use the method of generalization by which the readers comprehend it; to strive for the equivalence, we may use the method of equalization by which the readers appreciate it; to exploit the advantages of the target language we may use the method of particularization by which the readers admire it.”^[1]

Moreover, literary translation is higher form of art which combines the delightful of painting, the melodious of music and the artistic of drama. Literary translation should impress the readers as if they were personally on the scene, they heard the dulcet tones and they saw the particular characters.^[1] Therefore, the literary translation is an art of beautifulization and creation of the best as in rivalry^[2-3].

As Prof. Ji Xianlin said, from all the perspective of the time, amount and influence, the translation of China is the summit around the world^[2]. The translator is of cultural confidence like Mr. Xu who presents the literary translation theory of the Chinese school^[4]. Thus, he would like to put the theory into this practice.

3. Translation and revision

3.1 Translation

3.1.1 Translation of ancient Chinese official titles

There are fifteen ancient Chinese official titles in the source text. In this section, the author first read the historical records to fully understand the responsibilities of each ancient Chinese official position and then managed to find a similar or equivalent one in English in order to help readers comprehend them. By reference to *Chinese-English Dictionary of Ming Government Official Titles*, some titles can be translated precisely.

Example 1

ST	当他刚被任命为中央监察御史时，因耿直进谏、语切忤旨，被贬为河南府功曹参军
TT	Just after being promoted to Investigating Censor he was again relegated from the imperial court to serve as the Adjutant of Henan Prefecture because of his straightforward admonition which defied the majesty of the emperor.

Analysis

中央监察御史 was a imperial official who was in charge of supervision of all officials, inspection of prefectures and justice of the cases. It is reasonable to be generalized as Investigating Censor but with one important note. It also managed the ceremony for ancient emperors to enter the

court.

河南府功曹参军 was a local official who gave advice on military affairs. It’s parallel with Adjutant that is defined as an army officer who does office work and helps other officers by *Oxford Dictionary*.

Example 2

ST	裴度以司封员外郎知制诰，渐渐进位中枢。
TT	Pei Du was promoted to a vice director of Honors Bureau in charge of the proposed decree, gradually getting to high position.

Analysis

司封 was an department whose duties was to grant titles and rewards by order of the emperor, while 员外郎 was the second principal in it. Thus, 司封员外郎 is translated as vice

director of Honors Bureau.

However, translation mismatches still exist in that dictionary and some titles are not covered. In this case, the author turned to other information like *China Daily* or translated by himself.

Example 3

ST	祖父裴有邻曾做过濮阳(今属河南省)县令。
TT	His grandfather Pei Youlin held the post of <u>mayor</u> of Puyang county

Analysis

In many references, 县令 is mistranslated as magistrate. According to the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary High English, Magistrate refers to someone who judges less serious crimes in a court of law. Western countries have a relatively weak sense of official status and their administrative hierarchy is far less complex than in China, so positions such as 县长 and 镇长 can be generalized as the

word Mayor in English. In May 2008, Moskegee, Oklahoma, was elected a junior mayor, who was explicitly named Town's Mayor in English-language news reports by the Associated Press. "MUSKOGEE, Oklahoma(AP) -- A 19-year-old freshman at the University of Oklahoma was elected mayor Tuesday of Muskogee, a city of 38,000 in the northeastern part of the state."^[5]

Example 4

ST	唐德宗贞元五年（公元789年），25岁的裴度高中进士，以宏辞补校书郎以后“应制举贤良方正，能言极谏科，对策高等，授河阴县尉”，开始了他的政治生涯。
TT	In 789 AD, when he was twenty-five years old, Pei Du achieved the rank of “Jinshi”(metropolitan Graduate)in the imperial exams, then got the title of Hongci (the second class honor) in the following examination with three well-written articles that containing his ideas for solving the existing problems in Tang dynasty at that time, and got a position of a Jiaoshulang (an collator proofreading and correcting the classical codes and records). Soon afterwards, “he was commissioned the Heyin Xianwei(superintendent of public security) when he was rated excellent in the examination for integrity subject of honesty and admonition held by the Emperor”

Analysis

In Tang Dynasty, to put it in layman's terms, 校书郎 was actually editing, proofreading books and participating in the revision of history books. At that time, because printing technology was not invented, it was still used to copy books by handwriting to meet the growth of books in the royal library and the distribution of books. Moreover, the

distribution was limited by the imperial power. Therefore, it could not be opened to the general public in that the distribution objects were also controlled. So most of the people who hold this official position were learned and in essence a reserve for the imperial court.

In Yi Zhongtian's words, 县尉 was the superintendent of public security.

Example 5

ST	元和九年（公元814年）八月，淮西节度使吴少阳死。
TT	In August of 814 AD, the Jiedushi(regional governor in charge of administration, as well as financial and military affairs) of Huaixi, Wu Shaoyang died.

Analysis

At the beginning, 节度使 was established as a branch envoy responsible for managing military supplies and the garrison reclamation, taking charge of military affairs and defense against foreign enemies. By the late Tang Dynasty, it integrated military, civilian, and financial administration and reached the point of monopolizing power, which led to the issue of the breakaway of fanzhens(regional regime). In this context, 节度使 was translated as regional governor.

The following table lists translations of the other ancient Chinese official titles.^[6]

Table 1: The translations of the ancient Chinese officials

The source text	Translation
宰相	the prime minister/ premier
大将军	general
县丞	vice mayor
御史中丞	Vice Censor-in-chief
晋国公	Duke of Jin
汾阳王	Duke of Fenyang
太原尹	the lord mayor of Taiyuan
北都留守	Governor of Taiyuan

3.1.2 Translation of text titles

In addition to the ancient Chinese official titles, book, poem and stone monument titles are also included in this source text. In this part, the method of literal translation is qualified

to balance the pragmatic effects and semantic accuracy except for 《书仪》.

Example 6

ST	这就是冯梦龙所编《喻世明言》中记载的《裴晋公还带》的故事
TT	This is the story <i>Duke of Jin Pei Du Returning Three Treasure Belts</i> recorded in the <i>Fables to Enlighten Men</i> adapted by Feng Menglong.

Analysis

This title 《裴晋公还带》 is a generalization of the content, so it was translated literally as *Duke of Jin Pei Du Returning Three Treasure Belts*.

As for the 《喻世明言》, it was a story collection compiled

and adapted by Feng Menglong. After years of collection and collation, most of the fiction stories compiled in the book was carefully selected to achieve the effect of guiding people to perform good deeds and exploring a path of harmonious society. Thus, it is translated as *Stories to Enlighten Men*.

Example 7

ST	留传《书仪》2卷，文集2卷于后世。
TT	Two volumes entitled Shuyi(models on etiquettes and letter styles) and two of his collected works have been passed down until now.

Analysis

《书仪》 is a model on etiquettes and letter styles and a

popular formality. It's a culture-loaded word. By literal translation with annotation, readers can perceive its concept. The following table lists translations of the other text titles.

Table 2: The translations of the other text titles.

The source text	Translation
《裴柏村记》	Records of Pei Bai Village
《唐宰相世系表》	List of Prime Ministers of Tang
《平淮西碑》	The Epigraph of Pacifying Huaixi Rebellion
《桃林夜贺晋公》	Congratulations to Duke of Jin(Pei Du) at Taolin Fortress by Night

3.1.3 Translations of other terminologies

To reinforce linguistic and cultural differences of source texts as well as the marginality of translation, some important terminologies are translated adopting strategy of

foreignization but with comments; in viewpoints of accessibility and readability some terminologies are translated adopting strategy of domestication.

Example 8

ST	唐德宗贞元五年（公元789年），25岁的裴度高中进士，以宏辞补校书郎，以后“应制举贤良方正，能言极谏科，对策高等，授河阴县尉”，开始了他的政治生涯。
TT	In 789 AD, when he was twenty-five years old, Pei Du achieved the rank of “Jinshi” (Metropolitan Graduate) in the imperial exams, then got the title of Hongci (the second class honor) in the following examination with three well-written articles containing his ideas for solving the existing problems in Tang dynasty at that time, and got a position of a Jiaoshulang (an editing clerk proofreading and correcting the classical codes and records). Soon afterwards, “he was commissioned the Heyin Xianwei (superintendent of public security) when he was rated excellent in the examination for integrity subject of honesty and admonition held by the Emperor”, henceforward starting his official career.

Analysis

进士, according to the Wikipedia, was the highest and final degree in the imperial examination in Imperial China. The examination was usually taken in the imperial capital in the palace, and was also called the Metropolitan Exam. Recipients are sometimes referred to in English-language sources as Imperial Scholars.

宏辞 as explained in the translation above, was a subject that

temporarily set up in the imperial examination and held by the emperor in person.

贤良方正，能言极谏科, also a temporary subject of the imperial examination held by the emperor, aimed to judge candidates' integrity and whether they can admonish even remonstrate the emperor. It was one of the most frequently opened subjects in the middle and late Tang Dynasty.

Example 9

ST	有一个相士给他看相，说他“ <u>纵理</u> 入口，法当饿死”。
TT	A physiognomist read his face and said to him, “Your <u>nasolabial folds</u> stretch to your mouth, face of starving death(a face of death from starvation)”

Analysis

纵理 referred to the skin texture downward from the nose that

is nasolabial folds. The following table lists translations of the other terminologies.

Table 3: The translations of other terminologies

元和中兴	Yuan-he Prosperity
命珪	Jade by emperor
字	courtesy name
安史之乱	the An Shi Rebellion
贞观之治	Prosperity of Zhenguan
开元盛世	the Flourishing Kaiyuan Reign
藩镇	fanzhen
五坊	wufang
谥	posthumous name

3.2 Revision

When an article is translated into another language, numerous changes and revisions need to be made due to cultural differences. These may include proper titles for officials, or what sorts of words would best suit the particular context. To avoid mismatches and make this translated text as perfect as possible, proofreading can quickly ameliorate many errors that may arise during translation process. The proofreading

includes three parts, self-proofreading, advice by tutors and another translator.

Firstly, the translation of terminologies

The sheer amount of information behind terminologies covered makes the translation difficult. To ensure the accuracy, the author rechecked them in different sources and consulted the tutor.

Example 10

ST	唐德宗 贞元五年公元(789)年,, 25岁的裴度高中进士, 以宏辞补校书郎。
TT	In 789 AD, when he was twenty-five years old, Pei Du achieved the rank“Jinshi” (metropolitan Graduate)in the imperial exams, then got the title of Hongci (the second class honor) in the following examination with three well-written articles containing his ideas for solving the existing problems in Tang dynasty at that time, and got a position of a Jiaoshulang (an editing clerk proofreading and correcting the classical codes and records).

Analysis

At the beginning, 校书郎 was mistranslated as Junior Librarian of the National Library. After confirmation, it’s actually a highly educated editing clerk who were the reserve of talents. Therefore, it is translated more accurately as

above.

Secondly, translation omissions

For his carelessness, the author missed some translation and finished it in the process of proofreading.

Example 11

ST	晋公伐叛，以身犯难，用之则治，舍之则乱。
TT	“Duke of Jin pacified the mutiny through hell and high water. Were he instated the mutiny could be pacified, if not, intense.

Thirdly, the faithfulness and smoothness of the translation

The first step of translation is translator’s accurate comprehension of the meaning expressed in the source text

by the author. The appropriate understanding of the readers depend on the proper expression of the translator in the target language ^[6].

Example 12

ST	由于吴元济蓄志谋反已久，早有准备，而朝廷调遣的围剿之军仓促发出，一经交火便四下溃散，根本无法遏制吴元济的嚣张气焰，战争很快陷入胶着状态。
TT	However, the scratch team of royal court lacked the necessary fighting capacity. Shortly after the battle started they were easily defeated by Wu Yuanji’s army who had been carefully prepared for the mutiny and the war was hanging in the balance.

Analysis

The first translation is “ However, the forces of royal was easily defeated by Wu Yuanji who had been carefully prepared for the mutiny and the war was hanging in the

balance. ” 仓促发出 and 一经交火 was omitted by the author, which was a rough calculation short of faithfulness and appeal to readers.

Example 13

ST	在这样的情况下，裴度开始辅佐“慨然发奋，志平僭逆”的唐宪宗进行“削藩”，并由此而名垂青史。
TT	In this context, Pei Du assisted the emperor Tang Xianzong who pledged his life to suppress the breakaway of fanzhens and safeguard the leadership of the central government, thereby he claimed his page in the history books.

Analysis

In translator’s opinion, Pei Du is famous in Chinese history because he assisted the emperor and also achieved his ambition. Therefore he changes the initial translation “from

then on, his name went down the Chinese history” to “thereby he claimed his page in the history books.”

Example 14

ST	欧阳修作《唐宰相世系表》，有唐一代290年间，名相大宰俯拾皆是，但他却首裴氏而后他人，皆因裴氏一门给唐朝贡献过59位宰相，且裴度为唐朝的中兴献力尤多，他人皆不能望其项背。
TT	According to the <i>List of Prime Ministers of Tang Dynasty</i> by Ouyang Xiu, famous premiers are a dime a dozen in the period of 290 years. However, Ouyang Xiu prioritized those from Pei family, for the reason that the Pei family had cultivated 17 prime ministers for Tang dynasty and Pei Du had played a major role in Yuan-he Prosperity without any parallels.

Analysis

The original translation is “In *List of Prime Ministers of Tang*, Ouyang Xiu recorded plenty of famous prime ministers in a period of 290 years, with Pei Du on the top, for the reasons that the Pei family had cultivated 17 prime ministers for Tang dynasty and Pei Du had played a major role in Yuan-he Prosperity without any parallels.” As Xu Yuanchong said, generally speaking, faithfulness and smoothness are the same. If the source is smooth, the translation ought to be

smooth. But in translation, when the faithfulness may contradict smoothness, we put the faithful meaning in the first, smooth translation the second and the alike form the third ^[6].

Finally, historical background

The source text might featured with hidden historical background. The translator reviewed the ancient books to correct the translation.

Example 15

ST	为了永远铭记裴度的功名，大学问家韩愈饱蘸浓墨，用他那如椽的大笔，书写了千古传扬的《平淮西碑》文。清代大书法家山西寿阳人祁隽藻用尽平生之功力，书写了这块碑文然后勒石竖于裴度故里闻喜裴柏村的裴晋公祠内。
TT	To remember Pei Du’s unfading reputation forever, Han Yu, the great scholar and poet of Mid-Tang period, wrote well-known <i>The Epigraph of Pacifying Huaixi Rebellion</i> with the most marvelous depictions passionately, which was eulogized in all ages. In Qing Dynasty, Qi Junzao, a great calligrapher from Shouyang, Shanxi, exhausted all his skills to reinscribe the epigraph on a monument, and then placed it in the memorial temple of Duke of Jin (Pei Du) in Pei Du’s hometown, Pei Bai village, Wenxi county.

Analysis

The Epigraph of Pacifying Huaixi Rebellion was first written by Han Yu to canonize Pei Du. However, the general Li Shuo at that time asked the emperor for rewriting the epigraph, competing for credits. So the epigraph by Han Yu was destroyed. In later dynasties, it was reinscribed several times

for its felicity writing and impartiality. Therefore, 书写 here is translated as “reinscribe”.

In the process of proofreading, the tutor has afforded the author valuable assistance and revised the proofs of this edition. And another translator has gave helpful advice on the arrangement of sentences and uses of words.

4. Cases analysis

Example 16

ST	而叱咤风云的一代中兴名相裴度，更是历相4朝，一身系唐室安危达30年之久，曾三起三落，“手把命珪兼相印”，成为裴氏家族这个宰相世家里的翘楚。《桃林夜贺晋公》：西来骑火照山红，夜宿桃林腊月中。手把命珪兼相印，一时重叠赏元功。
TT	Even among this family of prime ministers, the masterful premier of Yuan-he Prosperity period(806-802A.D.), Pei Du, was still the most outstanding one. Holding the post of prime minister, he went through four reigns of monarchs and experienced highs and lows for three times, but he devoted himself to Tang Dynasty as long as three decades. In the poem <i>Congratulations to Duke of Jin(Pei Du) at Taolin Fortress by Night</i> , Han Yu, the famous poet, wrote, “From the west rushed the royal cavalry. By whose torches the mountain of night was illuminated. Flushed they welcome the army of victory. In the fortress the heroes were decorated. Duke Pei deserved the jade form the Emperor. Together with the premier stamper. Among the chains of glories he made, Pacifying the Huaixi will never fade.

Analysis

Actually, 手把命珪兼相印 is the only line of poem quoted. This line of poem was a allusion to explain why Pei Du is the most outstanding one in the family of prime minister, leading to the following context. Besides, sentence arrangement here is sophisticated because there are many verbs as well as tones, and the line of poem with cultural background must be understood by readers. Thus, the translator bravely rearranges these sentences and cites the whole poem to make it accessible, which is inevitably treasonous to the form of the source text.

Lu Xun once said: “translation must reconcile accessibility with the form and style of the source text.” 长达三十年之久, if it is translated as “for thirty years”, it failed to retain the style and form even the spirit of the the source text. Thirty years’ dedication is a miracle. By “长” and “久” the author expressed his admiration for Pei Du. In that way, it is translated as “as long as three decades”. “而” and “更”, the author uses “even” and “still” and put them in sentences different form the source text to exert the same function as in the original.

Having heard Pei Du completely eliminated the Huaixi separatist forces, the emperor couldn’t wait to award the heroes when they just got to the Taolin fortress in the triumphant return to the imperial court. Being in the triumphal army, Han Yu, the great scholar, wrote a poem to record the scene.

西来骑火照山红, 夜宿桃林腊月中。It is written that the special envoys of the imperial court came from the west to award the heroes in the fortress by a night of winter. The fire is shining and forming lines and pieces, which shows the speed of riding and the number of envoys. Taolin was hundreds of miles away from Chang'an but the special envoys had to come so eagerly overnight, which showed how much excitement the pacification of Huaixi had brought to the central imperial court. This gives the whole poem a solemn

and warm mood. “Rushed” is used to to reflect the speed of envoys and the excitement of the country. Quantifiers is a distinction of Chinese. With a imaginative quantifier the abstract conception can be concrete and pictorial. For example, change 一道闪电 into 一刃闪电, readers will feel the sharpness of the lightening. In Chinese poem, a great quantifier can sublime the whole poem. Take *The Beautiful LADY YU*, 一江春水向东流, used as a quantifier, “江” materializes the invisible sorrow as the overbrimming river which makes it a masterwork connecting the limited life with the eternal nature. Some nouns can be used to embody the quantifiers in English. For example, 一杯水 is a cup of water in English. In a similar way, the translator uses “the mountain of night” to describe that picture of 照山红. The torches not only lightened the darkness red but also the faces of soldiers, at the meantime they were proud and fevered. So the word “flushed” is used to express the double meaning and to increase the beauty in sound.

Thus, this line can be translated as “from the west rushed the royal cavalry. By whose torches the mountain of night was illuminated. Flushed they welcome the army of victory. In the fortress the heroes were decorated”.

手把命珪兼相印, 一时重叠赏元功, Pei Du deserved all the credit of pacifying the Huaixi. To award Pei Du, the imperial court offered many official posts and rewards, among which the post of premier and jade form the emperor were the most iconic. 一时重叠 reflects the quantity of reward he was granted. 元功 means pacifying the Huaixi is the largest contribution. Thus, this line can be translated as “Duke Pei deserved the jade form the Emperor. Together with the premier stamp. Among the chains of glories he made, Pacifying the Huaixi will never fade”. The author generalizes the last sentence to express its meaning and rhyme.

Example 17

ST	唐王朝经过“安史之乱”的打击, “贞观之治”“开元盛世”的盛唐气象一去不复返, 代之而来的是社会的颓败, 其主要表现是藩镇割据、宦官弄权, 中央政权内忧外患, 社会经济凋弊, 国家统一徒有虚名, 在这样的情况下, 裴度开始辅佐“慨然发奋, 志平僭逆”的唐宪宗进行“削藩”, 并由此而名垂青史。
TT	After suffering the blow of “the An Lushan & Shi Shiming Rebellion”(12/16/763-2/17/755 A.D.), the fortune destiny of Tang Dynaty had withered. No longer was the scene of Prosperity of Zhenguan and the Flourishing Kaiyuan Reign. What followed was the breakaway of fanzhens (buffer towns) and the eunuchs excesses, resulting in the internal and external troubles of the central government, social and economic malaise. National unification was only in name. In this context, Pei Du assisted the emperor Tang Xianzong who pledged his life to suppress the breakaway and safeguard the leadership of the central government, thereby he would claimed his page in the history books.

Analysis

This is a representative example where faithfulness contradicts with smoothness. If a translator is only faithful to the form of the source text regardless of the meaning, his translation will be a rigid translation.^[7] In this paragraph, terminologies and ancient Chinese cited function as attributes. If they are translated the same way as in the source text, the translation will be prolix and complex. For terminologies, they can be put in another sentence,

maximizing smoothness while being faithful to the meaning. On the other hand, ancient Chinese in this paragraph are translated using the method of free translation. Furthermore, “藩镇割据、宦官弄权, 中央政权内忧外患, 社会经济凋弊, 国家统一徒有虚名, ”, they are presented as parallel structure, but actually “miss” the word that logically completes it. After all, a good translation must conform to the expression mode of the target language.

Example 18

ST	观裴氏之兴，唐存亡亦略可见矣。
TT	Looking at the ups and downs of the Pei clan, the rise and decline of Tang Dynasty is also slightly visible.

Analysis

Literary translation should change the shortcomings of the source language^[7]. 兴 and 存亡, they occur alone in two sentences relatively but both refer to conflated meanings, that

is, prosperity or decline. To convey the antithesis, “ups and downs” is used on the micro level of a clan and “the rise and decline” is used on the macro level of a country correspondently, which illustrates the significant impact the Pei clan has brought to Tang dynasty.

Example 19

ST	为了永远铭记裴度的功名，大学问家韩愈饱蘸浓墨，用他那如椽的大笔，书写了千古传扬的《平淮西碑》文。
TT	To remember Pei Du's unfading reputation forever, Han Yu, the great scholar and poet of Mid-Tang period, wrote the well-known <i>The Epigraph of Pacifying Huaixi Rebellion</i> with the most marvelous depictions passionately, which was eulogized in all ages.

Analysis

To change the shortcomings of the source languages we may use the method of generalization by which the readers comprehend it, expressing the similar meaning^[7]. 饱蘸浓墨 means dipping the pen into thick ink. This word embodies

that Han Yu devoted his all feelings and passions to write the epigraph. 如椽大笔 means the solid and vigorous writing style. So the two words are translated as “the most marvelous depictions passionately”.

Example 20

ST	裴度携伤上朝，陈述叛乱者色厉内荏、外强中干，只能用刺杀的小伎俩而不敢在沙场上见高低。
TT	Pei Du went to the court regardless of his wounds and stated that the rebel army were fierce of mien but faint of heart. They were afraid of fighting the court troops, but only to use cheap tricks like assassinations.

Analysis

To strive for the equivalence, we may use the method of equalization by which the readers appreciate it, retaining the similar form and meaning^[7]. Both of 色厉内荏 and 外强中

干 are the same meaning and only one of them is preserved to compose the English sentence directly. “Fierce of mien but faint of heart” is perfectly equivalent in faithfulness and expressiveness.

Example 21

ST	而裴度则力主平叛，主张不可为反叛者张目，更不能示朝廷之弱于藩镇，以使后患无穷。
TT	Pei Du, on the other hand, strongly advocated the suppression of the rebellion, insisting that the rebels should not be flared up, still less should they show that the imperial court was weaker than the fanzhens, or they would just warm a snake in their bosom.

Analysis

To get resemblance in spirit, we may use the method of particularization by which the readers admire it^[7]. “Warm a snake in one's bosom” is the same meaning with 后患无穷. However, “warm a snake in one's bosom” has more artistic tension because of its vivid picture compared to 后患无 (the endless) this vague concept. Meanwhile, English readers will definitely accept this phraseology of native expression. Thus, translation is a creation of the best as in rivalry in which we seek enhancement and excellence.

Conclusion

Admittedly, this translation project is a hard task for the student translator. For the first he became embarrassed of his superficial knowledge in both English and Chinese. Like the Chinese saying goes, sharp edge of a sword comes out from grinding and plum blossom's fragrance comes from the bitter cold. The translator needs to continue to advance his knowledge in corresponding fields and hone his translation skills.

Findings**First, putting the theory into practice**

This project adopts the Theory of Excellence by Professor Xu Yuanchong. In his opinion, literary translation is more an art than a science and a competition between the source language and the target language in which the translator maximizes the advantages of the target language on basis of faithfulness^[7]. The poem, ancient Chinese and idioms cited are translated with the method of generalization, equalization and particularization to make the translation expressive.

Second, historical background

Terminologies and history events are difficult parts for the translator in this project. In order to ascertain these information the translator has consulted ancient books and dictionaries to broaden his scope of knowledge and capture the panorama of Pei Du.

Limitations

First, efforts are needed to further the study of the theory. The theory is originally written in Chinese and translated by the

student translator when he finds he just has a smattering of knowledge on it. Thus, his translation of the theory may not be able to accurately express Professor Xu Yuanchong's essence in his theory, in his practice the student translator may have failed to apply it perfectly due to his limited proficiency in the languages and possibly partial understanding of the theory. Besides, the theory itself is limited in the eyes of some scholars in field of translation in China, since to find the best expressions of the target language might lead to wild domestication, which stales the translation.

Second, it is a system project to clarify the ancient Chinese official titles. The feudal society of over two thousand years has produced countless official titles. Translation mismatches might be resulted from the intermingled historical background behind these titles. In order to solve the problem, it's necessary to ask help from a scholar of history with specialized knowledge and research in this area, or to consult an academic book in the field or a specialized bilingual dictionary.

Third, the translated text is not as good as the translator had expected due to his inadequate command of both the source and target languages and lack of history knowledge of Tang Dynasty. Although it's a pity the translator is not capable of providing a translated text as expressive and beautiful as the source text, the translation practice will undoubtedly push him to move forward and motivate him to become more competent.

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Project leader: Prof. Ji Lingzhu

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