

# A Study on the Strategies for Translating Modern Chinese Essays into English: A case Study of Zhang Peiji's *Selected Modern Chinese Essays*

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**Abstract**— *Chinese prose has a long history. During this period, various famous artists have created many excellent works. Prose is a very important literature and art form which takes writing as creation and aesthetic object. In ancient Chinese literature, prose just like verses and parallel writings, does not pursue rhyme and sentence pattern. This is prose in a broad sense. And I would like to talk about prose in a narrow sense. In modern Chinese literature, prose refers to a literary genre which is in parallel with poetry, novel and drama. The major characteristics of prose are the sincere feeling and the beautiful language. After May 4th Movement, the social literature form was influenced by the New Culture Movement, a number of splendid writers in our country created a good deal of excellent works of prose. These are the precious treasures of Chinese literature, carrying the Chinese spirit and culture.*

*But it is a pity that academics at home and abroad have done few researches on the modern Chinese essays translation, and the study about it is rare. The research on Chinese prose translation study, however, is far from enough. The Chinese prose translation study has lagged behind the other literary genre study all the time.*

*Mr. Zhang's two series of "Modern Chinese Prose Selection" translations are his classic masterpieces. The selected works are all famous prose of young intellectuals after the May 4th Movement in China. The essays in them are of profound significance and full of characteristics of the times. So this article tries to explore Professor Zhang Peiji's translation art style in combination with prose selection.*

*The fact that Professor Zhang has successfully translated also proves that the Chinese can make a great contribution in the Chinese-English translation career. The author also expects that Chinese scholars and translators will actively participate in the translation career, and to learn from each other's strengths in future translations. Really let Chinese culture go to the world as soon as possible.*

**Keywords**— *Zhang Peiji, artistic style, prose translation, translation strategy.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

In addition to poetry, drama and fiction, prose is also an important literary genre, with a history of thousands of years. Thousand years ago, the poetry had played an very

important role in the history of Chinese and Western literature. Modern Chinese prose refers to papers after the introduction of vernacular Chinese, or after the exercise on May 4th Movement. During this period, many essayists stood out and published many excellent essays, which had a profound impact on modern Chinese literature.

As everyone known, China is a huge country with long history standing in the world, the growth of prose creations are of long standing, and also influenced by Chinese culture. Prose has a very long history in China. It can be clearly said that prose is a key point in forming, inheriting and developing Chinese ideologies and cultures. After developing in years and years, prose formed and finally became popular in the epoch of the May 4th Movement, with its characteristics are straight forward and short in form. The New Culture Movement was initiated by Chen Duxiu, Li Dazhao, Lu Xun, Hu Shi and other activists, along with the criticism to feudal literature and classical Chinese writings, more criticism to the society at that time, the earliest batch of the Chinese modern literature works were born, which is the source of modern prose. There is no doubt that around the epoch of the May 4th Movement, the modern Chinese essays achieved brilliant achievements in 1919. In Zhang Peiji's *Selected Modern Chinese Essays*, it included many great works in that epoch to translate and disseminate.

What a pity is that there are many studies on researching the translation of poems, dramas and novels, the studies on the translation of prose, however, still lags behind, especially the studies on Chinese proses to English are far from enough. For example, according to paper retrieval data, there are few Master's theses and Doctoral theses about Zhang Peiji's *Selected Modern Chinese Essays*. So it can be safe to conclude that the researches on the translation of prose are falling behind the researches on the other types of literary genres at a long time.

### 1.2 Significance of the Study

It is common knowledge that China is a far-flung country with great history. Prose, whatever in the past time or now, or both in the west and in the China, is always an important genre of literature, which uses a variety of styles and themes to express the writer's emotions and feelings, and deeply loved by many readers. After the May 4th Movement, prose eventually takes shape. However, as just mention in 1.1, the researches on the translation of prose are not enough.

As a famous and excellent translator, Professor Zhang Peiji made great contributions to translation, especially publishing at the beginning of the 20th century and put forward some unique views about translation. *Selected Modern Chinese Essays* translated by Professor Zhang Peiji has a great influence on English learners, and is very popular among them. This book is also greatly well-respected by a lot of English lovers. Many scholars are also keen to study Zhang Peiji's prose translations.

Through studying *Selected Modern Chinese Essays*, some students regard learning this book as an important way of improving English translation ability. There are many colleges and universities shall set this book as a must-read book for the students who are prepared for postgraduate examination. All this means *Selected Modern Chinese Essays* is a book which has good reference and guiding significance for prose translation, and can help us better to learn and study translation, so we shall not neglect its importance and influence. It is very worth studying.

Studies by many well-known linguists in China and Britain have shown that the biggest difference between Chinese and English expressions lies in the structure of sentences. The structure of Chinese is loose, there are many short and flowing sentences, and the structure of sentences is strict in English. Compound sentences are common. This difference stems from the different cultural backgrounds and thinking habits of China and foreign countries.

In view of the above, this thesis attempts to make a tentative and systematic study of prose translation from the perspective of translation strategies on the *Selected Modern Chinese Essays*, which is very necessary for us to average up our own ability in prose translation. The author sincerely hoped that this thesis can put forward some fresh views into the theoretical and practical work of modern Chinese prose translation for the future.

This present thesis will be divided into five parts. The chapter one will be briefly introduces a general introduction of the thesis, which involved the background of the study, significance of the topic selection and the structure of the thesis. The chapter two expounds literature review on translation strategies and prose translation. The chapter three mainly tells definition and characteristics of prose, and an overview of Professor Zhang Peiji and his views in translation. The chapter four, the very main part of the thesis, based on the *Selected Modern Chinese Essays* written by Professor Zhang Peiji, through studying some samples, the author makes an analysis of the beauty of words and syntax in translation practice. The last chapter will end up the whole thesis with a conclusion.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Studies by many well-known linguists in China and Britain have shown that the biggest difference between Chinese and English expressions lies in the structure of sentences. The structure of Chinese is loose, there are many short and flowing sentences, and the structure of sentences is strict in English. Compound sentences are

common; (Hypotaxis), Chinese Parataxis. This difference stems from the different cultural backgrounds and thinking habits of China and foreign countries.

The development of translation theory is closely related to several climaxes of translation in Chinese history. There have been roughly four climaxes of translation in Chinese history: from the second century to the Yuan Dynasty (13th century), mainly translation of Buddhist scriptures; late Ming and early Qing, focusing on the translation of Western scientific and technological works and Western translation of Chinese classics; Before the “Four” Movement, it constituted the third climax, focusing on the translation of Western political, philosophical and literary works; after the “May Fourth” Movement to the founding of New China, it set off the fourth translation climax, after countless predecessors translated everyone’s personal experience Exploration and practice have gradually formed a unique translation theory system in China. (Wang Linli, 2007) In recent years, research on translation strategies in academia has not diminished, but there has been little attention and research on “prose translation strategies”. Nida, a famous American translator, believes that “translation is to find the natural equivalent language in the receiving language that is closest to the source language information: firstly, it is equivalent in meaning, and secondly, it is equivalent in style.” Peng Fasheng (2016) proposed that the translation of prose should focus on the establishment of the subject. Because the theme of Chinese prose is “Xing San Shen Bu San”, if we want to translate Chinese prose into English, the key is to choose the correct subject. Because there is no subject, the English prose will become a pile of loose sand, and the wind will blow away. Then the subject-to-person conversion of the subject plays an important role in translation, and it should also attract enough attention from the translator (Shi Weixuan, Zhou Lin, 2012). Because the differences in cultural expressions between China and the West also affect translators, the translation strategies they use should depend on the situation. Chen Yang (2012) believes that prose translators should adopt the method of naturalization to translate prose, break the original form of the article, and consider the reader's aesthetic standards. Wan Ying (2016) discusses the prose translation strategies of syntactic and parataxis, and clarifies that we should combine literal translation with free translation in the translation process.

As is well-known that China is a great prose country, and the history of prose has a long history of thousands of years. During the May 4th Movement, prose developed. Prose writing is as good as poetry. Many

scholars have done some research on the translation of modern Chinese prose. Liu Shu (2016) believes that a good good translation article includes the original author's main creative intentions, the translator's understanding of the background of the original work, the principle of loyalty, and appropriate translation skills and strategies. Yang Yamin (2007) mentioned that how to accurately convey the style of prose is one of the complex and sensitive issues in literary translation. Therefore, we can know that an excellent translator must not only grasp the overall style and standpoints of the writer and the work, but also pay attention to the details of the sentence creation and rhetorical methods, and try to maintain the charm of the original work.

### III. ZHANG PEIJI AND HIS PROSE TRANSLATION OF MODERN CHINESE ESSAYS

The well-known translator and educator Mr. Zhang Peiji has a great attainment in the translation of prose. This part mainly appreciates Mr. Zhang’s translation thought from the aspects of Mr. Zhang himself and the meaning of the prose. And then understand prose translation, and then understand Mr. Zhang Peiji's translation thoughts, the author hopes to play a role in attracting bricks and jade, so that more people can study prose translation.

#### 3.1 Definition of Prose

What is prose? Prose is a very important literature and art form which takes writing as creation and aesthetic object. According to Gong Guangming (2004: 433-434), prose can be defined broadly and narrowly in China. In a broad way, it isn’t any parts of verses or parallel prose of both the ancient and the modern Chinese literature. While narrowly, prose refers to a literary genre which is in parallel with poetry, novel and drama, and etc. This thesis will study the narrow way of prose, which is Modern Chinese essays.

Why does the meaning of prose happen? How to realize the meaning of prose. I also thought about it, thinking about it every day and night. To sum up, but even so, the appearance of the meaning of prose still represents a certain meaning. The way of creating prose is free, it won’t be limited by space and time, or one form, and it can narrate the development of the event, describe the characters, express emotions with the help of the description of objects, and make comments and opinions. The author can adjust and change freely on the basis of the content of the articles. The subject of prose must be definitely concerned, no matter how wide-range the

content, how flexible the way of expression, all just for serving the theme in a better way. In a general way, all literature can be described as prose. In other word, every types of literature works, and all kinds of practical writings except poetry.

Thousands of years ago, prose arose in China. Zhang Wenqing argued that translation plays a very important role in the development of economy and enrichment of the culture of a nation. After developing in years and years, prose became popular in the epoch of the May 4th Movement, with its characteristics are straight forward and short in form. According to Yuan Hongzhi (2018) literary output is a special cultural heritage and communication media of humanity, which reflects the development and change of society, history and culture. <sup>[6]</sup>

### 3.2 Characteristics of Prose

At the beginning of the new literature, some active initiators of the movement such as Li Dazhao, Chen Duxiu, and Lu Xun were published commentary articles in newspapers and magazines, which are the earliest forms of prose. Why were these kinds of prose so popular at that time? There are several reasons as follows.

First, those prose have a strong sense of recording, and absolute truth which means describing real people and events, it is the chief feature of prose. Essayists rely on traveling and visiting to accumulate a lot of creation materials. Prose features will never look to imaginary for backing.

Second, the scope of selecting writing materials is very wide, so Yu Dafu once said that prose is easy to understand for people, and has a large range of material selection, from the things in the sky down to the ground, the temporal such as grass, flowers, fishes and insects, everything in this world can be put into the prose. Prose has a variety of structural centers. For example, *The Sight of Father's Back* written by Zhu Ziqing uses typical details as the center of the structure, and *Autumn in Peiping* written by Yu Dafu uses scenery as the structural center. Meanwhile, prose has free and flexible expressions.

In contemporary Chinese literature, the status of prose as a genre type is far lower than that of fiction. The typological analysis aims to explore the beauty of Chinese prose and raise the historical status of Chinese prose to a new height. This starting point is based on the long history of ancient Chinese prose in China.

### 3.3 Zhang Peiji's Views on Translation

Professor Zhang Peiji, a Chinese famous translator and distinguished professor. He has been listed in the

Chinese Translator's Dictionary, and has an important position in the Chinese translation industry today. Mr. Zhang Peiji has worked tirelessly in translation for 50 years. His translations and monographs have a wide influence in academia and are collected by libraries at home and abroad. For a long time, scholars at home and abroad have been studying his works.

As an outstanding translator, Zhang Peiji has made great contributions to the translation of Chinese prose. His work fills the gap in the field of Chinese translation. "Selected Works of Chinese Modern and Contemporary Essays" are excellent works of a group of famous writers since May 4th. In addition, his translation has also been recognized by many people. His translation is smooth and accurate, and is considered to be an excellent work in the field of Chinese translation. Therefore, these translations provide us with good materials for studying essay translation and modern Chinese essay translation.

Mr. Zhang Peiji retired from the University of International Business and Economics in 1991. After retiring, he continued to work hard, and especially loved to translate modern Chinese prose. In 1999, his crystalline "English Translation of Modern Chinese Prose Selection" was published, which was not only a great event in academia, but also the book is one of the few works that introduces Chinese people's ideas to the world since the May 4th Movement.

Mr. Zhang Peiji has worked tirelessly in the translation world for 50 years. His translations and monographs (see the chronology and monograph chronology of post-translation translations) have a wide influence in the academic world and are collected by libraries at home and abroad. For a long time, scholars at home and abroad have been studying his works.

As an educator, Mr. Zhang Peiji has a deep sense of translation teaching. There is a misunderstanding about translation learning. I think there are tricks and skills in translation, so we must pay attention to this aspect of learning. Mr. Zhang believes that language is the fundamental problem. You can master both Chinese and English well, and use them well to do more with less. He emphasized that learning translation requires more translation practice, focusing on practice rather than drilling into theoretical research and entangled in "faith, expressiveness and elegance" all day long. But theory should also be learned, it should be used as a reference and guide for translation practice. Translation does not mean that the "trick" will translate well. The most fundamental question is whether the language is used well.



Mr. Zhang Peiji's language is fluent and natural, and the original style of the original prose is preserved in the translation. His understanding of the use of both Chinese and English and Chinese and Western culture can be said to be extremely high. For learners aspiring to become a translator, in order to translate a high-level work, in addition to improving the foreign language level, it is necessary to improve literary cultivation and aesthetics. Only by constantly demanding yourself can you succeed.

#### IV. THE STUDY OF TRANSLATING STRATEGIES IN ZHANG PEIJI'S SELECTED MODERN CHINESE ESSAYS

##### 4.1 The Strategies of Translating Words

Faced two kinds of different literature works, first and foremost, the two groups of readers from home and abroad has obstacles in language expression. For introducing the great Chinese modern essays to foreign readers, Zhang Peiji translated these classics with his own special strategies and skills. This chapter is mainly focusing on the translation of words and syntax, and analyze with examples of certain texts taken from the *Selected Modern Chinese Essays*. There are some good examples as follows.

##### 4.1.1 Onomatopoeic Words

Onomatopoeia, in simple words, is the imitation of natural sounds in word form. Chinese is a language which makes abundant use of reduplicative words and repetition, and English is a language that is succinct and very few to use repetition. The phonetic features of prose are not as outstanding as those poetries, the prose writers, however, sometimes will use some means to add the special flavor in prose writing. E.g.

S1a: 然后睁开眼睛, 我只是一个人, 四周就只有滴滴的雨声。房里是一片黑暗。 Error! Reference source not found.

S2a: 没有笑, 没有话语。只有雨声: 滴——滴——滴。

S13a: 长夜在滴滴声中进行。

S1b: When I opened my eyes, I found that I was all by myself and nothing was heard except the pit-a-pat of rain drops.

S2b: No more smile, no more chitchat. Only the drip drip of rain.

S3b: The long night wore on amidst its dripping sound.

These three sentences which describe the sound of rain all come from Ba Jin's *Dreams*. In these sentences, Zhang Peiji used three different types of forms in words to express the drip.

In the first sentence, Ba Jin wanted to express a lonely and melancholy state of mind—a man, was embraced by the darkness, what was around him is the only the sound of rain. “pit-a-pat” means a sound like quick light steps or taps. So, Zhang Peiji used “pit-a-pat” to present the author's mood at that time, focusing on emphasizing the sound, which makes it clear to magnify it.

In the second sentence, the translation keeps three “滴” in the original translate as three “drip”. In this sentence, the “drip” is a noun.

In the third sentence, Zhang Peiji puts “滴滴” into “dripping”, an adjective form to modify “sound”. The author wanted to convey that time went slowly and wearily in the original. Under the rain, it seems that time always passed tardily, and there is nothing to do to past time.

Chinese reduplicative word is gorgeous, but it seems very difficult to maintain its beauty when translating it into English form. Zhang Peiji skillfully makes the translation as beautiful as the source text in sound.

##### 4.1.2 Reduplicated Words

Reduplicated word often refers to words and phrases can be used together. It can not only make the scenery and image expresses more vivid and full of artistic charm, but also make the rhythm in harmony and readability. As reduplicated word has a unique charm in Chinese literature, it is widely used by writers in their works. If we want to display its unique, vivid, orderly, and full of rhythmic beauty through another language (like English), it need the translator's in-depth knowledge. As a famous translator in China, Zhang Peiji's English translation of modern Chinese prose is good word-of-mouth. E.g.

S4a: 呀! 凉云散了, 树叶上的残滴, 映著月儿, 好似荧光千点, 闪闪烁烁的动着。

S5a: 最近呢, 农业科学化了, 又在植树造林, 山岭田地更加郁郁葱葱了。

S4b: Ah, the rain clouds had vanished and the remaining raindrops on the tree leaves glistered tremulously under the moonlight like myriads of fireflies.

S5b: Recently, I have learned that people there have gone in for scientific farming and afforestation so that

green and luxuriant vegetation has appeared on all mountains and fields.

Through these two simple repetitive example sentences, we can clearly see that the repetitive words play an important part in the prose. It can make a sentence or an article vivid and lifelike. It can express the scenery, it can express the mood, and even allow the reader to immediately receive the author's current mood at that time.

We can see that the repetitive words of these two sentence examples describe the scenery, but we can feel the author's feeling from the line between the words. From the first sentence, we can read that after the clouds have dispersed, the author's surprise about the dewdrops hanging on the leaves, the gleaming intersected with the moon in the sky. And from the second sentence, it expressed a kind of loyalty and love for green life and nature.

#### 4.1.3 Interjection

Interjections are the words that express emotions such as joy and surprise when people are speaking, which has no grammatical connection with the rest of the sentences. These words are usually placed at the beginning of the sentences or separated by commas. When the speakers' feelings are strong, exclamation marks will be used. E.g.

S6a: 好，不再说了吧；要落泪了，真想念北平呀！

S7a: .....而且三年五载老活着、开花，多么有意思呀！不是乱吹，这就是知识呀！

S6b:Now, let me leave off writing, for I am on the point of shedding tears. How I miss Peiping!

S7b:How interesting it is to be able to keep my flowers and plants alive and watch them thrive and bloom year in year out! It is no exaggeration to say that there is much knowledge involved in this!

*Fond Memories of Peiping* is a literary work created by Lao She. At that time, the author lived in a different place, which is far away from Peiping, his hometown. In many years of war, he missed his beloved Peiping. Through the comparison between Peiping and Paris, this article deeply shows the author's nostalgia for his hometown. He didn't use some gorgeous phrase languages, on the contrary, he used the most popular and rustic words, and the most resonating expression to indicate his feelings for Peiping.

The first sentence has two interjections. “了吧” and “呀” in this two sentences expressed the author's deep feelings of helplessness for the hometown who cannot return, for the cruel war, which shows the author's eagerness to miss his hometown and longing to return.

#### 4.2 The Strategies of Syntactic Translation

Prose often uses some rhetorical techniques to achieve the desired expression when expressing its expression. For example, metaphors and anthropomorphism can express vivid expressions; contrast can make the meaning of words and expressions more vivid and prominent; comparison can enhance the appeal of language, deepen the content of ideas to be expressed, or make the emotions to be expressed stronger; Repeated can highlight meaning, emphasize emotions, etc. Different methods have specific expression effects.

The explanation of syntax is that to study the components of a sentence and their arrangement order, and it is focusing on researching the sentences. Syntax is a part of grammar, which discusses the relationship between predicates, modifiers, and other words according to the fixed usage of the language being studied.

According to the structure of the sentence, the English sentences are as follows:

- 1)Rhetorical question
- 2)Parallelism
- 3)Repetitive sentence

Next, we will also analyze the selected example sentences in the prose selection based on these sentence types.

##### 4.2.1 Rhetorical question

S8a: 刚刚说他是“今”是“现在”，他早已风驰电掣的一般，已成“过去”了。吾人若要糊糊涂涂把他丢掉岂不可惜？

S9a: 秋之于人，何尝有国别，更何尝有人种阶级的区别呢？

S8b:What we call our present or now at one moment will at the next be quickly gone and become the past. Isn't it a pity to unthinkingly idle away the present?

S9b:Autumn treats all humans alike, regardless of nationality, race or class?

In the first sentence,“岂不”=“难道不”Here this sentence was translated into a general question sentence “isn't” and begin with a negative word. In addition, it can

sometimes be translated into “aren’t” “don’t” and “Wouldn’t it” according to some different contexts.

And the next sentence, its original sentence means a question without answering. It expresses a meaning that autumn is a season, and there is no different to people who live in this world. So Mr. Zhang Peiji used “regardless of” to give voice to no matter who you are or where you from, you will be treated fairly.

#### 4.2.2 Parallelism

Parallelism refers to a rhetorical technique that uses phrases or sentences that are related or similar in meaning, have the same or similar structure and the same tone side by side, and paragraphs side by side to achieve an effect of strengthening the language.

Arranging by comparison, you can get a clear effect; using arranging to express lyrical, harmonious rhythm, and showing emotions; using arranging to describe scenes can make the level clear, delicate, and vivid ... In short, the text of the comparison is rhythmic Feeling, catchy, and very persuasive, can enhance the expressive effect and momentum of the article, and deepen the center. When reading the parallelism, it feels catchy and has a powerful force, which can enhance the expression of the article; strengthen the tone and increase the momentum. E.g.

S10a: 当你在积雪初融的高原上走过，看见平坦的大地上傲然挺立这么一株或一排白杨树，难道你觉得树只是树？难道你就想不到它的朴质，严肃，坚强不屈，至少也象征了北方的农民；难道你竟一点也不联想到，在敌后的广大土地上，到处有坚强不屈，就像这白杨树一样傲然挺立的守卫他们家乡的哨兵，难道你又不更远一点想到这样枝枝叶叶靠紧团结，力求上进的白杨树，宛然象征了今天在华北平原纵横激荡，用血写出新中国历史的那种精神和意志。

S11a: 我们几姊妹和几个小丫头都很喜欢——买种的买种；动土的动土；灌园的灌园；过不了几个月，居然收获了！

S10b: When you trudge through the melting snow of the highland and see one or a row of white poplars standing proudly on the vast plains, how could you look upon them as nothing but mere trees? How could you forget that with all their simplicity, earnestness and unyieldingness, they are symbolic of our peasants in the North? How could you fail to associate them with our dauntless soldiers guarding our homeland all over the vast rear? How could you fail to see that these trees, ever striving to put out their closely knit branches and leaves in

an upward direction, are symbolic of the spirit and will of our men who, fighting heroically all over the northern plains, are writing the history of New China with their own blood?

S11b: That exhilarated us children and our servant girls as well, and we soon started buying seeds, ploughing the land and watering the plants. We gathered in a good harvest just after a couple of months!

In the original text of the first sentence, Mr. Mao Dun expresses his compliments to the poplar tree with four extremely tense rhetorical comparison sentences. And when translating these four sentences, Mr. Zhang Peiji also used four consecutively “how could you” to express the strong feeling. The usual English translation method is to extract one subject as a guide, and finally ends with a declarative sentence. However, Mr. Zhang Peiji’s male path, faithful to the original sentiment and sentence pattern, was also translated in the same sentence pattern, presented to the reader is a tribute to the poplar, and the praise of the people’s revolution and great national spirit.

And in the second sentence, the translation is demonstrating the urgency and busyness of “we” doing what it says. Here, Mr. Zhang Peiji adopted the form of start + ing. On the one hand, it makes the language concise, and on the other hand, it adds visual dynamics, as if to bring the reader to the children’s lively labor scene.

When translating, Mr. Zhang always stands at the global level, thoroughly understands the original text, and gains and deletes just right, so that the deep semantics of the original text can be fully interpreted.

#### 4.2.3 Repetitive sentence

What is repetitive sentence? Generally speaking, it is a rhetorical technique, which is aims to repeat individual words or sentences over and over again to achieve the purpose of emphasis. Repeated rhetoric is to emphasize a certain meaning, highlight a certain emotion, and deliberately reuse certain words, sentences, or paragraphs. In order to highlight a certain feeling or a certain behavior, the same word is used more than twice in succession to achieve the purpose of emphasis. Phrases or sentences are repeated. Sometimes in order to express the content or the need for structural arrangement, it is necessary to use the same phrase or sentence more than twice in succession. It is most common in poetry and novels. E.g.

S12a: 朋友，你做了家庭，社会与学校的奴隶，……虽是每天吃着饭，做着事或是读着书，但是你还是一个

活着的死人！

你是一个活着的死人，朋友，你自己知道吗？

朋友，你不是想有一个男朋友或是女朋友吗？你不是希望现代社会能够社交公开吗？……你们要想互相通讯吗？他们说这是有伤校风，就要把你驱逐出校。

哟，朋友，你是一个活着的死人，你自己知道吗？

朋友，你不是想有一点新鲜的思想拿来发表或拿来实现吗？……你的学校不也因为这一点要说你“有损学校名誉”或“犯校规第几条”，把你记过或挂牌开除吗？

哟，朋友，你的“人权”在哪里，你能有一点思想的自由与行动的自由，努力去做一个人的权利吗？

不能，不能！

哟，朋友，你是一个活着的死人，你自己知道吗？

S13a: 朋友，你不是喜欢看伟大的，壮丽的美国尼亚加拉的大瀑布吗？那就是象征生命之流的。朋友，你也不是更喜欢看那急激的，奔放的，你们四川瞿塘峡的急流吗？那也是象征生命之流的。

S12b: Friends, now that you've become a slave to family, society and school,... You are a walking corpse, even though you eat, work or study every day!

You are a walking corpse, friends. Are you aware of it?

Friends, aren't you eager to have a boyfriend or girlfriend? Don't you hope that the present society will allow free contacts between boys and girls?... Don't you want to correspond with a schoolmate of the opposite sex? But they will call this an immoral act in violation of school discipline and kick you out.

O friends, you are a walking corpse. Are you aware of it?

Friends, don't you intend to have some fresh ideas expressed or put into practice?... And your school will, just because of this, give you a demerit, discredit you in public or dismiss you--all on a charge of "damaging the school reputation" or "violating this or that school rule".

O friends, do you have any "civil rights"...or the right of being a man?

No, none at all!

O friends, you are a walking corpse. Are you aware of it?

S13b: Friends, you must admire the great magnificence of the Niagara Falls in America. It is

symbolic of the torrent of life. Friends, you must admire even more the swift rolling rapids of the Qutang Gorge in Sichuan Province. That, too, is symbolic of the torrent of life.

The original author Zhang Wentian is an older generation of proletarian revolutionaries in China and an enthusiastic fighter of the new literary movement during the May 4th Movement. However, people are familiar with his political activities after his middle age, and few know his early literary creations.

Mr. Zhang Peiji fully reflects the author's desire for freedom in the original text by translating the repeated sentences in the original text. Zhang Peiji adopts the same structure as the original repetitive sentence, expressing the same feelings as the original text to achieve a similar effect. When readers read, they will feel the gradual emotions, thus realizing the original author's desire for freedom and praise.

The repetition in the second sentence expresses the author's deep love and deep understanding of the yearning life. Zhang Peiji still retains the same repetitive sentence structure to express the original author's emotions and concepts, that is, the mourning for life, and the article The height of the book has risen, and readers will be inspired and inspired. They will also follow the author to get ideological inspiration and aesthetic happiness.

Through the above simple analysis of the sentences in the article, we can see that in the process of English translation of Chinese modern prose, Mr. Zhang Peiji conducted a detailed and accurate analysis of the structure and artistic conception of the prose, so that readers of the world can understand China through his translation The charm and charm of prose. When we study and study translation, we must fully understand the characteristics of the two languages, Chinese and English, especially for a detailed analysis and accurate understanding of differences, so that we can really translate good works. In addition, for literature, such translation also promotes its development, so that literature can better go to the world.

In the final analysis, the sentence arrangement in the translation process must also obey and serve the expression of the original text, leaving the emotional color of the original text to rigidly understand the difference between the two languages of English and Chinese will cause the reader of the translated language to get cold I can't appreciate the sincere feelings and temperature behind the article. Obviously, Mr. Zhang Peiji has taken this factor into consideration very well, so both Chinese



and foreign readers can appreciate the emotions behind the original text from Mr. Zhang's translation.

## V. CONCLUSION

As a prestigious translation theorist and expert, Mr. Zhang Peiji has devoted his whole life and spirit into the course of translation. For all the time, the book of *Selected Modern Chinese Essays* set a perfect example for people on how to translate modern Chinese essays. On the basis of translation aesthetics, the author of the present thesis makes a tentative study on Zhang Peiji's translation. Through learning some typical examples, the author explores how Zhang Peiji retains the original author's or original text's style while implementing a translation with his own translation style through various methods, such as maintaining the original structure of the original manuscript, and flexibly changing the original manuscript in order to live more closely to the original text Structure, and use some auxiliary methods to make up for the loss of certain cultural elements in the original text. Also, the author analyzed the background of the times by analyzing the original writers at that time to gain a deeper understanding of the ideas and moods of the original writers, in order to get closer to Mr. Zhang Peiji's translation philosophy.

The key to learning prose translation is how to use the book of *Selected Modern Chinese Essays* and how Zhang Peiji's prose translation should be fully absorbed. Personally, the translation of Zhang Peiji's prose is very important for every English learner. All in all, to think clearly, what kind of existence does Zhang Peiji's translation of prose have? Franklin once said, do you love life? Then, don't waste time, because time is the material that constitutes life. Although this sentence is short, it makes me think. Everyone must face these problems. For me personally, the translation of Zhang Peiji's prose is not only a simple translation study book, but also may change my life. Therefore, As long as it makes sense, it must be carefully considered.

Through multi-angle analysis and explanation, the author studied Zhang Peiji's translation. On the one hand, in the translation of articles, the translator must try to maintain the aesthetic value of the original text in order to show the beauty of the article to the recipients. It is the author's sincere hope that the article will provide some insights into the research and practice of translation in modern Chinese prose.

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