

天主教輔仁大學英國語文學系學士班畢業成果  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, FU JEN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATION PROJECT 2021

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**Reflection on Participating in the 2020 Annual Play: *Frozen***



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### Learning Outcome Demonstration- Annual Play 2020

“I can forgive, but I can’t forget.” This is the line in *Frozen* that strikes me at the heart. This year, 2020, I participated in the Annual Play in the translation crew. The jobs that our team is responsible for is to translate the entire play and to discuss as well as revise it over again and again. I was assigned to translate page 40 to 60 of the play, and project the PowerPoint slides show from chapter 14 to 19. Being a translator is indeed more demanding than I thought. Digging into the historical background is a must to achieve accuracy; understanding the cultural differences constantly during the translation is essential to avoid misunderstanding; and to my surprise, there are numerous translation rules to follow, including the format, font, word selections and punctuation marks. As a “freshmen translator” who has never take part in translation work in such a formal form, I realize that there remains a long way to go before I am qualified as a “translator.” Willing to learn new cultures and values, being prudent and cautious for every detail, as well as being proficient in both English and Chinese are the three key qualities that I see a translator should carry.

Translating as a team is a brand-new experience for me. I have translated as a team in the Business Translation course this semester, but the works we have translated includes mostly technical terms, and making sure that these terms are coherent throughout the work was the biggest challenge for us; however, in Annual Play, the task has been elevated to another level. With plots and one monologue after another, the team members in our crew have different interpretations. That is, we were constantly “debating” over the emotion that the character carries or the scenario that s scene demonstrates. To be honest, I am an extremely subjective person and it is challenging to persuade me into believing another interpretation. I even spend hours discussing the scenes with one of the actors, Dino, in order

to reinforce my understanding of the play. Not to mention that after we have come up with a translation that all team members agree with, we have to “debate” again with the director and the assistant director. Working as a team, sincerely, for me, is more challenging than translation itself. Still, my initial stubbornness that keeps me from accepting others’ explanations turns out to be appreciating the translation and interpretation of other group members. Take one of the group members, Colette, for example. Considering her personality, she is not very good at convincing others via speaking or debating. Yet, I am constantly amazed by her thoughts and translations. Colette plays an essential part in dragging me out of my comfort zone and opening up my ears and mind to appreciate others’ opinions. Also, other group members were being patient in communicating with me and pointing out the parts that I had made mistakes and the translation that they think I should take credits of. Translating as a team is surprisingly a mind-blower and such a special experience for me.

Aside from cooperation and team-working, there are some translation skills that I have learned and find engrossing. Sticking to either domesticating translation or foreignizing translation the greatest difficulty that we needed to conquer in the beginning. After finishing the first draft, being coherent in terms and measurements is the focus of the following revisions. As we started to rehearse along with the actors, making the translation more colloquial according to the director’s instructions while keeping the translation accurate in the meantime is also an obstacle that we were conquering. Before we started to translate the script, we are informed to keep the subtitles as precise, and more importantly, as short as possible. Yet, since the character “Ralph” is portrait as a savage, the director thinks that our initial translation may mislead the audience to learn Ralph’s character, which is why we went through everything again to make it more colloquial while maintaining the lines’ original meaning. This is the difficulty that the entire group had been trying to cope with- struggling between the translation principles and the director’s expectation. With numerous discussions

with the crew, we have helped each to come up with translations that strike a balance between the two realms.

Personally, translating the “untranslatable” lines is a major hindrance that I had encountered. The scene that Ralph talks about “the words begin with F.” Struggling between “literal translation” and “transliteration,” as well as concerning there are audience that barely understands English and those who understands what the actors are saying, I surely made an effort in coming up with a translation that caters to everyone. The final translation that I came up with by myself is to translate the numbers (four, fourteen, forty-four) into family members (mom, mum, mother) since family also starts with “f,” and the following lines (fuck, fucker, fucking) in Chinese is “媽的” which corresponds with “mom” in Chinese. Sadly, after the meeting with the professor, the group still decided to stick to the original meaning, which is putting the English subtitle as well as the direct Chinese translation on the screen. To be honest, I am kind of disappointed when the group came up with this decision, because just like the professor said in the meeting, we are capable of coming up with a translation that meets everyone’s needs. Nevertheless, I respect the decision that the group and the professor think that is the best for the audience to realize the meaning of each scene, sentence, and word.

Although each member is assigned to translate separate scenes, we all took part in every scene in some way. As a subjective member, when it comes to translation that I do not agree with, I was not able to tolerate it, and the discussions, or more like debates, will continue until either one of us convinced the other. The Annual Play translation can serve as my learning outcome demonstration because this is a work that presents not only our bilingual ability that we have been building up in the English department, but also demonstrates the translation skills that we have been learning and exercising throughout the process.