

College of Foreign Languages and Literatures, FJCU

Transition and Transformation: Explorations in Language, Literature, Culture, and Translation

輔仁大學外語學院 2024 跨文化研究國際學術研討會：
轉銜·轉變：外語、文學、文化與翻譯之探究

Paper Abstract (English)

Affiliation/Position	Fudan University / PhD student 复旦大学 / 博士研究生	Name	ZHANG Xiangquan 张祥权
Title: Multimodal Untranslatability in the Chinese Translation of Bob Dylan's Lyrics-literature			
Fields of specialization: Translation theories; Chinese translation history			
摘要：英文 250 或中文 500 字以內 Abstract : fewer than 250 words in English or 500 words in Chinese			
<p>In 2017, the Chinese translation of <i>The Lyrics 1961-2012</i> (2016) by Bob Dylan was published by Guangxi Normal University (GXNU) Press. The high literary prestige brought about by the Nobel Prize in Literature is reflected in the Chinese title of the translated book, “鲍勃·迪伦诗歌集” that refers to the collected poems of Bob Dylan, in which the characters “诗歌” (poems) emphasize the new book positioning as poems that differs from the original positioning of lyrics. This paper first investigates Bob Dylan's view on lyrics and literature based on Bob Dylan's Nobel lecture, interview records and biographic writings after conceptualizing the literariness of lyrics and historicizing the development of lyrics in literature. Secondly, this paper examines the difficulties and challenges in the poetic translation of Bob Dylan's literature, i.e. the lyrics that are a component of Bob Dylan's songs and are closely intertwined with the composition, arrangement, live performance and some other limiting conditions to which the lyricists are constrained. As a digital multimodal text, lyrics are written to be sung in songs and not meant to be read on pages, as Bob Dylan mentioned in his Nobel Lecture. In the third section, this paper discusses how the multimodal signifiers are translated or transformed in the Chinese translation (GXNU Press, 2017) of <i>The Lyrics 1961-2012</i> (2016). The multimodal untranslatability of Bob Dylan's new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition (Facts, NobelPrize.org) reveals the antinomy between the logic of lyrics and that of literariness, demonstrating that lyrics cannot be translated completely.</p>			