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	Chungbuk National University(Korea) /Professor	Name	Gi Taek Ryoo
Title Creativity realized in Translation: Kim Su-yeong & Robert Lowell			
Fields of specialization: 20 th Century British and American Poetry, Translation, Comparative Literature			

摘要:英文 250 或中文 500 字以内

Abstract: fewer than 250 words in English or 500 words in Chinese

This papers explores how the Korean poet Kim Su-yeong creatively translates or rewrites Robert Lowell's poetry into his own poetry. Kim Su-yeong, while greatly influenced by Robert Lowell, swerves his precursor to claim his own space of creativity in the process of translation. Most of Kim's best moments come when he abandons Lowell's literal words in order to get at the tone behind the words, and to adapt that tone to his own voice. It is notable that Robert Lowell himself was also able to discover his own voice through his experience of translation. Steven Axelrod demonstrates how Lowell assimilated Charles Baudelaire's tone and subject matter into his own poetic voice. In his translation of Baudelaire, he slightly bent the original poems so that they express Lowell's own concern in his distinctive style. Perhaps Lowell's translation of Baudelaire helps complete Kim's task of translation, from the other way, together drawing a full circle of Moebius strip twisted between reading and writing in the process of translation. The translator's creativity necessarily alters the received ideas and expressions from the text in order to make it alive or resuscitate in a different language and culture. It is a kind of literary resurrection and this resurrection continues. Both the author and the translator, I will demonstrate, set out a similar kind of journey and adventure, creating this dynamic and dialectic circulatory system of literary communication between reading and writing.