Vertical and Horizontal Cultural Adaptation: From Archaic Chinese to Modern English

Dr Aiqing Wang
aiqing.wang@lancaster.ac.uk
Department of Languages and Cultures
Outline

1. Linguistic Discrepancy
   - Archaic Chinese vs Modern Chinese/English
     - SOV \( \rightarrow \) SVO
   - Archaic Chinese vs Modern English
     - Omission

2. Cultural Adaptation
   - Horizontal Adaptation
   - Vertical & Horizontal Adaptation
   - Translation Techniques
Doctorate Research

- **Area**
  - Historical syntax

- **Phenomenon**
  - Preverbal positioning of *wh-* and non-*wh-* phrases

- **Language**
  - Archaic Chinese (11\textsuperscript{th}c BC-221 BC, Zhou Dynasty)

- **Corpus**
  - Peking University Corpus

- **Translation**
  - Archaic Chinese to Modern English
Linguistic Discrepancy

1. Archaic Chinese vs Modern Chinese/English
   - SOV → SVO
     - Object of monotransitive verb
     - Object of ditransitive verb

2. Archaic Chinese vs Modern English
   - Omission
     - Subject 😊
     - Object 😊
     - Subordinating conjunction 😊
     - Copula 😞
     - Preposition 😞
Linguistic Discrepancy

1. Archaic Chinese vs Modern Chinese/English
   - SOV $\rightarrow$ SVO
     - Object of monotransitive verb
     - Object of ditransitive verb

(1) 余 不 女 忍 殺。

$yu$ $bu$ $ru$ $ren$ $[sha\ t]$.

I not you bear kill

‘I cannot bear to kill you.’
1. Archaic Chinese vs Modern Chinese/English

- **SOV → SVO**
  - Object of monotransitive verb
  - Object of ditransitive verb

\[(2) \text{余 何 有 焉?} \quad (\text{Guoyu})\]

\[\begin{align*}
\text{Yu} & \quad \text{he} & \quad [\text{you} \ t] & \quad \text{yan?} \\
\text{I} & \quad \text{what} & \quad \text{have} & \quad Q
\end{align*}\]

‘What do I have?’
1. Archaic Chinese vs Modern Chinese/English

- **SOV → SVO**
  - Object of monotransitive verb
  - Object of ditransitive verb

(3) Rujiang wu hu [bi yu [t t]] zai?
you Fut what to compare me Q

Ruo jiang [bi yu [yu [wen mu]]] ye?
you Fut compare me to useful wood Q

‘To what will you compare me? Will you compare me to useful wood?’  (Zhuangzi)
1. Archaic Chinese vs Modern Chinese/English

- SOV $\rightarrow$ SVO
  - Object of monotransitive verb
  - Object of ditransitive verb

(4) 彼 知 吾 將 用 之，
Bi zhi wu jiang yong zhi,
3.Subj know I Fut employ 3.Obj

必 不 吾 予 也。
bi bu wu [yu t] ye.
must not me give Decl
‘(If) he knows I will employ him, (he) must not give (him to) me.’ (Guanzi)
1. Archaic Chinese vs Modern Chinese/English
   - **SOV → SVO**
     - Object of monotransitive verb
     - Object of ditransitive verb

Translation Technique
Adjustment of word order
2. Archaic Chinese vs Modern English

- Omission
  - Subject 😊
  - Object 😊
  - Subordinating conjunction 😊
  - Copula 😌
  - Preposition 😂
2. Archaic Chinese vs Modern English

- Omission of subject

(5) 归之，未绝之也。
Gui zhi, wei jue zhi ye.
send.home 3.Obj not.yet divorce 3.Obj Decl
‘(The emperor) sent her home, (but) has not divorced her yet.’

(Zuo zhuan)
2. Archaic Chinese vs Modern English

- Omission of subject

(6) 必將殺之。

Bi jiang sha zhi. (Guanzi)

certainly Fut kill 3. Obj

‘(They) will certainly kill him.’
2. Archaic Chinese vs Modern English

- Omission of object
  - Object of monotransitive verb
  - Prepositional complement
  - Pivotal construction
2. Archaic Chinese vs Modern English

- **Omission of object**

  - Object of monotransitive verb

(7) 愛之，能勿勞乎?

Ai zhi, neng wu lao hu?

love 3.Obj can not dedicate.to Q

忠焉，能勿誨乎?

Zhong yan, neng wu hui hu?

be.loyal Decl can not admonish Q

‘If (I) love him, (how) can (I) not dedicate to (him)? If (I) am loyal, (how) can I not admonish (him)?’
2. Archaic Chinese vs Modern English

- **Omission of object**
- **Prepositional complement**

(8) 士志於道，而恥

*(Analects)*

Shi zhi yu dao, er chi

scholar aspire to knowledge Conj be.ashamed.of

恥衣恥食者，未足與議也。

e yi e shi zhe, wei zu yu yi ye.

bad clothes bad food Decl not worthy with discuss Decl

‘(If) a scholar aspires to knowledge, but is ashamed of bad clothes and food, (it is) not worthy of discussing with (him).’
2. Archaic Chinese vs Modern English

- Omission of object
- Pivotal construction

(9) 雍也，可使南面。（Analects）
Yong ye, ke shi nan mian.
Yong Decl can make south face
‘Yong, (one) can make (him) a government official.’ (Lit ‘Yong, (one) can make (him) face south.’)
2. Archaic Chinese vs Modern English

- Omission of subordinating conjunction

(10) 不當應而應鼓，
bu dang ying er ying gu,
not should reply Conj reply drum
主者斬。
zhuzhe zhan.
commander decapitate
‘(If a soldier) should not reply to but reply to the drums, his commander (will be) decapitated.’
2. Archaic Chinese vs Modern English

- Omission of copula

(11) 谷之不成熟，孤之咎也。
Gu zhi bu cheng, gu zhi jiu ye.
millet ZHI not mature I Gen fault Decl
‘(The situation that) millets do not mature (is) my fault.’

(Guoyu)
2. Archaic Chinese vs Modern English

- Omission of preposition

(12) 惡 乎 取 之? 取 之 曹 也。
Wu hu qu zhi? Qu zhi cao ye.
where from take 3.OBJ take 3.OBJ Cao Decl
‘From where to take it? Take it (from) Cao.’

(Guoyu)
2. Archaic Chinese vs Modern English

- Omission

Translation Techniques

- Reference to contexts
- Recovery of elliptical constituents
- Provision of recovered constituents in brackets
Cultural Adaptation

1. Horizontal Adaptation
   - Modern Chinese → Modern English

2. Vertical & Horizontal Adaptation
   - Archaic Chinese → Modern Chinese
   - Modern Chinese → Modern English
1. Horizontal Adaptation

- Modern Chinese → Modern English

(13) 飯 疏食 飲 水，曲 肱 而 枕 之，
Eating fodder, drinking cold water, bending an arm and resting the head on it (as a pillow); pleasure also lies in them. 

(Please cited from Analects)
Cultural Adaptation

1. Horizontal Adaptation
   - Modern Chinese → Modern English

   (14) 不義富且貴
        Buyi fu qie gui,
        ill-gotten wealth Conj honour
        於我如浮雲。
        yu wo ru fu yun.
        to me be.like drifting cloud
        ‘Ill-gotten wealth and honour are like (illusory and insignificant) drifting clouds to me.’
Cultural Adaptation

1. Horizontal Adaptation

- Modern Chinese → Modern English

(15) 奚 以 之 九 萬 里
Xi yi zhi jiu wan li
what for go 9 ten.thousand li
而 南 為?
er nan wei?
 Conj south Q

‘For what (do you) go (up for) ninety thousand lis (a length unit) and (fly towards) south?’
Cultural Adaptation

2. Vertical & Horizontal Adaptation

- Archaic Chinese $\rightarrow$ Modern Chinese
- Modern Chinese $\rightarrow$ Modern English

(16) 谷之不成，孤之咎也。 (Guoyu)

Gu zhi bu cheng, gu zhi jiu ye.

millet ZHI not mature I Gen fault Decl

‘(The situation that) millets do not mature (is) my fault.’
2. Vertical & Horizontal Adaptation

- Archaic Chinese → Modern Chinese
- Modern Chinese → Modern English

(17) 雍也，可使南面。
Yong ye, ke shi nan mian.
Yong Decl can make south face
‘Yong, (one) can make (him) a government official.’ (Lit ‘Yong, (one) can make (him) face south.’)
2. Vertical & Horizontal Adaptation

- Archaic Chinese \(\rightarrow\) Modern Chinese
- Modern Chinese \(\rightarrow\) Modern English

(18) 八佾 舞 於 庭，是 可 忍 也，
Bayi wu yu ting, shi ke ren ye,
8.line dance in court this can endure Decl
孰 不 可 忍 也！
shu bu ke ren ye!
which not can endure Decl
‘Eight-line dance in the court, (if) this can be endured, which cannot be endured!’

(Analects)
2. Vertical & Horizontal Adaptation

- Archaic Chinese $\rightarrow$ Modern Chinese
- Modern Chinese $\rightarrow$ Modern English

(19) 子欲居九夷。  
Zi yu ju jiu yi.  
Confucius want live 9 Yi.tribe

‘Confucius wants to live (in the settlements of) nine Yi tribes.’
Cultural Adaptation

1. Horizontal Adaptation
2. Vertical & Horizontal Adaptation

Translation Techniques

- Inclusion of explanatory information in brackets
- Combination of free translation and literal translation
- Provision of translator’s notes
Cultural Adaptation

Translation Techniques

- Inclusion of explanatory information in brackets

(20) 不義 且 貴
Buyi 且 gui,
ill-gotten Conj honour
於 我 如 浮 雲。
yu wo ru fu yun.
to me be.like drifting cloud
‘Ill-gotten wealth and honour are like (illusory and insignificant) drifting clouds to me.’

(Analects)
Cultural Adaptation

Translation Techniques

- Inclusion of explanatory information in brackets

(21) 奚以之九萬里
Xi yi zhi jiu wan li
what for go 9 ten.thousand li
而南為?
er nan wei?
Conj south Q
‘For what (do you) go (up for) ninety thousand lis (a length unit) and (fly towards) south?’

(Zhuangzi)
Cultural Adaptation

Translation Techniques

- Inclusion of explanatory information in brackets

(22) 君子不器。(Analects)

Junzi bu qi.
gentleman not utensil

‘A gentleman (should) not (be) an utensil (which only has a particular function, rather than being versatile).’
Translation Techniques

- Inclusion of explanatory information in brackets

(23) 下佐食 取 牢 一切 肺 于 俎。 (Yili)
Xiazuoshi qu lao yiqie fei yu zu.
Xiazuoshi take sacrifice all lung from vessel
‘Xiazuoshi (an ancient name for worshippers of a particular rank) took all the lungs of the sacrifices from the vessel.’
Translation Techniques

- Inclusion of explanatory information in brackets

(24) 述而不作，信而好古，
inherit Conj not create trust Conj appreciate history
竊比於我老彭。
(personally compare to me Laodan and Pengzu (two ancient sages).)

Shu er bu zuo, xin er hao gu, qie bi yu wo lao peng.
‘(I) inherit but not create, (I) trust and appreciate history;
(I) personally compare myself to Laodan and Pengzu (two ancient sages).’
Cultural Adaptation

Translation Techniques

- Combination of free translation and literal translation
  - Metaphor
  - Simile
  - Metonymy
Cultural Adaptation

Translation Techniques

- Combination of free translation and literal translation
- Metaphor
- Simile
- Metonymy

(25) 今魯國獨非君之皮邪?
Jin Luguo du fei jun zhi pi ye?
now Lu.State alone not.be Your.Majesty Gen fur Q
‘Now isn’t the State of Lu alone Your Majesty’s cursed treasure?’
(Lit ‘Now isn’t the State of Lu alone Your Majesty’s fur?’)

(Zhuangzi)
Cultural Adaptation

Translation Techniques
- Combination of free translation and literal translation
- Metaphor
- Simile
- Metonymy

(26) 非獨染絲然也，國亦有染。
Fei du ran si ran ye, guo yi you ran.
not.be alone dye silk like.this Decl state also have dyeing
‘As silk being dyed, states can also be affected.’ (Lit ‘(It) is not
only dyeing silk (which is) like this; states also have dyeing.’)

(Mozi)
Cultural Adaptation

Translation Techniques

- Combination of free translation and literal translation
- Metaphor
- Simile
- Metonymy

(27) 雍也，可使南面。

Yong ye, ke shi nan mian.

Yong Decl can make south face

‘Yong, (one) can make (him) a government official.’ (Lit ‘Yong, (one) can make (him) face south.’)
Cultural Adaptation

Translation Techniques

- Provision of translator’s notes

(28) 飯 疏食 飲水，曲肱而枕之，

Fan shushi yin shui, qu gong er zhen zhi,

eat fodder drink cold.water bend arm Conj rest.head.on 3.Obj

樂亦在其中矣。(Analects)

le yi zai qi zhong yi.

pleasure also lie.in Gen inside Decl

‘Eating fodder, drinking cold water, bending an arm and resting the head on it (when sleeping); pleasure also lies in them.’
Cultural Adaptation

Translation Techniques

- Provision of translator’s notes

(29) 谷之不成熟，孤之咎也。
Gu zhi bu cheng, gu zhi jiu ye.
millet ZHI not mature I Gen fault Decl

‘(The situation that) millets do not mature (is) my fault.’

(Guoyu)
Cultural Adaptation

Translation Techniques

- Provision of translator’s notes

(30) 八佾舞於庭，是可忍也，
Bayi wu yu ting, shi ke ren ye,
8.line dance in court this can endure Decl
孰不可忍也!
shu bu ke ren ye!
which not can endure Decl
‘Eight-line dance in the court, (if) this can be endured, which
cannot be endured!’

(Analects)
Cultural Adaptation

Translation Techniques

- Provision of translator’s notes

(31) 子欲居九夷。
Zi yu ju jiuj yi.  
Confucius want live 9 Yi.tribe

‘Confucius wants to live (in the settlements of) nine Yi tribes.’
Conclusion

1. Linguistic Discrepancy
   - Archaic Chinese vs Modern Chinese/English (SOV → SVO)
   - Archaic Chinese vs Modern English (Omission)

2. Cultural Adaptation
   - Horizontal Adaptation
   - Vertical & Horizontal Adaptation

3. Translation Techniques
   - Linguistic Discrepancy
   - Cultural Adaptation
   - Inclusion of explanatory information in brackets
   - Combination of free translation and literal translation
   - Provision of translator’s notes
References

謝謝
Thank you