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

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## 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
- Translation Techniques

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- **Area**  
Historical syntax
  - **Phenomenon**  
Preverbal positioning of *wh*- and non-*wh*-phrases
  - **Language**  
Archaic Chinese (11<sup>th</sup>c BC-221 BC, Zhou Dynasty)
  - **Corpus**  
Peking University Corpus
  - **Translation**  
Archaic Chinese to Modern English

## 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 😞

## 1. Archaic Chinese vs Modern Chinese/English

### ▪ SOV → SVO

- Object of monotransitive verb
- Object of ditransitive verb

(1) 余 不 女 忍 殺。

(*Zuozhuan*)

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) 余 何 有 焉?

(*Guoyu*)

Yu he [you t] yan?

I what have Q

‘What do I have?’

## 1. Archaic Chinese vs Modern Chinese/English

### ▪ SOV → SVO

- Object of monotransitive verb
- Object of ditransitive verb

(3) 女 將 惡 乎 比 予 哉?

Ru jiang wu hu [bi yu [t t]] zai?

you Fut what to compare me Q

若 將 比 予 于 文 木 邪? (Zhuangzi)

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?' 7

## 1. Archaic Chinese vs Modern Chinese/English

### ▪ SOV → 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。

(*Guanzi*)

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.’



## 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) 歸                      之,              未              絕              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.’

(Zuozhuan)

## 2. Archaic Chinese vs Modern English

- Omission of subject

(6) 必                      將                      殺                      之。                      (*Guanzi*)  
Bi                      jiang                      sha                      zhi.  
certainly                      Fut                      kill                      3.Obj  
'(They) will certainly kill him.'

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## 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

*(Analects)*

'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

惡 衣 惡 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。

(*Mozi*)

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, 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*)

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## 2. Archaic Chinese vs Modern English

- Omission

### Translation Techniques

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

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## 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,  
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 (as a pillow); pleasure also lies in them.’<sup>22</sup>

## 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

(*Analects*)

'Ill-gotten wealth and honour are like (illusory and insignificant) drifting clouds to me.'

## 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

(Zhuangzi)

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



## 2. Vertical & Horizontal Adaptation

- Archaic Chinese → Modern Chinese
- Modern Chinese → 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。 (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. Vertical & Horizontal Adaptation

- Archaic Chinese → Modern Chinese
- Modern Chinese → 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! (Analects)  
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!'

## 2. Vertical & Horizontal Adaptation

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

(19) 子                      欲      居      九      夷。                      (*Analects*)  
Zi                      yu      ju      jiu      yi.  
Confucius      want      live      9      Yi.tribe  
'Confucius wants to live (in the settlements of) nine Yi tribes.'

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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

## Translation Techniques

- Inclusion of explanatory information in brackets

(20) 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

*(Analects)*

‘Ill-gotten wealth and honour are like (illusory and insignificant) drifting clouds to me.’

## 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

(Zhuangzi)

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

## 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,  
Shu er bu zuo, xin er hao gu,  
inherit Conj not create trust Conj appreciate history  
竊 比 於 我 老 彭。 (Analects)  
qie bi yu wo lao peng.  
personally compare to me Laodan Pengzu  
'(I) inherit but not create, (I) trust and appreciate history;  
(I) personally compare myself to Laodan and Pengzu (two ancient  
sages).'

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## Translation Techniques

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

## 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)

## 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)

## Translation Techniques

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

(27) 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.’)

## 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.'

## Translation Techniques

- Provision of translator's notes

(29) 谷 之 不 成, 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*)



## 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! (Analects)  
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!'

## Translation Techniques

- Provision of translator's notes

(31) 子 欲 居 九 夷。 (Analects)

Zi yu ju jiu yi.

Confucius want live 9 Yi.tribe

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

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## 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

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# 謝謝

# Thank you

