高科大應用外語學報第四期 Journal of Applied Foreign Languages pp.55-69, Volume 4, February 2006 Performative Personae and Transcultural Imagination: Ezra Pound's Cathay

龐德在《中國》裡的角色扮演與跨文化想像

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摘要

龐德在早期的作品中,經常透過角色扮演的方式來翻譯西方經典詩作,並藉此塑造詩人獨特的聲音。在《中國》這本詩集裡,收錄有龐德重新翻譯創作的十四首中國詩,龐德雖不諳中文語法修辭,但其創新的翻譯手法,多數學者認為他的作品與原詩作相去不遠。本文對於龐德的翻譯與原作的雷同性不再贅言,而是針對詩人對一個他不甚熟悉的文化做角色扮演,進而引發一連串對東方的跨文化想像及再建構做深入探討。文中建議,透過角色扮演,龐德顛覆了西方詩學傳統;在跨文化想像中,更細膩的為藏匿於中國詩中的人物發聲,此舉不但把原詩作中之中國經驗轉化成人類共同經驗,更跨越了東西方文化嚴謹的二元劃分。

關鍵詞:龐德、中國詩、角色扮演、跨文化想像

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Ezra Pound's Cathay

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Abstract

Much of the fascination to be found in Pound's early work lies in watching him develop his poetic voice in the choice of persona through a poetic of translation. It was in Cathay (1915), composed of 14 selected Chinese poems, that Pound succeeded in rendering his choices of personae as perfect fits with the original speakers. His multifarious and stimulating translation is labeled as innovative in his attempt to catch the spirit of the original. To study Pound's Cathay as a translation only allows us to learn the delicate way Pound deals with the linguistic and rhetorical features of Chinese poetry he was ignorant of Therefore, this paper sets out to explore the significant effects of encounter, interplay, and intersection of non-Western literature, culture, and mentalities. Bluntly adapting Chinese poems with the transcultural imagination, Pound is primarily concerned with literal recreation of a text in the new language and renovation of the Western poetic tradition. His innovation of performative personae helps him develop a new English poetics and differentiate himself from his late Victorian predecessors. As Pound posits China as a repository of sophistication in its arts, he seems to become aware of himself in relation to different mentalities embedded within these Chinese poems. Through his adjustments and invigoration of their intrinsic mentalities, he was personally involved in the transcultural imagination of the Orient. Pound's act of reconstruction significantly transfigures all human experiences and integrates us all into a seething humanity.

Keywords: Ezra Pound, Personae, Cathay, Transcultural Imagination