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——浅议英国汉学家理雅各的《佛国记》译本

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摘要:本文由简要介绍高僧法显的《佛国记》原文入手,点明这部纪实性巨著的多重价值,然后概括提到并比较了目前它的各种注译本,以此引出了西方学术界提到和使用最多的理雅各译本,接着援引具体例子,从值得关注的长篇序言、忠实严谨的正文翻译和详尽深入的评论注释三个方面分析了理雅各译本的鲜明特点,同时探讨了译本存在的两个问题,最后总结理雅各译本的贡献。

关键词: 理雅各 《佛国记》 直译 注释

《佛国记》(也称《法显传》、《佛游天竺记》、《历游天竺记传》)是一部纪实性游记,全书一卷万余字,是东晋沙门法显西行取经回国后撰写的西域巡礼的见闻,书中以有关佛教的内容为主,比较全面的记述了五世纪初期中亚、南亚以及东南亚地区的宗教、文化、交通、物产、风俗习惯、社会生活、经济状况以及自然景观等各方面的内容。由于法显记录的是自己的亲身见闻,而且态度严谨,言必实录,行文质朴流畅,感情真挚自然,所以历来极受重视,享有很高的声誉。佛国记的意义远远超出了佛教的范围,是研究佛教史、中亚史、南亚史、中外关系史以及历史、地理学的必不可少的著作。因此,《佛国记》不仅是中国文化的宝贵遗产,也是世界文化的宝贵遗产。

《佛国记》受到东西方许多学者的重视和研究,故外文译本甚多。特别是十九世纪以来,佛国记以其重要的佛学价值和近代学术研究价值,引起了世界各地学者的极大兴趣,不断有新的注译本问世,包括英语、德语、法语和日本语,还有印地文和尼泊尔文。其中由西方学者整理的译注本主要有:法文译本《Fa-hien, Foe Koue Ki》(by M. Abel Remusat, Paris,1836);英文译本①《Travels of Fa-hien and Sung-yun,Buddhist Pilgrims from China to India》(by Samuel Beal,London,1869)②《The Travels of Fa-hien or Record of the Buddhistic Kingdoms》(by Herbert A.

Giles, Cambridge, 1877) ③ 《A Record of Buddhistic Kingdoms, being an Account by the Chinese Monk Fa-hien of his Travels in India and Ceylon》 (by James Legge, Oxford, 1886)。

在这些译本中,法文本似乎很难在国内找到,Beal译本的翻译质量并不太高,研究也很一般,但在英语世界是最早的译本,所以直到今天,在西方及印度仍不时有人提到并引用。而理雅各的英译本是到目前为止,在西方学术界提到和使用最多的。因此下文将着重分析理雅各《佛国记》的英译本:

(一) 值得关注的长篇序言

理雅各《佛国记》译本中的序言可大体分为三个部分:开头、中间和结尾。开头部分他先介绍自己翻译《佛国记》的过程和其间遇到的困难;说明《佛国记》由译文、注释和原文三部分组成,指出译文创作中参考的三个主要蓝本,考证注释的来源和两大目的以及著作中仍有待解决的涉及佛教的个别问题;接着对戴维斯(Davis)、日本朋友南条文雄(Mr. Bunyiu Nanjio)等人表示感谢,然后点明著作中引用的图片的出处。中间部分他给出法显旅行路线的略图并配有文字,还有一幅诸天恭贺图。结尾部分他谈到了三个方面的内容即高僧法显的生平,《佛国记》的可信性和完整性,以及对于佛教信徒数量的质疑。

(二) 忠实严谨的正文翻译

总体看,翻译是相当准确的,理雅各在序言中提到他把全文翻译了两遍,有些地方甚至译了三次。他力求在语言的形式和内容上最大限度地贴近原文。译笔细腻考究,简洁雅致,基本符合原文风貌。

A.形式

其一,古代经典无段落,理雅各在附于译文后的《佛国记》原文中,用〇将段落隔开,以便读者对照查阅。其二,煞费苦心的标注出了原文不同版本的一些差别,用S和M分别代表宋朝和明朝的版本,J代表日文版本,而R和W表明此版编者个人对各版本不同之处正误的判断。其三,每一章节前提炼出本章的主要内容,一目了然。

应特别指出的是英语与汉语是两种差异很大的语言,把汉语译为英语时,不可避免的要加上助词以保证语法的正确性;常常还要增加其他的词汇,比如,解释背景的用词,来确保读者的理解。对于这两种增词,理雅各都在译文中用括号表示出来,力图使读者知道哪些词是原有的,哪些是补上的。

例1. "…会时,请四方沙门,皆来,云集已,莊严众僧坐处…"

When this is to be held, the king requests the presence of the Sramans from all quarters (of his kingdom). They come (as if) in clouds; and when they are all assembled, their place of session is grandly decorated.

第一个括号说明所指代的范围,第二个括号补充表示虚拟方式的连词,体现了沙门云集的情状。

例2. "…王夫人问,王常游何处,羣臣答言,恒在贝多树下…"

The queen asked where the king was constantly going to, and the ministers replied that he was constantly to be seen under (such and such) a patra tree.

此括号是用于口语语气的增词,绘声绘色地模拟了群臣的回答。

例3. "…明日诸大鬼神,各赍大石来,壁方四五步…"

Next day the spirits came, each one bringing with him a great rock, (like) a wall, four or five paces square, (for a seat).

第一个括号增加了介词,反映原文将石和壁作比,体现石头之大;第二个括号补出介词短语, 点明鬼神带大石前来的用途。

例4. "…王及羣臣,如法供养,或一月二月,或三月,多在春时…"

When clean mats have been spread, and they are all seated, the king and his ministers present their offerings according to rule and law. (The assembly takes place), in the first, second, or third month, for the most part in the spring.

括号内容是语法需要的主语和谓语的增词,使句子完整,语义明确。

例5. "…舍利弗,大婆罗门时,诣佛求出家…"

When Sariputtra was a great Brahman, he went to Buddha, and begged (to be permitted) to quit his family (and become a monk).

第一个括号指出求佛的结果是被允许,第二个括号是对 "出家"的补充解释,更有助于读者理解此佛教常用术语。

例6. "…佛在尼拘律树下东向坐,大爱道布施佛僧伽梨处,此树犹在。"

Where Buddha sat under a nyagrodha tree, which is still standing, with his face to the east, and (his aunt) Maha-prajapati presented him with a Sanghali.

括号内容说明了佛与大爱道之间的亲缘关系,原句并没有揭示这层关系,理雅各根据佛教史实 补出。

例7. "…城北双树间,希连禅河边,世尊于此北首而般泥洹…"

On the bank of the Nairanjana river, is the place where the World-honored one, with his head to the north, attained to pari-nirvana (and died).

本句先用梵语音译"般泥洹",再通过括号内容解释性的意译了此佛教术语的实质,既保持了词语的异域性,又保证读者的理解。

例8. "…誓言自今已去至得佛,愿不生边地,故遂停不归。"

And made the following aspiration:— 'From this time forth till I come to the state of Buddha, let me not be born in a frontier land.' He remained accordingly (in India), and did not return (to the land of Han).

两个括号补充点出了僧人道整决定停留的地点是天竺而不再回去的故乡是汉地。

B.内容

a.词语

理雅各在词语翻译方面讲究词义的多样性,以此达到语义对应。他常根据上下文用不同译法翻译同一个词,来表现该词在不同语境的含义。

例如,理雅各将"过河有国名毗荼,佛法兴盛,兼大小乘学,见秦道人往,乃大怜愍,作是言,如何边地人能知出家为道,远求佛法…"译为: After they had crossed the river, there was a country named Pe-too, where Buddhism was very flourishing, and (the monks) studied both the mahayana and hinayana. When they saw their fellow-disciples from Tsin passing along, they were moved with great pity and sympathy, and expressed themselves thus: 'How is it that these men from a border-land should have learned to become monks, and come for the sake of our doctrines from such a distance in search of the Law of Buddha?'译文将首次出现的"佛法"一词译成Buddhism,侧重讲毗荼国人民笃信佛教,佛法是一个统称;而后出现的"佛法"被译为the Law of Buddha,专指法显等人所求的佛教教义,两种不同译法体现了其中的细微差异。

再如,理雅各将"…及须跋最后得道处…"译为There also are the places where Subhadra, the last (of his converts), attained to Wisdom(and became an Arhat). 而 将"…至弥勒将成道时,钵还分为四…"译为: When Maitreya shall be about to attain to perfect Wisdom (and become Buddha), it will again separate into four bowls. "得道"和"成道"都指修行到位了,都与attain to Wisdom相关,只是不同人物程度各异: 须跋became an Arhat 即最终成为阿难; 而弥勒道行更深attain to perfect Wisdom and become Buddha 即最终成为佛陀。

理雅各译文中还使用了解释性的增译,既忠实于原文又易于读者理解。例如,他将"…众僧感其惠,故为作龙舍,敷置坐处,又为龙设福食供养…"译为: In gratitude for its kindness, they have made for it a dragon-house, with carpet for it to sit on, and appointed for it a diet of blessing, which they present for its nourishment.先把"福食"直译为a diet of blessing,然后再解释性的说出这种食物的特点是富含营养,增译为for its nourishment。

b.句式

在句式方面,理雅各尽可能使译文与原文结构相一致,有时简直是字斟句比,以求接近原文风貌。

例1. "…上无飞鸟,下无走兽…"

There is not a bird to be seen in the air above, nor an animal on the ground below.

例2. "…欲去便去,欲住便住。"

If they want to go, they go; if they want to stay on, they stay.

例3. "…或作须大拏,或作賧燮,或作象王,或作鹿,马…"

Here as Sudana, there as Sama; now as the king of elephants, and then as a stag or a horse.

例4. "…两边有二石柱, 左柱上作轮形, 右柱上作牛形…"

And when the door was open, on each side of it there was a stone pillar, with the figure of a wheel on the top of that on the left, and the figure of an ox on the top of that on the right.

读者从例子中可以发现理雅各的译文贴近原文,很重要的原因在于它是由法显大师言简意赅的古文著作直译而来,译文与原文每个意群的结构都基本对应。

(三) 详尽深入的评论注释

理雅各提供的注释蕴含丰富的信息,甚至犹如译者和原作者合著,它在原作者和不甚了解佛教 史、中亚史、地理学的读者之间架起了一座沟通的桥梁,让读者从中获取知识,给读者综合立体的 感受,从而达到让读者深入理解原文的目的。理雅各的注释主要有四大功能:

第一,分析难词难点。例如,"法显得符行當公孫经理,住二月余日…",理雅各注释道:"I am obliged to adopt the reading of 行堂 in the Chinese editions, instead of the 行當 in the Corean text. The行堂, which immediately follows the surname Foo (符), must be taken as the name of his office, corresponding, as the 行 shows, to that of le maitre d'hotellerie in a Roman Catholic abbey."意思是:他倾向于采用中文版本的"行堂"一词,而不用韩文版的"行當"。"行堂"紧跟在姓氏符之后,应该被认为是此人公职的称谓,就像"行"类似于罗马天主教修道院的主事者一样。如此一番分析,往往使读者对难词难点有更深入的把握和正确的判断。

第二,考证时间和地点。法显大师在公元399年开始了长达十三年的西行求法,距今年代久远,读者对于当时的纪年方式了解甚少;法显大师陆路去海路回,途经西域和印度约三十国,像鄯善、于阗等古国早已湮灭,传记无存,而这些又正是读者掌握作者游历经过必不可少的信息,所以对时间和地点的加注是必要的。理雅各通常注出该时间的年号、年份、统治帝王,有的还记录了当年的重大事件;他具体描述了地点的地理位置(很多精确到经纬度)、山川地貌、气候物产、得名原因、存在时期以及现在的称法等。至于Woo-e、Tsze-hoh等少数还未确证的国家,他也如实告知读者。他还介绍了原文不断出现的印度古时距离单位"由延yojanas",理雅各翻译中严肃认真的态度可见一斑。

第三,论述佛教知识。包括介绍佛教发展情况(如当时佛教最盛的中天竺等地的佛教记载); 佛教中各种人物及其历史传说;佛教名胜古迹(如释迦牟尼诞生地、涅磐处);后来对佛教发展起 重大作用的阿育王等的遗迹轶事,还描写了佛像、佛塔、佛钵、佛戏、佛教典籍等。这些注释涉及 面之广,数量之多,实可结集为《佛国记之佛教研究》。它可以排除许多读者对原文的不解,相信 即使对宗教毫无知晓的读者,也会对佛教有所认识。

第四,陈述自己看法。比如,在第三十章中,佛陀涅磐之后,五百阿罗汉在叫车帝的石窟结集佛经,出经的时候,铺设了三个空座,舍利佛在左,目连在右,大迦叶为上座,但五百罗汉中少一名,当时阿难在门外不能进来。理雅各不解其缘由,质疑道: Did they not contrive to let him in, with some cachinnation, even in so august an assembly, that so important a member should have been shut out? (他们没有想尽办法让阿难进来吗?这么庄严的集会如此重要的一个成员竟被关在门外,真有点可笑)。又如,第五章中,理雅各翻译完"…供养都毕,王以所乘马,鞍勒自副,使国中贵重臣骑之…"之后又注释道: The text of this sentence is perplexing; and all translators, including myself, have been puzzled by it.坦诚的指出原文此处令人费解,连他自己也揣摩不透。

由上可见,理雅各当时克服了多少困难、耗费了多少时间,他的译著是颇有深度的研究成果,但也存在两方面问题:

一是所依据的原文版本问题。理雅各采用的是日本朋友南条文雄(Mr. Bunyiu Nanjio)给他寄来的1779年在日本出版的一套完整清晰的韩国版《佛国记》。其实当时已有四个校订本,各版本共有300多个不同之处,编者选用了韩国版,理雅各的译文中也就难免会有些分歧。

例1. "法显昔在长安,慨律藏残缺,于是遂以弘始二年,岁在己亥,与慧景,道整,慧应,慧 嵬等,同契至天竺,寻求戒律。"

Fa-hien had been living in Chang-gan. Deploring the mutilated and imperfect state of the collection of the Books of Discipline, in the second year of the period Hwang-che, being the Kehae year of the cycle, he entered into an engagement with Hwuy-king, Tao-ching, Hwuy-ying, and Hwuy-wei, that they should go to India and seek for the Disciplinary Rules.

理雅各所用的韩本中法显是弘始二年出发,但章巽《法显传校注》载,弘始为后秦姚兴年号,元年当东晋隆安3年,二年当隆安4年,而法显是公元399年自长安西行,正为已亥岁,所以弘始元年才对,因此应译为 "in the first year of the period"。

例2. "其国中有四大僧伽蓝,不数小者,从四月一日,城里便扫洒道路,庄严巷陌…"

There are in this country four great monasteries, not counting the smaller ones. Beginning on the first day of the fourth month, they sweep and water the streets inside the city, making a grand display in the lanes and byways.

理雅各所用的韩本中于阗国仅有四大僧伽蓝,而另外一些版本,如《万寿藏》、《毗庐藏》、《圆觉藏》、《资福藏》、《碛砂藏》本则为十四大僧伽蓝。章巽《法显传校注》载,按文中所记一僧伽蓝则一日行像,行像为期十四日推测,此应为十四大僧伽蓝才对。同时,理雅各将"不数小者"误以为"不把小僧伽蓝计算在内",但此句意思是"小僧伽蓝不计其数",因此应译为: There are in this country fourteen great monasteries and countless smaller ones.

例3. "…山川草木,举目无舊,又同行分披,或流或亡…"

His eyes had not rested on an old and familiar hill or river, plant or tree: his fellow-travelers, moreover, had been separated from him, some by death, and others flowing off in different directions.

理雅各所用的韩本中采用的是"或流或亡",但吴玉贵《佛国记釋譯》中的"或留或亡"应该更符合上下文,法显初发长安共五人,慧嵬返回高昌求行资后就没有记载了,道整留在了中天竺,慧应在弗楼沙国佛钵寺无常而慧景也死于南渡小雪山途中。因此译为"his fellow-travelers, moreover, had been separated from him. One stayed in India and others died."

二是白璧微瑕的翻译失误。《佛国记》本身难懂,而且理雅各又是外国人。虽然他翻译得细致认真但作品同其他翻译家一样也不可避免的存在一些失误,主要是理解失误和表述问题。

(一) 理解偏差

例1. "…河两岸相去,减八十步,九译所记,汉之张骞, 甘英, 皆不至此。"

The (place and arrangements) are to be found in the Records of the Nine Interpreters, but neither Chang Keen nor Kan Ying had reached the spot.

理雅各误以为"九译"即九个翻译的记录,其实 "九译"在汉魏古籍中提到中外交通时常用,又作"重九译",字面的意思是经过九重翻译才能懂得那里的语言,九是极数,引申为"极其遥远",这里用的就是引申义。因此应译为"The (place and arrangements) are to be found in very remote areas"。

例2. "…俗人衣服粗,与汉地同,但以氈褐为异。"

The clothes of the common people are coarse, and like those worn in our land of Han ,some wearing felt and others coarse serge or cloth of hair.

据吴玉贵《佛国记釋譯》,此句意思应该是: 当地俗人的衣服大致与汉地相同,不同的是他们的衣物是用毛织物和粗麻做成。"粗"应理解为"大致"但理雅各把"粗"误解为"粗糙"译为"coarse",于是整句话意思就变了。因此应译为"The clothes of the common people are generally like those worn in our land of Han",同样问题在第五章中也有出现。

例3. "…法则齐整,秦土沙门至彼,都不豫其僧例也。"

They were very strict in their rules, so that sramans from the territory of Tsin were all unprepared for their regulations.

理雅各误以为"都不豫其僧例也"指秦土来的沙门对乌夷国齐整的法则感到惊讶毫无准备。但此句的意思是"中国沙门来,不能像乌夷国僧人一样得到供给",这样下文"法显到此,幸而有符公孫之经理而得住二月余"才说得通。因此可译为"so that sramans from the territory of Tsin cannot receive their provisions as monks there do."

例4. "…婆罗门恚言,诸沙门取我灯,自供养佛,为尔不止。"

The Brahmans were indignant, and said, ' Those Sramanas take our lamps and use them for their own service of Buddha, but we will not stop our service for you!'

理雅各误以为"为尔不止"指婆罗门不会停止对外道天寺的供奉,但据吴玉贵《佛国记釋譯》,此句指沙门将灯拿走去供养佛陀的事情老是发生。因此可译为: Those Sramanas take our lamps and use them for their own service of Buddha. This case happens again and again.

例5. "达嚫国幽崄, 道路艰难, 难而知处欲往者, 要当赍钱货, 施彼国王, 王然后遣人送…"

The kingdom of Dakshina is out of the way, and perilous to traverse. There are difficulties in connection with the roads; but those who know how to manage such difficulties and wish to proceed should bring with them money and various articles, and give them to the king. He will then send men to escort them.

理雅各误解"难而知处欲往者"指那些知道如何克服行路困难而且想要前行的人,但既然这些人知道怎样到达想去的地方又为什么要给国王钱和物,请国王派人相送呢?显然矛盾,此句应指想去一个很难到达的地方,却不知怎样前往的人,就必须带钱和物送给国王,由国王派人护送。可译为: There are difficulties in connection with the roads so those who wish to reach a place which they do not know how to get to should bring with them money and various articles, and give them to the king. He

will then send men to escort them.

(二) 表述欠佳

例1. "…三千僧共犍槌食…"

Attached to it there are three thousand monks, who are called to their meals by the sound of a bell.

"犍槌"一词指寺院中用来撞击发声以集众或消灾的器物,如磬、打木等,而bell引发教堂钟声之感,两者有小差异。若用梵文ghanta先音译,再注释说明其特点和用途,表述会更到位些,而且突出异域性。

例2. "…其道艰岨,崖岸崄绝,其山唯石壁立千仞…"

The way was difficult and rugged, (running along) a bank exceedingly precipitous, which rose up there, a hill-like wall of rock, 10000 cubits from the base.

"壁立千仞"理雅各直译为"10000 cubits from the base"略显拘谨,这个成语极言山崖陡峭,并不是确指从底部到顶端有千仞的高度,因此译成"which rose up there, a hill-like wall of rock, exceptionally steep"也不失原文表现力。

例3. "…作大舆, 状似此间輌车, 但无龙鱼耳…"

They made a large carriage-frame, in form like our funeral car, but without the dragons and fishes.

此句描述一位道德高尚的沙门的葬礼,师子国人做了一个大举床,外形与汉地的丧车类似,只是举床上没有龙和鱼的绘画,而理雅各译文让人以为举床上没有龙和鱼的实物,不合逻辑。应该改译为: They made a large carriage-frame, in form like our funeral car, but without the dragons and fishes painted on it.

理雅各《佛国记》的译本中有极少数拼错的词,还有个别词句没有翻译,可能是译者一时遗漏了或者排版失误。

总的来说,理雅各的《佛国记》译本是一个较好的译本,有其鲜明的特点,为学者们开展学术研究提供了很大的方便,是他对中国古代经典翻译的一大贡献。他本人审慎的研究精神和深厚的语言功底都为翻译提供了较好的基础;他忠实于原文的翻译,忠实于原意的创作,也值得后人学习借鉴。

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