

译风

THE ATA CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION NEWSLETTER

美国翻译协会中文翻译分会简报

Summer 2018



(Photo courtesy of Pixabay: <https://www.pixabay.com>)

See you in New Orleans at the ATA 59th Annual Conference, October 24–27, 2018!

The full ATA Annual Conference website is now online:

<http://www.atanet.org/conf/2018/>

Check out the Chinese sessions [here](#).

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FROM THE EDITORS

This issue of the CLD Newsletter witnesses several changes, including the introduction of a new ATA Chinese-to-English translation certification exam, a change in CLD Newsletter editorship, and the Newsletter's beginning to accept submissions in Chinese.

We bid a fond farewell to editor Eric Chiang, who has kept this newsletter running in good form since 2014, and welcome new editor Trevor Cook. In his farewell article, Eric shares with us the importance of CLD members writing for our newsletter along with some insight on the nature of translation. In his self-introduction, Trevor shares his experience of discovering camaraderie in professional associations and some of his hopes for this newsletter.

In honor of the new Chinese-to-English translation certification exam, frequent Newsletter contributor Jim Jones gives us an introduction to the new exam and what we might expect from it, and Doug McNeal provides an extensive overview of important concepts in English grammar that will interest many of our members planning to take the new exam.

ATA's annual conference is fast approaching, and Shao-hsien (Pearl) Zheng | 郑绍娴 gives us the low-down on some important New Orleans do's and don'ts based on her recent travels there.

This issue we kick off a new regular "Resource Review" column with reviews of the editor's favorite Chinese grammar books from the Routledge grammar series.

In the Bird's Corner, Pency Tsai | 蔡晓萍 shares how best to respond to cases of misinterpretation that we all frequently encounter.

Finally, read exciting news about your fellow division members in the Bulletin Board.

ABOUT THE EDITORS



Editor

Read more about new editor Trevor Cook on page 7. Contact him at trevor@cookintercultural.com.



Layout Editor

Tianlu Redmon is a conference, legal, and business interpreter and translator. She is President and Owner of Tianlu Chinese Language and Culture. E-mail: tianlu@tianluchinese.com

Special thanks to Jamie Padula for his help in preparing this newsletter and to Marie Foley for editing the editor's content.

Announcement:

CLD Newsletter Now Accepting Submissions in Chinese

The Chinese Language Division exists to enable translators and interpreters working in Chinese to connect and contribute to each other's professional development. In order to give voice to as many of our members as possible and maximize the opportunities for learning and professional development of our full membership, the CLD Newsletter now accepts submissions of all kinds (articles, reviews, columns, etc.) written in Chinese.

Section 4.4.2.1.2 of the ATA Division Handbook states that "divisions focused on a single language may publish content in that language or English" but that "ATA requires that content pertaining to ATA policies and Division functions and governance be published in English."

To adhere to the letter and spirit of this guideline, all Chinese content will be accompanied by English translations. This provides a bonus opportunity for members to publicly demonstrate their Chinese-to-English translation skill. Proposals to translate articles (current or future) from English into Chinese will also be accepted to provide opportunities to exhibit translation skill in both directions.

Please contact editor Trevor Cook at trevor@cookintercultural.com if you wish

- To submit Chinese content
- To translate submitted Chinese content into English
- To translate submitted English content into Chinese

Letter from the CLD Administrator

Summer's here and the heat is on...oh whoa ho!!! A heh-heh-heh-heh!!!

I apologize for my Axel Foley reference here, but... I'm so excited, and I just can't hide it, I'm about to lose control and I think I like it!!!

Enough of this reliving of my youth in the 80s—did I just carbon-date myself?—let's get back to the present.

It seems like just yesterday when I met Eric Chiang for the first time. It was by San Antonio's River Walk, and right away it felt as if I had known him for years. His dedication to the Chinese Language Division has spanned many years and several different roles. Always looking to help, Eric, with his friendly demeanor and his cheerful grin, has been a great role model for all our members.

It is bittersweet for me to announce that Eric has decided to move on from his role as editor of our newsletter. In life there are always people who help guide you forward along your path. As I look

back, I see all the great connections that I've made, and when I follow the strands I see many of them tied together at one point in the web—that which belongs to Mr. Eric Chiang. Thank you so much, Eric. I wish you all the best as you move on to other endeavors, where you can guide others as you have guided me.

On a happier note, our division has been moving along at a nice pace. Thank you all for contributing, for being interested, and for actively participating. We all hope to see a division with a stronger presence within the Association and more active members. Together, we can build this into something we can all be proud of.

I am pleased to welcome Trevor Cook on board as our new editor. There were many new faces in San Francisco back in 2016, and Trevor's was one that we just couldn't get rid of—he was back again in D.C., and I'm beginning to think that he just wants to collect the buttons at our annual dinners; after all, he hightailed it to Banana Leaves Restaurant straight from the airport (just kidding). Thank you, Trevor, for joining the team, and thanks for being such a good sport.

ATA's 59th Annual Conference hits Louisiana's shores on October 24th, and it sure would be nice if you'd all join us there. So come on down and join us for some good Southern hospitality, ya hear?

And now, just a few words from this decade, courtesy of Imagine Dragons:

I was dreaming of bigger things
And wanna leave my own life behind
Not a yes sir, not a follower

Let's all show our flashes of brilliance and gear up so we can roar like the thunder.

See everyone at New Orleans come October... this crazy bird's out. Peace! :P

The Bird



Pency Tsai is a court-accredited interpreter currently serving as the CLD Administrator. Translating keeps her mind sharp when she is not interpreting in business, medical, and tribunal settings. She is the owner of VoiceOyster. Contact her at pency@voiceoyser.com.

A Farewell Exhortation from Outgoing Editor Eric Chiang

The main purpose of the CLD Newsletter is to communicate ATA information, discuss matters of Chinese translation and interpretation, and showcase the talents of the CLD membership. The newsletter has the versatile format of a printed magazine; if you happen to be well-versed in photography, cartoon, Chinese calligraphy, or graphic art, you may submit your extracurricular creations for publication there.

But since translation is a writer's profession, writing is the focus of the CLD Newsletter. In the old days, that is to say before the 1990s when the Internet began to discover its true Uranian potential, writers had to be anointed; pages had to roll off the press in some desultory basement before their author could be called a writer, even if he toiled at his craft ceaselessly. But this is no longer the case today. In this era of personal empowerment, one is a writer as long as one chooses to write. One may pen a book and publish it oneself, blog regularly on a passionate pursuit, or epistolize occasionally to an online forum. In short, anyone can write, opine, self publish, and find an audience. It is remarkable that the original and intended meaning of the word "writer" was fully restored in such a short span of time.

But just as to write is not the same as to write well, to translate requires more than the ability to understand a foreign language. It is impossible to escape the opacity of some of the words we translate as all of us have learned them from dyslexia-inducing dictionaries and in a country that does not, by definition, verbalize them. Since many Chinese words such as "pencil", "aunt", and "hair" have their exact counterparts in English, we may be tempted to think that most, if not all, of Chinese words do. We may start to look at translations as "correct" and "incorrect." But in fact, language has no other function than as a culture's tool of expression; it does the bidding of the culture it serves and its opacity is only an illusion of our own making. Language is creative, or slippery, to the extent that different people of a given culture have different ways of expressing a given idea, and culture is creative, or slippery, to the extent that different cultures see different things in a given idea and express it differently. When Benjamin Franklin said, "We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately," he had no intention of singling out hanging as a particularly heinous way of dying. When this fact is revealed to a diligent translator in an electrifying epiphany, she realizes in an instant that translation is art, a blank canvas awaiting her informed and individualizing brushstrokes.

If translation is the art of writing, then one must practice writing to become a good translator, and here is where the CLD Newsletter comes in. The newsletter welcomes articles on any subject you care to write about: your work, your life, a cultural event you have attended, a book you have read. The subject matter isn't really important; what is important is that you write. It has been said that a translation must be in the translator's native language, but don't let this unwritten rule stop you from writing in any language of your choice. Gao Xingjian and Samuel Beckett did it and won the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Direct your questions about the CLD Newsletter to the two editors: Trevor Cook at trevor@cookintercultural.com and Tianlu Redmon at tianlu@tianluchinese.com.

Eric served as editor of the CLD newsletter from 2014-2018. He translates and edits academic and technical texts in Chinese and English. Reach him at echiang@atecworld.com.

Our New Editor Introduces Himself

I love writing, and I love the Chinese and English languages. You might assume these passions led to my becoming a translator, but you'd be wrong. Initially, I could not imagine choosing translation as a career, but the more I translated, the more I saw its potential to provide a decent income and—more importantly for me—a high level of personal freedom and the opportunity to apply and further acquire a breadth of general and linguistic knowledge.

My transition to full-time translation was difficult. I consumed my savings and relied on part-time work to make ends meet, but the greatest challenge was the feeling of isolation I felt working alone every day. The lack of connection and sense of common purpose nearly drove me to leave for a “real” job with an office, co-workers, and clearly delineated paths for professional development.

That changed in 2016 when I joined ATA and Arizona Translators and Interpreters (ATI) and attended my first ATI event: a simple meetup of members and friends at a local restaurant. The meeting was revelatory. Here were real colleagues who understood my challenges, offered assistance, and provided encouragement. My feeling of professional belonging and sense of career security increased as I deepened my involvement with ATI and attended my first ATA conferences in San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

I take up editorship of the CLD Newsletter strongly desiring that it convey to other translators and interpreters that same sense of connection and encouragement that abounds at ATA and CLD events. Our newsletter plays an important role in our division, and I hope that together we can build it further into a first-rate resource in the broader world of English < > Chinese translation and interpretation that reflects the professionalism of our members and provides them opportunities for meaningful publication.

I thank our outgoing editor, Eric, for his good work over the last several years and echo his impassioned and articulate plea for more submissions to the newsletter. We, your editors, and your colleagues are here for you and willing to help prepare your content for publication so the CLD family can benefit from your unique experience. Whether you have a fully-formed article or just an idea, contact me at trevor@cookintercultural.com, and we will get it together, together.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you!

Trevor Cook
Editor

The New ATA Chinese-to-English Translation Certification Exam

By Jim Jones

Finally, ATA is offering translation certification for Chinese to English. The small team responsible, chaired by Wu Di before, and currently chaired by me, has been working on the effort for years. Last October, at ATA58 in Washington, DC, two new language certification pairs, Arabic-to-English and ours, Chinese-to-English, were formally approved by the Board. The exam materials that we had prepared were vetted by other ATA experts and, as a result, our team has been happily putting out and grading exams and practice tests since January of 2018.

The English-to-Chinese team, led by the capable Professor Ran Zhao and Jessie Lu, Ph.D., has been certifying candidates in that direction since 2006.

A recent podcast by Certification Committee Chair David Stephenson describes in detail the years-long process ATA has for the development and approval of certification for a new language pair. The page <http://www.atanet.org/certification/index.php> has details on the program. Certification is now offered for 31 language pairs and directions.

This article has three more sections. A companion article in this issue of the Newsletter by Doug McNeal presents some detail on written English and will help in motivation, we believe.

1. The exam is similar to the other 30 ATA translation certification exams

Although challenging, they are not impossible to pass, a fact that the many ATA-Certified translators can attest to. If a potential candidate has commercial translation experience, is sure of him- or herself, and is planning to stay in the translation field over the long term, then the first step would be to try a practice test.

See how you do with that. Hint: The practice tests do give candidates a little bit of useful feedback at a reasonable price of \$80.00 per practice passage (\$120 for non-ATA members). If you do well, you can be fairly sure that you will pass the full exam. Even if you do not pass, our feedback will give you specific ideas of areas where you need to improve. By contrast, the full certification exam, which costs \$300 and takes two graders more than twice as much effort each, tells a candidate only “Pass” or “Fail.” Further information is available on ATA’s website at https://www.atanet.org/certification/aboutcert_overview.php.

2. New certification holders needed on our team

Please consider helping us. Our team is still new and small, and we need to think of the future of this program. In fact, the exam is not near impossible (it is designed to be representative of typical translation work), but, on the other hand, those who do pass demonstrate clearly to us that they really know what they are doing.

A few of the candidates who do very well on the full exam will be contacted by us. We will be inquiring as to their availability for certification team membership, so please do not be surprised.

3. ATA Conference presentation on the new exam

My October ATA59 presentation (scheduled to take place for one hour during the Thursday afternoon of the event) on Chinese-to-English translation, this new certification, and the Chinese characters as they are related to translation skills, will touch on:

- The activity of Chinese-to-English translation
- Translation certification: Who, What, and Why
- Chinese characters and translation skills

Jim chairs the new ATA Chinese-to-English Certification Committee. As a freelance translator and editor, Jim does: 1) Chinese, German, and Spanish to English translation, 2) Editing, English, and 3) Mandarin tutoring and consulting, English tutoring, and some Spanish tutoring. He has a BA and an MA in Linguistics, and his articles and cartoons have appeared in this newsletter. He is registered as a Mandarin and English interpreter for the Illinois court system. Reach Jim via [linkedin.com/in/jimxlat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jimxlat).

Thoughts on the Complexities of English, as Seen from East Asia

By Douglas B. McNeal

Chinese, undoubtedly the most difficult written language ever devised by the mind of man, still differs vastly from English, despite centuries of gradually increasing contact with many European languages. Thus, when the standards of ATA's Certification exams call for correct, idiomatic usage in English, we translators are tasked with bridging an enormous gap.

Candidates preparing to take the new Chinese-to-English (Chi>Eng) certification exam need to have at hand some techniques to help close that gap. While "omission" and "addition" are probably the most common errors which graders find in candidates' translations, transfer errors such as those will not count against you nearly as much as a major structural blunder. Thus, I would first counsel candidates to feel free to use some of the advanced techniques for translation into English, such as

- pronouns to replace awkward, bulky repetition of noun phrases in the Chinese original ("implication"),
- compressed verb forms for tighter text, and
- inclusion of elements not needed in the Chinese but expected or required in English, such as a subject, clear subordination ("if," "when," "because"), and explicit expression of logical relationships and assertions ("explicitation").

A good motto in English runs, "Say what you mean"; the implication is to write clear sentences, much more often positive rather than negative ones. With such thoughts in mind, let's review some of the differences between Chinese and English, from a viewpoint influenced by my experience with the languages of East Asia:

Writing formal English well, an exercise first in clear thinking and then in finding structure and choosing words to match, never is easy, even for native speakers. Thus, most of the examples below were gathered in the course of my reading in English. Readers are encouraged to forward me any contrasting examples they find in Chinese.

I would gladly entertain inquiries on any of these points and especially welcome counter-examples from Chinese. Reach me at 703/448-2817 or formcneal@hotmail.com.

Verb tense

English is more sensitive to number (of nouns) and time (for verbs) than are Chinese or other East Asian languages. In English, verbs are conjugated in various ways to indicate when an action took place, or will: in the past, the present, or the future. More complicated tenses indicate the order of two events, again in the past, present, or future.

A. When November 2020 rolls around, the President will have been in office nearly four years.

In example (A), the focus is on a point in the future, by which time the continuing action in the independent clause will have reached a certain magnitude.

B. By the time the firemen arrived, the first and second floors already had burnt through and collapsed into the basement.

In (B), which focuses on two events in the past, the action in the dependent clause occurred after those in the independent clause. The tense of “had burnt and collapsed” (called “the past perfect”) in the second clause tells us that those actions had been completed by the time of the other verb, “arrived.” See also (K.1.), below.

That distinction as to the order of events in the past should be observed in formal text such as appears in ATA’s exam passages, as it greatly clarifies things for the reader:

B.1 Unlike views on gay marriage, which had swung in favor before the 2015 Supreme Court ruling legalized it, public opinion on abortion has been relatively stable since Roe was decided.

– *Washington Post*, A13, 7/3/2018

B.2 “Respect precedent”? Last week five justices overturned four decades of precedent in labor law. Collins voted for three of them.

– *Washington Post*, A13, 7/3/2018

Edited:

“Respect precedent”? Last week five justices overturned four decades of precedent in labor law. Collins had voted to confirm three of them.

B.3 Again, Collins said this less than a week after Gorsuch voted to overturn a decades-long precedent.

– James Downie, *Washington Post*, A13, 7/3/2018

Edited:

Again, Collins said this less than a week after Gorsuch had voted to overturn a decades-long precedent.

C. When he knocked at the door, she had finished brewing the tea and, having set the table, was pouring the fragrant brew into

her imperial yellow, eggshell
porcelain cups.

In (C), in which four actions are mentioned, the tenses tell us that the first action mentioned occurred after actions 2 and 3, but that action 4 (her pouring the tea) was on-going when the gentleman caller knocked.

Agreement in English: case, gender, and number

Requirements in English for agreement as to case, gender, and number are much less demanding than those in most other European languages, perhaps about half those of French and a quarter of those of Slavic languages, but still considerably more than those of Chinese, Japanese, or Korean. In English, adjectives are not declined at all (for case, number, or gender); nouns change for number* only; pronouns, for both number and gender, but the latter only in the 3rd person singular: “he/ she/ it.” Some vestiges of gender distinction remain, in certain occupations and nouns borrowed from the classical and other languages: *alumnus/ alumna, masseur/ masseuse, “actor/ actress,” “aviator/ aviatrix,” “bartender/ barista,” “waiter/ waitress,”* etc.

Unlike their counterparts in Romance and Slavic languages, verbs in English change to agree with their subjects only in number and solely in the present tense: in the 3rd person, they add -s (of all things!), to mark the **singular**. Thus, in the third person of the present tense, remember that there **always will be an -s, on either subject or verb**:

* Although nouns in modern English have been shorn of all their case endings, perhaps a trace of those distinctions remains in constructions such as (C) above. In that example, I used a new noun phrase to refer back to “tea,” rather than a simple *it*, not only to avoid ridiculous confusion with the more proximate “table” as a possible antecedent, but also because “tea” was an object. I find that pronouns work best when their antecedents are subjects, rather than objects, and thus “in the nominative case.”

D.1. That Senator **r** never
announces **s** his votes in advance,
leaving it to . . .

D.2. Those Senators **s** never
announce **e** their votes in advance,
leaving it to . . .

As in most European languages, in English the verb to be is the most irregular, featuring three forms in the present (am, are, and is), as well as a unique distinction in the past tense between the singular and plural forms: was/were.

Pronouns must agree with their antecedents—as must verbs with their subjects—in number (and gender, for the 3rd person singular, only: he/ she/ it). For native speakers of Chinese, the distinction between he and she required in English (especially in informal conversation, where pronouns are so common) is one of the most daunting; it requires constant attention.

Irregular plurals:

All should be respected, whether originating in Old English, classical borrowings, or more recent widened contact:

two women with their five
children, a pair of sheep and five
trout; many criteria, media,
phenomena, polyhedra, stadia;
the seven stigmata; the data
reveal, etc.

E. And in a time of intense
political division, social media is
magnifying the confrontations.

– *Washington Post*, p. A1,
6/25/2018

Edited:

And social media are . . .

Antique foreign plurals, especially when retained along with other obsolescent features of English itself, can produce a somber, elegiac, or even sacred mood not otherwise easily attainable, as in the hymn:

F. Cherubim and seraphim falling
down before Thee,
Which wert and art and
evermore shalt be.

– “Holy, Holy, Holy!” by

Reginald Heber, Calcutta, 1826

Deep structure and antecedent-pronoun agreement

Avoid confusing, merging, or telescoping two grammar patterns; each must be respected:

G.1. “We have to be able to move as fast or faster than Russia in order to be an effective deterrent,” said Ben Hodges, the U.S. Army’s former top general in Europe.

– *Washington Post*, p. A5, 6/25/2018

Corrected:

G.2. “We have to be able to move as fast **as** or faster than Russia . . .

G.3. “We have to be able to move as fast **as** Russia, or faster, . . .

Use parallel structure to produce prose which is succinct and elegant, but be careful to carry through in all the elements:

H.1. Electric cars are quiet, cause no air pollution, and gasoline is not used.

Error.

H.2. Electric cars are quiet, cause no air pollution, and use no gasoline.

Acceptable.

Pronouns are very useful for avoiding the repetition of noun phrases, which clog the arteries of East Asian prose, but watch the antecedents carefully.

I.1. When **parenthetical material** appears within a sentence, **the first word** is not capitalized, nor does **it** close with a period.

Error.

Here, the author used the pronoun “it,” evidently intending to refer to the first noun phrase, “parenthetical material.” However, the intervening occurrence of a second noun phrase, “the first word,” closer by and also a subject, captures the pronoun, producing a confusing and somewhat comical effect (is the “parenthetical material,” then, just one word long?) As in (C), above, for clarity the pronoun should be replaced:

I.2. When parenthetical material appears within a sentence, the first word is not capitalized and **the last** is not followed by a period.

– *Lydia’s Into-English Grading Standards*, 9/30/2017
Acceptable

Pop Quiz: In I.2., the editor changed away from the older, inverting, negative coordinating conjunction “nor,” in favor of “and.” Try your hand at restoring “nor” in I.2.

Verb choice and subject-verb agreement

Good writing in English relies on its verbs to move the action forward. In English, the verb “to be” generally is regarded as the weakest. To produce more vigorous prose, choose other verbs. This runs counter to a tendency in East Asian languages, in which the two verbs apparently most commonly used (이다

and 있다 in Korean, だ/ です (*da/desu*) and いる/ ある (*iru/aru*) in Japanese, and 是 (为) and 有/无 in Chinese)—especially in more complex, written prose—both translate into English as forms of to be: is/are or there is/are.

J.1. The trickiest spot to defend in all of NATO **is** likely the narrow strip of land that connects Lithuania to Poland. The 40-mile-wide corridor **is** hemmed in by the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad on one side and Belarus, a Russian ally, on the other. It **is** the Baltic nations' lifeline to the rest of NATO – and the connection **is** through a single rail line on the wrong gauge and one usable two-lane highway over rolling terrain that switches from lakes to forests to farmland.
– *Washington Post*, p. A5, 6/25/2018

Edited:

J.2. In all of NATO, the trickiest spot to defend likely **is** the “Suwalki Gap,” a narrow strip of land that connects Lithuania to Poland. Hemmed in by the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad on the west and Belarus, a Russian ally, on the east, that 40-mile-wide corridor **serves as** the Baltic nations' lifeline south to the rest of NATO – but the connections, which **run** through rolling terrain that switches from lakes to forest to farmland, **amount to** no more than a single rail line of the wrong gauge and one usable two-lane highway.

Despite a lamentable contemporary tendency to make the verb agree with whichever noun is closest, in formal prose, such as that which

appears on ATA's certification exams, the verbs must agree with their grammatical subject. Thus both “run” and “amount,” above, are in the plural, to agree with their subject, “connections,” despite the presence in the intervening adjective clause of several singular nouns, “terrain,” “forest,” and “farmland,” the last immediately before the second verb. You may find helpful the dictum pronounced in my seventh-grade grammar and composition class (~1958) by Miss Helfer, our tough older English teacher, “The object of a preposition never can be the subject of a verb.”

Another good example of varied verbs:

K.1. The rain **was** so bad that a river **zigzagged** its way between the plots, **gouging** through the wood-chip paths that gardeners **had laid** so laboriously.
– Adrian Higgins, in the *Washington Post*, p. LL11, 6/28/2018

A further alternative:

K.2. The rain **fell** so heavily that...

Any time the action of a sentence indicates a change, consider replacing the form of be with one of become.

Doug got his start in Korean with two years of total immersion through the Peace Corps, while living with a Korean host family and teaching junior high school English. While in the Foreign Service, he volunteered for Chinese language training in 1980, followed by tours in Shanghai and Beijing. Entangled with East Asia ever since, he currently mentors colleagues of the younger generations, actively promotes into-English certification efforts in the CLD and KLD (of which he is a member, together with the JLD), and recruits new members for ATA and its Washington, DC, chapter, the National Capital Area Translators Association (NCATA).

New Orleans Dos and Don'ts for a Successful Trip

By Shao-hsien (Pearl) Zheng | 郑绍娴

Our next ATA conference is only three months away. For those of you who have never been to New Orleans and are looking for some tips, you've come to the right place. I was just there in May for a week and have some suggestions for any first-timers. I've compiled some do's and don'ts, and hopefully they will help you make the most out of your time there.

Looking for a place to stay?

Do

Visit <http://www.atanet.org/conf/2018/hotel/> to read about and book reservations for the host hotel, the New Orleans Marriott. You will love the convenience of the easiest access available to conference events as well as being within walking distance of many local attractions to better enjoy your free time. You can save even more on the hotel's already substantially discounted rate by finding a roommate on the ATA Roommate Blog: <http://ataroommate-annual-conference.blogspot.com/>.

Don't

Don't stay on Bourbon Street. You can go there to feel the Mardi Gras atmosphere, but if you are looking for a good night's sleep, you should avoid this street at all cost.

Looking for a place to eat?

Do

Go to **Café Du Monde** for your **beignet** fix.

If you're a **seafood** lover, I highly recommend **GW Fins**. I'm definitely going back there in October.

If you're craving **Chinese fusion**, try out **Red's Chinese**. Their menu changes constantly, and, when I was there, I had some Chinese-style fried rice that literally tasted like a burger. Potentially a good place for CLD dinner? Just some food for thought.

If you want some finger-licking good **fried chicken**, **Willie Mae's Scotch House** is a good option. It's famous, it's historic, and it's got a good vibe. Try to go during non-peak hours to avoid a wait.

If you're looking for something **healthy**, go to **Green Goddess**. Their dishes are fresh and innovative, and their outdoor seating is in a beautiful alleyway that will make you feel like you're in Europe.



Photo credit:
<https://whatscookingamerica.net/History/BeignetsHistory.htm>

Don't

Don't just eat southern food the entire time you're there. Southern cuisine tends to be on the heavier side, so if you want to feel light and healthy, don't overdo it.

Looking for some fun during your downtime?

Do

Go to Frenchmen Street. They have people playing jazz music on the streets every day and a great art market where you can find some unique souvenirs to bring home.

Don't

Don't wander around late at night by yourself without knowing where you're going. Safety can be an issue, and it changes from block to block.

Okay, that pretty much sums up my personal experience. Hopefully you found some helpful tips. Don't forget to pack your business cards and come with a smile. I'll see you all in New Orleans!



See if you can spot the python in this picture! (Photo by Shao-hsien (Pearl) Zheng | 郑绍嫻)



Pearl is a Chinese-English translator/interpreter living in DC. She was born and raised in Taiwan and moved to the U.S. some three years ago. She loves to eat and travel and is looking forward to making new connections at the upcoming ATA59.

Resource Review—A column for CLD members to review materials helpful to translators and interpreters

[*Basic Chinese: A Grammar and Workbook*](#), 2nd ed. By Yip Po-Ching and Don Rimmington. Routledge Grammar Workbooks. Routledge, 2009.

[*Intermediate Chinese: A Grammar and Workbook*](#), 2nd ed. By Yip Po-Ching and Don Rimmington. Routledge Grammar Workbooks. Routledge, 2009.
(Note: 2005 printing of 1st edition is reviewed.)

[*Chinese: A Comprehensive Grammar*](#), 2nd ed. By Yip Po-Ching and Don Rimmington. Routledge Comprehensive Grammars. Routledge, 2016.
(Note: 2004 1st edition is reviewed.)

By Trevor Cook

During my three-month stay at the Missionary Training Center in Provo, Utah, prior to serving as a Mandarin-speaking Mormon missionary in Calgary, Canada, I asked my mom to mail me my Routledge grammar books, reviewed here. Surprised by my excitement at receiving them, one of my classmates said, only partly joking, “If you are half as excited about the Book of Mormon as you are about those grammar books, you will be an amazing missionary.”

Basic Chinese: A Grammar and Workbook is not a typical textbook. Rather than haltingly presenting vocabulary and grammar through limiting, contrived scenarios, *Basic Chinese* explicates the basic building blocks of the language to construct a solid foundation of grammatical understanding that enables students to encounter and process language “in the wild,” where they can acquire natural situational vocabulary without depending on grammatically-mysterious memorized phrases.

The titles of the first four units, “Nouns, singular and plural,” “Definite and indefinite reference and demonstratives” (i.e. the equivalents of “the”/“a” and “this”/“that,” etc., in English), “Personal pronouns,” and “Interrogative pronouns,” show how serious the authors are about this bottom-up approach. [Check out the full table of contents here](#) to see the logical progression of the 25 units. The “basic” in the title belies the fact that comprehension of the concepts in this book will take the student beyond a second-year university Chinese level and provide a much more complete grammatical foundation.

Each unit presents a list of concepts on its topic, accompanied by plentiful examples. For instance, Unit One, “Nouns singular and plural,” covers the following concepts: a) categories of nouns, b) unmarked plurals, c) the necessity of measure words, d) the use of *men* (们), and e) connecting nouns and noun phrases with *he* (和). These five points stretch across four pages dense with explanation and examples.

Examples are provided in both pinyin and simplified characters. Every unit ends with several exercises that cover all points mentioned, and an appendix with a complete answer key makes these exercises ideal for independent study. The authors use practical vocabulary in the examples

and do a fine job of making it cumulative to aid in learning and retention. Complete Chinese-to-English and English-to-Chinese vocabulary lists are included as appendices.

The 25 units of the sequel volume *Intermediate Chinese: A Grammar and Workbook* follow the same format as *Basic Chinese*. Sixteen of the units continue to introduce new grammatical concepts, beginning with “The 把 ba structure,” “The 被 bei structure,” “Dative constructions with direct and indirect objects,” and “Causative constructions” ([see the whole table of contents here](#)), and the remaining 9 units summarize and expand on earlier concepts by linking them together, e.g., “Conjunctions linking words or phrases (summary),” “的 de, 地 de, 得 de (summary),” “Various uses of 是 shi (summary),” and “The aspect marker 了 (summary).”

Although the names of some of the concepts may appear intimidating, the authors explain each thoroughly while avoiding linguistic jargon. The writing and examples are approachable, comprehensible, and—in some cases—fun.

Translators are, of course, advanced users of their second language; however, I am confident that most Chinese-learners of any level will learn something new from both books, despite the “basic” and “intermediate” in their titles. Even *Basic Chinese* is worth a quick read as a quality reinforcement of grammar and basic reference. I would recommend that any translator of Chinese as a second language at least borrow these books. They are worth having in your library for an occasional review or to push on any family or friends who express interest in learning Chinese.

Chinese: A Comprehensive Grammar is, as the name implies, a grammar reference. The layout and approach will be familiar to anyone who has encountered the grammar workbooks by the same authors. Naturally, *Comprehensive Grammar* covers all the topics in *Basic* and *Intermediate Chinese*, but in greater detail; for example, almost thirty pages are devoted to the various uses of *shi* (是) and *you* (有). Additionally, it covers further topics not even touched on in the grammar workbooks, such as prosodic features (rhythm of speech—also quite important in writing) and ten pages of “stylistic considerations.”

Most will not want to read the *Comprehensive Grammar* straight through, but it serves as an invaluable reference. An extensive Table of Contents and intuitive “outline” format make it easy to find any topic you wish to learn more about or review, and the index helps to find answers to specific grammatical questions.

No translator should be without a grammar reference of his or her second language(s), and *Chinese: A Comprehensive Grammar* is a fine choice, particularly for those who appreciate the general approach of the Routledge grammars.

Want to “spread the gospel” of your own favorite translation resources? Submit your reviews (of around 600 English words or 1200 Chinese characters—or just your ideas for further discussion or assistance—to the editor: trevor@cookintercultural.com Reviews of Chinese-language resources are currently particularly welcome!

Bird's Corner: Misinterpretation

By Pency Tsai | 蔡晓萍

When my mom visited a couple years back, she stopped by a big sign above a store and contemplated what it said: *Harry Rosen*. My mom contorted her face while the gears turned inside her head, as if the movements would ease the task at hand. Deep in thought, she squinted and pursed her lips. Finally, she came up with... “Happy Rose.”

My sister and I loved it, but mistakes like this don't always end up leaving your audience bursting with tears of laughter. When you interpret something the wrong way, it's problematic, as it causes confusion and leads to misunderstandings. This applies not only when you are on the job, but also in day-to-day life. Many a person has wrongfully accused someone because of a misinterpretation of events. It is up to you to make sure that you don't fall into this trap. Bring your own receipts to the table when you want to crunch numbers—it's the only sure-fire way to make your own decision and not follow someone else's.

A while ago, during an interpreting round table discussion, we were sharing stories of interpretation disasters. The discussion eventually gravitated toward the topic of whether a “native” Mandarin interpreter should interpret in Cantonese when the person has a strong “non-native” accent. One person shared a story about a Cantonese interpreter who was interpreting at a church and had a little trouble with Mandarin tones. Unbeknownst to this individual, the words 聖經 were a little bit challenging and came out sounding a bit closer to 性經. Game, set, match. I'm sure the audience passed it off as a slip of the tongue, but what if they had reacted differently? What if they took the words at face value?

This type of misinterpretation of what is actually said happens all the time in life. It would be tough to be the pastor in this situation if the audience turned on you because of a third party's tainting of your words and actions—of your beliefs. We've all been on the receiving end of slights, and we have all been guilty of dishing out similar medicine that others perceived as hurtful, however unintended it may have been. The problem with all of this is when we take communication out of the equation and let things fester until they boil over and reach a point of no return. Being open and upfront is the key to smoothing over these misunderstandings. Keeping things bottled inside fosters resentment and distrust.

So, what's the lesson learned? Don't guess. When in doubt, ask questions. It's like the old saying, when you assume, you make an ass out of you and me.

Now imagine how a person feels when they're the one feeling cast aside because of a misunderstanding. How does a person feel when a relationship sours because of an unfounded perceived slight?

When things don't go your way, how should you handle it? Well, you can't please everyone, and not everyone portrays themselves as they actually are. Sometimes a kindred spirit really isn't, and it is best to learn this early rather than later. Be disciplined—just let it slide and move on. It's sort of like a trader and the idea of holding onto his “dogs”—it'll only hurt you in the long run. I'm not talking about day traders who buy and sell based on momentum and aren't interested in long-

term commitments. I'm talking about the guys and gals who buy stocks based on fundamentals. They keep the winners and grow together with them, and when they don't pick one right, they end the dalliance and cut their losses. But then there are those they know are not good for them, and yet they hold on to them and try to keep them and ride it out. The thing is, these are the ones that hurt them the most.

Cut your losses and just be glad to know that you've got so many other good ones in your portfolio.

What's your address?

Why?

I need to know how to say it in Chinese. I'm going to the temple to pray for you and I need to know the address.

That's a conversation that I had with my loving mother. I gave her six words, and she asked me what all of it meant—6 characters that, when combined, meant nothing to her. I'm glad she asked for clarification, though. After explaining everything, it was all clear to her—or so she said. 😊

The Bird



Pency Tsai is a court-accredited interpreter currently serving as the CLD Administrator. Translating keeps her mind sharp when she is not interpreting in business, medical, and tribunal settings. She is the owner of VoiceOyster. Contact her at pency@voiceoyser.com.

Bulletin Board



(Thanks to the event participants for providing this photograph.)

Eight CLD members (and one significant other) met for dinner in Washington D.C. on May 23. From front to back: Left side—Jessie Lu, Sean Song, Pency Tsai, and Tian Huang; Right side—Tianlu Redmon, June Chen, Frank Mou and his wife Kathy, and Sijin Xian.

Tianlu Redmon is running for a three-year term on the ATA Board of Directors at the association's 2018 annual conference in New Orleans this October. Please look for her candidate statement in the upcoming September/October issue of *The ATA Chronicle* and on ATA's website around the same time. Find out how to become a voting member here:

https://www.atanet.org/membership/memb_review_online.php.

Although he planned to take the computerized version of the ATA English-to-Chinese translation certification exam, Kang Shitong bravely went through with the handwritten version after arriving at the test site only to learn—too late—that he needed to provide his own computer. Congratulations to him for passing!

Share your news! Send your announcements of up to 50 English words or 100 Chinese characters to trevor@cookintercultural.com to “post” on our CLD Newsletter Bulletin Board. Related photographs are welcome.

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Suggested Lengths:

Bulletin Board announcements: Up to 40 English words | Up to 100
Chinese characters

Letters: 300 English words | 500 Chinese characters

Articles: 500 to 1,500 English words | 500 to 3,000 Chinese characters

Resource Review: 600 English words | 1200 Chinese characters

Bulletin Board: Up to 50 English words | 100 Chinese characters

Submission Format:

Size 12

Font: Cambria

Paragraphing: no indent

Single space

The Editor will work with you to prepare your submission for publication.

Opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors.

Send submissions and inquiries to trevor@cookintercultural.com