

2022 年“外教社杯”天津市大学生翻译竞赛初赛试题

(留学生英汉互译组)

英译汉部分:

The Language of Dreams

There have been very few studies on bilingualism and multilingualism and how they affect dreams. These are small studies, but they certainly find that people who speak any second language, even without good proficiency, at least occasionally dream in the second language. One study asked the subjects what they thought made the difference, and they said that it was determined by the people and or the setting that was being dreamed about. If you thought of your family back in your country of origin, it'd likely be in that language regardless of whether it was now your dominant language. And if you were dreaming about people you've known as a young adult, living in another setting where you spoke a different language, you'd be dreaming in that language. It was combination of where the dream was set, what language was associated with that, and what people were in the dream — that's what they said determined it.

But I've heard others say that if they were dreaming about important emotional issues, they would dream in their original language, and if they were dreaming about practical, abstract, or work-related things, they would dream in their newer language. I heard something different from the most multilingual person I've ever talked to. He was a high-level Swedish economist, and he said that he was fluent in about 15 languages. He said that he dreamed in whatever language he was speaking that day, even if the dreams were about his family of origin in Sweden.

There is something that I have never seen mentioned in any of the published studies on this, which is that there are some people who say

they are never aware of language in dreams — that they don't dream in any particular language. I very much identify with that. Most of the time, I don't hear language in my dreams. I have only a handful of times dreamed in a language other than English, which fits the findings of some studies that say that your degree of proficiency in a second language determines how often you will dream in it. I studied French in school, but I am not a proficient speaker. I've dreamed in French at least twice.

People who are not proficient in a foreign language sometimes say that they have once or more dreamed in the rudimentary second language, and in the dream, they believed they were very proficient in it. When people discuss it, it's usually along the lines of "Why is it that we can be so much more fluent in our dreams?" Dream psychologists, especially neuroscientists, say that it's likely because the prefrontal area that is responsible for reality checks is shut down. It is possible that they are more proficient in the dream, but it's also possible that they feel more proficient in the dream because they're not doing the usual self-judgment.

I think that dreams are best thought of as just thinking in a different biological state, where areas associated with visualization and emotion are more active than usual intuition, and that is why we're less verbal and less logical when we dream. There are a few theories that say dreams are there for memory consolidation, for threat simulation, and for wish fulfillment. And yes, they're for all of that, and a million other things, just like our waking thought.

汉译英部分:

表里的生物

我小时候住在一座小城里，城里没有工厂，所以也没有机器的声音。我那时以为凡是能发出声音的，都是活的生物，早晨有鸟叫得很

好听，夜里狗吠得很吓人，钟楼上的钟不是活的，有时却洪亮地响起来，那是有一个老人在敲。哪里有死的东西会自己走动，并且能自动地发出声音呢？

可是父亲的表有时放在桌子上，不但它的秒针会自己转动，并且它坚硬的表盖里会发出清脆的声音：滴答，滴答……没有一刻的休息，这声音比蝉鸣要柔和些，比虫的歌曲要单调些。

一天，我对父亲说：

“我爱听这表的声音。”

我一边说一边向着表伸出手去。父亲立刻把我的手拦住了，他说：

“只许听，不许动。”停了一会儿，他又添上一句：

“小孩儿不许动表。”

他这么说，就更增加了表的神秘。“不许动”，里边该是什么东西在响呢？我对于它的好奇心也一天比一天增加。树上的蝉，草里的虫，都不轻易被人看见，我想：这里边一定也有一个蝉或虫一类的生物吧。这生物被父亲关在表里，不许小孩子动。

越不许我动，我就越想动，但是我又不敢，因此我很痛苦。这样过了许多天。父亲一把表放在桌子上，我的眼睛就再也离不开它。有一次，父亲也许看我的样子太可怜了，也许自己有什么高兴的事，他对我笑着说：“你来，我给你看看表里是什么在响，可是只许看，不许动。”

没有请求，父亲就主动给我看，我高兴极了，同时我的心也加速跳动。父亲取出一把小刀，把表盖拨开，在我的面前立即呈现出一个美丽的世界：蓝色的、红色的小宝石，钉住几个金黄色的齿轮，里边还有一个小尾巴似的东西不住地摆来摆去。这小世界不但被表盖保护着，还被一层玻璃蒙着。我看得入神，唯恐父亲再把这美丽的世界盖上。可是过了一会儿，父亲还是把表盖上了。父亲的表里边真是好看。

此后我就常常请求父亲把他的表打开给我看，有时父亲答应我，有时却拒绝我，这要看他高兴不高兴。有一回，父亲又把表打开了，我问：

“为什么还蒙着一层玻璃呢？”

“这就是叫你只许看，不许动。”父亲回答。

“为什么呢？”我又问。

“这摆来摆去的是一个小蝎子的尾巴，一动就要螫（zhē，v. sting）你。”

我吓了一跳，蝎子是多么丑恶而恐怖的东西，为什么把它放在这样一个美丽的世界里呢？但是我也感到愉快，证实我的猜测没有错：表里边有一个活的生物。我继续问：

“为什么把那样可怕的东西放在这么好的表里？”

父亲没有回答。我只想，大半因为它有好听的声音吧。但是一般的蝎子都没有这么好的声音，也许这里边的蝎子与一般的不同。

后来我见人就说：“我有鸟儿在笼子里，父亲却有一个小蝎子在表里。”

这样的话我不知说了多久，也不知道到什么时候才不说了。

留学生英汉互译组 We Test 系统六位考试码为：ADRXGR