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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**



CAPSTONE PAPER TITLE:

**FUSION OF CULTURES PLAYS A PART IN WRITING STYLES &
TRANSLATION**

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CAPSTONE

FUSION OF CULTURES PLAYS A PART IN WRITING STYLES AND
TRANSLATION

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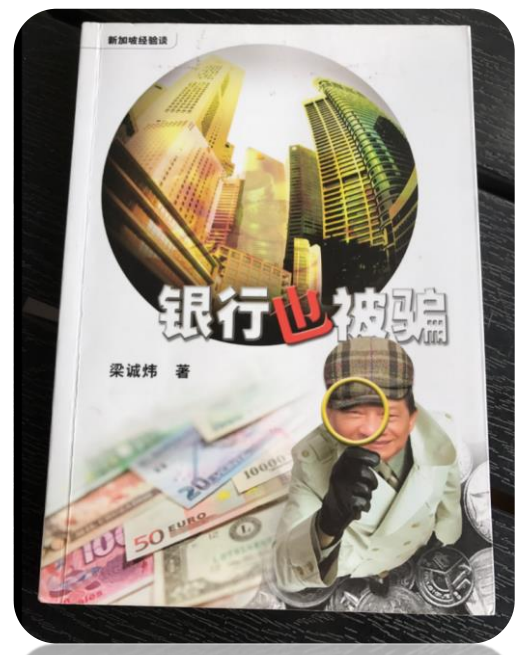


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ABSTRACT

The main topic for discussion in this Capstone project is to demonstrate and understand fusion of cultures indeed plays a part in writing styles and translation (in particular). The book *Bank Heists* is essentially a collection of heists happened in financial institutes including Singapore's very own domestic banks. The writer Mr Leong Sing Wee, a local Singaporean Chinese, had personally assisted in the investigation cases in one way or another.

The reason for selecting the chapter *On a Wild Goose Chase* is firstly, there are vast amount of dialogues amongst people, which is a great area for cultural translation analysis; secondly, there is a wide use of idioms, idiomatic expressions, proverbs, sayings and metaphors in the chosen chapter. This renders a great ground for discussion on the topic of "Fusion of cultures plays a part in writing styles and translation".

During the process of translation, the strategy of domestication, a translation theory of Lawrence Venuti, is taken main reference to. Other translation strategies will be mentioned in brief. Venuti's publications of *Scandals of Translation*, as well as *The Translator's Invisibility* are the key sources of literature used in the process of translation.

Besides, I also took reference of theories / approaches of a few other translation theorists such as Eugene Nida's *Culture and its five key areas*, Nida's *Functional and Dynamic Equivalence theories*, and Professor Ding Heng Qi's *ABC (Adapt, Borrow, Create) Approach* in translation. I was inspired in terms of creative translation while still not straying away from the source text.

After doing this Capstone Project and the related research, my conclusion is there is no one-work-for-all strategy or approach in translation but a combined adoption of relevant ones will be ideal. Nevertheless, the strategy of domestication is still widely adopted and is the one of the guiding principles in this Capstone project. This does not necessarily mean contrasting strategy such as foreignisation should be ruled out. In fact, both strategies can be a good balance for the translator to strike in order to achieve a decent translation work.

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There are mainly three person I wish to express my deepest gratitude in my Capstone Project. Without their relentless support and guidance, my project would not been feasible with a decent closure.

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Distinguished lecturer of Nanyang Technological University, my mentor throughout the few months of research.

Dr Cui has patiently and intellectually guided me how to structure a Capstone Project with significance on the book *Bank Heists* I chose to translate. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Dr Cui for his kindest understanding of my pace in the project due to work and family commitment during the months of preparing for the project.

My family

I must express my sincere appreciation to my family members, my husband in particular, for rendering the awesome support and taking care of our two young children during the months of my Capstone Project preparation.

Mr Leong Sing Wee

Author of the book *Bank Heists*. Mr Leong is a local Singaporean with Chinese education background.

Mr Leong is the ex-Chairman of Kolam Ayer Resident Centre and has devoted most part of his life in community services and voluntary works. I would like to thank Mr Leong for the opportunity in translating his book *Bank Heists* and permission to translating and reviewing one of the chapters *On A Wild Goose Chase* as my Capstone Project. Mr Leong's kind and elaborated explanation of related stories in the book is greatly appreciated as it provides me with a better understanding of the story background which facilitates further understanding of the source text.

INTRODUCTION

RESEARCH TOPIC: *Fusion of cultures plays a part in writing styles and translation*

The reason for choosing the chapter On A Wild Goose Chase to study the mentioned research topic is the presence of vast conversations and frequent appearance of idiomatic expressions as well as proverbs. Through people's conversations, we can analyse the significance of language in cultural translation.

OBJECTIVES: To understand and demonstrate the fusion of cultures plays a part in writing styles and translation (in particular).

The book *Bank Heists* that I am working on is essentially a collection of heists cases happened in financial institutes including Singapore's very own domestic banks. The writer Mr Leong Sing Wee, a local Singaporean Chinese, had personally experienced through the cases and assisted in the investigation in one way or another. With his years of work experience in China and most of his life time in Singapore, his writing style demonstrates a fusion of the Singaporean and Chinese cultures. This interesting fusion of cultures plays a significant role in translation.

Cultural translation can be seen as a process with purpose. It is a process of converting content of a stranger culture to another that will be comprehensible and acceptable for the target audience. This brings about how to make readers understand and accept the translated text.

METHODOLOGY: *Adopting domestication as the main but not the only translation strategy*

Present tense will be used throughout the target text except scenarios whereby, during conversations, people recalled the past events that had taken place. In the process of translating the chapter On A Wild Goose Chase from *Bank Heists*, domestication is the main translation strategy I adopted. Domestication refers the strategy of domestication to the adoption of a transparent fluent style to minimise the strangeness of source text to audience of the target text. For that the original image or flavour is mostly likely to be retained when the transparent fluent style is adopted and to make the translated version easy to be understood within the cognition and cultural circle of audience of the target text.

In The Translator's Invisibility, A History of Translation by Lawrence Venuti, "Invisibility" is the term he uses to describe the translator's situation and activity in contemporary British and American cultures. The translation is not in fact a translation, but the "original". The illusion of transparency is an effect of a fluent translation strategy, of the translator's effort to insure easy readability by adhering to current usage, maintaining continuous syntax, fixing a precise

meaning. The more fluent the translation, the more invisible the translator, and, presumably, the more visible the writer or meaning of the foreign text.¹

I agree that the best translation does not sound like a translation². In my translation of the project, I will use the strategy of foreignisation to a certain extent, though not the key base for reference. Foreignisation is another term that Lawrence Venuti introduces besides domestication. It means maintaining the foreignness of the source text and break the linguistic norm of the target language³. Lawrence Venuti considers the concept of foreignising can be productively applied to translating in any language and culture. Foreignisation can alter the ways that translations are read as well as produced because it assumes a concept of human subjectivity that is very different from the humanist assumptions underlying domestication.

The Translator's Invisibility intervenes against the translator's situation and activity in contemporary British and American cultures. The ultimate aim of Translator's Invisibility is to force translators and their readers to reflect on the ethnocentric violence of translation and hence to write and read translated texts in ways that recognise the linguistic and cultural differences of foreign texts. What Lawrence Venuti is advocating is not an indiscriminate valorisation of every foreign culture or a metaphysical concept of foreignness as an essential value. The goal is rather to elaborate the theoretical, critical, and textual means by which translation can be studied and practiced as a locus of difference, instead of the homogeneity that widely characterises it today.⁴

In *The Scandals of Translation* by Lawrence Venuti⁵, he suggests any language use is thus a site of power relationships because a language, at any historical moment, is a specific conjuncture of a major form holding sway over minor variables. He sees the key to translating a decent piece of work is that the translator shall not be constrained to the concept of faithfulness. Translation practitioners have to embrace differences in cultures and consider the benefits of all cultural entities, instead of solely the benefits of entities of major cultures.

The aim of minoritising translation is "never to acquire the majority," never to erect a new standard or to establish a new canon, but rather to promote cultural innovation as well as the understanding of cultural difference by proliferating the variables within English.

¹ Lawrence Venuti, 2008. *The Translator's Invisibility, A History of Translation*. London: Routledge. Page 1-10

² Nida and Taber (1969)

https://books.google.com.sg/books?id=0Yck4QW_DecC&pg=PT143&lpg=PT143&dq=the+best+translation+should+not+sound+like+translation+at+all&source=bl&ots=5iMg3VOjsr&sig=YctCNMbKd8MtLiSOyouI_jA4-Ms&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjdg-elM7HSAhVKNpQKHZZOAFMQ6AEILDAE#v=onepage&q=the%20best%20translation%20should%20not%20sound%20like%20translation%20at%20all&f=false

³ Shuttleworth & Cowie, *Dictionary of Translation Studies*, (1997)

⁴ Lawrence Venuti, 2008. *The Translator's Invisibility, A History of Translation*. London: Routledge. Page 10-34

⁵ Lawrence Venuti, 1998. *The Scandals of Translation, Towards an Ethics of Difference*. London: Routledge. Page 10-29

Lawrence Venuti thinks a good translation is demystifying: it manifests in its own language the foreignness of the foreign text. Good translation is minoritising: it releases the remainder by cultivating a heterogeneous discourse, opening up the standard dialect and literary canons to what is foreign to themselves. Minoritising translation can be considered an intervention into the contemporary public sphere, in which electronic forms of communication driven by economic interest have fragmented cultural consumption and debate. The minoritizing translator, motivated to release the domestic remainder by working with a stylistically innovative text, will not abide by the cooperative principle. Lawrence Venuti believed the strategy of domestication is a sign of stronger cultures taking over weaker cultures. Hence, he brought forward the contrasting strategy -- foreignisation trying to remove the unequal phenomenon among cultural communications.

My point of view with regards to the adoption of translation strategies is more or less in line with Lawrence Venuti. Domestication is essential and can be used as the main strategy in this project but it is not the only translation strategy for reference. Foreignisation strategy and other approaches will also take traces in the project.

DATA / TRANSLATION

No.	Source Text	Target Text
1	踏破铁鞋无觅处	On A Wild Goose Chase
2	1986年3月16日早上，阳光明媚，春意盎然。	Time travels to 16 th March 1986... Beautiful sunshine gleaming in the sky. Gentle breeze follows suit.
3	我停好车，拿上公文包，愉悦地走进SS银行总部。	I take up my briefcase from the car and walk towards the Headquarters of SS Bank.
4	我，吕神威，是这家银行的新任保安经理，今天是我第一天上班的日子。	I am Lu Shen Wei. Today is my first day of work as the new security Manager for the bank.
5	我的上司伍焕坡的办公室房门虚掩着，我轻轻地敲了两下门。	First things first, I proceed to find my Supervisor, Wu Huan Po, to report for work. "Knock, knock." I gently tap on his door.
6	"请进。"	"Please come in."
7	"Good morning, Sir!"我敬了个标准的礼。	"Good morning, Sir!" I poise with an officer's salute.
8	"呵呵，神威，你总是不改你的警察本色呀！"	"Oh, Goodness! Shen Wei, you haven't changed!"
9	在谈笑中，伍总招呼我坐下。	He motions me to take a seat.
10	"神威，我们很欣赏你过去在警察部队和金融货币管理局的经历和经验，希望你能把你的宝贵经验用到我们银行的安全工作上来，不断进步。"	"Shen Wei, we very much value your expertise and working experience in the Police Force and financial department; and we hope that you will utilise and hone your valuable skills and knowledge towards the security measures for SS Bank," he locks his eyes on me.
11	"Yes Sir!"	"Yes, Sir!" I promptly reply.
12	"哈哈....."办公室里响起一阵爽朗的笑声。	"Haha... haha..." laughter fills the room.
13	整个上午和午餐时间，伍总都在给我讲解业务方面的事情及介绍同事认识，气氛一直都是轻松和愉快的。	For the most part of the day, he shares with me about my role and responsibilities; and also introduces me to my colleagues in the bank. The air is filled with joy.

14	下午 4 时, “铃铃……”我办公桌上的电话骤然响起。	“Ring, ring...” my office phone rings. I take a glance at my watch -- 4.00pm.
15	“神威, 你马上到我办公室来一下。”	“Shen Wei, please come over right now.”
16	“好的, 马上就到。”	“Sure, I’m on my way.”
17	从伍总的语气中我分明觉察到有事情发生了, 而且还不是小事情。	From Supervisor Wu’s anxious tone, I sense something amiss.
18	“神威, 我们一家分行短款 120 万, 你现在马上去调查一下。”	“Shen Wei, one of our branches reported a shortfall of \$1.2 million. Please go and investigate right now.”
19	“明白。”	“Understand,”
20	虽然我的回答很简洁, 但头皮还是一阵发紧, 第一天上班, 就碰上大案子了, 不知道棘不棘手?	my reply with no hesitation, though my mind seems to be all over the place. I wonder on my first day of work, what this case may entail; how challenging will it be?
21	我立刻开车来到 AA 分行, 分行已经够小的了, 今天却挤满了人, 有会计部的、审计部、营业部的, 都是有关部门的主管及分行经理的上司。	I hastily drive my way to the AA bank branch. Little space and packed with key personnel from different departments, including accounting, auditing and operation teams.
22	我找到分行经理。	I manage to locate the person I am urgently looking for.
23	分行的潘经理正一手托住头长吁短叹, 见有人来到, 马上拿起桌上的眼镜戴上, 望一望, 问道:“你是谁?”	With his head bowed down into his hands and taking long deep breaths in between, he hurriedly grabs his spectacles from his desk when he sees me approaching. “Who are you?” he looks at me in bewilderment.
24	“潘经理, 我是总行新上任的保安经理吕神威, 我想来了解一下关于短款 120 万的事情的, 请你给我讲一下。”	“Hi, Manager Pan, I’m Lu Shen Wei, the newly recruited security Manager from the Headquarters. Could you share more about the case of this \$1.2 million shortfall?”
25	“好, 好。”潘经理惶恐不安地把短款的经过详细给我做了报告。	“Sure, of course,” Manager Pan prepares to share the details with her nerves in the air.
26	“今天下午 3 时 30 分, 我们分行停止营业做每日支出/存入现款结算时, 发现一个外号叫“老虎”的户口里头多了 120 万, 但却没有实际金额入账。	“At 3.30pm today, our branch did the usual tally of the day’s withdrawals and deposits of monies. We discovered a puzzling addition of \$1.2 million in one of our customer’s banking accounts, of which there have been no recent deposits in that account.

27	于是我们赶紧打电话到总行，询问这个户头的 120 万提走了没有。	Hence, we promptly contacted Headquarters to enquire about this mystery.
28	总行那边答复说那笔钱在下午 1 时左右已经被人领走了，没办法，我们只得向内审部的老总汇报了.....”	To our horror, Headquarters replied that this sum was already taken at about 1.00pm or so. At our wits end, we reported the matter directly to the supervisor of Internal Affairs,”
29	潘经理说完后拿出手帕揩了一下鼻头的汗珠。	Wiping off the build-up perspiration on his forehead, he says his piece.
30	“老虎是谁? 他的 120 万的输入操作是在哪台终端机上操作的? 出纳员是谁? 录影带查询了没有.....”	“Who is Tiger?” “Which terminal counter did he go to for this \$1.2 million transaction?” “Who is the teller?” “Has anyone check the CCTV yet?
31	我连珠炮似地提出了一系列问题，虽然是第一天上班，但已往的经验使我将应当着手的基本思路已在脑中形成。	The list of questions just blurt out from my mouth. Though it is my first day at this new job, my past experiences surely have assisted me in my train of thought.
32	“老虎是我们银行的杂工，输入操作是在出纳员何秀丽的终端机上完成的，但她矢口否认有进行过这笔操作，录影记录我们正在查阅中。”	“Tiger is our odds-job worker in the bank. The transaction was completed via the terminal machine belonging to teller, Ho Siew Lee. However, she has profusely denied having done this transaction. We are still awaiting the review of the CCTV recordings.”
33	“走，我们一起去看看。”	“Come, let’s go take a look.”
34	来到保安监控室，我要求查看何秀丽终端机的监控录影片断。	When we reach the security command room, I request for the CCTV recording of Siew Lee’s counter.
35	我们从早上 9 时开始看起，很快，我们把时间锁定在 9 时 30 分到 9 时 40 分。	Starting with 9am recording, we quickly identify the suspicious time slot from 9.30am to 9.40am.
36	从画图中看到：9 时 30 分何秀丽笑呵呵地离开终端机。	Examining closely, we see Siew Lee laughing and walking away from her counter at 9.30am.
37	过了 2 分钟，一个男子出现在画面中，卷发，身高 170cm 左右，体态中等，一脸横肉，蓄着两撇八字胡。	Two minutes_after, a man appears in the scene -- curly hair, standing approximately 170cm, with a medium build, chubby face and a pencil moustache.
38	只见他坐在何秀丽终端机前，操作起电脑来，不时东张西望的。	He settles in front of Siew Lee’s computer and starts to type away; frequently popping his head up and down to check his surroundings.
39	过了 5 分钟，他嘴角浮现出一丝笑容，起身离开。	Shortly after five minutes, he grins with a sly smile and takes his leave.

40	9 时 40 分，何秀丽边擦拭着嘴部边回到她的位置上。	At 9.40am, Siew Lee returns to her counter, while she wipes the corners of her mouth.
41	“潘经理，这名男子是谁呀？他为什么可以到出纳员何秀丽的终端机上操作呢？”	“Manager Pan, who is this man? How is it possible that he has access to Siew Lee’s counter and operates her terminal machine?”
42	“他，他，他不就是老虎么！”	“Isn’t he... ? He... he is Tiger!”
43	李经理显得紧张又急躁的回答连舌头有点不灵活了。	Manager Pan replies in an anxious and fluster tone, so much so that it seems he is tongue-tied.
44	我又查阅了终端机上的操作记录，120 万的输入时间是 9: 36 分，正好是何秀丽离开，老虎进来的那段时间。	I retrieve the operations record and review it once more. And realise that the \$1.2 million was transacted at 9.36am. Coincidentally, the time which Siew Lee stepped out and when Tiger entered.
45	“潘经理，我想跟出纳员何秀丽小姐谈一谈。”	“Manager Pan, I will like to speak with Ms Ho Siew Lee.”
46	“好的，好的，我马上安排。”	“Sure, no problem. I’ll arrange right away,”
47	潘经理的额头上不断冒出细密的汗珠。	His forehead glows with excessive perspiration.
48	面谈的地点安排在潘经理的办公室。	In Manager Pan’s office.
49	“何秀丽小姐，我是总行保安经理吕神威，我来向你了解今天早上你终端机上操作输入一名叫老虎的户头 120 万的事情，请你配合将全部细节告诉我们，听清楚没有？”	“Hi, Ms Ho Siew Lee. I’m Lu Shen Wei, the security Manager of Headquarters. I would like to better understand the situation of this morning whereby a \$1.2 million transaction was input to Tiger’s bank account, via your terminal machine. Seek your cooperation to share more details.”
50	“清楚，我冤枉，真的是冤枉啊，我没有操作过……”何秀丽不禁大声哀嚎起来。	“I’m innocent! I’m really innocent! I didn’t do it...” Siew Lee desperately exclaimed her innocence with her high-pitched tone.
51	“慢慢讲，我们是来帮助你的”我递给她一张纸巾。	“Let’s do this slow... we are here to help you,” I offer her a piece of tissue.
52	“谢谢。”随着她情绪的平复，她开始娓娓道来。	“Thank you,” slowly but surely, she gets hold of herself and starts to recollect the morning’s happening.
53	“今天早上 8 点 45 分，我领了现金盒来到柜台，像以往一样，详细地做一些准备工作，包括在电脑终端机上输	“This morning at 8.45am, I retrieved the cashier box to my counter. As usual, I was preparing my work; including

	入个人的密码，整理文件及调整日期等。	administering my password to the computer, tidying up some documents and going through my to-do list.
54	大约在 9 点左右，老虎来到了我们分行，之后他找潘经理聊了一会天，好像在讲‘万字票’、跑马、麻将之类的事情，两个人聊得好不开心。	At about 9am, Tiger came to our branch. He looked for Manager Pan and chatted with him over lottery, horse-betting, mahjong ⁶ and other gambling affairs. Both chatted amicably.
55	老虎从闲谈中得知潘经理没吃早点，便主动请缨要去代劳，并问我们有没有吃早点的。	From the conversation, Tiger realised Manager Pan has yet to have his breakfast and hence he offered to give a treat. In fact, he also asked around if we had ours too.
56	过了 10 多分钟的样子，老虎买来早点，有菜头糕、猪肠粉、油条、豆浆等，招呼我们去吃。	About 10 minutes later, Tiger returns with an assortment of breakfast items including carrot cake, chee cheong fun ⁷ , deep-fried fritters and soya bean milk; beck oning us to come and eat.
57	我的肚子正好饿了，便从终端机离开去用早点，吃完了就回到柜台，前后不超过十分钟。	My stomach was growling and so I left my terminal machine and help myself with the offer. Once I finished eating, I returned to my counter in less than 10 minutes.
58	我今天一整天都没操作过单笔超过十万元的交易，直到做每日结算时才发现短缺了 120 万。”	In fact, I did not handle any single transaction that is over \$100,000 today. I only knew of the \$1.2 million shortfall through the day’s tally.”
59	“有没有人知道你终端机的密码？”	“Does anyone know the password to your terminal machine?”
60	“没有。”	“No.”
61	“你今天离开柜台有几次？”	“How many times did you leave your counter today?”
62	“四次，第一次是去吃老虎买来的早点，第二次是去喝水，上了一次洗手间，第三次是去吃午餐，第四次是在最后一个客户离开银行之后，大约是下午 3 点左右。”	“Four times. First was to help myself with the breakfast bought by Tiger. Second, to drink water and head to the restroom. The third time was for lunch. And fourth time was at about 3.00pm when the last customer left the branch.”
63	“你离开的时候退出了操作界面或关机了没有？”	“Did you log out of your screen session or shut down your computer during these times?”

⁶ Translated from Cantonese dialect referring to a card game that is originated in China.

⁷ Translated from Cantonese dialect to mean a white rice noodle and is usually mixed with sesames, soya sauce or sweet sauce. A common breakfast dish for Chinese in Singapore, Hong Kong and Guangzhou.

64	“哎呀！”何秀丽顿时很激动地捶了一下自己的额头，“我早上吃早点时没退出来！”	“Oh dear!” she exclaims frantically and strikes her forehead with her palm. “I forgot to log off during breakfast time!”
65	“是他，是他，一定是老虎干的好事。”	“It’s him, it’s him, it must be Tiger who did it,”
66	何秀丽的下唇明显留下了几个齿印。	Her lips endeared with her teeth marks.
67	“为什么是他呢？你有什么证据这样讲呢？”	“Why is it him? What evidence do you have?”
68	“老虎，他是我们总行总务部的杂工，好吃懒做，嘻皮笑脸的。”	“Tiger is our department’s odds-job worker, loves to loathe around and beam in grins.
69	平时最喜欢巴结潘经理了，帮他排队、买‘万字票’、买早餐、跑跑腿呀，所以我们潘经理对他是喜爱有加，可以自由出入我们柜台操作区域。	His favourite pastime is getting into the good books of Manager Pan, such as helping him to buy lottery tickets, breakfast and run his errands for him. Hence, our Manager Pan simply adores him and even gives him free reign in and out of our counter’s operating territory.
70	哦，对了，有时候他也帮我们买东西，我们正在操作时，他也会在终端机前候着，问这个问那个的，有时也跑到柜台后面，东瞧西看的。	Oh yes! Sometimes he will help us to buy things; and when we are at work at our counters, he will hover around the terminal machine and ask numerous questions. Sometimes, he will even head over to our counters and look attentively at our terminal machines
71	啊！是我太糊涂了，离开柜台时，忘了关机……”	Oh dear! I was too careless to have left my counter without logging off my terminal machine...”
72	谈到这里，结合我看的录相资料，120 万的输入操作时间基本上能确定是在早上 9 时 30 分至 9 时 40 分，何秀丽去用早点的这段时间，老虎有重大嫌疑，但何秀丽是疏忽大意还是演戏配合目前不得而知，所以也不能排除嫌疑。	At this juncture, drawing observations from the video recordings, the \$1.2 million transaction certainly occurred in the morning between 9.30am and 9.40am – duration which Ho Siew Lee took leave for her breakfast. Tiger is the prime suspect. However, one should not rule out Ho Siew Lee as a suspect either, as it is unclear if she indeed was forgetful or she is staging an act.
73	我结束了对何秀丽的询问，回到总行向伍总汇报了调查结果。结集多方面调查，老虎这人有重大嫌疑，而且事发后再也联系不上他。在请示高层后，银行决定报警，并且暂停分行潘	I conclude the interview with Ho Siew Lee, return to the Headquarters and report the findings to Supervisor Wu. Having compiled the multiple sources of investigation, Tiger remains the prime suspect. In fact, he has been

	经理、出纳员何秀丽及总行四位批准取款老虎四位总行主管的职务。	uncontactable ever since the matter arose. After consultation with the Bank's management team, the bank decides to report the matter to the Police and suspend branch Manager Pan, teller staff Ho Siew Lee and the four accountants who approved Tiger's transaction.
74	时间已过傍晚 6 时，我代表银行带着六封停职信去找相关当事人。在没有充足证据证明自己是无辜的情况下，任何辩解和叫苦都是苍白无力的，所以人事部才决定从明天起暂停他们的职务，直到另行通知为止。	The time now is 6.00pm. On behalf of the Bank, I bring along six suspension letters to hand to the staff concerned. With no concrete evidence to prove one's innocence, all lament is fruitless. Thus, Human Resource department decides to suspend their duties with immediate effect.
75	唯独她，汪青云，女，52 岁，总行会计主管，老虎取款的批准人，是我最后一位拜访的。	Wong Chai Yeong, Female, 52 years old, Accountant Director of Headquarter. She is one of the approving personnel for Tiger's withdrawal transaction, and last of the six staff who is implicated in this matter.
76	找到汪青云时手表上显示 8 时 10 分了，在她家中。我按门铃，门开了，一名中年男人开了门。“您是？”	I glance at my watch. The dials read 8.10pm. Standing at her doorstep, I press the doorbell. A middle-aged man opens the door, "And... you are...?"
77	“您好，我是 SS 银行总行保安经理吕神威，我想找汪青云女士谈一谈。”	"Hi, I'm Lu Shen Wei, the security manager of Headquarters, SS Bank. I will like to speak with Madam Wong Chai Yeong."
78	“哦，请进。”声音有些无力。	"Oh... please come in," his voice trails off.
79	只见她眉头紧皱，挤成一个“川”字，按着太阳穴的右手大拇指和食指撑着脑袋，整个人斜倚在沙发里，两眼空洞洞地盯着某处，神情恍惚呆在那里。	I observe her uptight facial expressions -- vertical lines caving in the middle of her forehead. She presses her temple with her right thumb and holds her head with her fingers; surrendering herself onto the sofa with her eyes staring blankly in space, as if her very soul has departed from her.
80	还是她先生倒水招呼我坐下。	The middle-aged man offers me a seat and hands me a drink.
81	“汪女士，我是代表银行来将停职信发给您的。”	"Madam Wong, I represent the Bank to hand this suspension letter to you,"
82	我拿出停职信放到茶几上。	I take the letter in hand and place it on the tea table.

83	“潘经理，我是她丈夫林成华，今天的事我也知道一二了。”	“Manager Lu, I am her husband Lin Cheng Hua, and I understood what have happened today.
84	“不是我为妻子辩护，我妻子已在银行工作了28年，还有几年就退休了，您说她会为此毁掉一生的清白吗？”	Not that I’m speaking in defence for my wife, but she has slogged 28 years of her life with the Bank, and in a few years’ time she will be due for retirement. In your opinion, do you think she’ll do such a thing to jeopardise her future?”
85	“呜、呜……”汪青云开始抽泣起来。	Madam Wong starts to sob.
86	黎先生右手轻轻拍抚妻子肩膀，左手帮妻子擦拭脸上的泪水。	Her husband gently places his right hand on her shoulder, and reaches out to dry her tear-filled face with the other.
87	“汪女士，您可不可以把今天老虎来取款的经过再详细地讲给我听一下，好吗？”	“Madam Wong, could you please illustrate today’s happenings involving Tiger?”
88	汪青云抹了一下脸颊的泪痕，鼻子抽了抽，喝了口水，“好的，没问题。”	She wipes off the tear drop lingering on her chin, sniffs softly and takes a gulp of water; before she begins. “Sure, no problem.”
89	“今天下午1点左右，一个柜台出纳员收到一张120万元的现金支票，要求兑付。”	“Today at about 1.00pm, one of the cashier staff received a cash cheque of \$1.2 million, to be encashed.
90	“出纳员觉得数目太大，向我请示如何操作。”	She thought that the amount was too large and hence approached me for advice.”
91	“我来到柜台，老虎站在柜台外笑着跟我打招呼。”	“As I headed towards the counter, Tiger was standing there, smiling and waving at me.”
92	“汪主管，您好呀！”	“ ‘Madam Wong, how are you?’ ”
93	“老虎，你这张支票的金额很大哟，发横财了？”	“Tiger, your cheque amount is huge. You stroke a fortune?”
94	“因为我知道老虎嗜赌成性，赌马、万字票、麻将……只要是可赌的他都爱，而且他也帮地下万字票庄家接受下注和兑付奖金。”	“This is because I am aware of Tiger’s gambling nature, from horse-betting, lottery, mah-jong... so long as he can place a bet of it, he will play it. In fact, he helps underground gambling dens accept bets and distributes winnings.
95	“庄家会把中奖的奖金打到他的账户上，他取现后再交给中奖者。”	They will vire ⁸ the winnings to his bank account and he then withdraws the cash and hands the winnings to the winners.
96	“他每个星期都会到我们柜台取钱，但是金额从来没有这么大的。”	Every week, he will come to our branch to withdraw the earnings, but it has never amounted to such a huge sum before.”

⁸ To shift funds from one budget to another.

97	“汪主管，上个礼拜有几个客人中了头、二、三等奖，奖金很高嘛！”	“ ‘Madam Wong, a few of my clients struck it rich last week – Top, second and third prizes! Huge winnings, indeed!’ ”
98	“但是你要领取的金额这么高，超过了我们的权限！”	“But your requested amount is so steep, far exceeds our bank’s limit!”
99	“这个给您看，’，他拿出一张纸条，上面清楚地写着两个人中了头将，三个人中了二奖，五个人中了三奖，还有其它的.....”	“ ‘Take a look at this,’ he took out a slip of paper from his pocket. On it was clearly written a list of winners for the 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd and consolation prizes...”
100	“我当时很犹豫，根据他一贯的行为和这张纸条，好像他讲的确有其事，但金额实在是高出了我们的权限，我一时也没了主意。”	“At that moment, I was hesitant. His usual pattern of behaviour and this slip of paper, really affirms the situation. However, this amount indeed exceeded our transaction limit. I was clueless.”
101	“求求您了，汪主管。我今天要是不把这些奖金给他们，您知道的，他们可都不是好惹的主，您就行行好吧！”	“ ‘Please, I beg you Madam Wong. If I don’t release the winnings to them, I’ll be in deep trouble. You know they are not the ones whom I can trifle with. Please do me a favour!
102	要不然买家和庄家都会找我的麻烦的呀！’	Else, winners and den owners will find trouble with me!’
103	他几乎带着哭腔了。”	He looked as if he was on the verge of tearing.”
104	“我查看了老虎的账户，发现他的账户上确实有 120 万，但我们单笔支付取现的金额权限只有 10 万元以内，于是我就拿了老虎支的支票，询问了另外三位主管。”	“I inspected Tiger’s bank account and realised there was indeed \$1.2 million in it. Nevertheless, we are limited to only encash less than one hundred thousand dollars, per transaction. Hence, I took Tiger’s cash cheque and consulted three other accountants for their opinion.
105	她们全都认识老虎的，我们四位主管觉得要是老虎将支票分成十三张，这样每张的取现金额就在十万以下了。”	They know who Tiger is. All four of us felt that if Tiger could split up the encashment amount in 13 cash cheques, then each encashment transaction will be less than one hundred thousand dollars.”
106	“老虎见我们还在讨论，‘您做通融通融，我今天晚上七点不把奖金给买家送去，那时候望庄家问起来，我交待不了，以后他们就不找我了，这不是断了我的活路了吗？	“Tiger saw us in deep discussion and commented, ‘Give me some slack. If I don’t make the pay-out to the winners by 7pm tonight, dealer Wang will question me and in fact will not partner with me in future. You wouldn’t want to break my rice bowl, right?
107	您就可怜可怜我吧！”	Have some pity on me!’ ”

108	“想想他之前确实每周一都会取现，而且这次也言词凿凿，又一副可怜巴巴的样子。”	“Thinking back... it’s true that he weekly withdraws the winnings on Mondays. Furthermore, this time round his sincere plea is being accompanied with his pitiful disposure.
109	这三位同事有时还托他买非法万字票，偶尔还中过了奖呢！	My three colleagues at times will also lay illegal lottery bets with him, with some occasions of wins!
110	经过商量以后，大家又觉得老虎也是自己人嘛，于是就建议他换成十三张支票取现，而且同意给他兑现。”	After some discussion, all of us felt that Tiger is like a family member too. Hence, we suggested and agreed for him to split the \$1.2 million into thirteen cash cheques for encashment.”
111	“砰”，玻璃茶几被汪青云拍得脆生生地响，“都怪我心肠软！”	“Bang,” the glass cup pounds on the tea table, “It’s all my fault, I was too soft-hearted!”
112	“老虎用一个棕色的旅行袋装进了 120 万，走的时候不停地向我们道谢。”	“Tiger placed \$1.2 million into an brown-coloured travelling bag, and while he was leaving, he kept turning and thanking us.”
113	“120 万，120 万，他就这样轻而易举地拿走了 120 万。”	“\$1.2 million... \$1.2 million... he easily possessed and taken the \$1.2 million,”
114	说到这里，汪青云的情绪又有些难以控制了，不停地用左拳敲击自己的额头。	Madam Wong’s mood becomes uncontrollable again, constantly using her left fist to hit against her own forehead.
115	“当我听到分行打电话来询问是否有支付过 120 万的现金时，我就感觉到不对劲了，他们确定短款时，我只觉得一阵天眩地转，浑身无力地瘫在椅子上，突然两眼一黑，什么都不知道了.....”	“When I received the call from bank branch, enquiring about the encashment of \$1.2 million, I sensed something amiss. Once they confirmed the transaction was done by our branch, I felt as though the world was spinning, I became debilitated as my body sunk into a chair. Suddenly, my vision became blurred and I blacked out...”
116	“后来呢？”	“What happened next?”
117	听她讲了半天，这是我唯一讲的三个字，我一直在留意她的每一个细节和她的反应。	Having heard her say her piece all this while, I finally spoke. I constantly pay attention to her details and reactions during her sharing.
118	“我也不知道，好像是同事把我平躺在沙发上，过了一会儿我才缓过神来。”	“I’m not sure myself, I think my colleagues helped to lay me down on a sofa. After some time, I regained my consciousness.”

119	“嗯，好的，汪女士您说的情况我已经知道了，鉴于目前的情况，银行决定暂停您目前的工作，听候调查，直到调查结束。”	“Okay, I’ve understood what you have shared. As with regards to the current situation, the Bank has decided to temporarily halt your current work, pending investigation, till further notice.”
120	我把茶几上的停职信推到她的面前。	I slide the suspension letter, on the tea table, towards her.
121	“您好好休息，我先告辞了。”	“Please take care, I will take my leave now.”
122	我起身离开汪青云家，出门后看了下手表，晚上 8 时 50 分了。	I rise and leave Madam Wong’s house. I glance at my watch as I stand outside her house, it reads 8.50pm.
123	既然我们已经报了警，接下来的调查工作就由警方接手了。	Having reported the case to the Police, the next step of the investigation will depend on the Police.
124	说来也巧，负责侦查此案的刘明警官曾是我的同事。	Coincidentally, the police inspector, Mr Liu Ming, who is in charge of this case, happens to be my ex-colleague.
125	他到我们银行来取证时我们碰到了。	We chanced upon each other, when he came over to the Bank to gather evidence.
126	“Hi，神威，我们好久不见了。”	“Hi, Shen Wei, it’s been a long while, how have you been?”
127	“你好，听说你又升职了，现在是破案专家了。”	“I’m good. How are you? Heard you’ve gotten another promotion, and now you’re a case investigation expert.”
128	“哪里，哪里，还是很怀念我们在一起搭当一起工作的日子！”	“Thank you... I’m still very fond of our days back then, when we were both investigating cases together.”
129	“确实呀，这次也希望你能帮我们把这个案子破掉。”	“Me too! This time, we will need your help to solve the case.”
130	“那是一定的，我们一定会全力侦破的。”	“No problem, we’ll do our best.”
131	“好，有什么需要我们配合的，我们一定加以协助。”	“Great! If there’s anything you need, we’ll definitely assist.”
132	一周后，我去拜访刘明，询问案件的进展情况。	A week passed, I head to Liu Ming’s office to enquire the progress of the investigation.
133	“刘明，老虎不会长了翅膀吧？”我开玩笑地问。	“Liu Ming, Tiger couldn’t have flown away right?” I jokingly ask.
134	“确实！”刘明一脸地严肃。	“Indeed, he did!” Liu Ming’s strict facial expressions tell it all.
135	“我们对老虎展开了全面调查，他的居所、经常出入的赌场、女友家……”	“We did a full investigation on Tiger, his residence, his usual hangout gambling

	每一处有他活动痕迹的地方我们都去过，只可惜没有任何有价值的发现和线索。	dens, his girlfriend's place... wherever he could have frequent, we been there. However, there weren't any valuable findings or evidence.
136	于是我们发了通缉令，发到了海陆空所有关口。”	Hence, we issued a warrant and disseminated to all ports and air bases.”
137	“他确实长了翅膀，出入境管理局后来报告就在我们发通缉令的两个钟头前，3月16日下午3点45分乘飞机到马来西亚首都吉隆坡去了。”	“He indeed grew wings, the customs and immigrations reported that two hours prior to the warrant issuance, 16 th March, 3.45pm; Tiger boarded the plane to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.”
138	“这下麻烦了。”	“Now, we're in trouble.”
139	我不禁心头一震。	I feel my head spinning.
140	老虎携款潜逃了。	Tiger got away scot free.
141	老虎究竟是何许人也？	Who exactly is this person, Tiger?
142	我好好查查他的底。	I do a thorough background check on him.
143	老虎，原名甄梅富，36岁，已婚，银行杂工，在银行总务部工作约十年左右，日常工作是遣送书信公文，来往总行与分行之间。	Tiger, original name Zhen Mei Fu, 36, married, odds-job worker in a bank, been working with the Bank for about 10 years or so; daily job includes delivery of documents and parcels to and fro Headquarters and bank branches.
144	平时好吃懒做，滥赌成性，爱喝酒，喜欢打架，但有点小聪明，不学无术，专门钻研旁门左道，可以说是无师自通。	Loves to idle at work, gamble, drink and get into fights. He is witty and a keen learner; so much so that you can say he is self-taught especially when it comes to furthering his own interests through unorthodox ways.
145	到了5月，经过银行高层讨论决定，六位同事都因此事疏忽接受了银行处罚，全都被解雇了，而案件却依然没有完结，真凶也没有找到。	In May, through the discussion amongst the senior management team in the Bank, they conclude that the six staff involved in this case are fired due to negligence. The case remains unresolved and the real culprit is not found.
146	真是踏破铁鞋无觅处，得来全不费功夫。	What initially seemed a wild goose chase suddenly bears fruit almost effortlessly in the end.
147	在两个月后，案情忽然峰回路转，就在下午5时20分，“铃铃铃……”	Two months later, the case takes on a new twist at 5.20pm, “Ring, ring, ring, ring...”
148	我桌上的电话铃声急促地响起。	my office phone rings eagerly.
149	“喂，您好！”	“Hello, how can I help you?”
150	“喂，是吕神威经理吗？”	“Hello, is that Manager Liu Shen Wei?”
151	我是汪青云，告诉您一个好消息。”	I'm Wong Chai Yeong and I've got good news to share!”

152	从电话听筒中传出的声音充满了兴奋和喜悦，一扫之前的沮丧和失落。	I can sense her excitement and joyfulness from the tone of her voice, remarkably different from the resentment and despair then.
153	“呵呵，不会是中大奖了吧？”	“Haha... could it be that you have stricken a fortune?”
154	“没错，我中了超级特等奖，我抓住老虎啦！”	“Indeed, I’ve won an extraordinary prize! I’ve caught Tiger!”
155	“别开玩笑，他早就跑到马来西亚，连马国的警方都还找不到他了，现在都不知道躲在地球哪个角落了。”	“You must be kidding... he has since escaped to Malaysia and even the Police of Malaysia can’t find him. There’s just no clue as to where in this world he is hiding.”
156	“真的，我先生和我在马来西亚吉隆坡云顶酒店的赌场碰见他了，已经报警了，他现在被关起来了，哈哈.....”	“For real! My husband and I chanced upon him when we were at Genting Hotel Casino in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We have reported to the Police and he’s now locked up. Haha...”
157我无语了，手握住话筒愣住了。	I get speechless.. I hold the phone receiver in disbelief.
158	“哦，吕神威经理，不跟你讲长途了，我回来再跟你聊细节。”	“Oh, Manager Liu, won’t chat too long on overseas line. I’ll share more details with you when I’m back.”
159	电话里一阵短嘟声，这时我才反应过来，没想到这个案子会有如此戏剧性的变化。	The phone line tone goes dead. At this moment, I finally realise this is for real! Unbelievable that this case has such a dramatic change.
160	我当即拨通了刘明警官的电话。	I phone police inspector Liu Ming immediately.
161	“刘明，我是吕神威，老虎的案子是不是有新的进展呀？”	“Liu Ming, I’m Lu Shen Wei. Is there any progress regarding Tiger’s case?”
162	“神威，你的消息还是那样灵通啊！”	“Shen Wei, you received the news fast as always!”
163	“哈哈.....”两个同时会心地笑了。	“Haha...” both laugh heartily at the same time.
164	“我们已经接到马来西亚警方的电话了，通缉犯老虎和他的女友已被他们羁押，我们正在接程序申请将他们引渡回国接受审理。”	“We’ve received a phone call from Police of Malaysia, informing us that they’ve captured Tiger and her girlfriend. We’re currently processing the documents to repatriate both of them back to Singapore for jurisdiction.”
165	“太棒了，终于破案了！”	“That’s awesome! The case is finally resolved!”
166	汪青云回国后，我们电话约了，我非常感兴趣她在云顶的奇遇。	When Madam Wong returned to Singapore, we arrange to meet. I am very curious about her encounter at Genting.

167	星期三，下午 3：00，在我的办公室。	Wednesday, 3pm, in my office.
168	一阵寒暄之后，我们切入了主题。	After some small talk, we delve into the main topic.
169	“我这一辈子，我都不会忘了那一天，1986 年 5 月 6 日，这天是我的耻辱日。我被我工作了 28 年的银行解雇了。	“I’ll never forget that fateful day, 6 th May 1986, the day I was fired from the bank of which I’ve devotedly to my worked for 28 years.
170	我一直兢兢业业，没想到自己的职业生涯会以这样的方式画上句号。	I’ve always worked diligently, never have I thought my career would have concluded in this manner.
171	一定要抓住那个混蛋，一定、一定、一定要证明自己的清白。”	I tell myself that I must catch that bastard, certainly, must prove my innocence.”
172	汪青云的右手紧紧地握成了拳。	Madam Wong clenches her right fist tightly.
173	“当时我被炒鱿鱼了，感觉天都变成了灰色，心情也跌到了谷底，真想找到那个家伙跟他拼命。	“That moment when I was fired... it seemed the sky turned grey, my emotions dived into the bottomless pit; I desperately wanted to find that fellow and contend against him.
174	好在我先生很体贴和关心我，要陪我到马来西亚的云顶财场酒店去散散心。”	Fortunately, my loving and caring husband saved me from depression and brought me to Genting Hotel Casino to clear my thoughts and calm me down.”
175	“我们是 5 月 11 日，星期天到的。	“We reached on 11 th May, Sunday.
176	您恐怕做梦也想不到我将亲身体验到什么叫心想事成。”	You wouldn’t believe the next thing that I’ll be sharing with you.”
177	“5 月 12 日，星期一，凌晨 1 时 25 分，我先生在酒店设置的赌场试一试运气。	“12 th May, Monday, 1.25am. My husband wanted to try his luck at the hotel casino.
178	我不赌博，就在赌场外大厅，随便走走。”	I don’t really gamble so I was wandering around at the Casino lobby area.”
179	“突然，oh my god!” “不会吧，我眼花了，见鬼了？”	“Suddenly, oh my god!”, “This can’t be it?! My eyes are playing tricks on me... Am I seeing things?”
180	我莫名地颤抖了一下，一个男的挽着一个女的，正打情骂俏地从赌场内走出来。	“I trembled unknowingly, a couple in tow, flirtatiously walking out from the casino.
181	短发，一脸横肉，两撇小胡子，没错了，是他！	Short-haired, plump face, small moustache, indeed, it’s HIM!
182	我用劲掐了掐自己胳膊，确定自己没有做梦,没看走眼。”	I forcefully pinched myself on my elbow to ascertain that I was not dreaming and that it was not an illusion.”

183	“我调整了一下呼吸，让自己镇定下来。”	“I took a deep breath and calmed my nerves.”
184	“是老虎，就是他了！”我当时不知道自己哪来的力量，自己就像弹簧一样弹了出去，我们之间约有十来米的距离。”	He’s Tiger, indeed he is! “At that instant, I didn’t know where I’ve gotten the energy from; I literally flew towards him for a good distance of about 10 metres, like an arrow to a target board.”
185	“还没等他反应过来，我左手牢牢抓住他的衣服，‘啪，啪！’，大厅里响起了两记清除的耳光声，我狠狠地扇了他两巴掌。”	“Yet to wait for his response, I grabbed hold onto his shirt. ‘Slap, Slap!’ and delivered two tight slaps on his face.”
186	“来人呀，来人呀……我一边大声求助，一边责骂他，你个杀千刀的，你害得我好苦呀，你简直就是个畜生。”	“Help... help...” as I shouted for help, I was cursing him, “You’re such a scumbag ⁹ ! You caused me so much misery! What a scoundrel you are!”
187	“老虎一见我这架势，他没想到会在这种场面下跟我再见面。”	“Entirely taken aback, Tiger couldn’t believe he would have met me in such a circumstance.
188	于是满脸堆笑，求我放手，说什么有事好商量，大家可以坐下来慢慢谈，但千万不要告发他。”	Thus, he pleaded me to let go, kept saying that we should discuss this amicably and surely mustn’t expose his deeds.”
189	“仇人相见，分外眼红。”	“When foes meet, eyes on fire!
190	我哪里听得进他的任何一个字，依然双手紧紧抓住他的上衣，不让他脱身。”	Undeterred by his pleas, I continued to tightly grasped hold of his shirt, and ensured he couldn’t go scot-free ¹⁰ .”
191	“老虎和他女友眼见情况不对了，他女友开始拉扯我，要我松手，骂我疯女人，叫我快滚开。”	“Tiger and his girlfriend realised something amiss. She started to pull me away from him, told me to release my grip, insulted and called me a lunatic, and yelled at me to leave at once.
192	老虎见有人开始注意我们在纠缠，也心想快点离开，开始推搡我。”	Tiger realised we were getting people’s unnecessary attention; he felt uneasy and wanted to leave right away.
193	他们两个一个推，一个拉，把我弄得直踉跄，老虎块头那么大，再加上他女友拉我头发，眼见我就要支持不住了。”	With both of them pushing and pulling me at different directions, I was at a loss of what to do. In addition to Tiger’s massive head, his girlfriend was pulling my hair. I knew I could not hold on any longer.
194	突然间，老虎被人拳击了，两记老拳，直击面门。”	Suddenly, Tiger was knocked out. Two swift and hard blows were all it took to send him straight to the door.”

⁹ A very unpleasant person who has done something dishonest.

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/scumbag>

¹⁰ Get away with something without being punished <http://blog.oxforddictionaries.com/2015/04/scot-free-origin/>

195	“我定睛一看，原来是我先生，他听到外头的吵架声，又听到我的呼叫声，赶快从老虎机座上走了出来，发现一男一女正在合力攻击我，以为遇上抢劫了，冲上来就是两记老拳。”	“I looked up and realised the attacker was my husband. He has heard the commotions outside the casino and recognised my cries for help. Hence, he left the jackpot machine swiftly and headed out to the lobby. Having spotted a man and a woman attacking me in union, he thought that it was burglary and thus delivered two hard blows.
196	“呵呵，我先生以前练过拳击，出拳有些力道哟。击倒老虎后，她女友还要攻击我，我一闪身，她自己用力过猛，也摔在地上了。”	Haha, my husband used to practise martial arts moves and his blows can be pretty strong. Though Tiger was knocked out, his girlfriend continued with her attacks. She gathered so much force that, when I dodged her moves, she eventually fell flat on the ground.”
197	我气喘吁吁地对我先生大喊这个人就是卷款逃之夭夭的老虎。	“Gasping for air, I pointed out to my husband that this person is the wanted fugitive, Tiger!
198	我先生一听，马上扑到老虎身上，把他牢牢压在身下，反剪着他的双臂，让他不能动弹。	Upon hearing this, my husband pounced onto Tiger, kept him faced down on the ground and interlocked his arms to restrain him.”
199	“这时，酒店的保安人员陆续赶来。”	“At this moment, the hotel security guards have rushed over.
200	快抓住他们，他们是通缉犯，他们是新加坡的通缉犯。	‘Nab them, they are wanted fugitives, they are wanted by Singapore,’
201	我继续大叫着，生怕老虎会逃脱。”	I continued to yell, for fear that Tiger will escape.”
202	“酒店的保安控制住他们俩后，我才敢好好地出一口长气，但双手可能因为用力过度还有些瑟瑟发抖。”	“When the hotel security guards took over, I finally let out a sigh of relief. Though I knew I was at ease, my hands were shaking uncontrollably.”
203	“酒店报了警，我也到警署做了笔录，然后我在第一时间通知了您！”	“The hotel made a report to the Police and I headed to the Police Station to record my statement. At first opportunity possible, I called to notify you!”
204	“谢谢，这也应了那句话，天网恢恢，疏而不漏！”	“Thank you. Indeed, as fate would have it, Tiger is finally caught!”
205	“是呀，真是大快人心了。”	“Yes! It’s remarkably amazing!”
206	“水浒传中有武松打虎，现今社会上有大娘捉虎！”	“The classics novel, Water Margins, has Wu Song who tamed the Tiger. And in today’s modern society, we have you who caught the Tiger!”

207	我幽默了她一下。	I joke with her.
208	“哈哈.....”我们都开怀大笑了。	“Hahaha...” we roar in laughter.
209	两天后，老虎和他的女友被引渡回到国内，他们接受了法律严厉地治裁。	Two days later, Tiger and his girlfriend are extradited to Singapore to receive their rightful judgement.
210	老虎被捕后，积极主动与警方合作，但是警方从他的收藏处只取回了 30 万。	Following his arrest, Tiger co-operate with the Police willingly and 300 thousand dollars were retrieved.
211	其他的款项，根据老虎在法庭上求情时说的，还债的还债，赌掉的赌掉，都没了。	As for the balance, Tiger’s plea at court accounted them as repayment of debts and gambling losses.
212	结果被法院判坐监牢五年又六个月，他女友因知情不报，也被判 6 个月的审监。	In the end, the court sentenced him to 5 years and 6 months of imprisonment. And as for his girlfriend who knew the whole situation and did not report him to the authorities, she serves a 6-month sentence.
213	在云顶高原捉到老虎的英雄，也受到了警方的奖励。SS 银行虽然没有恢复她的职位，但也奖赏了她两万五千大元，这件事也算是告一段落。	Having assisted Tiger’s arrest at Genting Highlands, the heroine received the Police’s commendation; and though SS Bank did not reinstate her post, she received a cash reward of 25 thousand dollars. And this undeniably brings a closure to this case.
214	这是我进入 SS 银行的第一个案子，对我来说，收获和心得是非常多的。	This is my first investigation case in SS Bank. Personally, I reap plentiful takeaways.
215	银行电脑化对社会带来很大的冲击，给人们带来了无限的便利，但麻烦也接踵而来，正如老虎这样的罪案。	Technology, has brought about much advancements to banking industry and society, giving plentiful convenience to people, but problems aplenty too, such as in the case of Tiger’s crime.
216	在我的报告中，我建议从系统和人员两个方面加强银行的保安措施。	In my report, I propose enhancing the security measures for both systems and staff.
217	电脑系统方面：策划进行电脑故障拯救演习和严格控制电脑室核心部位的门禁系统，每个用户的同一密码系统只认可 30 天，到期强制用户更换等。	For the computing systems: To conduct periodic checks on computer systems and implement strict control over core computing systems; with every user account’s unique password valid for only 30 days, after which mandatory change of password is enforced.
218	人员方面：所有新进职员都必须接受保安课程以提高他们的安全意识。	For staff: All newly-recruited staff must undergo security course to heighten their awareness.

219	各种业务的操作分级别授权，如转账时数目巨大，普通职员只能输入数据，由更高层职员输入执行命令。	As for the privilege rights of various staffing level, such as in the case of large transaction amount to be transferred, executives will only be able to input the transaction amount while management staff will approve and key in the necessary system command to complete the transaction.
220	所有银行职员在离开电脑时应锁闭电脑使他人无法操作。	When leaving the work station, all staff must ensure that their computer systems are logged out, to protect against intruders.
221	尤其是最后一点，是有切肤之痛的，不然，一百二十万元就好像“老虎拉中了老虎机的积宝”一样，是会出事的。	Especially so for the last mentioned measure, it is indeed something close to the heart. For the 1.2 million is akin to ‘striking it rich by hitting the jackpot’, undeniably inviting serious trouble.

(Word Count of target text: 4,560)

LITERATURE REVIEW

In Dell Hymes's *Language in Culture and Society: A Reader in Linguistics and Anthropology*, Nida reckons culture, is not a material phenomenon; it does not consist of things, people, behaviour, or emotions. It is rather an organisation of these things. It is the forms of things that people have in mind, their models for perceiving, relating, and otherwise interpreting them. As such, the things people say and do, their social arrangements and events, are products or by-products of their culture as they apply it to the task of perceiving and dealing with their circumstances. To one who knows their culture, these things and events are also signs signifying the cultural forms or models of which they are material representations.¹¹

Words are fundamentally symbols for features of the culture. Accordingly, the cultural situation in both languages must be known in translating, and the words which designate the closest equivalence must be employed. An examination of selected problems in various aspects of culture will make it possible for one to see more clearly the precise relationship of cultural information to the semantic problems encountered in descriptive linguistics.

Eugene Nida suggests that translation problems, which are essentially problems of equivalence, may be conveniently treated under 1) ecology, 2) material culture, 3) social culture, 4) religious culture, 5) linguistic culture.¹² These five key elements in cultural translation will be illustrated in the chapter of Analysis.

According to Dialogue¹³ by Wang Ning, in the perspective of culture, globalisation cannot possibly make cultures of all races same as each other as it brings about cultural diversity at the same time. Therefore, in the age of globalisation, as people move from one place to another, the racial and cultural identity will be split into different ones, i.e. from one identity to many identities. In fact, globalisation and localisation are both indispensable elements in the cultural development of the future. We must have the mind set of "think globally, act locally" during problem solving. That is to say, more specifically, what will appear ahead of us is cultural globalisation.

In Zhou Zhipei, 2013. *Culturology and Translation*¹⁴, the relationship between culture and language can be summarised in three sentences: Language is a part of a culture; language is a carrier of culture; language is a tool in culture.

The concept of "cross-cultural communications in inter-dialogues"¹⁵ is mentioned. In any cross-cultural communications in inter dialogues, the focus does not lie on any party but each person in the conversation holds his / her stand. Such communicational dialogues across cultures are enriched with vitality and effectiveness. The translator or interpreter who

¹¹ Dell Hymes, 1964. *Language in culture and society: a reader in linguistics and anthropology*. New York: Harper & Row. Page 36

¹² Dell Hymes, 1964. *Language in culture and society: a reader in linguistics and anthropology*. New York: Harper & Row. Page 91

¹³ Wang Ning, 2006. *Dialogue (文化翻译与经典阐释)*. Beijing: Zhong Hua Shu Ju. Page 151

¹⁴ Zhou Zhipei (周志培), 2013. *Culturology and Translation (文化学与翻译)*. Shanghai: Hua Dong Li Gong Da Xue Chu Ban She. Page 80-82.

¹⁵ Zhou Zhipei (周志培), 2013. *Culturology and Translation (文化学与翻译)*. Shanghai: Hua Dong Li Gong Da Xue Chu Ban She. Page 124

renders support in cross-cultural communications have to be equipped with cross-cultural cognition and try to avoid being too “foreignised” or “domesticated” in the translation / interpretation process.

There is much presence of idioms, proverbs and sayings in this pertaining chapter that I am translating in this Capstone project.

With reference to Peter Newmark’s *Approaches to Translation*¹⁶, in regards to metaphor, a few points were raised in the book. 1) Reproducing the same image in the target language provided the image has comparable frequency and currency in the appropriate register. This procedure is common for one-word metaphors; 2) The translator may replace the image in the source language with a standard target language image which does not clash with the target language culture. An example is proverbs. 3) Translation of metaphor by simile, retaining the image; 4) Translation of metaphor (or simile) by simile plus sense. Whilst this is always a compromise procedure, it has the advantage combining communicative and semantic translation in addressing itself advantage of combining communicative and semantic translation in addressing itself both to the layman and the expert if there is a risk that the simple transfer of the metaphor will not be understood by most readers; 5) Conversion of metaphor to sense. In principle, when a metaphor is converted to sense, the sense must be analysed componentially, since the essence of an image is that it is pluridimensional – otherwise literal language would have been used. Further, the sense of an image will usually have an emotive as well as a factual component, an element of exaggeration which will be reduced in the translation in inverse ratio to the liveliness of the metaphor; 6) Deletion. If the metaphor is redundant or otiose, there is a case for its deletion, together with its sense component, provided the source language is not authoritative or expressive. 7) Same metaphor combined with sense. Occasionally, the translator who transfer an image may wish to ensure that it will be understood u adding a gloss.

Metaphor is at the centre of all problems of translation theory, semantics and linguistics. Peter Newmark sees re-evaluation of metaphor must precede a new understanding of translation, linguistics and philosophy.

¹⁶ Peter Newmark, 1981. *Approaches to Translation*. Great Britain: A. Wheaton & Co. Ltd, Exeter. Page 89-92

ANALYSIS

Eugene Nida suggests that translation problems, which are essentially problems of equivalence, may be conveniently treated under 1) ecology, 2) material culture, 3) social culture, 4) religious culture, 5) linguistic culture.¹⁷

Let's analyse examples in two categories of cultural fusion impact on writing styles and translation respectively from the chapter of On A Wild Goose Chase in *Bank Heists*.

In Don Adams and Arlene Goldbard's book *Community, Culture and Globalization*, globalisation has positive and liberating potential. Asian popular theatre lists a dazzling array of transnational collaborations, suggesting that the problems of migrant workers – enormously exacerbated by globalisation – can be addressed by a joint international effort to use theatre as an organizing tool, an effort that would undoubtedly be supported by the Internet and other transnational communications and support systems.¹⁸

In microcosm, there is the dialectic of globalization¹⁹. This phenomenon is particularly prominent in the context of Singapore. In Singapore, local dialects like Hokkien, Cantonese, Hakka, Hainannese and so on are frequently used by the locals. Vocabularies and expressions that are blended with English, Malay, Mandarin and dialects form Singlish which is unique to Singapore and interesting the world.

I will be looking at five areas with examples appeared in this Capstone Project for illustration, **namely the perspective of globalization and culture in terms of languages such as different dialects impacting on writing styles, as well as on translation, the adoption of domestication strategy from the perspective of global culture, proverb translation using domestication strategy, and last but not least, translations that take an basis of foreignisation strategy.**

Firstly, let's look at **the perspective of globalization and culture in terms of languages and different dialects impacting on writing styles, which can be influenced by language use in two cultures and / or take traces of dialect influence:**

For example:

1) "Good morning!" (data table No.7)²⁰, "Yes Sir!" (data table No.11), "Oh my God" (data table No.179) are written in the Chinese source text itself. Of course, they will be the same in the

¹⁷ Dell Hymes, 1964. *Language in culture and society: a reader in linguistics and anthropology*. New York: Harper & Row. Page 91

¹⁸ Don Adams and Arlene Goldbard. *Community, Culture and Globalization*. Page 15.

http://arlenegoldbard.com/wp-content/uploads/2007/11/ccg_chapter_01.pdf

¹⁹ Don Adams and Arlene Goldbard. *Community, Culture and Globalization*. Page 8

http://arlenegoldbard.com/wp-content/uploads/2007/11/ccg_chapter_01.pdf

²⁰ Refer all "No." to the translation table in chapter of Data / Translation. Same for the rest of the No. used for illustration here onwards.

English, the target text. With globalisation, it is getting more common to greet in English even in the Chinese context.

With globalisation, culture of minority tend to get closer to culture of majority and sometimes cultures immerse and have an impact on each other. Therefore, it is no longer surprising to hear “good morning”, “good afternoon” from the Chinese instead of the usual “Have you eaten?” It is also more common to hear Chinese start a conversation by beginning with talking about the weather, which is used to be a norm for westerners at the beginning of most conversations.²¹

2) “好在我先生很体贴和关心我，要陪我到马来西亚的云顶财场酒店去散散心。” (data table No. 174)

“好在”is a typical Cantonese phrase meaning “fortunately”. Not very commonly used in standard Chinese. Author may have been influenced by Cantonese dialect which is frequently heard in Singapore environment.

3) 被炒鱿鱼²² (data table No.173)

Influenced by Cantonese. Originated in Guangdong or Hong Kong. Means being fired from employment.

4) 一定要抓住那个混蛋，一定、一定、一定要证明自己的清白 (data table No. 171)

The triple reiteration demonstrates a writing style that is heavily influenced by typical verbal expression in Chinese especially within China (i.e. important matters have to be reiterated trice). Such writing style could be a result of author’s many years’ of staying in China. Indeed, fusion of cultures does play a role in writing styles.)

5 两个人聊得好不开心

With the understanding of the Chinese culture, we know that “好不开心” in this scenario does not mean very unhappy but the opposite – “very happy” in this case. I used the term “amicably” to sound more appropriate in that scenario. Hence, understanding of the source language culture is essential to generate an accurate translation.

6 于是我们赶紧打电话到总行，询问这个户头的 120 万提走了没有。总行那边答复说那笔钱在下午 1 时左右已经被人领走了，没办法，我们只得向内审部的老总汇报了 (data table No. 28)

The usage of “了” appears frequently in the source text which is a common phenomenon in Singaporean’s Chinese writing. (150 places in this single chapter of On A Wild Goose Chase. The rest will not be listed one by one)

²¹ *Translation Practice from the Cultural Perspective* (文化视角与翻译实践) by Wang Enke (王恩科), Li Xin (李昕), Feng Xia (奉霞), 2007. Page 29

²² <http://blog.udn.com/enlightenment/2717850>

7) 过了十多分钟的样子 (data table No. 56)

“的样子” is a typical verbal Chinese expression in both Singapore and Malaysia. It is understandable but not commonly spoken in standard Chinese. The source text will be more concise if these three words are deleted.

8) 把这个案子破掉 (data table No. 129)

This is similar to the example earlier. The usage of “掉” is typical in Singaporean Chinese culture. This is commonly heard in Malaysia too by Malaysian Chinese in the country. But in standard Chinese language, it is more often replaced by “了”

9) 出拳有些力度哟 (data table No. 196)

“哟” is Standard Singaporean Chinese ending word to express certain tone. In target text of English, it is not necessary to be translated in order to sound more natural in English-speaking culture.

10) 收获和心得是非常多的 (data table No. 214); 是有切肤之痛的 (data table No. 221)

“是.....的.....” is used frequently in Singaporean Chinese culture but it actually weakens the tone/effect. Hence recommend to delete it as it is redundant.

Secondly, let's look at **the perspective of globalization and culture in terms of languages and dialects impacting on translation.** For example:

1) 大约在 9 点左右, 老虎来到了我们分行, 之后他找潘经理聊了一会天, 好像在讲‘万字票’、跑马、麻将之类的事情, 两个人聊得好不开心。 (data table No. 54)

The target text of “mahjong” is translated from Cantonese dialect referring to a card game that is originated in China. Mahjong is an all-time-favourite game of all ages. In fact, beyond Singapore and Hong Kong, the term “mahjong” is widely used in many parts of the world where considerable mass of Cantonese live and stay.

2) 有菜头糕、猪肠粉、油条、豆浆 (data table No. 56);

The target text “chee cheong fun” is translated from Cantonese dialect referring to a white rice noodle roll made from flour and is usually mixed with sesames, soya sauce or sweet sauce respectively. Chee cheong fun is a common breakfast dish for Chinese in Singapore, Hong Kong and Guangzhou.

Thirdly, fusion of cultures indeed plays a part in **translation which takes reference of domestication strategy:**

For example:

1) ST: 于是我们赶紧打电话到总行, 询问这个户头的 120 万提走了没有。总行那边答复说那笔钱在下午 1 时左右已经被人领走了, 没办法, 我们只得向内审部的老总汇报了 (data table No. 27 & 28)

TT: Hence, we promptly contacted Headquarters to enquire about this mystery. To our horror, Headquarters replied that this sum was already taken at about 1.00pm or so. At our wits end, we reported the matter directly to the supervisor of Internal Affairs.

Addition translation approach is used at the start to highlight the degree of shock, hence “To our horror” is added in the target language. “At our wits end” is a translated version of “没办法” based on domestication strategy.

2) ST: “哪里，哪里，还是很怀念我们在一起搭当一起工作的日子！” (data table No. 128)

TT: “Thank you... I’m still very fond of our days back then, when we were both investigating cases together.”

Translated based on domestication strategy and the background of the humble Chinese culture verses Westerners’ compliment-accepting culture (simply accepting and expressing appreciation).

According to *Translation Practice from the Cultural Perspective*²³, Chinese culture has the characteristic of humbleness, which is set as an important standard to assess appropriateness. Self-boasting is usually seen as meanness in the Chinese culture. Though the western culture (i.e. British culture) also sees humbleness as a compliment, the westerners do not see self-boasting as something evil. There was a joke in the past about a guest praising the beauty of an Official’s wife. The Official humbly answered “哪里哪里”. The interpreter used direct translation “where, where?” which rendered great awkwardness to all. The superficial meaning of “Where where?” and “哪里哪里” might be the same but the two have almost totally different functions in such scenario. “哪里哪里” is used to represent humbleness.

Three possible translation versions: a) “I am flattered” (more of a globalisation outcome but may not be totally appropriate here); b) “Thank you” (more of a globalisation outcome and appropriate in this context), OR 3) “Nah...” (more of a localisation approach). The sound of “Nah...” will sound truly local to Singaporeans while foreigners who do not know Singapore culture well may not be grasping the actual meaning by the sound and hence may cause misunderstanding. I chose “thank you....” by adopting a globalisation approach.

3) ST: “突然， oh my God!” “不会吧，我眼花了，见鬼了？” (data table No.179)

TT: “Suddenly, oh my God!”, “This can’t be it?! My eyes are playing tricks on me... Am I seeing things?”

This is a prominent result of cultural globalisation. In many places, “oh my God” is frequently used even by people who do not speak English well or at all.

4) ST: 1986年3月16日早上，阳光明媚，春意盎然。(data table No.2)

TT: Time travels to 16th March 1986... Beautiful sunshine gleaming in the sky. Gentle breeze follows suit.

²³ *Translation Practice from the Cultural Perspective* (文化视角与翻译实践) by Wang Enke (王恩科), Li Xin (李昕), Feng Xia (奉霞), 2007. Page 23, 29.

Translationese will be strong if foreignisation strategy is used, such as “spring is everywhere”, though it is still acceptable in terms of syntax.

5) ST: 一扫之前的沮丧和失落 (data table No.152)

TT: remarkably different from the resentment and despair then

Domestication and semantic approach – explain the meaning in language as concise as possible

6) ST: “呵呵，不会是中大奖了吧？” (data table No.153)

TT: “Haha... could it be that you have stricken a fortune?”

Used domestication and semantic translation approach. An alternative translation based on foreignisation strategy could be “have hit a huge prize” or “hit a jackpot”

7) ST: 我的上司伍焕坡 (data table No.5)

TT: my Supervisor, Wu Huan Po

When people’s names are involved, we shall always check with the correct spelling in the translated text. In this case, “Wu Huan Po” is the supervisor’s actual English name and is translated from Hokkien dialect.

8) ST: 我轻轻地敲了两下门 (data table No.5)

TT: “Knock, knock.” I gently tap on his door.

Instead of “knocking the door twice gently” (which adopts foreignisation strategy). We used domestication strategy to reflect English speaking culture.

9) ST: 呵呵 (data table No.8)

TT: Oh, Goodness!

Similar to the earlier example, the TT can be “Hoho” if foreignisation is adopted. I chose to adopt domestication strategy in the translation to reflect the usual English speaking culture.

10) ST: 从伍总的语气中我分明觉察到有事情发生了，而且还不是小事情。(data table No.17)

TT: From Supervisor Wu’s anxious tone, I sense something amiss.

An alternative TT can be “small matter” if foreignisation is adopted. I chose to adopt domestication strategy in the translation to reflect the usual English speaking culture.

11) ST:虽然我的回答很简洁，但头皮还是一阵发紧。(data table No.20)

TT: ... my reply with no hesitation, though my mind seems to be all over the place.

Domestication strategy and semantic approach are taken as reference in order to sound more natural in the target language context.

12) ST: 连舌头有点不灵活了 (data table No.43)

TT: tongue-tied

Domestication strategy and semantic approach are taken as reference in order to sound more natural in the target language context. A translation of “tongue gets inflexible” might sound translationese.

13) ST: “.....我来向你了解今天早上你终端机上操作输入一名叫老虎的户头 120 万的事情, 请你配合将全部细节告诉我们, 听清楚没有?”(data table No.49)

TT: “...I would like to better understand the situation of this morning whereby a \$1.2 million transaction was input to Tiger’s bank account, via your terminal machine. Seek your cooperation to share more details.”

Domestication strategy is adopted. Usually in the cultures of America, Britain, and also Singapore, investigation question to colleagues (the colleague may or may not be a suspect) is asked in a courteous manner. For this reason, the question in source text is converted to a request statement in the target text.

14) ST: “啊! ”(data table No.71)

TT: “Oh dear!”

Domestication strategy and semantic approach are taken as reference in order to sound more natural in the target language context.

15) ST: 任何辩解和叫苦都是苍白无力 (data table No.74)

TT: all lament is fruitless

Domestication strategy and deletion approach are taken as reference in order to sound more natural in the target language context. It might be redundant to include both clarification and lament in this case. The latter part is an idiomatic expression translated using domestication strategy.

16) ST: 只见她眉头紧皱, 挤成一个“川”字 (data table No.79)

TT: I observe her uptight facial expressions -- vertical lines caving in the middle of her forehead.

Domestication strategy is recommended here. It will not make any sense to foreigners (for those who do not know Chinese) if Chinese word “川” is described (in the case of adopting foreignisation strategy).

17) ST: “潘经理, 我是她丈夫林成华, 今天的事我也知道一二了。 (data table No.83)

TT: “Manager Lu, I am her husband Lin Cheng Hua, and I understood what have happened today.

Domestication strategy. It will be absurd if we generate a literal / direct translation such as “knows one and two” (based on foreignisation strategy).

18) ST: “汪主管, 您好呀! ”(data table No.92)

TT: “ ‘Madam Wong, how are you?’ ”

In this case, it will be awkward if the translated text is “Supervisor Wong”. Hence a decent translation requires to have a good understanding of the source text.

Domestication strategy. It will be absurd if we generate a literal / direct translation such as “knows one and two” (based on foreignisation strategy).

19) ST: “但是你要领取的金额这么高，超过了我们的权限！”(data table No.98)

TT: “But your requested amount is so steep, far exceeds our bank’s limit!”

Domestication strategy. “So steep” renders a stronger tone than “so high” and therefore it is a better word choice to place the emphasis.

20) ST: 您知道的，他们可都不是好惹的主。您就行行好吧！ (data table No.101)

TT: You know they are not the ones whom I can trifle with. Please do me a favour!

Domestication strategy. When there is no proper term or a so-called “equivalent” as translation, I choose to explain the meaning of the source text into a target language that is as succinct as possible.

21) ST: 您做通融通融 (data table No.106)

TT: Give me some slack.

American English slang. When possible, using slang is one of the better ways to translate Chinese text with “ABAB” structure.

22) ST: 断了我的活路 (data table No.106)

TT: Break my rice bowl

Domestication strategy. When there is no proper term or a so-called “equivalent” as translation, I choose to explain the meaning of the source text into a target language that is as succinct as possible. This is a metaphoric translation. (the Chinese text can be written as “打破我的饭碗” too).

23) ST: “您好好休息……” (data table No.121)

TT: “Please take care.”

Change of word choice to avoid translationese. In Singlish, “you take care” is frequently heard almost everywhere. It is recommended to use proper English in formal writing unless the target audience is only Singaporean and the translator hopes to achieve the “uniquely-Singapore” effect.

24) ST: 老虎不会长了翅膀吧? (data table No.133)

TT: Tiger couldn’t have flown away right?

Source text is a metaphoric phrase. An alternative is to use foreignisation strategy by using literal translation such as “grown wings”. Both are acceptable here.

25) ST: 别开玩笑 (data table No.155)

TT: You must be kidding

Domestication. Though ST is a negative statement, TT can be a positive statement of confirmation in this scenario to achieve the desirable effect.

26) ST: 手拿住话筒愣住了 (data table No.157)

TT: I hold the phone receiver in disbelief.

Domestication. “In disbelief can achieve similar function. Both ST and TT can express the degree of shock the person is experiencing.

27) ST: 一阵寒暄后，我们切入了主题 (data table No.168)

TT: After some small talk, we delve into the main topic.

There may not be any “equivalents” for 寒暄 and hence I use semantic translation. Delve into can deliver readers with the urgency of the matter that is to be discussed.

28) ST: “老虎和他女友眼见情况不对了，他女友开始拉扯我，要我松手，骂我疯女人，叫我快滚开。” (data table No.191)

TT: “Tiger and his girlfriend realised something amiss. She started to pull me away from him, told me to release my grip, insulted and called me a lunatic, and yelled at me to leave at once.

Domestication strategy is adopted. Lunatic is a perfect fit in the English-speaking culture. It will sound translationese if literal translation is used, e.g. crazy woman, though this is commonly heard in Singapore environment.

29) ST: 两记老拳 (data table No.194)

TT: Two swift and hard blows

Domestication strategy. Making it sound as close to target readers’ culture as possible.

30) ST: “水浒传中有武松打虎，现今社会上有大娘捉虎！” (data table No.206)

TT: “The classics novel, Water Margins²⁴, has Wu Song who tamed the Tiger. And in today’s modern society, we have you who caught the Tiger!”

The translation is based on semantic approach. Explain the story when no close equivalents can be found.

31) ST: 我幽默了她一下 (data table No.207)

TT: I joke with her

幽默 here is used as a verb to mean joke / kid.

32) ST: 两天后，老虎和他的女友被引渡回到国内，他们接受了法律严厉的治裁。(data table No.209)

TT: Two days later, Tiger and his girlfriend are extradited to Singapore to receive their rightful judgement.

Adopted domestication strategy to fit the culture of English-speaking environment.

33) ST: 电话里一阵短嘟声，这时我才反应过来，没想到这个案子会有如此戏剧性的变化。(data table No.159)

²⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_Margin

TT: The phone line tone goes dead. At this moment, I finally realise this is for real! Unbelievable that this case has such a dramatic change.

Adopted domestication strategy to fit the culture of English-speaking environment.

34) ST: 脱身 (data table No.190)

TT: scot-free

Domestication strategy. Fit English-speaking culture.

Fourthly, fusion of cultures indeed plays a part in **translation of proverbs / idiomatic expressions based on an adoption of domestication strategy**. For example:

1) ST: 真是踏破铁鞋无觅处，得来全不费功夫²⁵ (data table No.146)

TT: What initially seemed a wild goose chase suddenly bears fruit almost effortlessly in the end.

Use domestication and semantic approach to translate.

2) ST: 长吁短叹 (data table No.23)

TT: Taking long deep breaths in between

Target text is generated based on domestication strategy and deletion approach. Hence translation of“短叹” is deleted to sound natural in target text.

3) ST: 惶恐不安 (data table No.25)

TT: With nerves in the air

Idioms or idiomatic expressions are usually translated in a semantic way, unless the translator can find a translation of equivalence²⁶. Semantic translation strategy is adopted here.

4) ST: 我连珠炮似地提出了一系列问题 (data table No.31)

TT: The list of questions just blurt out from my mouth. Though it is my first day at this new job, my past experiences surely have assisted me in my train of thought.

Domestication strategy and semantic approach which can render a more natural way of describing the scenario.

²⁵ A situation where you waste time looking for something that you are not going to find, either because that thing does not exist or because you have been given wrong information about it. <http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/a+wild-goose+chase>

A Chinese – English Dictionary of Commonly Used Idiomatic Expressions (汉英常用熟语词典). Jiang Su: Jiang Su Jiao Yu Chu Ban She. Page 618.

²⁶ Eugene Nida on formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence. <http://www.ccjk.com/translation-theories-eugene-nida-and-dynamic-equivalence/>

5) ST: 东张西望 (data table No.25)

TT: ... frequently popping his head up and down to check his surroundings

Semantic and domestication. If one uses foreignisation, the TT can sound as funny as “look at the east and west” which is not appropriate.

6) ST: 随着她情绪的平复，她开始娓娓道来 (data table No.52)

TT: Slowly but surely, she gets hold of herself and starts to recollect the morning’s happening.

7) ST: 我只觉得一阵天眩地转，浑身无力地瘫在椅子上 (data table No.)

TT: I felt as though the world was spinning, I became debilitated as my body sunk into a chair.

Domestication strategy. “天地” (heaven and earth) in Chinese is usually translated to “the world” in English.

8) ST: 好吃懒做，嘻皮笑脸 (data table No.68)

TT: loves to loathe around and beam in grins

Whenever possible, a translator should try to use short phrases/sentences rather than long sentences.

9) ST: 任何辩解和叫苦都是苍白无力 (data table No.74)

TT: all lament is fruitless

Domestication strategy and deletion approach are taken as reference in order to sound more natural in the target language context. It might be redundant to include both clarification and lament in this case. The latter part is an idiomatic expression translated using domestication strategy.

10) ST: 专门钻营旁门左道，可以说是无师自通 (data table No.144)

TT: self-taught especially when it comes to furthering his own interests through unorthodox ways.

Idioms or idiomatic expressions are usually translated in a semantic manner unless the translator can find a translation of equivalence.

11) ST: 兢兢业业 (data table No.170)

TT: worked diligently

Alternative: worked so hard

12) ST:正打情骂俏地从赌场内走出来。 (data table No.180)

TT: flirtatiously walking out from the casino.

When possible, a translator should try to use shorter phrases/sentences to explain an idiomatic expression when no other kind of equivalence is found.

13) ST: 杀千刀²⁷ (data table No.186)

TT: scumbag²⁸

Scumbag means a very unpleasant person who has done something dishonest and is worth severe punishment (an exaggeration will be “kill thousands of times” based on foreignisation.)

14) ST: “仇人相见，分外眼红²⁹” (data table No.189)

TT: “When foes meet, eyes on fire!”

Alternative: My eyes blaze with hate when seeing enemy face to face.

15) ST: 气喘吁吁 (data table No.197)

TT: Gasping for air

Alternative: Feeling breathless

16) ST: 逃之夭夭³⁰的老虎! (data table No.197)

TT: The wanted fugitive, Tiger!

Alternative: The Tiger who is making the getaway!

17) ST: 瑟瑟发抖 (data table No.202)

TT: Shaking uncontrollably

Alternative: Can't find trembling

18) ST: 天网恢恢，疏而不漏 (data table No.204)

TT: God's mill grinds slow but sure³¹.

Alternative: As fate would have it

19) ST: 大快人心 (data table No.205)

TT: Remarkably amazing

Alternative: Worth celebrating

20) ST: 麻烦也接踵而来 (data table No.215)

TT: Problems aplenty too

Alternative: Problems will also come one after another.

21) ST: 切肤之痛 (data table No.221)

²⁷ A very cruel capital punishment in the ancient times

<https://tw.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20050730000012KK03299>

²⁸ <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/scumbag>

²⁹ Originated in Yuan Dynasty <http://chengyu.t086.com/cy1/1608.html>

³⁰ <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/chinese-english/%E9%80%83%E4%B9%8B%E5%A4%AD%E5%A4%AD>

³¹ <http://www.dictall.com/st/52/93/52938996557.htm>

TT: It is indeed something close to the heart

Alternative: that's indeed a painful experience.

Last but not least, let's see the translations that take the basis of **foreignisation strategy**.

1) ST: 案情忽然峰回路转 (data table No.147)

TT: the case takes on a new twist

Semantic approach and takes a trace of foreignisation.

2) ST: 心情也跌到了谷底 (data table No.173)

TT: my emotions dived into the bottomless pit

Translated based on foreignization strategy. It is a metaphoric description.

3) ST: 他确实长了翅膀 (data table No.)

TT: He indeed grew wings

Translated based on foreignization strategy. It is a metaphoric description.

4) ST: 我拿出停职信放到茶几上 (data table No.82)

TT: I take the letter in hand and place it on the tea table.

Translated based on foreignization strategy.

Alternative: I take the letter in hand and place it on the coffee table. (domestication strategy)

5) ST: “水浒传中有武松打虎，现今社会上有大娘捉虎！” (data table No.206)

TT: “The classics novel, Water Margins, has Wu Song who tamed the Tiger. And in today's modern society, we have you who caught the Tiger!”

The story of Wu Song catching a tiger bravely came from famous Chinese novel Water Margins. The translation is based on foreignization strategy.

CONCLUSION

Though the strategy of domestication is the main strategy in the process of my translation, the strategy of foreignisation takes its traces in the translation to a certain degree.

In fact, the translation strategy which the target text is translated with reference to may seem different to various readers. For the same target text, one may see it as domestication and the other person may see it as foreignization. It depends on the readers to a great extent.

The two contrasting strategies have been debated for hundreds of years, but the first person to formulate them in their modern sense is Lawrence Venuti, who introduced them in the field of translation studies in 1955 with his book *The Translator's Invisibility: A History of Translation*. Lawrence Venuti's innovation to the field that dichotomy between domestication and foreignisation was an ideological one.

As for what should be the main translation strategy to adopt, I believe it is very much dependent on the key target audience the author and / or the translator have in mind. For this Capstone Project, as the author does not have specific target market in mind strictly speaking (after communications with him), target readers with English-speaking background in general are my target audience. Hence the target market is western readers and English readers in Singapore.

I believe the strategies of domestication and foreignisation cannot be used independently if one wishes to produce a good translation, though one of the two strategies might be the pivotal one while the other is still worth its presence for any translator to strike a right balance in the process of translation of a book, a chapter or basically anything with a context of certain length.

A translator should have a thorough consideration of the five cultural factors that Eugene Nida suggests (i.e. ecological, material, social, religious, linguistic).

There are other approaches I took reference with. For example, the *A-B-C (Adapt-Borrow-Create) Approach* As mentioned in *Shanghai Journal of Translators*³² Professor Ding Heng Qi³³ which can be used as a standard to translate and improve public notices and beyond.

In addition to Professor Ding's A-B-C translation approach, one may combine it with the approach of *GloWbE*³⁴, with refers to the Corpus of Global Web-Based English. This is the so-called "ABC + GloWbE" and this strategy is used in the translation of the pertaining chapter. GloWbE consists of over 1.9 billion words and phrases collected from 20 countries. GloWbE was launched on the internet for free use since April 2013 and benefited many learners in different parts of the world. The combined approach of ABC + GloWbE might be worth learning by translators especially when it comes to translation of names of financial institutes³⁵.

³² *Shanghai Journal of Translators (上海翻译)*, 6th edition of 2016. Page 17-21, 44-47

³³ From University of International Business and Economics, Beijing 100029, China

³⁴ An approach established by Professor Mark Davies from Brigham Young University of the United States.

³⁵ *Shanghai Journal of Translators (上海翻译)*, 6th edition of 2016. Page 44

All in all, examples included in this paper demonstrate that the fusion of cultures indeed plays a part in writing styles and translation. In order to generate a good target text, a translator has to bear in mind the cultural factors and try to render a target text that sounds natural to target readers and use concise languages as well as appropriate metaphoric expressions when possible, on the basis on not straying away from the meaning of the source text. A combination of domestication strategy, foreignization and other approaches will form a perfect blend to come up with an ideal translation work.

(Word Count 7,487 excluding abstract, acknowledgement, data, reference, appendices)

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Culture Blog

<https://www.ulatus.com/translation-blog/the-importance-of-culture-in-translation/>

APPENDICES

Idiomatic Expressions		
No.	Source Text	Target Text
1	春意盎然 (Data table No.2)	Gentle breeze follows suit.
2	长吁短叹(23)	taking long deep breaths in between
3	惶恐不安 (25)	with her nerves in the air
4	东张西望 (38)	frequently popping his head up and down to check his surroundings
5	娓娓道来 (52)	recollect (the morning's happening)
6	好吃懒做 (68)	loathe around
7	嘻皮笑脸 (68)	beam in grins
8	神情恍惚 (79)	as if her very soul has departed from her
9	言词凿凿 (108)	sincere plea
10	可怜巴巴 (108)	pitiful disposure
11	轻而易举 (113)	easily
12	天眩地转 (115)	as though the world was spinning
13	浑身无力 (115)	body sunk into...
14	心头一震 (139)	head spinning
15	好吃懒做, 滥赌成性 (144)	Loves to idle at work and gamble
16	不学无术 (144)	witty and ignorant
17	旁门左道 (144)	furthering his own interests through unorthodox ways
18	无师自通 (144)	self-taught
19	峰回路转 (147)	takes on a new twist
20	兢兢业业 (170)	worked diligently
21	打情骂俏 (180)	flirtatiously
22	气喘吁吁 (197)	Gasping for air
23	逃之夭夭 (197)	the wanted...
24	瑟瑟发抖 (202)	shaking uncontrollably
25	大快人心 (205)	remarkably amazing
26	开怀大笑 (208)	roar in laughter
27	接踵而来 (215)	problems aplenty
28	切肤之痛 (221)	indeed something close to the heart
Proverbs & Sayings		
1	踏破铁鞋无觅处 (5)	On A Wild Goose Chase
2	真是踏破铁鞋无觅处, 得来全不费功夫 (146)	What initially seemed a wild goose chase suddenly bears fruit almost effortlessly in the end.
3	仇人相见, 分外眼红 (189)	When foes meet, eyes on fire!
4	天网恢恢, 疏而不漏 (204)	God's mill grinds slow but sure

Metaphoric Expressions		
1	头皮还是一阵发紧 (20)	my mind seems to be all over the place
2	棘不棘手 (20)	how challenging
3	连珠炮 (31)	blurt out from my mouth
4	舌头有点不灵活 (43)	tongue-tied
5	断了我的活路(106)	break my rice bowl
6	长了翅膀 (133)	have flown away right
7	确实长了翅膀 (137)	indeed grew wings
8	炒鱿鱼 (173)	Was fired
9	心情也跌到了谷底 (173)	emotions dived into the bottomless pit
10	见鬼了 (179)	seeing things
11	像弹簧一样弹了出去(我们之间约有十来米的距离) (184)	flew towards him for a good distance of about 10 metres, like an arrow to a target board
12	杀千刀 (186)	scumbag
13	你简直是个畜生! (186)	What a scoundrel you are!
14	好像“老虎拉中了老虎机的积宝”一样 (221)	is akin to ‘striking it rich by hitting the jackpot’
Material Culture		
1	菜头糕 (56)	carrot cake
2	猪肠粉(56)	chee cheong fun
3	油条(56)	deep-fried fritters
4	豆浆(56)	soya bean milk
5	麻将(56)	mahjong
Language Culture (Languages/Dialects/Singlish)		
1	“Good morning, Sir!” (7)	“Good morning, Sir!”
2	“Yes Sir!” (11)	“Yes, Sir!”
3	何秀丽 (32)	Ho Siew Lee
4	两个人聊得好不开心 (54)	Both chatted amicably
5	过了 10 多分钟的样子 (56)	About 10 minutes later
6	哎呀 (64)	Oh dear
7	啊!	Oh dear!
8	汪青云 (75)	Wong Chai Yeong
9	哦 (78)	Oh
10	一定、一定、一定要 (171)	must... certainly...
11	好在..... (174)	Fortunately
12	oh my God (179)	oh my God