

Today is my vacation day, so I travelled to a city nearby in US. But the story happened in US boarder, when I was updating my white paper.



Standing beside me, there was an old Chinese man. He was trying to communicate with the officers, but they simply could not understand each other. Obviously he could not speak English. I looked at them and looked away, thinking why there are Indian officers but could not find any Chinese officer?

At the time when I looked away, one of the officers asked me, “Do you speak Chinese?”

I said yes, so later they asked me to help them translate.

Not sure why, I just felt this was so funny. The confused facial expression on those officers when the old man was talking, and the fact that I became the translator while I appeared there just because of another officer’s mistake, all made me wanted to laugh.

Therefore, when the officer was about to take a photo for me, I couldn’t help laughing and trying to control myself, but the officer said, “It’s ok to smile to the camera.”, so he took a photo of my smiling face.

However, at the time when I was about to leave, the old man started to use his limited English words to explain why he didn’t bring any translator with him. “I have translator, she, doctor, today...”. The officers were nodding, pretending to be patient. If he didn’t explain, he may lose his Nexus card easily. At that moment, my heart has been touched, by his hard trying. It’s no longer funny any more. Being immigrants, even after getting the citizenship, they’re still careful all the time, with the fear of losing their status. Life is hard. Sometimes it’s bitter to see these.

