

Hello, everyone. Today, I'll be discussing the translation techniques employed in the Chinese version of Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. By analyzing aspects such as vocabulary, sentence structure, rhetoric, and style, we can know how the translator effectively conveys the essence of the original work.

## I. Vocabulary

### 1. Dealing with Multiple Meanings

The word "line" appears frequently in the text with various meanings. In the context of fishing, it specifically refers to the fishing line. For instance:

*"He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream and he had gone eighty-four days now without taking a fish..."*

The translator renders "line" as "钓索" in Chinese, directly linking it to the fishing context. This demonstrates precise adaptation based on their situational meanings.

### 2. Cultural Nuances

The term "salao," rooted in Spanish, means extreme bad luck. The translator chose "倒了血霉"—a vivid Chinese expression conveying similar intensity. This approach aligns with the strategy of bridging cultural gaps while respecting the source material.

## II. Sentence Structure:

### 1. Simplifying Complex Sentences

Hemingway's sentences often combine multiple ideas seamlessly. For example:

*"The fish moved steadily and they travelled slowly on the calm water in the moonlight and the old man pulled on the line with gentle movements so that it did not break and the fish did not jerk it out of his hand."*

The translator breaks it into shorter sentences:

“鱼平稳地游着，老人和它在月光下平静的海面上缓缓前行。老人轻轻地拉着钓索，使它不至于被扯断，也不让鱼将它从手中猛地拽走。”

This method clarifies each action while preserving the narrative sequence, adhering to Chinese readers' preferences for logical sequencing.

### 2. Flexible Adjustment of Word Order

In:

*"He could feel the steady hard pull of the line and his left hand was cramped. It drew up tight on the heavy cord and he looked at it in disgust."*

By prioritizing the core struggle—pulling the line—the translator aligns the

narrative structure with the Chinese preference for cause-effect logic and emphasis on key actions.

### III. Rhetoric

#### 1. **Metaphor**

Hemingway often uses metaphors, such as comparing the sea to a woman:

*"The sea was very dark and the light made prisms in the water..."*

The translator maintains this metaphor by preserving descriptive expressions like 大海的‘黑暗’和‘泛起的光芒’ to evoke the sea’s unpredictability, mirroring the original meanings.

#### 2. **Symbol**

The old man’s battle with the marlin symbolizes humanity’s resilience against bad guys. In:

*"The fish was coming in on his circle now calm and beautiful looking and only his great tail moving..."*

The translator emphasizes not only physical actions but also their deeper implications.

The translator of *The Old Man and the Sea* skillfully handles multiple meanings, cultural, and rhetorical challenges, preserving Hemingway’s style while adapting it to Chinese readers. This careful translation bridges the two cultures, maintaining the original’s essence and enhancing its impact.

Thank you.