

广西民族大学 2008 年硕士研究生入学考试试题

(所有试题答案必须写在答题纸上, 答案写在试卷上无效)

学科专业: 外国语言学与应用语言学

研究方向: 翻译理论与实践/语言文化比较 (英语)

考试科目: 825 写作与翻译

试卷代号: A 卷

Part One Translation

1. Translate the following into Chinese. (40 points)

Politics and the English Language

George Orwell

Most people who bother with the matter at all would admit that the English language is in a bad way, but it is generally assumed that we cannot by conscious action do anything about it. Our civilization is decadent and our language — so the argument runs — must inevitably share in the general collapse. It follows that any struggle against the abuse of language is a sentimental archaism, like preferring candles to electric light or hansom cabs to aeroplanes. Underneath this lies the half-conscious belief that language is a natural growth and not an instrument which we shape for our own purposes.

Now, it is clear that the decline of a language must ultimately have political and economic causes: it is not due simply to the bad influence of this or that individual writer. But an effect can become a cause, reinforcing the original cause and producing the same effect in an intensified form, and so on indefinitely. A man may take to drink because he feels himself to be a failure, and then fail all the more completely because he drinks. It is rather the same thing that is happening to the English language. It becomes ugly and inaccurate because our thoughts are foolish, but the slovenliness of our language makes it easier for us to have foolish thoughts. The point is that the process is reversible.

2. Translate the following into English. (40 points)

暖国的雨, 向来没有变过冰冷的坚硬的灿烂的雪花。博识的人们觉得他单调, 他自己也以为不幸否耶? 江南的雪, 可是滋润美艳之至了; 那是还在隐约着的青春的消息, 是极壮健的处子的皮肤。雪野中有雪红的宝珠山茶 (camellias), 白中隐青的单瓣梅花, 深黄的磬口的腊梅花; 雪下面还有冷绿的杂草。蝴蝶确乎没有; 蜜蜂是否来采山茶华和腊梅花蜜, 我可记不真切了。但我的眼前仿佛看见冬花开在雪野中, 有许多蜜蜂们忙碌地飞着, 也听得他们嗡嗡地闹着。

孩子们呵着冻得通红的小手, 七八个一齐来塑雪罗汉, 罗汉塑得比孩子们高得多。

Part Two Writing

1. Composition (50 points)

It is universally accepted that society benefits from the work of its members. Which type of contribution, the contributions of artists to society or the contributions of scientists to society, do you think, is valued more by our society?

Write a composition of about 400 words to state your views. Use specific reasons to support your point and supply an appropriate title for your composition.

2. Summary (20 points)

Read the following passage and summarize its contents in 100—120 words. Note that you must not copy complete sentences directly from the original. Failure to do so would incur deduction of your scores.

Polarity, or action and reaction, we meet in every part of nature : in darkness and light ; in heat and cold; in the ebb and flow of waters; in male and female; in the inspiration and expiration of plants and animals; in the systole and diastole of the heart; in the undulations of fluids, and of sound; in the centrifugal and centripetal gravity; in electricity, galvanism, and chemical affinity. Superinduce magnetism at one end of a needle; the opposite magnetism takes place at the other end. If the south attracts, the north repels. To empty here, you must condense there. An inevitable dualism bisects nature, so that each thing is a half, and suggests another thing to make it whole: as spirit, matter; man, woman; subjective, objective; in, out; upper, under; motion, rest; yea, nay.

Whilst the world is thus dual, so is every one of its parts. The entire system of things gets represented in every particle. There is somewhat that resembles the ebb and flow of the sea, day and night, man and woman, in a single needle of the pine, in a kernel of corn, in each individual of every animal tribe. The reaction so grand in the elements is repeated within these small boundaries. For example, in the animal kingdom, the physiologist has observed that no creatures are favorites, but a certain compensation balances every gift and every defect. A surplusage given to one part is paid out of a reduction from another part of the same creature. If the head and neck are enlarged, the trunk and extremities are cut short.

The theory of the mechanic forces is another example. What we gain in power is lost in time; and the converse. The periodic or compensating errors of the planets is another instance. The influences of climate and soil in political history are another. The cold climate invigorates. The barren soil does not breed fevers, crocodiles, tigers or scorpions.

The same dualism underlies the nature and condition of man. Every excess causes a defect; every defect an excess. Every sweet hath its sour; every evil its good. Every faculty which is a receiver of pleasure has an equal penalty put on its abuse. It is to answer for its moderation with its life. For every grain of wit there is a grain of folly. For everything you have missed, you have gained something else; and for everything you gain, you lose something. If riches increase, they are increased that use them. If the gatherer gathers too much, nature takes out of the man what she puts into his chest ; swells the estate, but kills the owner. Nature hates monopolies and exceptions.

Things refuse to be mismanaged long. Though no checks to a new evil appear, the checks exist and will appear. If the government is cruel, the government's life is not safe. If you tax too high, the revenue will yield nothing. If you make the criminal code sanguinary juries will not convict. Nothing arbitrary, nothing artificial can endure.