

## 广西民族大学

### 2011 年硕士研究生入学考试初试自命题科目试题

(试卷代号: B 卷)

科目代码: 825

科目名称: 写作与翻译

适用学科专业: 外国语言学及应用语言学

研究方向: 翻译理论与实践、英语教育、应用语言学

命题教师签名: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 考生须知

1. 答案必须写在答题纸上, 写在试题上无效。
2. 答题时一律使用蓝、黑色墨水笔作答, 用其它笔答题不给分。
3. 交卷时, 请配合监考人员验收, 并请监考人员在准考证相应位置签字 (作为考生交卷的凭证)。否则, 产生的一切后果由考生自负。

## Part One Writing

### 1. Write a summary of the following passage in about 100-150 words. (20 points)

As we saw in the preceding section, one factor determining the speaker's choice of language is the knowledge that he assumes the hearer to possess. A further important factor is his interpretation of the social situation in which communication is taking place: language carries not only functional meaning, it also carries social meaning.

The hostess who puts her head round the door and calls "ready?" to her guests is not only making assumptions about shared knowledge. She is also signaling her view that the situation is not formal. If she felt otherwise, for example, because the guests were business acquaintances rather than personal friends, this would probably cause her to choose different language, such as "would you like to come and eat now?" On an even more formal occasion, the socially appropriate form might be "Ladies and gentlemen, dinner is served". Similarly, referring back to communicative function discussed in an earlier section, a student might say "Shut the door, will you?" to a flat-mate, but to stranger on a train it would be more appropriate to say, for example, "Excused me, would you mind closing the door?" To use the formal version with a flat-mate, or the informal version with a stranger, would be equally likely to cause offense.

To a language extent, it is a question of a speaker conforming to linguistic (or rather, sociolinguistic) conventions in order to be unobtrusive. He may choose socially appropriate speech in so far as his repertoire permits, just as he may choose socially appropriate dress in so far as his wardrobe permits. The process also works the other way, however: as well as the social situation determining the nature of the language, the language can help determine the social atmosphere of the situation. For example, the level of formality of the teacher-pupil relationship can be greatly affected by the level of formality of the teacher's language. In general, the use of informal speech not only reflects but also accelerates the development of a personal relationship. A foreigner may therefore be hindered in forming such relationships if he is unable to adapt his speech to the increasing familiarity and informality of a friendship. In effect, by using "bookish" grammar, complete sentences and careful pronunciation, he may be sending out signals of formality and social distance unintentionally. Receptively, too, he may be unable to interpret the native speaker's attempts to move towards a more informal basis for the relationship, for example, by tentative use of first name and colloquial turns of phrases. Therefore, as learners advance in competence, an important direction of progress is towards greater understanding and mastery of the social significance of alternative language forms. In the earlier stages, however, the emphasis is likely to be on achieving productive mastery of forms from a "middle" level of formality, which will be acceptable both with friends and with strangers.

Similar considerations apply to other language forms that communicate interpersonal attitudes. Learners are sometimes misled by apparent structural or dictionary equivalents in their own language, which cause them to produce socially offensive forms in the foreign language. For example, Russian learners of English sometimes use the emphatic "Of course!" in answer to a yes/no question, in a way that seems to suggest that the question is silly and

the answer rather obvious. In fact, they are merely transferring a Russian lexical “equivalent” that has no such overtones; they may remain unaware for years of the unfavorable effect they are producing on English-speaking listeners. Such errors as this are potentially more serious than any other, not least because few native hearers realize that their true source is inadequate learning rather than offensive attitudes.

## 2. Write an essay of about 400 words on the following topic. (50 points)

Under the Labor Law, men retire at 60 and women at 55 in China. Whether to raise the retirement age has been debated for several years, but the issue rose to prominence and has triggered a heated discussion after He Ping, director of the Social Security Research Institute under the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, said the government is considering a plan to gradually raise the mandatory retirement age. Should China postpone the retirement age?

*In the first part of your essay you should state clearly your main argument, and in the second part you should support your argument with appropriate details. In the last part you should bring what you have written to a natural conclusion or make a summary.*

*You should supply an appropriate title for your essay.*

*Marks will be awarded for content, organization, grammar and appropriateness. Failure to follow the above instructions may result in a loss of marks.*

## Part Two Translation

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

*Daddy-Long-Legs* by Jean Webster

What do you think, Daddy? The English instructor said that my last paper shows an unusual amount of originality. She did, truly. Those were her words. It doesn't seem possible, does it, considering the eighteen years of training that I've had? The aim of the John Grier Home (as you doubtless know and heartily approve of) is to turn the ninety-seven orphans into ninety-seven twins.

...

The publisher kept my novel for two months, and I was certain he was going to take it; but yesterday morning an express parcel came (thirty cents due) and there it was back again with a letter from the publisher, a very nice, fatherly letter but frank! He said he saw from the address that I was still at college, and if I would accept some advice, he would suggest that I put all of my energy into my lessons and wait until I graduate before beginning to write. He enclosed his reader's opinion. Here it is:

“Plot highly improbable. Characterization Exaggerated. Conversation unnatural. A good deal of humor

but not always in the best of taste. Tell her to keep on trying, and in time she may produce a real book.”

Not on the whole flattering, is it, Daddy? And I thought I was making a notable addition to American literature. I did truly. I was planning to surprise you by writing a great novel before I graduated. I collected the material for it while I was at Julia's last Christmas. But I dare say the editor is right. Probably two weeks was not enough in which to observe the manners and customs of a great city.

I took it walking with me yesterday afternoon, and when I came to the gas house, I went in and asked the engineer if I might borrow his furnace. He politely opened the door, and with my own hands I chucked it in. I felt as though I had cremated my only child!

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

### Passage 1

在广西的一些少数民族中，流行着有趣的“花炮节”。它被许多国际友人称为“东方橄榄球”。参加这个活动的主要是青壮年的小伙子，大家通过争抢花炮来讨得好彩头，花炮通常会鸣放三次，第一炮叫做“丁炮”，抢得它可以添丁添子；第二炮叫做“财炮”，抢得它可以财源广进；第三炮叫做“官炮”，抢得它可以加官进爵。清代光绪年间，广西提督苏元春驻兵龙州，曾经不辞几百里，率领数百兵勇到南宁亭子圩参加抢炮，他的目的就是抢得第三炮“官炮”，来为自己加官进爵。

### Passage 2

巷尾的绿地虽然没有山野的苍翠欲滴，但是空气中弥漫着荒野中所没有的生机。微黄的路灯下，每一张长椅都写着不同的心情，甜蜜与快乐、悲伤与喜悦，交织在一起，在静谧中缓缓发酵。谁也不会知道在下一个转角中会是怎样的惊喜，会是一家风格独特食客不断的小吃店？是一家放着爵士乐的酒吧？还是一家摆着高脚木凳、连空气都闲散的小小咖啡馆？坐在户外撑着遮阳伞的木椅上，和新认识的朋友一边喝茶，一边谈着自己小小的生活，或许也是一种惬意。