

华东师范大学

2001 年 研 究 生 入 学 试 题

考试科目: 翻译

专 业: 英语语言文学

- I. Translate into Chinese the following passage written by Edward Hoagland (1932--), an American novelist and essayist. A few notes have been given below the passage for your reference. (50%)

Our loneliness makes us avid column readers these days. The personalities in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Chicago Daily News*, *New York Post* constitute our neighbors now, some of them local characters but also the opinionated national stars. And movie reviewers thrive on our yearning for somebody emotional who is willing to pay attention to us and return week after week, year after year, through all the to-and-fro of other friends, to flatter us by pouring out his/her heart. They are essayists of a type, as Elizabeth Hardwick is, James Baldwin was.

We sometimes hear that essays are an old-fashioned form, that so-and-so is the "last essayist," but the facts of the marketplace argue quite otherwise. Essays of nearly any kind are so much easier than short stories for a writer to sell, so many more see print, it's strange that though two fine anthologies remain that publish the year's best stories, no comparable collection exists for essays. Such changes in the reading public's taste aren't always to the good, needless to say. The art of telling stories predated even cave painting, surely; and if we ever find ourselves living in caves again, it (with painting and drumming) will be the only art left, after movies, novels, photography, essays, biography, and all the rest have gone down the drain the art to build from.

One has the sense with the short story as a form that while everything may have been done, nothing has been overdone; it has a permanence. Essays, if a comparison is to be made, although they go back four hundred years to Montaigne, seem an erratic, newfangled, sometimes sentimental affair that has lent itself to many of the excesses of the age, from false autobiography to false hallucination, as well as to the shabby careerism of traditional journalism. Essays are associated with the way young writers fashion a name — on plain, crowded newsprint in hybrid vehicles like the *Village Voice*, *Rolling Stone*, the *New York Review of Books*, instead of the thick paper stock and thin readership of *Partisan Review*.

Essays, however, hang somewhere on a line between two sturdy poles: this is what I think, and this is what I am. Autobiographies which aren't novels are generally extended essays, indeed. A personal essay is like the human voice talking, its order the mind's natural flow, instead of a systematized outline of ideas. Though more wayward or informal than an article or treatise, somewhere it contains a point which is its real center, even if the point

couldn't be uttered in fewer words than the essayist has used. In the old distinction between teaching and storytelling, the essayist, however cleverly he camouflages his intentions, is a bit of a teacher or reformer, and an essay is intended to convey the same point to each of us.

Notes:

1. Elizabeth Hardwick: 伊丽莎白·哈德威克, 美国散文家 (1916--)。
2. James Baldwin: 詹姆斯·鲍德温, 美国作家 (1924-87)。
3. Montaigne: 蒙田, 法国散文家 (1533-92)。
4. *Village Voice*: 美国一先锋派杂志, 曼哈顿格林尼治村出版。
5. *Rolling Stone*: 旧金山出版的先锋派杂志。
6. *Partisan Review*: 美国著名文学评论刊物, 读者对象多为知识界。

II. Translate into English the following passage in which a young Chinese woman scholar recalls her first experience of having a Christmas in a host family in England. (50%)

炉火、圣诞树、红蜡烛、冬青树叶(holly [uncountable])、圣诞老人、白葡萄酒, 构成了传统的圣诞晚餐。唯一不符合传统的是, 这个“家庭”由四个来自世界不同地方的留学生组成, 他们脸部造型不同, 头发的颜色也各不相同。除了东道主爱玛·考丁顿(Emma Cordington)是典型的英国女士之外, 其余四个分别来自中国、俄罗斯、马来西亚和台湾。他们欢聚在房子里, 愉快地进餐, 谈笑风生。

这是我第一次住在一个英国家庭里, 而且也是我在英国度过的第一个圣诞节。我踏上英国国土已经三个月了, 还是头一回这么放松, 这么高兴。整个一学期我都忙得不可开交; 读书、吃饭和睡觉构成了我的全部生活。此外, 我还必须同那个可怕的敌人抗争——那不断纠缠着我的思乡情绪。圣诞节就要到了。英国的学生都高高兴兴地回家去了。而我只能惆怅地望着窗外, 内心感到万分孤独。东道主的一封信给我带来了新的希望。我被邀请去和一个英国家庭共度圣诞。

我在东道主家作客期间, 犯了一个可笑的小错误。圣诞节前一天的清晨, 爱玛对我们说: “我们要在 Christmas Eve 做一些准备工作。”我说: “好啊, 我们今天晚上来做英国菜, 肯定很好玩。”爱玛说: “不, 我们现在就做。”我被弄糊涂了, 我以为 “Eve” 一定就是 “evening” 的缩写。还好, 我并不是四个留学生中间最傻的一个。其他三个人也不清楚到底什么是 “Christmas Eve”。

无独有偶, 圣诞节的第二天, 爱玛开车送我们去新森林。她告诉我们那一天是 boxing day。我不假思索地说: “啊, 拳击节, 今天一定有许多人去看拳击比赛。”爱玛哈哈大笑。原来, 英国的 “boxing day” 是富裕人家向穷人捐赠一盒盒食品的日子。这一天的主题不是竞争和搏斗, 而是同情和慈善。