

English



Chinese (Traditional)



ENGLISH



# LABOUR OF LANGUAGE

in collaboration with Claire Heidinger 加欣 & 蔡琼芬  
Choi King Fun



Camera



Conversation



Transcribe

CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)



語言勞動

與 Claire Heidinger 加欣 & 蔡瓊芬 Choi King Fun 合作

Yǔyán láodòng



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Thank you for your support

maria mihyun kim  
Abraham Sen  
Wen Tao Wu



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There is an immense barrier of language between the immigrant and their descendants, a product of diasporic bodies and the possible erasure of intergenerational and cultural knowledge with each generation. There is necessary effort and work needed to maintain these connections.

In this respect, communication acts as a bridge not only to our loved ones, but to our previous appreciation of home: the language, food, and celebrations that, somewhere along growing up, we began to neglect. As we reconcile these relationships, we also undergo a process of healing. The following pages show the love and labour that is invested into the process of communication between my grandmother and myself, using translation apps as a way to reach each other in a new form of storytelling. You may notice inconsistencies between each translation. This is an additional barrier, where I must decipher the mistranslations by revisiting previous conversations and using my limited knowledge of the language. The love and labour that I pour into these conversations, inextricably intertwined.

English

Today marks the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Chinese Exclusion Act. This is called Humiliation Day in Chinese society



Chinese (Traditional)

今天是加拿大排華法案頒布 100 週年。這在中國社會被稱為恥辱日

Jīntiān shì jiānádà pái huá fǎ'àn bānbù 100 zhōunián. Zhè zài zhōngguó shèhuì bèi chēng wéi chǐrǔ rì



Chinese (Traditional)



English



CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)



是的，不公平對待華人。那時不准華人家人來加拿大，我母親不能來加，我幾姊妹出生後只留在中國，因此我們的命運也不同，我們很少見父親，母親在我大約三歲時去世，加拿大對我們很大的傷害，加政府應該補償我們政府改變政冊，現公平得多了

Shì de, bù gōngpíng duìdài huárén. Nà shí bù zhǔn huárén jiā...



Camera



Conversation



Transcribe

ENGLISH



Yes, Chinese people are treated unfairly. At that time, Chinese family members were not allowed to come to Canada, my mother could not come to Canada, and my sisters only stayed in China after they were born, so our fate was also different. We rarely saw our father, and my mother died when I was about three years old. A lot of harm, the Canadian government should compensate our government for changing the political record, it is much fairer now



Home



Saved



Settings

Chinese (Traditional)



English



CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)



我自小沒有媽媽 父親又在加拿大，自小就沒有父母愛，  
 自小有繼母後來又寄養 Diane家，常常偷偷哭泣，婆婆小  
 時是好可憐的，幾姊妹分開不同家庭寄養，後來我父親回  
 國再結婚，娶

Watson母親，她也去加拿大  
 自此父親也跟我們疏遠了

Wǒ zì xiǎo méiyǒu māmā fùqīn yòu zài jiānádà, zì xiǎo jiù méi...



Camera



Conversation



Transcribe

ENGLISH



I didn't have a mother and my father was in Canada  
 since I was a child. I had no parental love since I was a  
 child. I had a stepmother and then fostered Diane's  
 family. She often cried secretly. My mother-in-law  
 was so pitiful when she was young. marry  
 Watson's mother, she's going to Canada too  
 Since then, my father has also been estranged  
 from us.



Home



Saved



Settings

Chinese (Traditional)



English



CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)



我九歲左右寄養在Diane母親家，那時還很小，但我要做重工，要去耕田，要挑水去淋菜，很辛苦，常常偷偷哭泣。我只是個小孩，沒有父母看顧，寄養人家，後來世界大戰完了，我才返回廣州市。因我父親有房屋，他有住宅及二間商業舖，那時他算有錢，請工人照顧我幾姊妹，你回來我再詳細告訴你。

Wǒ jiǔ suì zuǒyòu jìyǎng zài Diane mǔ qīng jiā, nà shí hái hěn...



Camera



Conversation



Transcribe

ENGLISH



I was fostered at Diane's mother's house when I was about nine years old. I was still very young at that time, but I had to do heavy work, plow the fields, carry water to pour vegetables, and it was very hard. I often cried secretly. , I returned to Guangzhou after the World War was over. Because my father had a house, he had a house and two commercial shops, he was considered rich at that time, and asked the workers to take care of my sisters, I will tell you in detail when you come back.



Home



Saved



Settings

Chinese (Traditional)



English



CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)



我出生後，他已在加拿大了他同我父親在同一間餐廳工作  
聽說是他們及還有一些人共同開的餐廳

Wǒ chūshēng hòu, tā yǐ zài jiānádàle tā tóng wǒ fùqīn zài tón...



Camera



Conversation



Transcribe

ENGLISH



He has been in Canada since I was born and he works  
in the same restaurant as my father I heard it was  
owned by them and others



Home



Saved



Settings



Chinese (Traditional)



English



CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)



婆婆年青時似我父親，是出名的靚女（美麗），讀中學時，我被選為L校花，我轉去另外一箇中學，與你外公是同學，你外公也說我那時很L靚女。

Pópo niánqīng shí shì wǒ fùqīn, shì chūmíng de jìngnǚ (měili),...



Camera



Conversation



Tts

ENGLISH



My mother-in-law looked like my father when she was young, and she was a famous pretty girl (beautiful). When I was in middle school, I was selected as the L school flower, and I transferred to another Jian middle school. I was a classmate with your grandpa. Your grandpa also said that I was very L at that time. pretty girl.



Home



Saved



Settings

English

I visited your father today  
at the cemetery



Chinese (Traditional)

我今天去墓地拜訪了你父親

Wǒ jīntiān qù mùdì bài fǎng le nǐ fùqīn



+ New translation

English



Chinese (Traditional)

Chinese (Traditional)



English



CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)



可惜他早逝，我來到加拿大已不能見到他了

Kěxí tā zǎo shì, wǒ lái dào jiānádà yǐ bùnéng jiàn dào tāle



Camera



Conversation



Transcribe

ENGLISH



It's a pity that he died young, and I can no longer see him when I come to Canada



Chinese (Traditional)



English



CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)



因此我也常常記念他

Yīncǐ wǒ yě chángcháng jìniàn tā



Camera



Conversation



Transcribe

ENGLISH



So I always remember him



Chinese (Traditional)



English



CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)



我來加拿大，初時見過他但只是一兩次，後來我搬來多倫多，所以少見了，是否她父親 Diane 是最明白的了

Wǒ lái jiānádà, chū shí jiànguò tā dàn zhǐshì yī liǎng cì, hòulái...



Camera



Conversation



Transcribe

ENGLISH



When I came to Canada, I met him at first but only once or twice, and then I moved to Toronto, so I rarely saw him, whether her father Diane is the one who understands best



Home



Saved



Settings

Chinese (Traditional)



English



CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)



我很歡喜，看到我父親年青時的照片，四姊妹中，父親最愛我

Wǒ hěn huānxǐ, kàn dào wǒ fùqīn niánqīng shí de zhàopiàn, sì...



Camera



Conversation



Transcribe

ENGLISH



I am very happy to see the photos of my father when he was young. Among the four sisters, my father loves me the most



Home



Saved



Settings

Chinese (Traditional)



English



CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)



保護自己

Bǎohù zìjǐ



Camera



Conversation



Transcribe

ENGLISH



protect yourself



Chinese (Traditional)



English



CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)



因為你還年輕

Yīnwèi nǐ hái niánqīng



Camera



Conversation



Transcribe

ENGLISH



because you are young



Home



Saved



Settings



Chinese (Traditional)



English



CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)



你講是king fun的孫女

Nǐ jiǎng shì king fun de sūnnǚ



Camera



Conversation



Transcribe

ENGLISH



You say you are the granddaughter of king fun



Chinese (Traditional)



English

CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)



你回家未？

Nǐ huí jiā wèi?



Camera



Conversation



Transcribe

ENGLISH



Have you come home yet?





English

just landed in Toronto



Chinese (Traditional)

剛剛降落多倫多

Gānggāng jiànguò duōlúnduō

 New translation

English



Chinese (Traditional)

Chinese (Traditional)

English

CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)

感謝天父，你平安回家

Gǎnxiè tiān fù, nǐ píng'ān huí jiā



Camera



Conversation

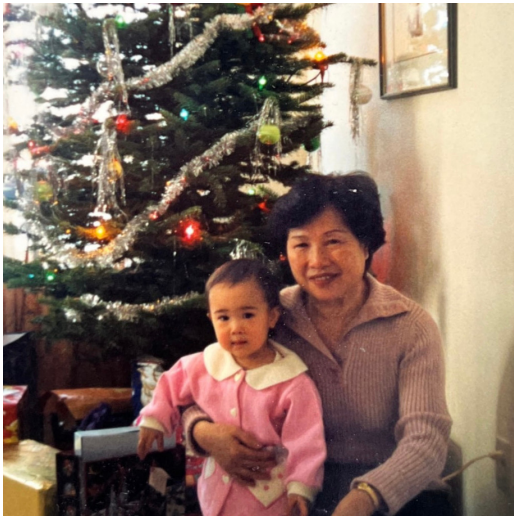


Transcribe

ENGLISH

Thank you, Father, that you came home safe and sound.





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