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Thursday, August 20, 2009

Backstroke of the West

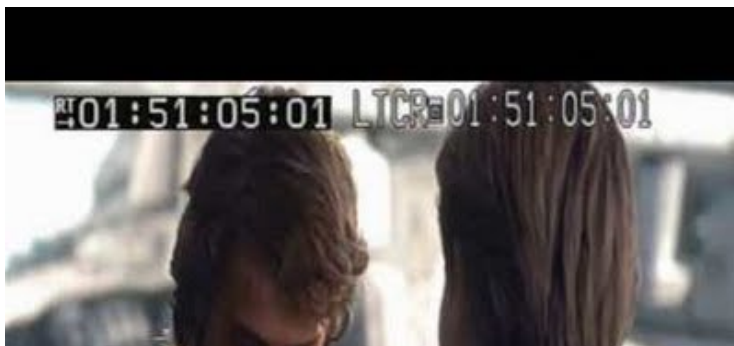


Last night we had guests over to the house and we viewed Star Wars III: Revenge of the Sith. We had all of course seen the movie before, in fact, I have seen it several times, but this viewing was special.

About a year ago we learned of a subtitles track to the movie that was so poorly translated as to warrant a full viewing. The script had apparently been poorly translated from English to Chinese and then poorly machine translated back again. The title was translated as "Star War: the Backstroke of the West."



It was very funny for all the English but it was also fun to try and figure out how the heck a lot of the mistranslations occurred. It was a lesson in both English and Chinese! Here are some examples:



Blog Archive

- ▼ **2009** (64)
 - ▶ **September** (5)
 - ▼ **August** (14)
 - [Stroke Order Hints](#)
 - [AmericanPod](#)
 - [Maksym Has Left the Building](#)
 - [The Semester Begins](#)
 - [Backstroke of the West](#)
 - [Genki 2 and Other News](#)
 - [Sci Fi Concert](#)
 - [Styling Ch-ch-changes](#)
 - [Teaming Up with ChinesePod](#)
 - [Rollin' Skritter Style](#)
 - [Stroke Order Animations](#)
 - [Genius Bug Fixed](#)
 - [Genki's Here](#)
 - [Japanese Alpha! And Practice Tweaks](#)
 - ▶ **July** (7)
 - ▶ **June** (7)
 - ▶ **May** (7)
 - ▶ **April** (6)
 - ▶ **March** (6)
 - ▶ **February** (5)
 - ▶ **January** (7)
- ▶ **2008** (74)

Contributors

- Nick
- Scott
- George





"Anakin" is translated as ".gold," "Allah gold," and "the peaceful." Haven't figured those out.



Anakin: "What kind of nonsense is this, put me on the Council and not make me a Master?!"

Allah gold: "I was just made by the Presbyterian Church."

Explanation: "Jedi Council" -> 基督教 - Jīdūjiào: "Christianity" -> "Presbyterian Church."



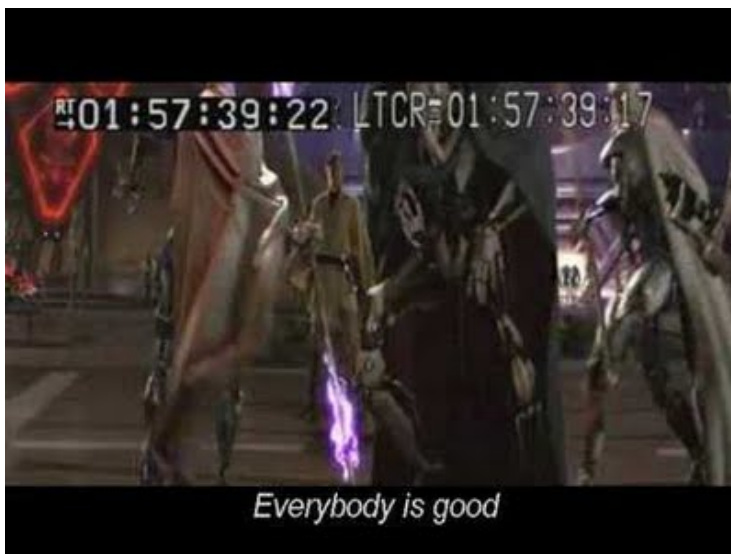
In other contexts, “Jedi” is translated as “hopeless situation.” You know, “hopeless situation warrior,” “hopeless situation elder.” Here “Jedi” -> 绝态 - Juétài: “desperate; hopeless” + “condition; situation” -> “hopeless situation.”



General Grievous: “Ahhh, Jedi scum!”
Space general: “Smelly boy”

Some of them were clearly impossible:
Count Dooku: “Good. Twice the pride, double the fall.”
the D: “You are a sacrifice article that I cut up rough now”

Anakin: “I don’t need his [Palpatine’s] help . . . Our baby is a blessing, not a problem.”
Allah gold: “I do not need the child’s help. Our baby blesses god’sly.”



Here are some easy ones:

Obi-wan: "Hello there!"

ratio .tile: "Everybody is good"

Here it was likely translated as 大家好 - dàjiāhǎo: "hello everyone", but 好 then became "is good."

They also translated "Mustafar system" as "wood method star," first phonetically using 木 for "Mu" and 法 for "far" (out of order), and then reverse-phonetically pulling in 星 for "sta."



Some harder ones—if you can figure them out, post a comment:

Padme -> "the plum of I"

C-3PO: "Is there anything I might do for you, my lady?"

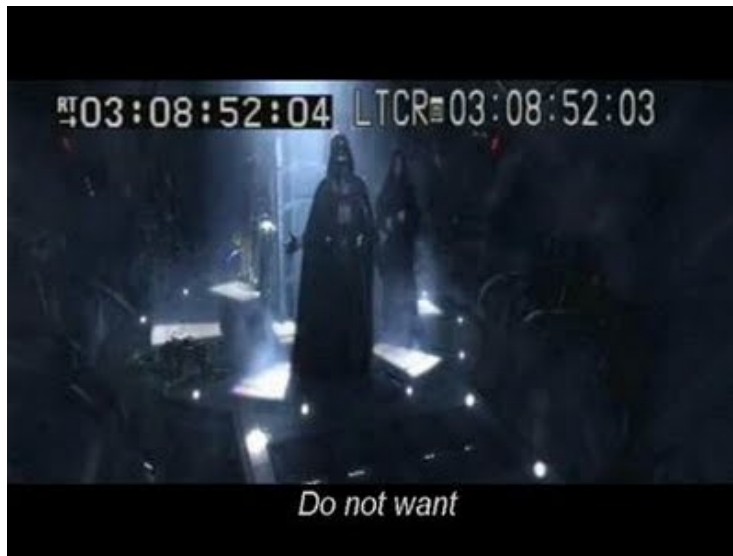
Padme: "Yes, make sure all the security droids are working. Thank you, Threepio."

-> "Lady, have what can I help of"

-> "Have no, thank, blow the skin."




Obi-wan: "He is like my brother ... I cannot do it."
 ratio .tile: "He the my brothers in elephant is similar"



Of course, the final "NOOOOO!" of Darth Vader (west host) becomes "Do not want" in a classic manner.

You can see some more screenshots here, including ones with foul language, from the Finder: <http://winterson.com/2009/01/episode-iii-backstroke-of-west-redux.html>

Posted by **George** at **3:00 PM** 

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[matthewddolman](#) ★ 1 month ago

lol...quality

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[Name](#) ★ 22 hours ago

What freaky version of this are you watching? I mean, I know it's got the Chinese subtitles but in many cases what you're claiming the original line is is not what they say in the versions I've seen. It can't be the original... Padme never says "Yes, make sure all the security droids are working. Thank you, Threepio." She says "no thank you, Threepio." Since you know Chinese, what would some of the other minor (unmentioned) characters translate as? Like:

Bail Organa

Viceroy Nute Gunray

Captain Jeremoch Colton

Captain Raymus Antilles

Captian Typho

Battle Droids

Captain Lushros Dofine

Lampay Fay

Ki-Adi-Mundi

Mas Amedda

Tion Medon

Padawan

GH-7 Medical Droid

Chroon-Tan B-Machine

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[Nick](#) ★ 12 hours ago in reply to [Name](#)

Some of the lines we didn't directly remember, so we found a script online to cross-reference them. That script may not have been fully accurate.

In general, it was very hard to pick out names besides ratio.tile, Allah gold (later the peaceful, later west host), the D, space general, the plum of I. I don't know if we ever even figured out Yoda, Palpatine, or Windu.

The two scripts are here if you want to compare:
<http://www.imsdb.com/scripts/Star-Wars-Revenge-...>
<http://www.winterson.com.nyud.net:8090/pics/sta...>
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%20 ⭐ 11 hours ago

你继续对话。
 Thee Dialog Continue.

2005年，西部人谁使字幕开始了跨文化对话仰泳。
 In 2005, the backstroke of the west subtitler began a cross cultural conversation.

在2009年已制订的反应。
 In 2009 a response has been formulated.

%20 介绍 '後面偷懶與媒介' 媒体分析/视频的未來视频媒体搜索概念的考古证明/截止的上/重新编译系统，适用于所有星球大战围绕影片的作为进入仰泳的背景下采取行动释放分布式媒体。

%20 introduces 'Thee Backslacpkipng With Media' a media analysis/video archeological proof of concept of a future video media search/cut-up/recompile system as applied to all the Star Wars media distributed around the release of the movie which acted as the backdrop to the backstroke.

http://www.noneinc.com/tBSWM/tBSWM_FAQ.html

要充分认识字幕托词，你必须下载完整的DVD，而是为了获得一本介绍认识，预览任何章节浏览：（播放选项是正确的）
 To fully appreciate the subtitle subterfuge, you'll have to download the full DVD, but to gain an understanding of this presentation, preview any chapter here: (Play options are on the right)

http://www.noneinc.com/tBSWM/tBSWM_FAQ.html#DVD...

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