

Morphosis



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網絡 | Network
尺寸不定 | Dimension variable
2016

Morphosis is a code based generative artwork that explores the boundary of language and aesthetics in machine translation with the help of an online translating service.

The program takes a short piece of text, keeps translating each sentence from the original language to a random language, and back to the original language again. A sentence is sentenced to death when it becomes too short or stops changing for a long time. Though the program itself is generative, the final presentation of the work is intentionally edited with the moments picked out by the artist.

In the constant translation process, new words are brought into the context, meanings are lost, sentences become shorter and shorter until only one or two words left. The text keeps evolving itself as if it is a creature with heartbeats. In the trail of translation, there are replacements of words, changes in sentence structure or sudden occurrences of something totally absurd.

Machine translation is never perfect, but it did help us a lot in daily life. In a generative mechanism like this, we just need to embrace all the mistakes and the inappropriate in order to see the beauty in the *Morphosis* of language.

Morphosis 是一個基於編程的衍生藝術作品，力求探索語言的界限以及機器翻譯中被人忽略的美。

電腦程式先以一小段文本為素材，將其中的每一句話不斷地從原語言隨機翻譯成另一種語言，再翻譯回原語言。如此循環往復，直到文本在這一過程中變得過短或是長時間停止變化。此時，該句子會被程式判定為“死亡”。而最終呈現出來的文本在程式生成的基礎上，還經歷了藝術家自身的人為篩選。

在持續循環的翻譯過程之中，新的字詞被帶入語境，原有的意義逐漸喪失，句子本身變得越來越短直到僅剩隻言片語。文本自身不斷變化發展，宛如一個可以聽見其心跳的生命體。翻譯的歷史紀錄中，語彙被不斷替代、句子結構發生變化，不時更會有與原本相去甚遠的荒誕內容出現。

機器翻譯從來都不完美，但我們的日常生活又確實因它而得到了諸多便利。希望通過 *Morphosis* 這樣一種生成機制，令人能接納機器翻譯中的錯誤與不合時宜，靜觀語言在變化型態中純粹的美。