

# English Translation of Expressions with Body Parts in Chinese *Xiqu* (戏曲)

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# Content

## Translation of Body-part expressions in Chinese *xiqu* texts

- Introduction
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# Introduction

- *xiqu* 戏曲

(pronounced like 'she chew') Known as **Chinese opera**. *Xiqu* performers are among the most diversely and highly skilled performing artists, rigorously trained in **song, speech, acting, dance, acrobatics, and martial arts**, and able to perform these skills in combination with one another.



# Comparison of *xiqu* & opera

	European opera	Chinese <i>xiqu</i> :
<b>Performance form:</b>	Music and text co-exist (Bozsik 2019) Combination of singing and dancing	Comprehensive application of singing, speaking, dance-acting, and combat (Sun 2012)
<b>Stage design:</b>	Realistically	Impressionistically



# Introduction

- **General questions**
- **What?** -- face, eyebrow, heart, gall, liver, etc.
- **Why?** -- most of the body parts words are cultural loaded / cannot be translated directly
- **How?** -- How these cultural loaded body parts words are translated?

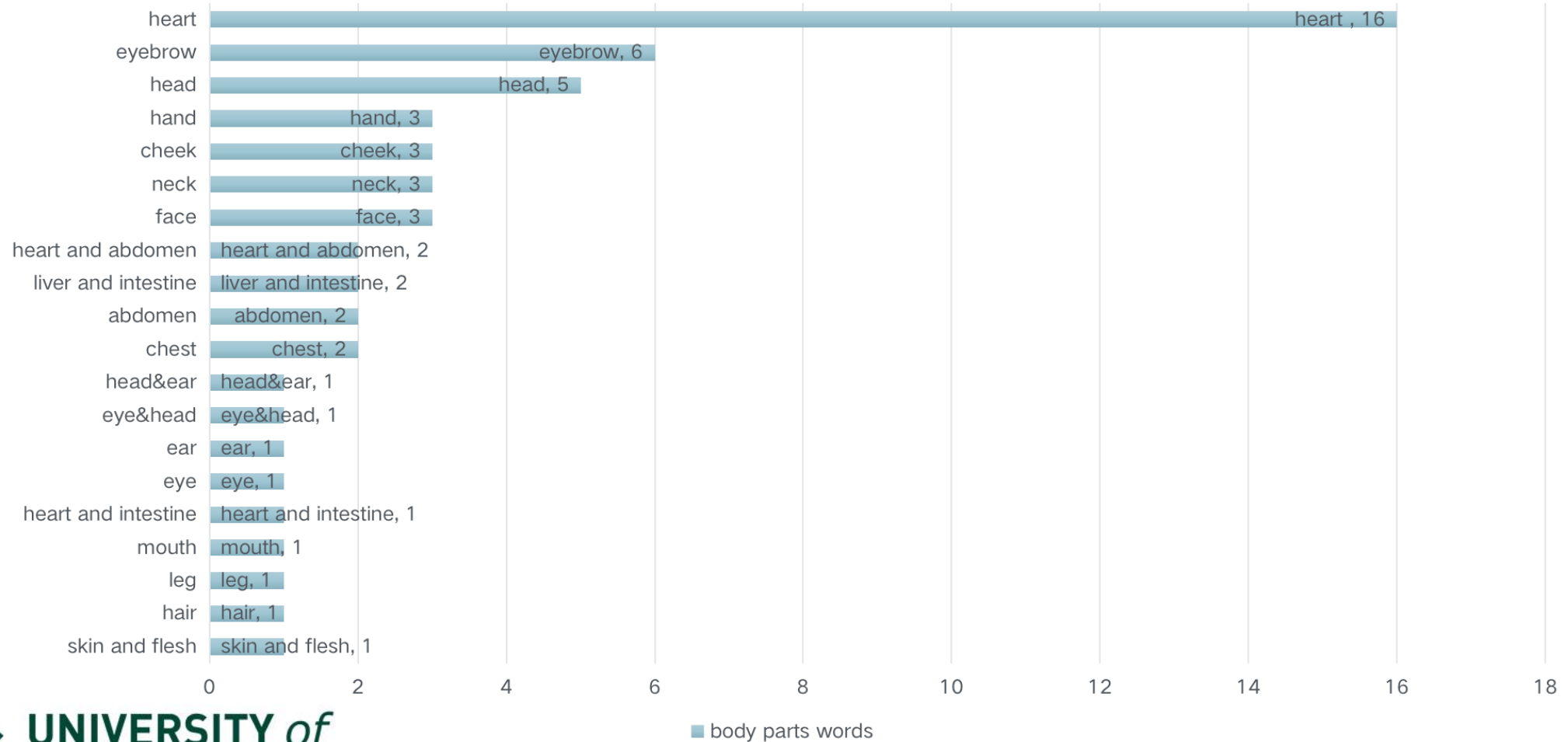


# Corpus

- **Corpus: An example for Chinese *xiqu*:** *Silang Visits His Mother* 《四郎探母》 (approx. 7500 Chinese characters, 11300 English words)
- ***xiqu* texts as corpus:**
  - 1) available corpus of translated texts in English (40 *xiqu* texts)
  - 2) entails a lot of body parts words

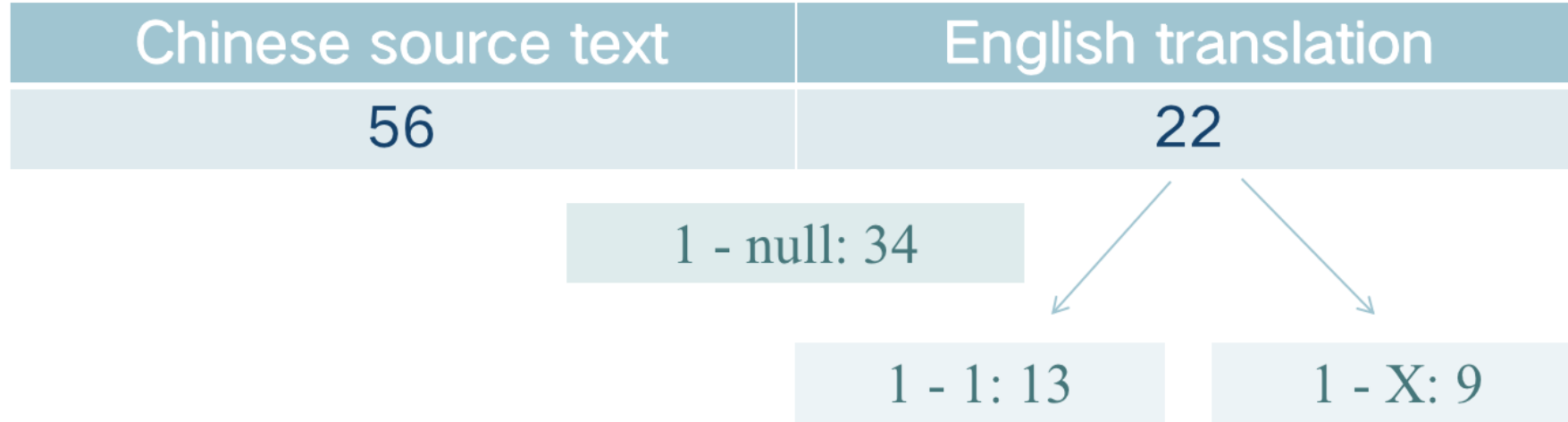
# Corpus

## body parts words



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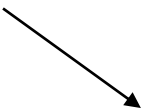
# Corpus





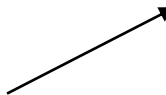
# Methodology

Vinay and Darbelnet (1958)  
“translation procedures”



**Anthony Pym (2016)**  
“translation solution types”

Loh Dian-yang (1958)  
“translation principles”



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Cruise mode (normal use of language skills, reference resources, parallel texts, intuition – anything prior to bump mode – so no special solutions are needed)		
Copying	Copying Words	Copying sounds Copying morphology Copying script ...
	Copying Structure	Copying prosodic features Copying fixed phrases Copying text structure ...
Expression Change	Perspective Change	Changing sentence focus Changing semantic focus Changing voice Renaming an object ...
	Density Change	Generalisation / Specification Explicitation / Implication Multiple Translation...
	Resegmentation	Joining sentences Cutting sentences Re-paragraphing...
	Compensation	New level of expression New place in text (notes, paratexts) ...
	Cultural Correspondence	Corresponding idioms Corresponding units of measurement, currency, etc. Relocation of culture-specific referents ...
Material Change	Text Tailoring	Correction / censorship / updating Omission of material Addition of material ...

# Analysis and discussion

- Cruise mode (1 - 1)

- Source text:

腿 都 疼 了

- Chinese Pinyin:

tui dou teng le

- Word by word translation:

**leg** already hurt MP

- Literal translation:

legs hurt

- English translation in the corpus:

my **legs** hurt

# Analysis and discussion

- Cultural correspondence (1 - X)

- Source text:

肝 肠 痛 断

- Chinese Pinyin:

gan chang tong duan

- Word by word translation:

**liver intestine** pain broken

- Literal translation:

terribly pained in my liver and intestine

- English translation in the corpus:

terribly pained in my **heart**



# Analysis and discussion

- Cultural correspondence (1 - null)

- Source text:

心 事

- Chinese Pinyin:

xin shi

- Word by word translation:

**heart** matter

- Literal translation:

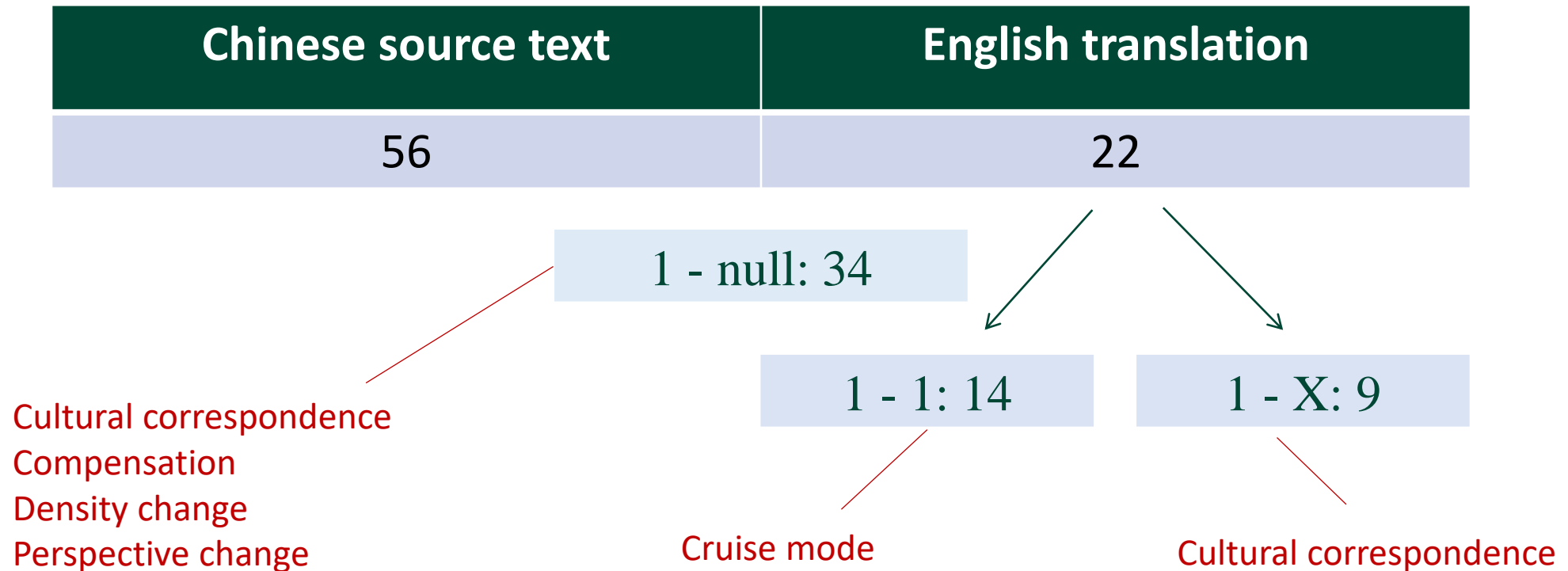
something in one's heart

- English translation in the corpus :

on one's **mind**



# Conclusion - results



# Conclusion

1

There are differences of human body parts translation between English and Chinese. The differences in thinking styles cause the differences in metaphorical perception, which are caused by the different understanding of the functions of body parts between Chinese and English.

2

Based on the translation solutions of Pym (Pym 2016, 2020), there are a few solutions that can be used: Cultural correspondence, Compensation, Density change, Perspective change.

3

In general, body parts words which are cultural loaded and do not have either 1-1 or 1-x solution are difficult to translate, we have to understand the culture and reformulate the meaning and use some specific solutions to solve the translation problem.

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Thank you for your attention!