

100% Guaranteed Beckett: *Hat It Been Bilingual*

Mary O'Byrne and Wei Zheyu

Our project is a joint practice-based research conducted by Mary O'Byrne and Wei Zheyu, and it consists of two parts: a performed reading followed by a paper presented by us.

Our performed reading is an experiment of the Lucky's speech in *Waiting for Godot* with the fusing of two languages (English and Chinese). With our research we would like to reflect on the label "Beckett", as it has become fetishized through the circulation of "world literature", or the circulation of cultural capital, in the age of globalisation. We acknowledge and examine how the text of *Waiting for Godot* has been (mis)interpreted in the Chinese and Irish context due to local political and aesthetic reasons, and attempt to offer a possible way of performing Beckett's masterpiece, which refuses to be dominated, generalised, or monopolised by a singular hegemonic voice.

In the reading we pay our attention to the intonation, rhythm and tone of Lucky's speech in its English and Chinese text, and explore if there is a universal philosophy embedded in the two languages, which will address the nature of language, reflected by the possibility within the impossibility of "translating" Beckett into a bilingually-fusing text. We look at our process of translating and embodying the text through Derrida's idea of "naming", and we focus on the tension between language being domesticated and it resisting the domestication. The practice-based research will offer a critique on the violence of the production of "global culture", and shed new light upon understanding Beckett in the context of interculturalism.

Short bio:

Mary O'Byrne is a third year PhD student in the School of English in Trinity College Dublin. The working title of her research is: The phenomenology of death and human consciousness and the inner workings of time in the stage plays of Samuel Beckett. She is researching under the supervision of Professor Chris Morash, Seamus Heaney Professor of Irish Writing, Head of School of English in TCD.

A graduate of University College Dublin with a B.A in Social Science in 1982, Mary worked in the public service for over twenty years, obtaining a Masters of Public Administration in UCD in 1989. She completed a Masters of Drama and Performance in UCD in 2010 and began her PhD as a John and Pat Hume Scholar in National University of Ireland, Maynooth in 2011, transferring to TCD in 2012. Mary works as a Teaching Assistant, in the School of English and she is the Convenor of Beckett Reading Group established in 2014 to the present.

Wei Zheyu received his B. A. in Sun Yat-sen University (2010) and his M. A. in Nanjing University (2013), both in English Language and Literature. Co-funded by Trinity College Dublin and Chinese Scholarship Council, he is currently a PhD student in Department of Drama in TCD. His doctoral research, "Post Cold-War Chinese Experimental Theatre: Staging Globalisation and Its Resistance", offers a study of contemporary Chinese *spoken drama*, especially experimental theatre, within the context of globalisation and interculturalism, and critique of globalisation.