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So many of the productions currently to be seen on the London stage are concerned with the more violent aspects of life that it is surprising to meet a play about ordinary people caught up in ordinary events. Thomson Sackville 's *The Visitor* is just such a play--at least, on the surface. It seems to stand well outside the mainstream of recent British drama. In fact the surface is so bland that attention is constantly focused on the care with which the play has been put together, and the clarity with which its argument develops. It seems natural to discuss it in terms of the notion of "the well-wrought play". The story is about an unremarkable family evening in middle-class suburbia. The husband and wife have invited a friend to dinner. The friend turns up in due course and they talk about their respective lives and interests. During this conversation, in which the author shows a remarkable talent for writing dialogue which is entertaining and witty without being so sparkling as to draw too much attention to itself, the characters are carefully fleshed out and provided with a set of credible--if unremarkable--motives. Through innumerable delicate touches in the writing they emerge : pleasant, humorous, ordinary, and ineffectual. And if they are never made vibrantly alive in terms of the real world, one feels that this is deliberate. That the author is content to give them a theatrical existence of their own, and leave it at that. 详细解析：本次英译中难度适中，为剧评，对伦敦舞台上的又一

新作进行了评析，并影射时下的剧作把生活描写得太过激荡而忘记了平平淡淡才是真。文中，长句不难，偏重小词的处理，这也是如今考试的趋势。节选段落第一句就是一个貌似“长句”但其实不难的句子。只要看出这是一个“so... that...”结构就可以解决。而这个句子当中另外一个我们认为简单的词却较难处理：violent。有同学直接处理成“暴力”！那就真的是很“暴力”，很乱弹琴了……其实这里是指“brutal, rough”的意思，可以处理成“残酷的生活 / 激荡的生活等”。关于这个剧名：the Visitor的翻译。有同学翻成“不速之客”，也有问题。其实这是上课时跟同学不断强调的一点。翻译大忌就是看到什么翻什么。其实看完全文再翻就不会翻成“不速之客”了。因为后面就讲解了剧中人物情节，根本就没有讲到任何与“不速”有关的内容。所以这里处理成“访客”即可，切忌生搬硬套四字格。接下来又是一个“so... that...”句式。这句话中要注意的是指代词“it”的翻译，首先要会识别它是形式主语还是指示代词。若是代词，英语多指代，中文多重复，所以一定要把指代内容还原出来。

“...and the clarity with which its (该剧作的) argument develops. it (形式主语) seems natural to discuss it (指代该剧) in terms of the notion of "the well-wrought play"”。第二段中比较难处理的就是“During this conversation, (in which the author shows a remarkable talent for writing dialogue (which is entertaining and witty without being so sparkling as to draw too much attention to itself)) . / the characters are carefully fleshed out and provided with a set of credible--if unremarkable-- motives.”。要注意的是接下来的句子中指代词they的内容是什么。

这里就是指代前文的characters。参考译文：时下，伦敦舞台上的剧作，但凡讲到生活，多描写其残酷面，向观众展示出激荡而不平凡的生活。于是，猛然看到一部描写平凡人、平凡事的戏剧便着实让人感到惊喜。托玛斯\*萨科威理的《访客》就是这样一部剧，至少从表面来看是平凡得可以。该剧与时下的英国主流戏剧截然不同。也正是因为该剧表面寡然索味，于是大家的注意力就都会放在全剧的整体架构和主旨的传达上，惊叹于作者构思巧妙，主旨清晰。我们倒是可以拿该剧来讨论讨论到底什么样的戏剧才叫“好”。故事描述发生在一个都市中产家庭的一个寻常夜。夫妇俩邀请了一位朋友来家中吃晚饭。友人适时出现，三人便开始谈论各自的生活、爱好。三人间的对话展现出作者的非凡功力，言语间充满了笑料，又不失机智。同时，作者的拿捏也恰到好处，没有让这些对话喧宾夺主。剧中人物活灵活现，展现出的人物特质虽不特别，但真真切切。作者通过细致的笔触勾勒出这样的人物：讨人喜欢、风趣诙谐、平凡无奇、力不从心。而读者就算无法在现实生活中将这些人物一一对应，也会认为这是作者有意为之，觉得作者是乐于创造虚构的人物，又让这些人物留于虚构之中。100Test 下载频道开通，各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 [www.100test.com](http://www.100test.com)