

Artist Statement:

It is a booming time for Chinese language learning across the world, not only because of China's higher profile in the global community but also the increasing economic and cultural connections between China and other countries. In the process, diversities of cultures and languages often lead to mistranslation. Not only that, but more and more Westerners hold common stereotypes about Chinese people and their culture. But why does this happen? Because we lack discourse power in this international world, the discourse is controlled by the media and the people and countries with economic power (the Western world). They control what is said, which must be related to themselves. If a non-Western country wants to be accepted by the international community, they must first learning Western languages, culture, and thought. Then, they become accustomed to colonial life. This struggle is invisible. I can clearly remember that I started to learn English in the first grade of primary school, and my favorite cartoon was Tom and Jerry, not a Chinese one. In my video *"Learning Chinese with XiangLong: A Collection of Chinese Idioms,"* I reverse these roles and try to take back my right to speak.