

METHODS OF TRANSLATING - WRITTEN RESPONSE
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For this prompt, I chose the method of "Exercises in Style" by Raymond Queneau to represent the ideas from an excerpt of Patrick Keiller's film "Robinson in Space".

SCRIPT

INT. CAR PARK - AFTERNOON

Shot of the Chatham Street Car Park overlooking the Ramada Hotel slowly zoomed in.

NARRATOR

Robinson once told me that he wished to become a spy but was not sure who to approach. In the afternoon he took me to the Chatham Street car park overlooking the Ramada Hotel where it turned out he was now living. He told me that some weeks before he received a letter from a representative of a well-known international advertising agency inviting him to a meeting at the hotel.

INT. HOTEL - AFTERNOON

Shot of the Hotel windows overlooking the city's train line.

NARRATOR

These people had heard of his study of London and wished to Commission him to undertake a peripatetic study of the problem of England.

INT. CAR PARK - AFTERNOON

Shot of the Chatham Street Car Park overlooking the Ramada Hotel slowly fades to black.

NARRATOR

He had accepted this offer with alacrity and insisted that I join him as researcher.

EXT. RECORD SHOP - DAY

Shot of HMV Record Shop with a queue in front of it and a busy street.

NARRATOR

Our first outing was to a record shop in Friar Street where Adam Ant was making a personal appearance. The music industry is one of the UK's most successful and brings in more money from abroad than motor manufacturing, its products often characterised by sexual ambivalence and a traditional English contempt for petty bourgeois England. Robinson had once taught at the Art School where Adam Ant was a student.

EXT. ENTRANCE OF THE WEST GREEN HOUSE - MORNING

Wide shot of the gate post and obelisk then cuts to the house in the background behind the gate.

NARRATOR

The next day we visited the house at West Green built by General Henry hangman Hawley who commanded the cavalry at Culloden, the former home of Alastair Lord MacAlpine, treasurer of the Conservative Party between 1975 and 1990.

Tight shot of one of the Gate Posts.

NARRATOR

The recent gate posts in the obelisk are by the architect Quinlan Terry.

Tight shot of the Gate post from a different angle.

NARRATOR

The obelisk bears an inscription in Latin.

Tight shot of the obelisk.

NARRATOR

This monument was built with a large sum of money which would have otherwise fallen sooner or later into the hands of the tax gatherers.

EXT. DAY

Shot of yellow flowers moving with a slight breeze.

NARRATOR

It is my belief Watson said Holmes founded upon my experience that the lowest and vilest alleys in London do not present a more dreadful record of sin than does the smiling and beautiful countryside.

REVIEW

“Robinson in Space” takes you on a journey of England and exposes its good and the bad side. The calm and composed shots of the city and the countryside paired with the expository commentary of the narrator reveals their peripatetic study of the problem of England in a witty and humorous film essay by Patrick Keiller. The contrast leaves sort of an unsettling sour aftertaste through Robinson’s study and exploration of England.

REFERENCES

Queneau, R. (1981). *Exercises in Style*. New Directions Publishing.

*FACETS (2012). ROBINSON IN SPACE. YouTube. Available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Noa7i9qqq3c> [Accessed 19 Oct. 2023].*