

## TAPESCRIPT

**Narrator: Listening Test**

**Movie Debate – Dubbing vs Subtitles**

### *Section 2*

*Kathy and Adrian are discussing the benefits of dubbing versus subtitles on the radio show ‘The Late Debate’ with the host Rebecca.*

*The recording will be played twice. Do as much as you can the first time and answer all the questions the second time.*

*You have 30 seconds to look at your questions.*

*[30 sec music]*

*Listen and answer the questions.*

*[There is definite disagreement between Adrian and Kathy since they both know their subject well, though they manage not to antagonise each other too much.]*

{Rebecca: Welcome back. This is Rebecca Chiu of ‘The Late Debate’. On air tonight we have Kathy and Adrian to talk about the dubbing/subtitle issue.

Adrian, it’s your job to translate English language movies into Chinese both for dubbing and subtitles. Which would you say is more interesting to watch?

Adrian: *[thinking sound – wondering how to answer question]* Hmm... When we watch a movie which has been dubbed, we just need to listen – we don’t need to worry about not understanding anything or missing anything in the story because it’s in our mother tongue. Even though the voices don’t match the actors’ – it can be a bit strange watching Brad Pitt speaking Cantonese, right? – we can forget that, if the translation is good and if the movie is exciting.

Rebecca: What do you think, Kathy?

Kathy: *[doubtful]* Yeeeeeeaaah, Adrian certainly is making an interesting point, but he seems to be thinking about exciting action movies in which the words don’t really matter. We have to remember where a movie has come from. If a movie is made in New Zealand, for example, I want to hear real New Zealand accents, and feel how those people really talk. That’s what the movie experience is about. If we want to hear people speaking Chinese, there are many good movies from Hong Kong we can watch.

Adrian: There are many good movies from Hong Kong, but movies are about

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entertainment, Kathy.

Kathy: Entertainment and art. With dubbing, there's always the issue of watching the movie and the words not matching the movement of the actor's lips – sometimes it's so funny that the sound has stopped, but the actor's lips are still moving, or the actor has stopped moving his lips, but he is still speaking.

Adrian: Well, dubbing for movie is a very difficult job to do but it can be very rewarding. We have to try and translate the language with the same length of speech time and keep the same meaning. English and Chinese are just so different, not only in their words and grammar, but in their cultures, too. Of course, the translation is not perfect...

Kathy: Well, I think for some movies it's perfect.

Adrian: *[very surprised voice]* Yeah, really?

Kathy: Absolutely, and dubbing them spoils the movies. Just because it's challenging to translate a movie and have the words fit the actors lip movement, doesn't mean we should do it, or that it's okay, or even that it makes a movie any better.

Adrian: No, maybe not... *[fade out]*

*Narrator: Now listen to the recording again.*

*[repeat recording { }]*

*You have 30 seconds to check your answers.*

*[30 sec music]*

*This is the end of Section 2.*