



# SKYMING

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Yingshan Chang

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Backstory

Sounds

Pronouns

Time

Number

Tense

Aspect

Questions

Live Translation : )

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

CIXIN LIU

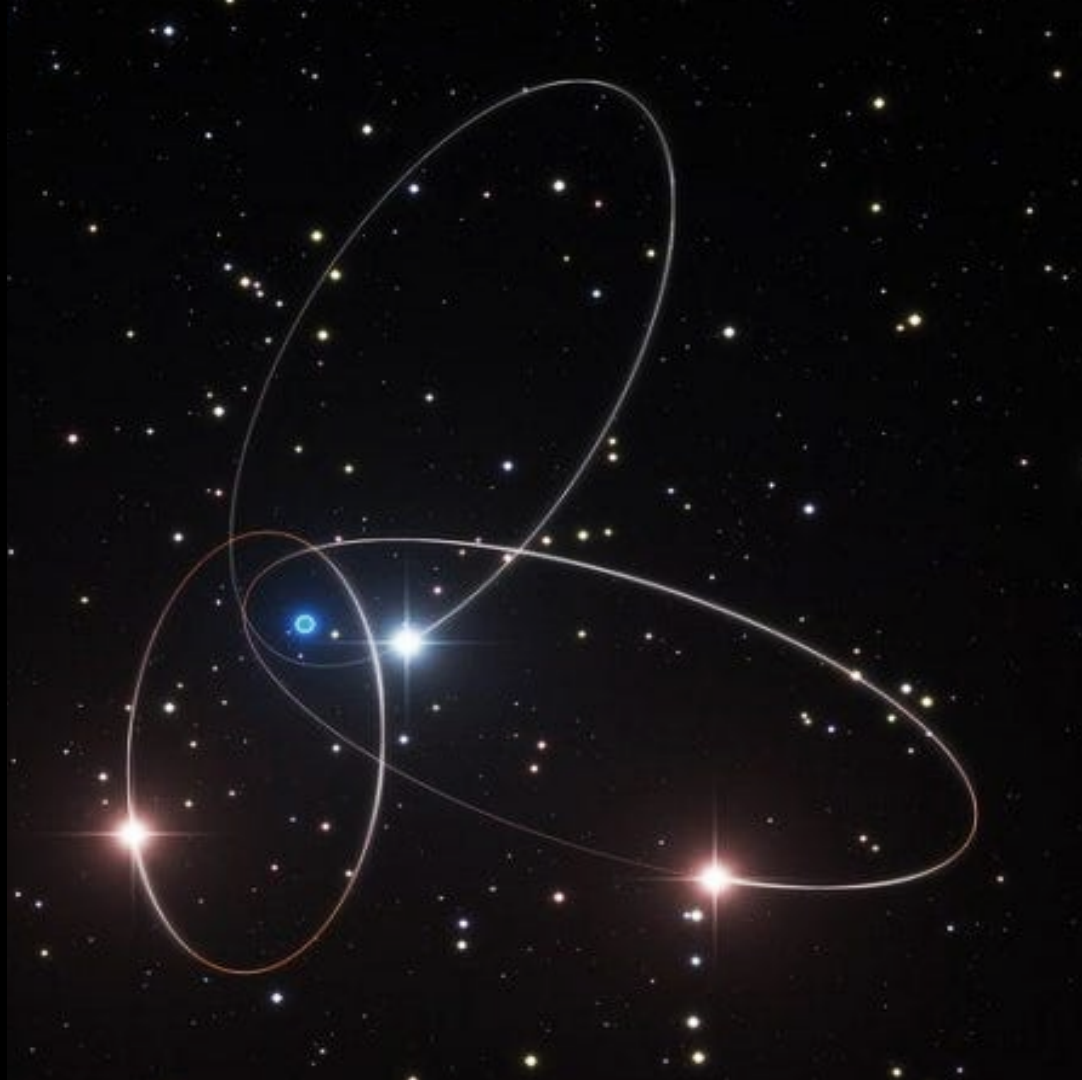
Translated by JOEL MARTINSEN

THE DARK  
FOREST

THE SEQUEL TO THE BESTSELLING NOVEL  
THE THREE-BODY PROBLEM

“Wildly imaginative.”

—PRESIDENT  
BARACK OBAMA



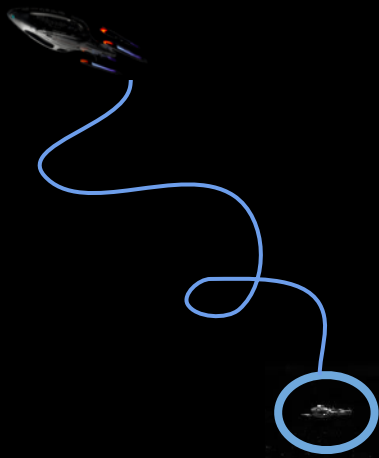


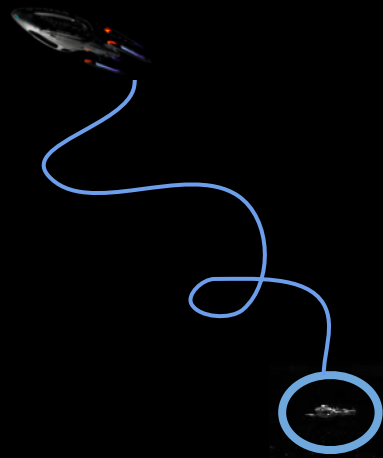




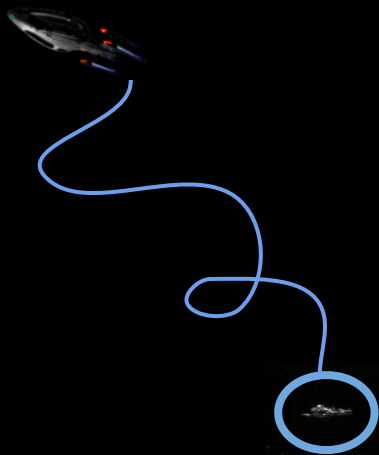


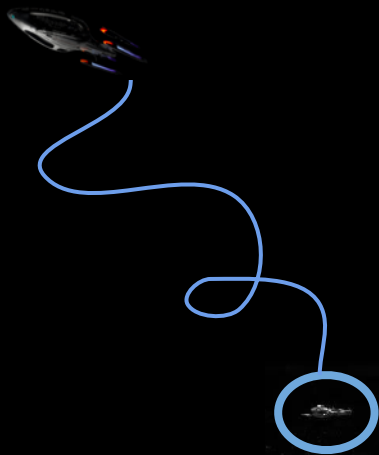


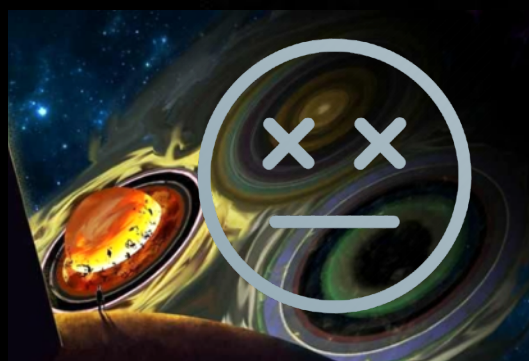
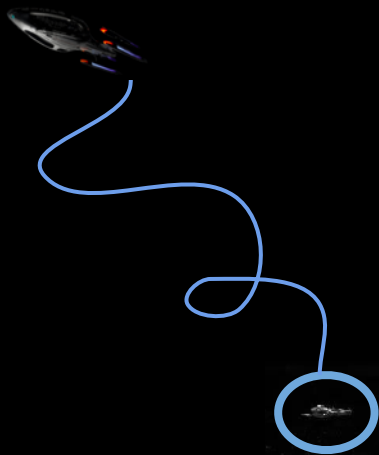






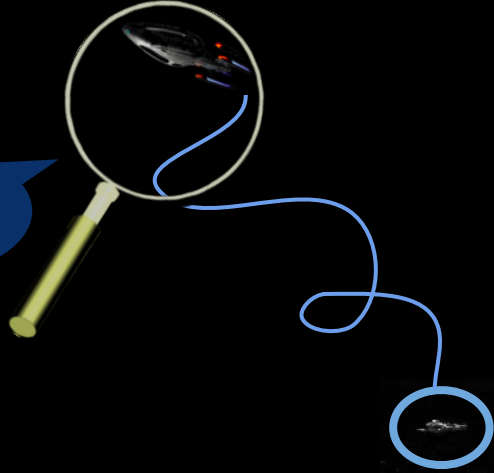








My world!



# Sounds

## Vowels

	Monophthongs						Diphthongs		
Phoneme	a	i	u	e	o	ə	iu	in	ae
IPA Symbol	æ	i	u	e	əθ	ə			
Gloss	Sarah	me	moody	beta	oh		you	inn	pie

## Consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Velar
Plosive	b, p( <i>p<sup>h</sup></i> )		d, t( <i>t<sup>h</sup></i> )		g, k( <i>k<sup>h</sup></i> )
Nasal	m	n			
Fricative		v, f	z, s	ʒ, ʃ	
Affricates			dz, ts	dʒ, tʃ	
Lateral				l	





**Mission: protect and continue human civilization**

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Intermediate goal: optimize what genes get passed to the next generation

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- Friend: matured individuals who are not allowed to have offsprings

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	3SG	3PL	1SG	1PL	2SG	2PL
	d3o	d3ome	si	sime	3iu	3iume
Kid	pae	paeme				
Man	bo	bome				
Woman	tjin	tjinme				
Friend	fae	faeme				

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# Deictic Pronouns

dzi	this	ciu	that
dzome	these	dzome səciufoli	those (“these over there”)
dziʃoli	here (“this place”)	ciufoli	there (“that place”)
inge	now	inciu	then
dzikuza	this way	ciukuza	that way

# Deictic Pronouns

dzi	this	ciu	that
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ʃoli: place

sə- ... -ʃoli:

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foli: place

sə- ... -foli:    sə təlufo foli  
AP forest LOC  
in forest location



# The Time System

1 day == 4 quarters == 12 segments

In memory of the 4 seasons on the Earth

Quarter	Segment	Flower (SKYMING )	Flower (English)	Status (SKYMING )	Status (English)
1	1	muʒə	li	crabapple	budding
	2	muʒə	ʒu	crabapple	blooming
	3	muʒə	ko	crabapple	withering
2	4	safi	li	waterlily	budding
	5	safi	ʒu	waterlily	blooming
	6	safi	ko	waterlily	withering
3	7	faete	li	daisy	budding
	8	faete	ʒu	daisy	blooming
	9	faete	ko	daisy	withering
4	10	iuzu	li	narcissus	budding
	11	iuzu	ʒu	narcissus	blooming
	12	iuzu	ko	narcissus	withering

# The Number System

	SKYMING	English		SKYMING	English
1	ʒə	one	11	moʒə	ten one
2	sa	two	12	mosa	ten two
3	te	three	13	mote	ten three
4	zu	four	14	mozu	ten four
5	fi	five	20	samo	two ten
6	dae	six	30	temo	three ten
7	ve	seven	100	ʒəvin	one hundred
8	tiu	eight	108	ʒəvintiu	one hundred eight
9	tʃa	nine	220	savinsamo	two hundred two ten
10	mo	ten	679	daevinvemoʃa	six hundred seven ten nine

# Tense

Tense	Marker	Gloss	Notes
General past	-mi	PST	
Recent past	-di	PSTS	past-short
Present			default
Near future	-do	FUTS	future-short
General future	-m	FUT	

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-di (I just did ...)

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-do (I'm immediately going to do ...)

- ❖ Just wait a second,
- ❖ I'm occupied in the next second

-di (I just did ...)

- ❖ You may not be aware of it



# Verbs

Helping verb	Meaning	Gloss	Usage
<b>dzaeki</b>	do	DO	Agent - <b>dzaeki</b> - Patient - Action
<b>oto</b>	figure on the ground	BLG	Predictive possession → Possessed - <b>oto</b> - Possessor Person has trait → Trait - <b>oto</b> - Subject Object has property → Property - <b>oto</b> - Subject
<b>ati</b>	cause	CAUS	
<b>iminna</b>	equal	EQL	“A is B” Report time → Inge (now) <b>iminna</b> xxx Person has identity → Person - <b>iminna</b> - identity

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1 day == 4 quarters == 12 segments

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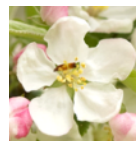
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2	4	safi	li	Inge iminna muʒə li viu.	
	5	safi	ʒu		
	6	safi	ko		
3	7	faete	li	Inge iminna muʒə li viu. Now EQL crabapple bud hour Now equal crabapple bud hour	
	8	faete	ʒu		
	9	faete	ko		
4	10	iuzu	li	It is one o'clock.	
	11	iuzu	ʒu		
	12	iuzu	ko		



# Aspect

Aspect	Marker	Gloss	Notes
Inceptive	-ifi	INCEP	ifi is also the noun for “beginning”
Cessative	-lomo	CESS	
Completive	-imu	COMPL	
Progressive	-z	PRG	

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Finish homework == Do homework + COMPL

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Finish homework == Do homework + COMPL

Convince == Persuade + COMPL

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Cessative	-lomo	CESS	
Completive	-imu	COMPL	
Progressive	-z	PRG	

Finish homework == Do homework + COMPL

Convince == Persuade + COMPL

Find == Look for + COMPL

# Aspect

(6)

Si dzaekifidi futə.

Si dzaeki -ifi -di futə.  
1.SG DO -INCEP -PSTS homework.  
I do -start -in the recent past homework.

I just started doing homework.

(7)

Si dzaekilomodi futə.

Si dzaeki -lomo -di futə.  
1.SG DO -CESS -PSTS homework.  
I do -stop -in the recent past homework.

I just stopped doing homework.

(8)

Si dzaekimudi futə.

Si dzaeki -imu -di futə.  
1.SG DO -COMPL -PSTS homework.  
I do -complete -in the recent past homework.

I just did/finished homework.



# Aspect

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Si dzaeki -ifi -di  
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1.SG DO -CESS -PSTS  
I do -stop -in the recent

I just stopped doing homework.

(8)  
Si dzaekimudi futə.

Si dzaeki -imu -di  
1.SG DO -COMPL -PSTS  
I do -complete -in the recent

I just did/finished homework.

(9)  
Si dzaekimi bo bəlinka.

Si dzaeki -mi bo bəlinka.  
1.SG DO -PST 3.SG.MASC persuasion.  
I do -ed him persuasion.

I persuaded him.

(10)  
Si dzaekilomodi bo bəlinka.

Si dzaeki -lomo -di bo bəlinka.  
1.SG DO -CESS -PSTS 3.SG.MASC persuasion.  
I do -stop -in the recent past him persuasion.

I just stopped persuading him.

(11)  
Si dzaekimudi bo bəlinka.

Si dzaeki -imu -di bo bəlinka.  
1.SG DO -COMPL -PSTS 3.SG.MASC persuasion.  
I do -complete -in the recent past him persuasion.

I just convinced him.

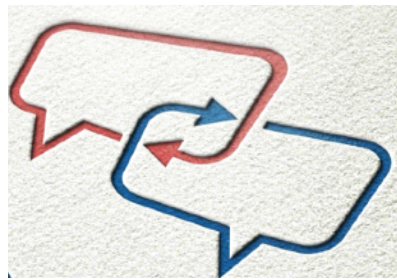
# How do you ask questions?

Kiuʒi baikinni,	Query correctness,	Whether	Answered by T/F ⇔ tʃu / na
Kiuʒi oʒako,	Query time,	When	
Kiuʒi ʃoli,	Query place,	Where	
Kiuʒi domə,	Query reason,	Why	
Kiuʒi kuʒa,	Query instrument,	How	
Kiuʒi tʃae,	Query person,	Who	
Kiuʒi fibona, Kiuʒi idʒu	Query number, Query color,	How many What color	
Kiuʒi xxx,	Query xxx,	What	Kiuʒi, ʒiuvə ameli? Query, your dream?

Live Translation ~

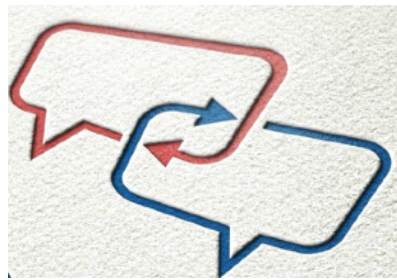


# Live Translation ~



bus book title idea love correctness front meeting beginning  
end risk joy box top mountain house bamboo paper bread  
pizza bag apple day year sadness juice bottle person kill  
professor wisdom eye ear daughter door age pen pain length  
daughter fruit banana yesterday admiration hatred laughter  
query persuasion forest search universe ghost civilization  
coverage tree tree-branch invisible-state superman fairy heat  
fragility weakness hunter breath effort sound infant old-person  
discovery path safety similarity alertness angel demon choice  
threat exposure self appearance paradox explanation color  
number dream purchase visual-perception audio-perception  
ingestion ability/inability desire authorship excess submission

# Live Translation ~



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ingestion ability/inability desire authorship excess submission

many/mere  
yellow green  
happy/sad  
smart good  
long numerous  
big/small correct  
invisible open  
young/old fragile  
fairy-like hero-  
like dark/bright  
weak soft  
eternal