# 实用英语与翻译学习 指南

### A Guide to

## **English Learning**

and

# **Translation** for language professionals and aspiring students

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### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

### 目录

前	言		7
第	1 部	分:初学入门	8
	1.1	本部分的目的	.8
	1.2	翻译工作介绍	.8
		翻译工作的内容	.8
		翻译工作适合哪些人	.8
		翻译工作如何进行	.8
		对翻译工作的一个误解	.9
	1.3	翻译的秘诀	.9
		翻译的真相	.9
		是否应该专注于一个领域	.9
		翻译的金钥匙	.9
		为翻译工作打下坚实的基础1	10
		"会意、写意"1	10
	1.4	行动计划	11
		让自己全力以赴	11
		起航	11
第	2 部	分:卓越之路1	13
	2.1	现场讲座1	13
		2013 年 9 月 7 日周六翻译培训及交流活动———主题: 学好、做好翻译的"	秘
		诀"	13
		2013 年 6 月 22 日周六翻译培训及交流活动———主题: 学好、做好翻译的"	秘
		诀"	14
	2.2	理论亮点	15
		翻译之中的过犹不及与勤查词典	15
		我是怎么学英语的2	20
		话说查词典这件事2	24
		余光中: 自豪与自幸——我的国文启蒙2	28
		如何做好英汉笔头翻译	31
		谈谈中译英	32
		七个步骤学好英语3	34
		原文的风格	37
		疯狂的李阳	38
		学好英语的秘诀: 四字真言	Ю
		说翻译——中国式英语和欧化汉语	41
	2.3	实务议题4	14
		中国人是天生的蠢货吗?	14
		词义辨析: civilization 与 culture	17

读书学单词琐记	49
陆谷孙《英汉大词典》与高永伟《新英汉词典》义项勘误一则: froward	51
人类的语言是相通的:"傻了"英语怎么说?	52
词汇学习:"睡城"英语怎么说?	52
词汇学习: Rule、reign 与 govern 有什么区别	54
外国人不知道什么是"面子"吗?	55
全国翻译专业资格(水平)考试指定教材 (CATTI)《英语笔译实务 3 级》	中参考
译文错误辨析	
英汉劣译解析:译言网译文一篇	63
《罗马帝国衰亡史》里一句话的翻译能弄出多少故事来	67
Manslaughtered in translation	
词汇用法指南: ad hoc	72
同义词辨析: fast、rapid、fleet、quick、speedy、hasty 和 expeditious	
活龙谈英语翻译: Judicial 与 Judicious 辨析	
相亲=blind date?	
Mathematical Certainty 与 Mathematical Chance: 板上钉钉与基本没戏.	
Learn something new: Serendipitous	
Learn something new: Augean, plot ratio, the plot thickens	
词汇研习: Helpless=无助?	
"6000 万人明天起免交个税"	
Activism 怎么翻译?	
恐怖(Terrorism)是什么主义	
北京故宫博物院道歉信深度解析	
侵略怎么翻译?	
翻译时地名如何处理?	
翻译时人名如何处理?	
曝光台: 错译和欧化中文	
Some Meanings of Authentic Love (爱情真谛)	
研究一下几个词的含义: 欧美、百度、网络	
做好翻译的一个前提:对原文所谈事情要有了解	
词汇研习 (CW 49/2010): 怎么翻译 Moving forward 和 Going forward	
政治制度背景与翻译	
貌似无聊但很有意义的问题:北京和北京市有区别吗?	
美国首都叫什么名字?	
词汇研习(CW 49/2010): 怎么翻译"主人翁精神"	
从中国国家主席的英语译名说起	
宪法和宪政	
局长是做什么的?华文、汉语、普通话、国文、国语、中文、中国语、中语?.	
一句话翻译:需要搞清楚动词和连词的含义	
讨论一下"粮食"的"安全"	108

What does it mean when the Chinese say to you that you	ı hurt their feelings?112
恐怖主义?	
我比你大几倍?	113
古代与现代的速度	
4	
"成吉思汗是中国人吗?"	
Premier Li Keqiang's misplaced fundamental principle	
guilt	
Ignorant, incompetent and shameless, Han Han as a wr	
念错一辈子的词,会错一辈子的意	
怎么在历史上和现实中给中国定位——读《宅兹中国:重要	
我心目中的中国——读《宅兹中国:重建有关"中国"的历	
我心自中的中国—— 以《七兹中国: 里廷有大 中国 的 <i>//</i> <b>My seven links</b>	
二则: 德式英语和基本问题	
一则: 德式夹垣型基本问题	
The China market for its foreign investors	
写博客就是写自己、城市、时代和国家的历史	
博客和日记	
"人生旅途上罕见的先行者"	
再聊聊红楼梦——是"恐领了赐去不恭",还是"恐迟去不恭	
My English; seeking a language exchange partner	
China is a country in change for the better	
红楼梦谁写的?	
"小蛮腰"	
两个你可能不知道的事实	
Where China fits in history	
"Can I take these books home to read?"	
Dan Brown's novels	
《红楼梦》的后四十回	158
My six pet peeves	160
读历史敢想	
"杞人忧天"和"头痛医头脚痛医脚"	163
靓妃、兰贵人以及选美皇后	164
土著、原住民和中国的少数民族	164
活龙继续乱弹: 土著、原住民和中国的少数民族	166
"龙"之dragon和loong英译之辩	167
关于"野鸡读物"	
为什么很多人都把"9/11"读成"九夭夭",而不是"九一一"	?171
Reading for knowledge, peace of mind, and more	171
活龙复兴的日子	

		Glob	al C	ompetitiveness-Getting the U.S. back on Track	177	
	Which one is more difficult to learn, English or Chinese?				178	
	Why don't I translate what I wrote?				179	
	Nostalgia					
	More than I can chew					
第	3 部	分:番	翻译	实战	182	
	3.1		练ス	说明	182	
	3.2			练习		
				需要搞清楚动词和连词的含义		
				企业公关传播		
				新闻稿		
				致辞		
				国家推介		
				国家简介		
				小孩不简单		
				企业社会责任		
				大英百科中的中国		
				食品安全		
				上海世博会		
				事故		
				美国就业市场		
				简历、履历		
				资产和财富管理企业呼唤新一代领袖		
				企业社会责任记者研讨会参会通知		
				美国教育考试服务中心		
				投资理财		
				瑞典斯科讷省和马尔默市		
				: 开业演讲世界项级游戏玩家汇集洛杉矶		
				世外项级研戏机家在集拾杉矶 :"建立公司声誉的多边文化方法"		
				· 网络支付		
				· 网络又们 · 旅游休闲		
				· 旅遊杯内		
				2013 年联合国中文翻译应聘测试题		
笙	/1 单位			没有"口音"的英语		
ᅏ	<del>т</del> пр		-	·很重要		
	4.2			·中国人的英语发音要点		
	4.2			, 到正发音		
笙				学习		
<b>∕</b> 1√	5.1					
	5.2			7		
	٥.٣		ハト			

5.3	阅读推荐: 余光中的集	231
5.4	英语翻译工作中能用到的通用类辞书	232
5.5	好书推荐:《柯林斯高阶英语学习词典》	235
5.6	推荐三本书:《围城》、《全球通史》、《西方文明》	236
5.7	英语词典和翻译学习	237
5.8	推荐三本词典	238
5.9	读书笔记一则:《猪刚鬣:善猪恶拿》	239
第 6 部分:	资源	242
6.1	翻译网站、博客	242
6.2	在线翻译/词典	242
6.3	新闻网站	242
6.4	网络电视台、电台	242
6.5	中国主题博客	243
6.6	图书	
6.7	工具书	243

### 前言

我的名字是常国华,祖籍四川,在东北出生长大。**2000** 年从 <u>大兴安岭</u>的山林小镇 <u>十八站</u>到省会 <u>哈尔滨</u>工作,**2002** 年初冬来到首都北京。此后我在这里 <u>生活、工作、恋爱、结婚、买房、生子</u>。我对生活所给予我的一切充满感激。

本书是我十多年翻译工作中的所见、所闻、所做、所感。全书分为六大部分,分别涉及初学入门、高级进阶、翻译实战、英语发音、读书学习和学习资源。书中的内容大多是历年所写的博客文章与读书笔记,还有几年前编写的翻译培训资料,当然也有一些内容专为本书而写。

因本人水平有限,错误疏漏在所难免。如有读者诸君不吝赐教,我将万分感谢,会在新版本中予以修正。

记于 2013 年 4 月 30 日午后, 北京大兴。

### 第 1 部分:初学入门

### 1.1 本部分的目的

本书第一部分的目的是帮助刚刚入门的译坛新兵更好地了解**英文到中文以及中文到英文翻译工作的内容、方法和秘诀**。它汇集了我从事这项工作十多年以来的一些感悟、技巧和实际案例。相信读者会从中找到对自己有益的信息,并因此在成为一名优秀翻译工作者的路上少走一些弯路、快速成长。而已经成长为翻译好手的老兵们,也能从中看到自己的影子。如果再与自己的翻译历程加以比较,也能收获一些有意义的东西。如果这些内容能或大或小地起到这种作用,那么我就会感到努力就没有白费,会深感欣慰!

### 1.2 翻译工作介绍

### 翻译工作的内容

简单来说,译员的工作是把一种语言的材料,通过自己的再次创作,把这种语言所表达出的 意思用另外一种语言表达出来。后续工作包括:译员从头到尾仔细的"自检",以及校对人员 和审阅人员的修改。定稿后,排版,最后将译文提交给客户。

一说到翻译,很多人首先想到的是诗歌、文学、小说。实际上,这类翻译只有天才翻译人员才能做好。跟所有的艺术门类一样,它需要的不只是刻苦努力,还需要起决定作用的"天分"。本部分乃至整本书的主题是非文学类的翻译,包括政府机关、企事业单位、国际组织、出版社等需要将其"本地化"的材料,比如市场营销、零售、培训资料、新闻报道、产品文案、产品与服务说明书、报告、剪报、技术资料、网站本地化以及非文学类的书籍等等。

#### 翻译工作适合哪些人

如果你是一个喜欢安静、喜欢读书、喜欢案头文字工作的人,那么翻译工作就非常适合你。如果你希望自己越老越招人"待见",越老越有"魅力",你完全可以试试"翻译"这一行,因为翻译这行的特点是经验越丰富越受欢迎。

将来,随着翻译工作经验越来越丰富,你还可以成为一名自由职业译员,把自己的家当成办公室,免去了每天在路上奔波烦恼。多留点时间给自己和家人。拜信息技术时代所赐,计算机、互联网、智能手机、QQ、微信、电子邮件、电话、传真等等,这一切让居家办公、绿色工作的梦想变为了现实!

#### 翻译工作如何进行

本书所说的翻译涉及两个方向,一个是把中文译成英文,另外一个把英文译成中文。在国际上,一般来说译员只做将外语翻译成母语的翻译工作。这样做的理由非常充分:译员只会对

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

自己母语能达到运用自如、准确、地道的程度。这是理想的状态,而在现实中,译员把母语翻译成外语的情况却并不罕见。这是因为客户对译文没有母语级的要求。

翻译工作涉及 以下三个步骤。第一步:准确、完整地读懂原文的意思;第二步:将读懂的意思转换为自己和别人可以听懂的内容复述;第三步:将读懂的意思用地道、标准的译文书面语言根据译文的用途准确、完整、流畅地重写出来。

**初学翻译的人,必须要先从外语到母语翻译开始**。经过长时间的摸索和实践,在对外语和母语的差别和表达方式有了较好认识的时候,可以试着做一些母语到外语的翻译练习。

### 对翻译工作的一个误解

对翻译工作不了解的人通常认为把外文译成中文要比把中文译成外文简单,其实不然。原因有二:首先,能"准确、完整地读懂外语原文的意思"已经非常不容易,这要求译员对外语本身以及使用这种语言的国家和人民的经济、政治、文化、历史和传统等等情况都有相当程度的认识和了解;其次,对中文的书面语的纯熟掌握需要花费很大力气才能做到,译员在这方面需要专门的培训和学习。可以打这样的比方,在跑步时能跨越简单的障碍对于一般人不是问题,但想要像奥运会上跨栏高手那样在赛场上跑出好成绩没有专门的训练是做不到的。

### 1.3 翻译的秘诀

### 翻译的真相

翻译是一个让人**保持不断学习**的职业。做好这项工作的秘诀与做好其它工作的秘诀毫无二致,那就是:不断地学习。

翻译工作的真相是:翻译其实上是学习两种语言,而学习语言其实是学习两种语言背后的经济、政治、文化、社会、宗教、历史。**翻译的真功夫全在"舞文弄墨"之外。**每位优秀的译员都是一个什么时请能说出个一二三的"杂家"、"全科医生"。"杂家"和"全科医生"可以对整体有更敏锐的观察和把握,见解更加平衡,顾及整体,视野更广,眼界更开阔。

### 是否应该专注于一个领域

这个要因人而异。先成为一个领域的"专家",然后再学习外语做翻译,这样的人非常适合只专注于一个领域。但对于先学外语,后学翻译的人来说,要做到只专注于一个或者几个领域会比较难——因为在行业和市场的实践过程中,这些人常常没的选,只能来什么单子做什么单子。对于译员来说,最佳的方案是专注于一个或者几个自己感兴趣的领域,同时拓展其他领域。

#### 翻译的金钥匙

**翻译,是要精准地传递原文所要表达的意思,而不是被原文的字面牵着鼻子走。**翻译中有两种极端值得警惕:一是被原文字面"紧紧缠住",翻译时一字对一字,亦步亦趋,写出的东西让人不知所云;二是把原文的字面意思和真实意思统统抛在脑后,信马由缰、天马行空,肆意瞎编。

想要不被字面意思所迷惑,译员必须了解作者的意图,掌握足够的相关信息和知识,能把自

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

己要翻译的一切都能放在一个由复杂标准和参照物所构成的参照系当中。这样才能找到每一件东西的相对位置。要知道,在这个"无我即无你"的相对世界中,找不到这个体系,译文写得"南辕北辙"了自己都不知道。

优秀的译员,他的知识和技能如同海洋里的一座冰山,浮在水面上的只是冰山的一角,其坚实的基础藏在冰冷的海水下面。"台上一分钟,台下十年功"说的也是这种情况。只有海量的信息和知识才能让译员突破束人手脚的"文字障 1"。

### 为翻译工作打下坚实的基础

如何获得这些翻译所需的知识呢?答案还是:不断地阅读学习。书本和互联网都是很好的老师。看看那些古今中外浩如烟海的各种书籍和网上的各种学习资源。它们就是知识的源泉,最耐心的老师。它们的作用不是良师益友、亲朋好友所能取代的。

### "会意、写意"

对于初学翻译或者翻译经验不足的人来说,"翻译"二字不足以说明它到底是一项什么性质的工作。

"翻译"实乃"重写"、"再创作"。它不像英汉、汉英词典解释词语那样一一对应就完事了。如果不信,试试"翻译"这句话。这句是多年前广为流传的网络笑话。麦当劳有一阵在美国的广告语是:

### "We do chicken right."

甲: "我们做鸡很对。"

乙: "我们做鸡的右边。"

丙: "我们对鸡很正直。"

丁:"做鸡我们很在行。"

要是没有"创作",这句话是"翻译"不出来的。非常惭愧的是,到目前为止,我也没能"翻译"出来。我顶多想到,王婆卖瓜,麦当劳做鸡,都得说自己好,看看翻译成"炸鸡烤鸡我第一"行不行?麦当劳的烤鸡目前无解,是"翻译有时无能为力"的典型例子。

我再举一个相反的实际例子。一家美国公司在视频中介绍自己的成长轨迹使,回顾了它不平凡的光辉岁月("过去的痛苦就是快乐")后,开始审视现在、展望将来。这时屏幕上出现了一行字:

### "...It's just the beginning."

甲:"这只是开始。"

乙: "我们才刚刚开始。"

丙: "我们只是初学乍练。"

丁:"初生牛犊不怕虎。"

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<sup>&</sup>quot;文字障"是台湾作家余光中提出的概念。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

我翻译时,最先想到的也与上面的甲乙丙丁比较类似,大概是"这一切仅仅是个开始"。在我翻译完整个视频文字脚本,再来看这句话时,想到:"这句肯定不能这么翻,要出彩才行。"于是,我决定换个角度。

原文表面上是说现在,实际上是在讲将来。再用哲学的术语来说,世界是辩证统一的矛盾体。高矮、胖瘦、美丑;没有这个也就无所谓那个。因此,只要我把"相反的情况"表达充分,那这"正面的情况"就自然呼之欲出了。我的翻译是:"正未有穷期"

后来客户告诉我,这段视频在大会上先播放到"正未有穷期"这句时,全场鸦雀无声。倒不一定是我的翻译把他们"镇住"了。而是——大家实在不太确定这句话是什么意思。在屏幕闪出英文的原文"It's Just the Beginning"时,全场才如释重负——他们心里大概再说:"原来如此。"

其实这不是翻译,我只不过借花献佛——剽窃了鲁迅先生那句"战斗正未有穷期"而已 2 。是的,有先贤在前,"吾辈所见实无甚新物,然所不知之旧物甚众",我们很难突破。在科学技术方面,人类可能变得更聪明了,但是人类的智慧未必因此增加。聪明的人类每天仍然干着傻事,这就是明证。

"新物旧物"这句话是我说的,但别人至少早在 100 年前就说过了 3。其实,这句话是我从一句英文名人名言翻译而来的:

There is nothing new under the sun, but there are lots of old things we don't know.

吾辈所见实无甚新物,然所不知之旧物甚众。

- Ambrose Bierce, The Devil's Dictionary 美国讽刺作家 (1842 - 1914)

### 1.4 行动计划

### 让自己全力以赴

人类的一个"奇妙"之处,或者从另一个角度来说,人类的一个弱点是"想得到,做不来"。如果想做好一件事情,就必须要了解人类的这个秉性。

想到,就立刻去做。如果总告诉自己: "等忙完手头的事情再说吧","我再好好想想","过两天","等有机会的","改天"。总有一天会发现,"那天"、"以后"永远不会来。如果一直都是"以后"再说,那么到最后只好找别的借口——自己由此变成为一个失败的人。

每个人都不乏梦想,但不是每个人都能实现。成功和失败的区别在于:**前者把自己的梦想变成一个在某个时间内努力去实现的行动目标,而后者永远在等"合适的机会"**。

其实,从零开始并不可怕,**可怕的是永远都不开始**。

### 起航

那么,现在就开始做这样几件事情:

● <u>写下一个读书计划单</u>,从今天就 <u>开始阅读</u>最钟爱作家的作品,吸取作品的营养

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 天下文章一大抄,只要你抄得好,也能成功。我因此为公司拿下了这个客户!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 福尔摩斯就说过这句话: "There is nothing new under the sun. Read it up!"

- 今天就开始做第一篇翻译练习,让自己的手和脑同步运动起来!
- 为自己设定这个星期完成翻译练习的计划
- 告诉身边所有人你的计划:"我已经开始学习翻译了,我一定能学好!"
- 到新浪<u>开个博客</u>,记录自己的学习历程

### 第 2 部分: 卓越之路

### 2.1 现场讲座

2013 年 9 月 7 日周六翻译培训及交流活动———主题: 学好、做好翻译的"秘诀"

- --> 完整讲座: <del>音频</del>
- → <u>视频节选</u> (16 分钟)
- → 学好、做好翻译的"秘诀(幻灯片)

### 讲座精彩要点:

- 1. 学好、做好翻译有"秘诀": 道法自然
- 2. 什么是翻译:精准定位
- 3. 翻译怎么做: "三大步, 三小步", 步步为营
- 4. 如何做好:"读书破万卷下笔如有神",强根固本
- 5. 抵制欧化译文和中文: 语文垃圾的污染
- 6. "汉风"派: 我们的译文给中国人看, 不给假洋鬼子看
- 7. 余光中:中文的常态是"措词简洁、句式灵活、声调铿锵"
- 8. 译文优劣的黄金标准: 所有其他条件等同的情况下, 音节数或者字数少者为佳
- 9. 英汉两种语言对比揭秘: "英文废纸,中文废墨"
- 10. 那些作家和类别的作品应该好好读
- 11. 一般别读别人翻译的书
- 12. 读书神器介绍: Kindle Paperwhite
- 13. 翻译的一大奥秘:翻译到最后,拼的其实是阅读与写作
- 14. 工具书介绍: 《柯林斯高阶英语学习词典》、《韦氏大辞典》等
- 15. 勤查词典, 查好词典: 不察不明
- 16. 本族人用的英语词典必备: 韦氏、牛津
- 17. Terrorism 与"恐怖主义"解析
- 18. 大英百科中的中国: 自己熟悉的主题要怎么翻译
- 19. 要翻译原文的意思而非字面与语法结构
- 20. 查找背景知识:中国的行政区划、中国历史

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

### 2013 年 6 月 22 日周六翻译培训及交流活动——主题: 学好、做好翻译的"秘诀"

- → 上午: 学好、做好翻译的"秘诀"-翻译理论(<u>音频</u>、幻灯片)
- → 下午: 学好、做好翻译的"秘诀"-翻译实战(<u>音频</u>、幻灯片)

### 上午理论部分精彩要点:

- 1. 学好、做好翻译有"秘诀": 道法自然
- 2. 什么是翻译:精准定位
- 3. 翻译怎么做: "三大步, 三小步", 步步为营
- 4. 如何做好:"读书破万卷下笔如有神",强根固本
- 5. 抵制欧化译文和中文: 语文垃圾的污染
- 6. "汉风"派: 我们的译文给中国人看, 不给假洋鬼子看
- 7. 余光中:中文的常态是"措词简洁、句式灵活、声调铿锵"
- 8. 译文优劣的黄金标准: 所有其他条件等同的情况下, 音节数或者字数少者为佳
- 9. 英汉两种语言对比揭秘:"英文废纸,中文废墨"
- 10. 那些作家和类别的作品应该好好读
- 11. 一般别读别人翻译的书
- 12. 读书神器介绍: Kindle Paperwhite
- 13. 翻译的一大奥秘:翻译到最后,拼的其实是阅读与写作
- 14. 工具书介绍: 《柯林斯高阶英语学习词典》、《韦氏大辞典》等

### 下午实战部分精彩要点:

- 1. 勤查词典,查好词典:不察不明
- 2. 学生、学习词典从头到尾读一遍,"温故知新"
- 3. 本族人用的英语词典必备: 韦氏、牛津
- 4. Terrorism 与"恐怖主义"解析
- 5. Helpless 与"无助"解析
- 6. 地理与历史
- 7. 《罗马帝国衰亡史》里面的一句话
- 8. CATTI《英语笔译实务 3 级》中参考译文错误辨析
- 9. 大英百科中的中国: 自己熟悉的主题要怎么翻译
- 10. 要翻译原文的意思而非字面与语法结构
- 11. 化英文原文的"罗嗦"为汉语译文的"简洁":汉语也许没有英语精确,但英语绝对比不上汉语简洁
- 12. 查找背景知识: 中国的行政区划、中国历史
- 13. 突击学习: 用好 Google 等搜索神器

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

### 【培训简介】

培训主题: 学好、做好翻译的"秘诀"

**培训内容**: 以培训师自己的切身体会和工作经验为基础,从理论与实践两个方面进行实战讲解。这是一场由<u>中国盲文图书馆组织的翻译培训和交流公益活动</u>,由本博主常国华(活龙)主讲。

**活动时间、地点:** 2013 年 6 月 22 日(周六),上午: 9:30-12:00(翻译理论)下午: 1:30-4:00 (翻译实战)。活动地点: 北京市西城区太平街甲 6 号 中国盲文图书馆 5 楼 513 培训室 (交通路线)。

### 【中国盲文图书馆官网上对活动的报道】

"志愿者翻译培训及交流": 链接

### 2.2 理论亮点

### 翻译之中的过犹不及与勤查词典

很明显,做任何事情"过"和"不及"都不是不行的,"恰到好处"才可以。当然,做到很难。在翻译工作中,应该翻译成什么样,这个问题<u>我谈了一些自己的想法</u>。但现在想来还是说得不够明白,因为虽然给了"正面"的样本,但只是从欧化译文的"不及"一个角度从"反面"说明了不应该翻译成什么样,并没有从"过"这个角度讲这个问题。

本文所说的翻译是狭义的翻译,即"把一种语言文字的意义用另一种语言文字表达出来"。原文的意思在译文中传达的准确程度要达到英汉词典里面对英文语汇的中文解释或者翻译。二者区别在于翻译涉及的是句子、段落和篇章,而词典涉及的是单词、词组和更大一些的语汇单位(比如习惯用语、谚语、俗语)。当然,这里是就意思的准确性而言的,并非是说翻译的时候把每个词的词典释义写上就万事大吉了。正相反,我认为译文应该是优秀的汉语书面语:它以经过提炼的普通话为基础,把口头无法有效表达的意思用接近口语、朗朗上口的书面方式表达出来,并符合书面语用词精审、结构谨严、逻辑性强的特点,同时吸收传统书面语的养分。

为明确起见,除了说明本文的讨论主题之外,还需要排除不在本文讨论范围之内的以下三种情况:

- 编译(按委托方的具体要求,在译文中对原文意思进行大幅度改动)
- 演绎(按委托方的具体要求,以原文为素材用译入语言进行原创)
- 充分授权(虽未明确具体要求,但委托方已经充分授权译员酌情处理)

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

一般来说,翻译工作者所遇到的工作都属于我所说的"狭义"翻译。如果用严复的"信达雅"来衡量译文,翻译中"过"是"信"而非"达"的问题,因为无"信"而"达"不是翻译,而是"译者"以原文为素材进行的演绎或者编译。评判"信"与否,标准是看译文的意思跟原文一不一样,一样的为"信",不一样的为"不信"。

在翻译的时候,一个必要的前提是原文作者已经清楚、明白地表达了自己的意思。若原文确实不清楚,那么译者应该直接或间接与原文作者沟通,以便澄清原文所有不明晰的地方。但是,译者不能越俎代庖、自搞一套,擅改原文已经说得清清楚楚的意思。译者自己"另起炉灶"有两种情况。一种是译者对原文的理解能力较差,不能透彻理解原文作者的意思,只好根据原文里面自以为读懂的意思,在译文里添油加醋地演绎一番。好的情况是自圆其说,坏的情况是驴唇不对马嘴。另一种是译者原本看得懂原文,但懒得去深究,而且觉得自己比原作者更高明,忍不住要"给圣人代言",于是硬把自己的想法、幻想、思想甚至偏见等等"私货"夹带进译文。前者是能力不足,尚可饶恕;后者是态度不严谨,实在可鄙。

下面,我以本文所谈的翻译的标准来分析最近在微博上发现的两个问题。

在微博上有人在讲到一个词应该怎么翻译的时候说:

有人说我刚把 China's middle class 搞成"中国暴发户"是瞎翻译,我感觉你还是要学习。你非常熟悉西方的那一套英文字典,毕竟太年轻,明白这意思吗?西方哪一国我没去过?美国的中产阶级,那比你不知道高到哪里去了,我给他谈笑风扔。中国现在就只有三个阶级,上中下依次是:闷声发大财、发大财、闷声。

其他与翻译无关的内容这里不做探讨,只说把 China's middle class 翻译成"中国暴发户" 这个译文"过度发挥"的问题。

Middle class 指的是社会中处于上下层阶级之间的阶层。"居于中间"、"比上不足比下有余" 是这个阶级在社会中所处相对位置的最好描述。

《韦氏大辞典里》面对 middle class的解释如下:

- 1: a social class occupying a position **between the upper class and the lower class**: such as
- a: a class achieving prominence in modern times **during the transition from a medieval to a modern economy** and constituting a grouping of people (as artisans, independent farmers, tradesmen, and lesser officials) between the hereditary nobility on the one hand and the laborers and peasants on the other
- b: a class occupying a position (as in England) between the aristocracy and the working class

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

c: a fluid heterogeneous socioeconomic grouping (as in the U.S.) having a status intermediate between the upper and the lower classes and composed principally of business and professional people, bureaucrats, and some farmers and skilled workers sharing common social characteristics and values

2 middle classes plural : an aggregate of social groupings that includes the upper middle class and the lower middle class

从词典对这个词的清晰解释,我们可以猜测,英文的 middle class 的概念和词汇应该源自 西方工业革命之后的社会经济发展。而根据中国一百多年以来向西方学习的历史,中文的"中产阶级"想必就是对这个西方概念和词汇的翻译。

上中下这种划分方法是对于某个社会而言的,每个社会都可以这么划分,只不过两个社会中同为中产阶级的人所拥有的财产、特征等本身具有的属性在绝对值上可能并不相当。

但"暴发户"是完全不同的概念。"暴发户"指的是这个群体中的个体,他们可以从底层爆发到中间阶层、从中间阶层飞升到上层或者直接从底层飞黄腾达到上层。虽然他们已经"发达"了,但他们可能无法全适应新阶层的行为规范,而且新阶层也不大"待见"这些新锐,对他们的评价并不高。

网络汉语词典《汉典》对"暴发户"的解释如下:

暴发户: 新近突然发了财得了势的人(贬义)

突然发财得势的人家。《儒林外史》第五三回:"也是那些暴发户人家,若是我家,他怎敢大胆!"

《官场现形记》第一回:"城里的大官大府,翰林、尚书,咱伺候过多少,没瞧过他这囚攮的暴发户,在咱面上混充老爷!"

曹禺 《北京人》第一幕: "隔壁那个暴发户杜家天天逼我们的债。"

可见 middle class 和暴发户的内涵与外延虽可能有所重叠,但所指的范围完全不同,不能等同视之。因此,把 middle class 翻译成"暴发户"属于明显误译。

在谈到 organ 指国家"机关"时, 微博上一个帖子说:

国家机关应按照法定权限和程序行使权力。

Government bodies should exercise their powers in accordance with statutory mandate and procedures.

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

"国家机关"中的"机关"以往有译为 **organs** 的情况,但该词实际上**可能会有不好的联想暗示**,有**作为工具被利用**的感觉,而且**不一定直接指向国家机关本身**,所以此处不用。【无关内容省略】

中国自然英语时政话题(18大)英译简注(104:236-238)

这也属于没有凭据的臆测。

《韦氏大辞典》里面对 organ 的完整解释如下:

1 a archaic : a musical instrument <the harp ... the solemn pipe, and dulcimer, all organs of sweet stop — John Milton>

b: any of several large musical instruments producing sustained tones and played by means of a keyboard: (1): a wind instrument consisting of sets of pipes sounded by compressed air, controlled by manual and pedal keyboards, and capable of producing a variety of musical timbres and orchestral effects — called also pipe organ (2): reed organ (3): an instrument in which the sound and resources of the pipe organ are approximated by means of electronic devices

c: one of various similar cruder instruments (as the barrel organ)

d: a division of a pipe organ consisting of a group of stops with their actions and usually an independent keyboard set on a single wind-chest — see choir organ, echo organ, great organ, solo organ, swell organ

2~a:~a~differentiated~structure~(as~a~heart,~kidney,~leaf,~or~stem)~in~an~animal~or~plant~made~up~of~various~cells~and~tissues~and~adapted~for~the~performance~of~some~specific~function~and~grouped~with~other~structures~sharing~a~common~function~into~systems~see~hollow~organ

b: bodily parts performing a function or cooperating in an activity <the eyes and related structures that make up the visual organ>

### c: penis

3: an instrumentality exercising some function or accomplishing some end

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

<the political cartoon is one of the greatest organs of propaganda — A.C.W.Harmsworth>

specifically: a governmental instrumentality operating as a part of a larger organization

<the cabinet's function as a general organ of government without special regard to the king's wishes — Times Literary Supplement>

4: a publication (as a newspaper or magazine) expressing the view of a single person or a special group or specifically serving a special group

<a newspaper that is the official organ of the government>

broadly: periodical <newspaper and magazine clippings should be accompanied by the name of the organ from which they are taken — Western Folklore>

男性的那个独特"organ"只是人类、动物、植物众多器官中的一个,而且 organ 它还有常见的"乐器"、"喉舌"的含义,担心"不好的"联想实属过度紧张。"被利用"的感觉"不好"也是没来由的情感。政府机关是政府的组成部分、为完成任务而设立,被利用或者使用是它的职责所在。在所有其他的民主国家也是如此。而且,Organ 在指政府机关时的含义非常清楚(a governmental instrumentality operating as a part of a larger organization),不会引起读者的任何误解。

把 middle class 误译为"暴发户"和对 organ 这个词没有根据的"感觉"都是因为对词汇的 理解不够透彻。解决这个问题的最好办法就是查词典。对于译员来说,无论是初出茅庐的新 手,还是有丰富经验的老手,勤查词典都是提高译文准确程度进而提高翻译质量的一条捷径。这是因为,无论是"描述性"词典(如《韦氏大辞典》(第三版)、《华津大辞典》),还是 "规定性"的词典(如《韦氏大辞典》(第二版)、《现代汉语词典》、《美国传统英语词典》),它们都是词典编辑专家在查阅了大量资料之后精心编纂的词汇释义库,所依据的都是实际使用的语言(虽然历史阶段彼此可能不同)。如果要培养对一个词汇的"感觉",没有比查词汇知识如此密集的词典效率更高、效果更好的办法了。新手勤查词典能够从无到有或者从少到多地丰富自己的词汇知识,老手查词典则可以巩固已有的词汇知识、温故知新、查缺补漏、继续学习。前者解决的是"有没有,积少成多"的问题,而后者则起到了"锦上添花,精益求精"的作用。

其实,想要学好翻译,工具书是必备的。每本工具书都是宝库。一本好的工具书可以提供"一站式"的服务,方便、快捷,不用蜻蜓点水一般到各种材料里面去找什么一鳞半爪的"感觉"。 我去年专门写了一篇博文,介绍我已经购置和了解的工具书,包括汉语词典、英语词典、同义词词典、英语用法词典和专门的辞书,可供读者诸君参考。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

### 我是怎么学英语的

掐指算来,我学英语已经整整二十三年了。这么漫长的时间大致可以划分为三个阶段。第一个阶段从 1990 年上初中开始,到初中毕业结束,这四年(初三重读了一年)有老师面对面的教;第二个阶段从上中专的 1994 年开始,到 2000 年开始工作为止,这六年为自学,没有老师教,只有自己摸索,考下了自学考试的英语大专证;第三个阶段从参加工作做翻译这个职业开始,边做翻译边学习英语乃至汉语,到现在已经有 13 年的时间了。

第一个阶段,对这门外语充满了好奇,发现英语的发音、单词、习惯用语、句型、语法无一不跟自己熟悉的汉语相差甚远。第一关是发音。记不住单词怎么读,就在上面标上发音大致相同的汉字。自己怎么标的现在都忘记了,因为非常幸运的是,我很快就抛弃这种"汉字音标"法,老老实实地按音标来学习单词读音。但现在还记得老师批判过的一些标法,比如"偷猫肉"(tomorrow)、"他妈偷"(tomato)。

背单词也是个问题。短的还好说,那些长的不死记硬背很难记住。还有英语"臭名昭著"的动词不规则变化(比如 take、took、taken),那是每个学生必须要背下来的(后来发现英语母语人士中文化程度不高的也记不好这个——当然,是在小说和其它阅读材料里面发现的)。还有各种句型和语法,比如 be going to,什么时候用动词原形,什么时候用动词的其它时态,什么一般疑问句、特殊疑问句、感叹句、限制性定语、非限制性定语等等等。这些都还好说,记下来就好了。虽然刚开始感觉不适应,但慢慢地似乎就"习惯"了(比如,不说"我在北京工作",而一定要说"我工作在北京"。这些都不是无法解决的问题,但比如在动作的时间描述方面,英语不但有"现在",还有"过去"和"将来"(这三个还好理解),而且居然还有"过去的过去"、"过去的将来"、"未来的正在"、"将来的已经",实在是匪夷所思!于是,我痛苦地发现,汉语和英语确实是完全不同的两种语言,但具体怎么个不同法,毫无心得——可能就是同一个意思写出来看着不一样吧。

第二个阶段,不再有老师面对面地教了,或者说老师教的自己也不怎么听了。我自己买书、买磁带来学。我没见过面的英语恩师,第一个是台湾的扶忠汉。他的初级、中级、高级"双向式"英语教材和磁带让我学会了美语的发音(而且差点学成方言),还有非常广泛的日常生活用语(从聊天的日常话题、大学校园一直到社会议题),我学到了不少东西。而这些东西,据扶忠汉说,很多人学了十几年甚至好几十年英语都未必会说。这也是他感到自豪的"双向"交流式英语学习法("一问一答")的精髓。

值得一提的是,在我学英语的第二个阶段,外研社引进的一本英汉双解的《朗文美语词典》始终伴随着我,每查一个生词,就记住上面标的音标,绝不想当然地认为单词应该怎么拼写、单词应该怎么念,一切以从词典上查到的为准(即使这样还有误读多年的单词),同时上面的实用例句我也仔细读,努力背下来。

在听的方面,除了扶忠汉教程的很多录音带,我还经常用短波收音机收听 BBC 和美国之音的英语教学节目(比如美国之音电台每天都有的"慢速英语(Special English)"节目)和普通的英语节目(滚动播出的新闻)。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

这是一个积累"量"的阶段,自己虽然学会了一些东西,有点长进,但在英语这个汪洋大海之中,我还是觉得自己是一艘在漆黑的夜晚独自行进在茫茫大海上的小船,不知道应该朝什么方向前进,也不知道怎么前进,颇有"随波逐流"的无力之感。直到 1996 年的一天在学校的阅览室里读到了"疯狂英语"学习法的介绍,找到了至今未见过面的第二位英语恩师李阳,才感觉自己在英语的汪洋大海随风漂流"多年"之后终于瞥见了陆地。我记下教材的邮购地址,选定了一些教材,毫不犹豫地寄过去 200 多元的"巨款"(那可是 17 年之前)。我记得非常清楚,当同学告诉我有我的邮包时,我是从床上跳下来的,因为我知道准是我订购的英语学习资料送到了,至于拿到的手是什么样的包裹现在反倒不记得了。

在他的学习材料中,<u>李阳把自己的学习方法一条一条的总结出来,还给了许多练习的材料</u>(很多句子引自那本英汉双解的《朗文美语词典》),我读过之后,试着学习,深感折服。比如,除了具体的具体操作技巧以外,他提到的"口语突破英语"、"阅读突破英语"两个"战略方向性"的方法对我触动极大,让在英语学习的汪洋大海上迷航的我欣喜异常。

在中国规模庞大、"名师"辈出的英语学习市场上,扶忠汉和李阳两位充其量只是其中或大或小的两朵"浪花"。<u>扶忠汉目前还活跃在中国大陆的英语教学市场</u>,但似乎正在走一条"农村包围城市"的路线(他在三级、四级城市开展教学),没有市场营销,也没有媒体宣传,在主流媒体的"雷达"当中几乎不存在。而李阳的疯狂英语已经做成了一个庞大的商业帝国,他的学习方法与理念乃至本人都是媒体热点,甚至还引起了极大的非议,包括扶忠汉在内的"正统"英语教师和教授都对他的英语学习法颇有微词,认为他的方法没有成熟而完整的理论体系。

有时我也在想,李阳的方法其实也不稀奇,无非是"听说读写",所有的英语乃至外语老师都在讲;他的方法也确实没有成型的理论体系,基本就是"敢干就能成功"精神感召下的"实干",动不动就是"十大焦点"、"一百条秘诀"之类有哗众取宠之嫌的标语。

那么在 **17** 年前,李阳的学习法到底为什么能让我有醍醐灌顶之感呢?现在想来,大约有如下两个原因。

第一,李阳传授的是英语"自学"的方法,成本最低、方法最灵活,非常适合当时的我。他所演示的是"捕鱼"之法,而非仅仅把鱼"献给"学生了事。那次买了他的书之后,甚至不再关注他的"疯狂英语",因为我已经学会了他的学习方法。也许,真正的好老师最后就是这样要被学生忘得一干二净的,只留下他们化于无形的学习方法。

第二,李阳的自学方法具体而明晰,学生看到之后即可实际操练:从口语开始来突破英语。但是,他的方法并非认为词汇、语法、句型、习惯用语等其它语言要素的学习不重要。正相反,它用"开口说句子"这个明确而简单的学习任务和活动来驱动英语能力的整体提升。

这一方法的精髓在于把令人望而生畏的语言学习变成了一个个可望又可及的小目标:句子。 实际上,英语学习中所划分出的词汇、发音、语法和习惯用语等等语言要素是人为做法的结果,并非语言的原生状态。原生语言的终极目标是实现"表达自己"与"理解别人"的双向交流,

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

而李阳所提出的以"句子"为最小单位来"开口学说英语"的方法恰好最低限度地实现了双向交流这个目标。

他的方法其实毫不稀奇,但他做到了其它英语教师没有做到的事情:他用一句简单的话让学生觉得困难重重的外语学习变得可望又可及,同时还把这种学习方法推向了市场,实现了商业化,惠及了广大英语学习者(想一想当年毛泽东领导的我党在"打土豪,分田地,翻身农民闹革命"的口号之下所取得的成功;但如果毛泽东跟农民宣传"共产主义",讲一通马列,会是什么效果?)。

在第二个阶段,英语学习可能不让我感到那么痛苦了,但却又发现英汉两种语言描述的是同一个世界,但视角却是两个,自己经常被"夹"在中间,不知所措。

第三个阶段,我入行做了翻译,于是开始了边翻译边学英语(现在仍然如此)的漫长生涯 (迄今已经 13 年半了,对于我来说不可谓不"漫长")。

我把工作头两三年的公司当成了"居然"给我发学费(即工资)的学校,虽然职位是初级的,工资是入门的(试用期月工资 400 元,其中 200 元交了房租,这段艰苦的时期父母是给了资助的,否则坚持不下来),但只要能学到东西(从英语到计算机使用;入职前我连 Office Word 的复制粘贴功能都不会;也不知道有 control+z 的回退功能,不小心搞"没"的文字就自己重打一遍;依然基本是自己对着书搞,没人手把手教),工资又能够吃饭,我就能保持高昂的学习热情(现在仍然能记得,在黑龙江最冷的冬天,每天下班我最后一个离开办公室,踩着点去坐哈尔滨的 3 路末班车回家,只因为在公司才有电脑、有互联网可以用)。在回顾自己英语学习历程的时候,我想到了这段经历,只是想说,渴望学习的热情能克服一切障碍。

现在回到英语学习这个主题。李阳给英语学习的"听说"部分给出的方案是"开口说句子",而给"读写"部分的答案是"大量阅读,进而模仿",在继续提高口语的同时提高书面语表达能力(李阳给出的第二个方案知道的人就不多了,而且似乎也不是"疯狂英语"营销的重点,因为"读写"见效奇慢,而浮躁的英语学习者要的是"马上见效")。

我在通过"开口说句子"学习了新内容、复习了旧内容之后,在工作时间(这是必须的)和业余时间(这就完全是喜欢了)开始大量阅读(但范围仅限于自己感兴趣的主题,而且仅限于母语作者所写的内容),然后开始模仿写作。但这种模仿不是刻意的,而是在积累了足够的阅读量("厚积")之后,试着以已经读到的东西为基础写出自己的东西来。此时,我在自己的写作练习中的原则是"量入为出",判断标准(先不管它是否完善,我先假定自己的所"厚积"的阅读量已经足以支撑我的"薄发")是"见过这么用词,这么组织句子,这么组织语篇的吗?"(即"入")如果答案是"见过"或者"感觉这么写没问题",我就放心大胆的写(即"出");但如果答案是"没见过",那我就尽量不用甚至规避那些在我的阅读中(包括搜索引擎的搜索结果)没有得到验证的写法。

一些写作的例子如下:

• "More than I can chew" (2002 年写的在京工作感慨)

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

- "Premier Li Keqiang's misplaced fundamental principle of law presumption of guilt"(今年写,挑李克强总理毛病)
- "Ignorant, incompetent and shameless, Han Han as a writer" (批判韩寒造假的"雄文",有5000多单词)

当然,在实际的汉译英工作中,为了完成工作任务,我只能勉为其难地按照"想当然"来翻译。好在客户对英文译文的要求不高,不但没闯祸,还被客户从"矮子"里面选出来当大个"表扬"了一番。比如,我清楚地记得,当时公司给某政府官方网站提供译文,年终总结时,客户对公司大为不满,大意是说"你们做得真差,就这几篇还凑合"。发来一看,这些还凑合的英文译文当中只有一篇不是我做的。英译中的译文也有类似的"故事"。某日本知名公司对我们翻译的一份白皮书感到不甚满意,但说开头的部分做得"还可以"。领导问是谁做的,我看了一眼,感觉不熟,就说"不是我做的"。但继续调查时,发现确实是我做的,只是因为时间有点久没有印象了。

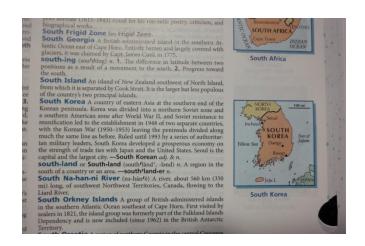
经过大量的英汉、汉英翻译操练,对英汉两种语言自觉和不自觉的对比让我更加深刻地认识 到英汉两种语言之间"同一个世界,不同视角"的关系。但是,当我在工作时间和业余时间继 续扩大中英文阅读面之后,我才发现,除了在翻译中存在的"用不同的视角来观察同一个世 界"以外,其实英语和汉语实乃不同的文化、民族、人种、社会、文学、科学、医学、哲学、 历史、政治、经济、科技、宗教、传统甚至地理在语言方面的体现,只是因为同为人类的中 国人与他们有着相通的情感、好恶与偏见这才让跨语言的沟通(翻译)成为可能。

这是我学英语 23 年、做翻译工作 13 年之后的感悟。我现在深知,如果不能对我们的汉语所代表的一切有相当的了解,又不能对英语所代表的一切有足够的认识,那么自己的汉语就不是真的精通,英语也不是真的学好了。

中国的先贤庄子说:"吾生也有涯,而知也无涯。以有涯随无涯,殆已!"是的,人生苦短,不可能处处亲自到场,也不可能事事亲身试验,而且也没有人能像书那样有求必应、绝无怨言,我只能用阅读来跨越时间与空间的阻隔,通过文字来聆听先贤与今人的见解与感悟。然后,再像现在这样,用自己的笔写出自己的看法与感想。这也是我为自己建了一个小型的家庭图书馆,不停买书、也努力读书,同时定期整理自己的思路并写出来发在自己的博客上与人分享的原因。

现在,阅读对于我来说,已经不仅仅是为了提高汉语和英语的语言能力,更是我用汉英两种语言的视角观察不同时空同一个世界以及多个世界的"法宝",乐此不疲。

### 话说查词典这件事



普通人通常是不怎么查字典或者词典的。这是因为中国话<u>天天听,天天讲,早就学会了</u>,做学生时候也学过了十好几年的语文课,该查的字和词早就查过了。<u>中国人之于汉语是这样</u>,外国人之于他们的母语也差不多如此。但对于把英语当外语来学的中国人来说,情况完全不同,<u>英语词典非但要查</u>,而且还要勤查,勤查好词典。英语词典自然是要查的,但汉语词典也得时不时查一查,这样才能解决学生时代没有察觉的问题。今天我就来说说我对查英语词典的一些看法和经历。

我以前觉得,英语词典有一本不太差的就可以满足我的学习需求了,随便哪一家高水平出版社的随便哪一本高质量词典都行。虽然从小小的一本初中生用的英汉词典到大很多的<u>朗文词典</u>,再到<u>非常适合外国英语学生的柯林斯词典</u>(这部词典我<u>买过三本,从头到尾看过一遍</u>,现在仍然爱不释手),我也买过好几本,但初衷是想通过更厚的词典学到更多的语言知识,从未想过不同的词典对同一个词的"理解"会有所不同(更不用说完全不同了),也没仔细想过即使是英英词典的目标读者也有外国学生和本国普通人之分。据我当时"天真而可爱"的想法,不论哪种词典,无论薄厚,也不论是哪个国家出的,它们都是标准而一致的。但我忘了词典也是由人来编写的,而且还是不同国家,不同时代的人。

2011 年的秋天,我终于意识到自己的词典"武库"应该升级了。我首先瞄上了牛津系列的词典。《牛津大词典》太大、太多、太贵,即使下狠心买来家里也没有地方摆。但《牛津大词典》的"精华本"、两卷的《<u>简编牛津英语大词典</u>》(Shorter Oxford English Dictionary,简称 SOED)(第六版)规模正合适(后来发现还是有点"大",每次翻查都下很大的决心,但每次查下来基本都不会让我失望),于是没怎么犹豫就从亚马逊美国收了这套词典。从此,我开始向英语是母语的人士"看齐"了,查词典时不再满足于用学生词典、学习词典(learners'dictionary)(虽然这类词典现在和将来对我仍然很重要),我要像他们一样查"普通"的词典来解决词汇方面的问题。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

此后几乎是"一发不可收拾", 其他类的词典我也进行了比较缜密的"开发", 收的词典有:

- 《牛津插图词典》(Illustrated Oxford Dictionary)(牛津大学出版社与 DK 合作 出版,有很多插图)
- 《韦氏图解词典》(<u>Merriam-Webster's Visual Dictionary</u>)(按主题分类,有索引, 从宇宙到城市,从地球到房屋各个组成部分的图片和英语名称与解释)
- 《韦氏大辞典》(<u>Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged</u>,简 称 W3)(美国具有划时代意义的英语词典)
- 《韦氏大学词典》(<u>MWCD11</u>)(也许是美国最常用的词典)
- <u>《美国传统英语词典》</u>(AHD5)(<u>大约是印刷最漂亮的词典</u>,与 MWCD 是竞争 对手)。
- 分类词汇词典两种(<u>Roget's International Thesaurus</u>、<u>Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus</u>)
- 英语用法词典两种(《<u>韦氏英语用法词典</u>》、<u>Garner's Modern American Usage</u>) (讲解英语用法疑难问题)
- 同义词词典一种(\_《韦氏同义词词典》\_) (辨析同义词的利器)
- 引语词典两种(Webster's New Explorer Dictionary of Quotations、《<u>牛津引语词</u>典》)(名人名言)

今年的第一天,我甚至还买了一套 **1993** 年版的《大英百科全书》,品相极好,几乎就是新的,没有翻看过。

加上之前买的英英、英汉双解学习词典《朗文当代英语大辞典》(融合百科知识与语言知识)、《柯林斯COBUILD高阶英汉双解学习词典》(英语专业学生乃至翻译人员不能缺少的基础词典和读本),我的国外原版英语词典军团阵容堪称十分整齐了。

国内出版的英语词典,我很早就买了<u>外研社《汉英词典》</u>、"掌上型"<u>《外研社最新简明英汉词典》</u>。去年买了陆谷孙的《英汉大词典》、吴光华的《汉英大词典》,今年买了陆谷孙徒弟高永伟修订的《新英汉词典》(实为陆谷孙《英汉大词典》的精简、扩充版)。

当然了,汉语词典也是不能缺少的:《新华字典》、《现代汉语词典》、<u>《辞海》</u>、《辞源》、《古代汉语词典》、《汉语成语大全》、《汉语谚语词典》、《汉语歇后语词典》。

现在,只要我碰到一个新面孔的词或者让我些许生疑的"老朋友",或者偶尔只是想跟老朋友"叙叙旧",但凡当时不太懒惰,我都会在几本词典里面对照查阅,努力把这个词的"底细"查清楚。我希望这样可以完整地理解新词,也可以补充老词的知识。

假如我发现一个"老面孔"在一个新环境里面的表现出乎意料之外,那就说明对这个"老友"其实并不十分了解,需要去查它的历史档案(词典),而且要查不同作者所记载的档案(不同的词典)。"只知道一半"或者"只知其一,不知其二"是很危险的,因为只要有一个词或者它的任何一个意思理解错误或者不到位都可能搞错整句话的意思。而翻译的时候为了自圆其说,又难免添枝加叶,结果错上加错。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

只有词典,哪怕再多、再好,也不能保证英语能学好、翻译能搞定。确实如此,因为词典不等于英语。但如果没有够好、够多的词典,英语和翻译也是不可能学好、做好的。这里可以套用那句著名的话,学英语,做翻译,"词典不是万能的,但没有词典又是万万不能的"。

我很愿意与大家分享一些我在学英语、做翻译查词典的过程中遇到的一些情况。

### 1. Repair: 往哪里"修"?

学过一点英语的人都知道这个词有"修理"的意思,但它还有一个比较正式的、鲜为人知的意思:"前往",比如: We then repaired to the pavilion for lunch.

### 2. Ancient: 多古算是"古"?

这个词自然是"古代"的意思。但是所描述的对象到底有多"古"呢?英文中的"ancient"有时会特指西罗马帝国公元 476 年灭亡之前的人类历史时期,如果指"古人"又特指古罗马人和古希腊人;而在中国的历史上,1840 年鸦片战争之前都算是"古代",之前的人都算是"古人"。

### 2. Apprehend: 古代的词?

这个词有"逮捕"、"理解"的意思,但还有"担忧"的意思。高永伟版《新英汉词典》把"担忧" 这个词意标为"古"。自从我这个月发现陆谷孙和高永伟把"froward"整个词错标为"古"词之后,对他们的这个标签就不再敢 100% 相信了。陆谷孙的词典这次没有把 apprehend 的"担忧"一项标为"古"。但 AHD5 与高版《新英汉词典》保持一致,也把这个词义标为"古"义。不过 SOED、W3 和 MWCD11 这三大金刚乃至英英英汉双解《朗文当代英语大辞典》均未把这个词义标为"古义"。

### 3. Seasonable: 它的"时间恰好"意思是"古义"?

这个词有两个意思,一是"合时令",也就是冬天像冬天,夏天像夏天;另一个是"时间恰好",也就是"来得早如来的巧"的"巧"。不过,陆版《英汉大辞典》和高版《新英汉词典》把"时间恰好"这个含义标为"古"义。AHD5 再一次与陆版与高版词典保持一致。难道陆版词典(和它的精华版高版词典)与 AHD 颇有渊源?有人说,陆版词典参考了很多国外词典,其中一种是 World Book Dictionary。但 SOED、W3、MWCD11、《朗文当代英语大辞典》也又一次站到一块,均未把这个词义标为"古"义。

现在可以肯定的是, seasonable"时间恰好"这个含义绝非"古"义, 只不过稍微正式一点而已。

### 4. 关于"古"与"废"

很多词典里面都有"古"(archaic)和"废"(obsolete)两个标签。大概是因为各个词典在编辑的时候掌握的资料不近相同,相同的词或者词义在这本词典是"古",在另一本里面可能就是"废"。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

根据 AHD5 的说法(SOED 和 W3 的说法还没查到),所谓的"古"(archaic)是指在 1755 年约翰逊(Samuel Johnson)的《英语语言词典》出版之后在印刷品中少许使用,但 1950 年之后基本不再使用的词和词意;而"废"(obsolete)则指 1755 年之前在文学作品和历史文件中使用而之后不再使用的词和词意。

### 5. Invest: "投资"与"赋予权力"

学英语的时候对单词的理解比一些母语人士还透彻,而且还是很有水平的老外,<u>这是完全可能的</u>。这是因为,母语人士一般疏于查词典(中国人当然也包括在内),只凭自己的印象和经验来判定(其实,到了对自己的"印象"和"经验"颇有信心的阶段已经是很高级的外语学习阶段了),遇到复杂一些词想当然地判断,这时出错就是难免的了。

加拿大一位专门给别人写稿的人在一篇博文里断定 vest 是赋予权力,而 invest 完全不同,它是"投资"的意思。果真如此吗?

非也。<u>invest</u>也有"赋予权力"的意思,跟 vest 是同义词。而且 SOED、W3、MWCD11 也没有把 invest"赋予权力"这个含义标为"古",比较"老旧"的《韦氏英语用法词典》(MWUD)还发现《纽约人》(New Yorker)1971 年时用过这个词的"赋予权力"含义。

其实, invest 的"投资"和"赋予权力"两个意思并非同一个词的两个不同意思, 而是两个不同的词碰巧拼写和读音都一样:"投资"的 invest 源自意大利语, 而"赋予权力"的 invest 则来自拉丁语。

### 6. Prince 只是"王子"吗?

前一阵<u>我狠读爱德华·吉本文笔古隽的历史大作《罗马帝国衰亡史》</u>,在讲罗马皇帝的时候不停地碰到 prince 这个词。我之前只知道 prince 是"王子",但这次的内容跟"王子"肯定没什么关系。一查《韦氏大辞典》,果不其然,prince 原来还有"君主"的意思!

### **7. Phoenix** 是"凤凰", 还是"不死鸟"?

跟把 dragon 翻译成"龙"一样,把 Phoenix 翻译成"凤凰"又是一个误会。Phoenix 跟中国的凤凰虽然相似,但不完全一样。象征祥瑞、幸福的是中国凤凰("古代传说中的百鸟之王,羽毛美丽,雄的叫凤,雌的叫凰。常用来象征祥瑞。");而涅槃后浴火重生的是埃及或者阿拉伯半岛的外国鸟。在日本和韩国,还有中国有的一些词典(比如陆版和高版词典)把它翻译成"不死鸟"、"长生鸟",与"凤凰"并列。

### 8. "阿拉伯沙漠"(Arabian desert)到底在哪里?

很多网上的资料、参考资料和参考书中(比如维基百科、大英百科),"阿拉伯沙漠"(Arabian desert)都仅指阿拉伯半岛上的那片大沙漠;但也有不少同样权威的工具书(比如韦氏词典、

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

兰登书屋词典、柯林斯词典、中国的《辞海》、陆谷孙的《英汉的法词典》)列出另外一个 地理区域,即埃及尼罗河以东、红海以西的那片北非沙漠。

### 余光中: 自豪与自幸——我的国文启蒙

每个人的童年未必都像童话,但是至少该像童年。若是在都市的红尘里长大,不得亲近草木 虫鱼,且又饱受考试的威胁,就不得纵情于杂学闲书,更不得看云、听雨,发一整个下午的 呆。我的中学时代在四川的乡下度过,正是抗战,尽管贫于物质,却富于自然,裕于时光, 稚小的我乃得以亲近山水,且涵泳中国的文学。所以每次忆起童年,我都心存感慰。

我相信一个人的中文根柢,必须深固于中学时代。若是等到大学才来补救,就太晚了,所以大一国文之类的课程不过虚设。我的幸运在于中学时代是在纯朴的乡间度过,而家庭背景和学校教育也宜于学习中文。

一九四〇年秋天,我进入南京青年会中学,成为初一的学生。那家中学在四川江北县悦来场,靠近嘉陵江边,因为抗战,才从南京迁去了当时所谓的"大后方"。不能算是什么名校,但是教学认真。我的中文跟英文底子,都是在那几年打结实的。尤其是英文老师孙良骥先生,严谨而又关切,对我的教益最多。当初若非他教我英文,日后我是否进外文系,大有问题。

至于国文老师,则前后换了好几位。川大毕业的陈梦家先生,兼授国文和历史,虽然深度近视,戴着厚如酱油瓶底的眼镜,却非目光如豆,学问和口才都颇出众。另有一个国文老师,已忘其名,只记得仪容儒雅,身材高大,不像陈老师那么不修边幅,甚至有点邋遢。更记得他是北师大出身,师承自多名士耆宿,就有些看不起陈先生,甚至溢于言表。

高一那年,一位前清的拔贡来教我们国文。他是戴伯琼先生,年已古稀,十足是川人惯称的"老夫子"。依清制科举,每十二年由各省学政考选品学兼优的生员,保送入京,也就是贡入国子监。谓之拔贡。再经朝考及格,可充京官、知县或教职。如此考选拔贡,每县只取一人,真是高材生了。戴老夫子应该就是巴县(即江北县)的拔贡,旧学之好可以想见。冬天他来上课,步履缓慢,意态从容,常着长衫,戴黑帽,坐着讲书。至今我还记得他教周敦颐的《爱莲说》,如何摇头晃脑,用川腔吟诵,有金石之声。这种老派的吟诵,随情转腔,一咏三叹,无论是当众朗诵或者独自低吟,对于体味古文或诗词的意境,最具感性的功效。现在的学生,甚至主修中文系的,也往往只会默读而不会吟诵,与古典文学不免隔了一层。

为了戴老夫子的耆宿背景,我们交作文时,就试写文言。凭我们这一手稚嫩的文言,怎能入 夫子的法眼呢?幸而他颇客气,遇到交文言的,他一律给六十分。后来我们死了心,改写白 话,结果反而获得七八十分,真是出人意外。

有一次和同班的吴显恕读了孔稚珪的《北山移文》,佩服其文采之余,对纷繁的典故似懂非懂,乃持以请教戴老夫子,也带点好奇,有意考他一考。不料夫子一瞥题目,便把书合上,滔滔不绝,不但我们问的典故他如数家珍地详予解答,就连没有问的,他也一并加以讲解,令我们佩服之至。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

国文班上,限于课本,所读毕竟有限,课外研修的师承则来自家庭。我的父母都算不上甚么学者,但他们出身旧式家庭,文言底子照例不弱,至少文理是晓畅通达的。我一进中学,他们就认为我应该读点古文了,父亲便开始教我魏征的《谏太宗十思疏》,母亲也在一旁帮腔。我不太喜欢这种文章,但感于双亲的谆谆指点,也就十分认真地学习。接下来是读《留侯论》,虽然也是以知性为主的议论文,却淋漓恣肆,兼具生动而铿锵的感性,令我非常感动。再下来便是《春夜宴桃李园序》、《吊古战场文》、《与韩荆州书》、《陋室铭》等几篇。我领悟渐深,兴趣渐浓,甚至倒过来央求他们多教一些美文。起初他们不很愿意,认为我应该多读一些载道的文章,但见我颇有进步,也真有兴趣,便又教了《为徐敬业讨武曌檄》、《滕王阁序》、《阿房宫赋》。

父母教我这些,每在讲解之余,各以自己的乡音吟哦给我听。父亲诵的是闽南调,母亲吟的 是常州腔,古典的情操从乡音深处召唤着我,对我都有异常的亲切。就这么,每晚就着摇曳 的桐油灯光,一遍又一遍,有时低回,有时高亢,我习诵着这些古文,忘情地赞叹骈文的工 整典丽,散文的开阖自如。**这样的反复吟咏,潜心体会,对于真正进入古人的感情,去呼 吸历史,涵泳文化,最为深刻、委婉**。日后我在诗文之中展现的古典风格,正以桐油灯下 的夜读为其源头。为此,我永远感激父母当日的启发。

不过那时为我启蒙的,还应该一提二舅父孙有孚先生。那时我们是在悦来场的乡下,住在一座朱氏宗祠里,山下是南去的嘉陵江,涛声日夜不断,入夜尤其撼耳。二舅父家就在附近的另一个山头,和朱家祠堂隔谷相望。父亲经常在重庆城里办公,只有母亲带我住在乡下,教授古文这件事就由二舅父来接手。他比父亲要闲,旧学造诣也似较高,而且更加喜欢美文,正合我的抒情倾向。

他为我讲**了前后《赤壁赋》和《秋声赋》**,一面捧着水烟筒,不时滋滋地抽吸,一面为我娓娓释义,哦哦诵读。他的乡音同于母亲,近于吴侬软语,纤秀之中透出儒雅。他家中藏书不少,最吸引我的是一部插图动人的线装《聊斋志异》。二舅父和父亲那一代,认为这种书轻佻侧艳,只宜偶尔消遣,当然不会鼓励子弟去读。好在二舅父也不怎么反对,课余任我取阅,纵容我神游于人鬼之间。

后来父亲又找来《古文笔法百篇》和《幼学琼林》、《东莱博议》之类,抽教了一些。长夏的午后,吃罢绿豆汤,父亲便躺在竹睡椅上,一卷接一卷地细览他的《纲鉴易知录》,一面叹息盛衰之理,我则畅读旧小说,尤其耽看《三国演义》、《西游记》、《水浒传》,甚至《封神榜》、《东周列国志》、《七侠五义》、《包公案》、《平山冷燕》等等也在闲观之列,但看得最入神也最仔细的,是《三国演义》,连草船借箭那一段的《大雾迷江赋》也读了好几遍。至于《儒林外史》和《红楼梦》,则要到进了大学才认真阅读。当时初看《红楼梦》,只觉其婆婆妈妈,很不耐烦,竟半途而废。早在高中时代,我的英文已经颇有进境,可以自修《莎氏乐府本事》(Tales from Shakespeare: by Charles Lamb),甚至试译拜伦《海罗德公子游记》(Childe Harold's Pilgrimage)的片段。只怪我野心太大,头绪太多,所以读中国作品也未能全力以赴。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

我一直认为,不读旧小说难谓中国的读书人。"高眉"(high-brow)的古典文学固然是在诗文与史哲,但"低眉"(low-brow)的旧小说与民谣、地方戏之类,却为市并与江湖的文化所寄,上至骚人墨客,下至走卒贩夫,广为雅俗共赏。身为中国人而不识**关公、包公、武松、薛仁贵、孙悟空、林黛玉**,是不可思议的。如果说**庄、骚、李、杜、韩、柳、欧、苏**是古典之葩,则西游、水浒、三国、红楼正是民俗之根,有如圆规,缺其一脚必难成其圆。

读中国的旧小说,至少有两大好处。一是可以认识旧社会的民俗风土、市井江湖,为儒道释俗化的三教文化作一注脚;另一则是在文言与白话之间搭一桥梁,俾在两岸自由来往。当代学者概叹学子中文程度日低,开出来的药方常是"多读古书"。其实目前学生中文之病已近膏肓,勉强吞咽几丸孟子或史记,实在是杯水车薪,无济于事,根底太弱,虚不受补。倒是旧小说融贯文白,不但语言生动,句法自然,而且平仄妥帖,词汇丰富;用白话写的,有口语的流畅,无西化之夹生,可谓旧社会白语文的"原汤正味",而用文话写的,如《三国演义》、《聊斋志异》与唐人传奇之类,亦属浅近文言,便于白话过渡。加以故事引人入胜,这些小说最能使青年读者潜化于无形,耽读之余,不知不觉就把中文摸熟弄通,虽不足从事什么声韵训诂,至少可以做到文从字顺,达意通情。

我那一代的中学生,非但没有电视,也难得看到电影,甚至广播也不普及。声色之娱,恐怕只有靠话剧了,所以那是话剧的黄金时代。一位穷乡僻壤的少年要享受故事,最方便的方式就是读旧小说。加以考试压力不大,都市娱乐的诱惑不多而且太远,而长夏午寐之余,隆冬雪窗之内,常与诸葛亮、秦叔宝为伍,其乐何输今日的磁碟、录影带、卡拉 OK? 而更幸运的,是在"且听下回分解"之余,我们那一代的小"看官"们竟把中文读通了。

同学之间互勉的风气也很重要。巴蜀文风颇盛,民间素来重视旧学,可谓弦歌不辍。我的四川同学家里常见线装藏书,有的可能还是珍本,不免拿来校中炫耀,乃得奇书共赏。当时中学生之间,流行的课外读物分为三类:即古典文学,尤其是旧小说;新文学,尤其是三十年代白话小说;翻译文学,尤其是帝俄与苏联的小说。三类之中,我对后面两类并不太热衷,一来因为我勤读英文,进步很快,准备日后直接欣赏原文,至少可读英译本,二来我对当时西化而生硬的新文学文体,多无好感,对一般新诗,尤其是普罗八股,实在看不上眼。同班的吴显恕是蜀人,家多古典藏书,常携来与我共赏,每遇奇文妙句,辄同声啧啧。有一次我们迷上了《西厢记》,爱不释手,甚至会趁下课的十分钟展卷共读,碰上空堂,更并坐在校园的石阶上、膝头摊开张生的苦恋,你一节,我一段,吟咏甚么"颠不刺的见了万千,似这般可喜娘的庞儿罕曾见"。后来发现了苏曼殊的《断鸿零雁记》,也激赏了一阵,并传观彼此抄下的佳句。

至于诗词,则除了课本里的少量作品以外,老师和长辈并未着意为我启蒙,倒是性之相近,习以为常,可谓无师自通。当然起初不是真通,只是感性上觉得美,觉得亲切而已。遇到典故多而背景曲折的作品,就感到隔了一层,纷繁的附注也不暇细读。不过热爱却是真的,从初中起就喜欢唐诗,到了高中更兼好五代与宋之词,历大学时代而不衰。

最奇怪的,是我吟咏古诗的方式,虽得闽腔吴调的口授启蒙,兼采二舅父哦叹之音,日后竟然发展成唯我独有的曼吟回唱,一波三折,余韵不绝,跟长辈比较单调的诵法全然相异。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

五十年来,每逢独处寂寞,例如异国的风如雪夜,或是高速长途独自驾车,便纵情朗吟"弃我去者昨日之日不可留,乱我心者今日之日多烦忧!"或是"长洪斗落生跳波,轻舟南下如投梭,水师绝叫凫雁起,乱石一线争磋磨!"顿觉太白、东坡就在肘边,一股豪气上通唐宋。若是吟起更高古的"老骥伏枥,志在千里。烈士暮年,壮心不已",意兴就更加苍凉了。

《晋书》王敦传说王敦酒后,辄咏曹操这四句古诗,一边用玉如意敲打唾壶作节拍,壶边尽缺。清朝的名诗人龚自珍有这么一首七绝:"回肠荡气感精灵,座客苍凉酒半醒。自别吴郎高咏减,珊瑚击碎有谁听?"说的正是这种酒酣耳热,纵情朗吟,而四座共鸣的豪兴。这也正是中国古典诗感性的生命所在。只用今日的国语来读古诗或者默念,只恐永远难以和李杜呼吸相通,太可惜了。

前年十月,我在英国六个城市巡回诵诗。每次在朗诵自己作品六七首的英译之后,我一定选一两首中国古诗,先读其英译,然后朗吟原文。吟声一断,掌声立起,反应之热烈,从无例外。足见诗之朗诵具有超乎意义的感染性,不幸这种感性教育今已荡然无存,与书法同一式微。

去年十二月,我在"第二届中国文学翻译国际研讨会"上,对各国的汉学家报告我中译王尔德喜剧《温夫人的扇子》的经验,说王尔德的文字好炫才气,每今译者"望洋兴叹"而难以下笔,但是有些地方碰巧,我的译文也会胜过他的原文。众多学者吃了一惊,一起抬头等待下文。我说:"有些地方,例如对仗,英文根本比不上中文。在这种地方,原文不如译文,不是王尔德不如我,而是他捞过了界,竟以英文的弱点来碰中文的强势。"

我以身为中国人自豪, 更以能使用中文为幸。

一九九三年二月二十六日

### 如何做好英汉笔头翻译

首先要搞清什么是"好翻译"。《现代汉语词典》、《辞海》、牛津词典、韦氏词典对"翻译"或者"translate"的释义类似,都是"把一种语言文字的意义用另一种语言文字表达出来"。看似简单,其实不然。法官、裁判要是以这个"条文"来评判翻译好坏,就非要"实施细则"、"司法解释"不可,否则只能根据自己的理解"自由裁量"。一部基督教《圣经》会有那么多种解读,会衍生出那么多宗派,原因也在于此。

现在的翻译界,宗派也不少。**按照汉语的风格和习惯把英文的意思用汉语表达出来**,我笃信的是这一**"汉风派"**,而且我希望大多数译者都能成为这一宗派的忠实信徒。

我们这一派以写"真正的中文"为荣。我们认为,优秀的汉语书面语以经过**提炼的普通话**为基础,把口头无法**有效**表达的意思用**接近口语、朗朗上口**的书面方式表达出来,并符合书面语用词精审、结构谨严、逻辑性强的特点,同时吸收传统书面语的养分。我们基本不理会英文的句子结构,也不亦步亦趋地紧跟英文的词序和单词的"词典式"中文释义。我们的终极目标是写出自然、通顺,乃至有文采的中文。我们自然讨厌"中式外语",但更痛恨"欧化汉语",

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

因为它污染了我们的汉语环境,并且已经造成了难以挽回的巨大损失("入鲍鱼之肆,久闻而不知其臭",不少国人已经不知道什么是符合口语习惯、传统而优美的中文书面语了)。当然,我们也并非是拒绝语言发展与进步的"顽固派"。相反,我们是热情的"革新者"。如果英译汉中的语文创新符合汉语已有的传统,没有"挤走"流畅、优美而自然的汉语传统表达方式,我们还是热烈欢迎的。我们坚信,汉语跟英语一样都是高度发达的语言,无需"欧化"也完全可以用汉语自己的方式消化和吸收从英语引入的新养料。

那么,如何做好英汉笔头翻译呢?要做好,必须搞定三件事,即"理解"、"转换"、"写作"。

"理解"就是读懂英文的意思,表面的和隐含的两层意思都要明白。整个过程也分为三步。第一步,不但要明白作者原话说了什么,还要知道作者的目的和意图。这个就是"书不尽言,言不尽意"和"言外之意"中的"意"。如果知道了这些,译者还能更进一步,可以看出作者哪里词不达意,哪里可以帮他改进,更可以把这一步骤所取得的"成果"用到"写作"中去。第二步,要弄清与英文内容相关的全部背景知识。第三步,要明白原文字面的意思(即"书"),还要读懂每个英文词的字面含义,并理解句子的语法结构和意义。

"转换"就是用自己习惯的口语在头脑中(腹稿)、口头上(可以有意识地提高自己口语表达能力,也可算作口译练习)或者纸面上(草稿)**准确地**"转换"出来。这个过程中,在脑子里复述所正确理解的原文意思效率更高一些,而且可以省口舌、节约纸张(省手指敲键盘的筋力)。

"写作"就是通过兼顾总体与局部的**布局谋篇**把转换出来的意思用汉语书面语**准确、通顺、到 位**地写出来。

在这三个任务中,第一个是大厦的根基,如果基础不牢固,一切白费;第二个考验的是表达能力,是一个输出的过程,自己要明白,别人也要明白;第三个是写作能力的展示舞台,只有把自己最精彩的一面展示给"观众",才能得到他们的最终认可。

#### 谈谈中译英

如果我用英语来写一篇文章、一本书,或者干脆说吧,把中文翻译成英文,我当然是可以做的。不过,我只能尽量做到准确传达我或者原文的本意,避免沟通障碍,但想要实现我的中文博客或者出版物(假如我有)那种阅读体验,我自知绝无可能,至少十年之内我会这么认为。原因很简单,英语是我的外语,我的英语水平何时能够达到我的汉语母语水平,现在我是看不到希望的。

当然,这不是说我就不写英文博客,不做中译英翻译了。因为对阅读的要求没那么高,所以我还是很乐意写英文博客,做中译英翻译的。前者是爱好使然,乐其不疲;后者是工作,不得不做。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

我一直都觉得,中国人学英语的一大悲哀是"背单词",因为背下来的单词总是在单词书里面,平时读书时既看不到,讲话、写东西时又用不到,很快就忘掉了。不过这也不冤,萍水相逢的"单词"是迟早会绝尘而去的。

另一大悲哀就是中国译员做中译英。辛辛苦苦翻译出来的东西其实并不是"英语",只是因为它们可以用作"参考",所以劳动成果还有销路。但要知道,在翻译行业中,国际惯例是译员只把外语翻译成母语,而不是把母语翻译成外语。当然,具体操作的时候译员也不是不能把文字翻译成外语,但翻译出来之后要由母语人士重新编辑。

我们要明白,做中译英我们是"玩票",不能当自己真是专业的了,更不能像<u>日本人要纠正美国人的英语发音</u>那样去自己搞出一套"中国英语"。我们的注意力和精力应该放在英译中上,在做英译中的时候观察同样的意思英文是怎么表达的,然后"反哺"我们的英语能力。

正在备考人事部翻译考试二级笔译的博友**VZ**前两天发了一篇博文《<u>二级笔译备考:中国特色新闻英语[2]</u>》。帖子里面列出的都是短句,读起来基本都像是"翻译"出来的,孤零零地前后不靠,又不像是标题。

以其中的第一句为例:

工业化、信息化、城镇化、农业现代化同步发展

The synchronized development of industrialization, IT application, urbanization and agricultural modernization

这句原文句子不完整, 意思不清楚。

如果把原文改成:我国政府的政策是实现工业化、信息化、城镇化、农业现代化同步发展。

我可以把这句翻译成: The Government aims to make China into an industrialized and urbanized country with a modernized agriculture and benefiting from the development of information technology.

虽然罗嗦了很多,但这才更"像"是英文吧?

在另外一句里面:

重要的是要解决好2亿多农民工逐步融入城市的问题。

A key issue is to help over 200 million farmer-turned migrant workers gradually **adapt** to urban life.

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

译文把"逐步融入"翻译成"逐步适应"gradually adapt。不管有意无意,这是明显的误导,因为不是农民工"不适应"城市,而是城市根本就"不接受"农民工。当然,为了避免有人感到难堪,可以把融入翻译成"assimilate",原译可以改为 ... assimilate into urban life。

我之前读过<u>移民融入新环境的英文材料</u>,里面表示"融入"这个意思的词就用了 assimilate,这个可以算是读英文或者英翻中"反哺"我的英语能力,或者说把汉语翻译成英语的能力。

### 七个步骤学好英语

### 第一步: 树立信心

不少人学英语,捡起英语书又放下,放下又捡起来,反反复复,多年之后仍然不得要领,仍然在英语的门外徘徊,或者进了英语的大门之后面对那些"新鲜"的东西感到茫然无措,无论怎么努力似乎都没有太大的成就感。英语难学吗?我的回答是:方法对了就不难。当然,这绝不是轻视英语学习道路上的一只只拦路虎。说它不难学是战略上的藐视,但在战术上必须十分重视。



作为学了英语多年、做了翻译多年的我,我得透露一个秘密:虽然很多人都把学英语视作畏途,但英语实际上比汉语好学多了。

英语与汉语的显著差别包括,英语其实:

- 1. 更有章可循
- 2. 逻辑更易掌握
- 3. 结构更明晰
- 4. 表达更简单

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

比如,汉语里"大白话"到了英语里就是"警句"。"A diamond is forever"这句话,意思就是"钻石是永远",就这么一句简单的大白话从 20 世纪 40 年代开始就是国际钻石巨头戴比尔斯公司的营销口号。这么"寒碜"的丑小鸭到了汉语里面必须"华丽"变身才可以。而且,光翻译成"钻石恒久远"都不够,必须还得加上一句"一颗永流传",否则"独木难支"。

再比如,曾三度担任加拿大总理 William Lyon Mackenzie King 在 1936 年下议院一次发言中说: "If some countries have too much history, we have too much geography"(如果有的国家历史太多,那么我们的"地理"太多)。在脱离上下文的情况下,这句话的含义不是太好理解。不过他无非就是在说"加拿大虽然历史不长,但它的地盘很大,不要小看我们"。(这大约是对欧洲国家说的,要是对中国、印度、俄罗斯这种国家说就难免有点不识相了。)意思虽然是这样,但要把它在汉语里写成一句符合总理身份的豪言壮语却着实很难,必须把它打磨成"别的国家历史悠久,但我们的国家地大物博"之类的"警句"。

### 第二步:明确目标

学习英语的目标简单而明确,那就是掌握这门外语,让它像我们的母语汉语一样成为学习、工作和生活中**自然而然**的一部分、一个有力工具,而不是一只拦路老虎。也就是说,为了交流,为了沟通,**我们要把英语当成语言本身来学习,绝不能把它当成科学来研究,也不能当成哲学来分析**。否则就像不去欣赏一首歌的优美旋律,不去试着自己唱,反而去研究它的音乐理论,音乐技巧一样,最后一定变得十分乏味!

### 第三步: 现在行动! Act Now!

承认吧,现在大家都有不少想法。慢慢想,仔细想。到最后却变成了白想,因为没有付诸于行动!有句话怎么说来着?良好的开端就是成功的一半。A good beginning is half done.

### 第四步:翻烂词典

学英语的第一步是先搞定单词,否则一切无从谈起。遇到不太明白的单词或者有些许疑问(比如,"这个词在读到的句子里貌似解释不通啊!"),**就查!查!查!**千万不要觉得你认识它了,了解它了。学了二十多年英语、做了十多年英语翻译的我还在不停地查词典,你还犹豫什么!?

但首先,"背单词"这个说法必须从今天开始从你的词典里抹去,一定断了"背单词"的念想。 因为人的大脑不是电脑硬盘,想把单词从词典复制粘贴到大脑里是不可能的。

我在这里**隆重、郑重、强烈**地推荐一本超级好用的——<u>《柯林斯高阶英语学习词典》</u>。这本书**两个版本我买了三本**,而且**从头到尾读过一遍**。这本英语学习词典可以当成好书来读, 越读越有味道。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

这本词典的特色是,它讲单词在某个场合下的意思,还有在使用这个单词时说话人的想法、态度和心思,最重要的是还给出实际生活中的鲜活例子,绝对不是编辑"闭门造车、出门不合辙"的臆想。

每个单词的每条意思和每条实际例句这样读下来,记一记,我们就可以在表达自己时自信地使用这些单词。整部词典每一页都有英语单词的"故事和经历",读过之后,我们就会与它成为"人生挚友"。这样的单词朋友,不知道要比"萍水相逢"、硬"背"下来的单词靠谱多少倍!

想想你原来是怎么学习单词的?说到背单词,我就想起初中时一本英语磁带里一个浑厚的男中音说: "......Take 拿、取、就坐等......"这是多么的乏味啊!

现在就告诉自己: **Take action!** Get this Collins dictionary and read it for fun! 现在就行动! 搞一本柯林斯词典,畅享悦读吧!

我当年买的、读的都是英文版的,但<u>你必须要买双语版的</u>,因为你现在需要的是在英语和汉语之间<u>快速建立起"对等"的联系</u>,需要把你多年以来以汉语形式储存在你头脑中的知识和经验迅速变成英语财富。而且你的目标是**把这本词典翻烂,然后再买一本新的**。

### 第五步: 听出茧子、说破嗓子

我们都希望可以用英语侃侃而谈吧?怎么可以做到呢?我们可以试着回忆一下自己当初是怎么学会说话的。不过,我们基本是回忆不起来什么的,因为学说话的第一个阶段一般是在一岁到三岁之间,而人一般都在三岁之后才开始有记忆的(不信你可以去问小孩,问他们"你是几岁到爸妈家的?",他们给的答案大多数都是"三岁!")。

但我们可以观察小孩。

据观察,我儿子开始是默默地听大人说话的,然后学跟他相关的话,直到有一天他开始自己说话,语惊四座,让我们惊叹于人类的大脑怎么会这么神奇!

看美剧、看英语大片、老片、看 BBC 的纪录片、听美国之音的广播,看字幕学着说。学说 英语挺简单的,其实就是动舌头,努力练!

第六步:读通书本、勤于思考、多动笔

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南



会听又会说了,是不是觉得自己挺牛了?其实还不行,因为这只是属于"能听说,不会读写"的"文盲"级别。要想进一步提升到"跨时空"的交流沟通,你就不能不掌握读写两大技能。

在现实生活中,对于我们景仰的古今中外的大师,很难相见,更不大可能亲耳聆听他们的教诲。实际上,即使自己最亲密的人也不可能"随叫随到"地给我们思想上的"教诲"或者听我们灵魂上的"罗嗦"。有书就不一样了,比如现在,我随时可以把爱德华·吉本请来给我讲讲罗马帝国的兴衰,或者让美国著名的英语用法专家 Bryan A. Garner给我讲讲英文怎么用最好,或者让韦氏大辞典的编辑们讲讲同义词怎么区分。这些大师对你侃侃而谈,绝对有耐心,绝对不会嫌烦,这一点除了书本谁也做不到。

读了很多,积累了很多,是不是打算写出来,与别人分享一下呢?人类与动物的一大区别就是,人类可以借助先辈和旁人的已有成果继续前进,不必重新摸索一遍,而动物不能。如果你也像我一样这么热衷于、这么严肃地写写东西,那么你也可以像我一样开个博客,而且是开个自己域名的博客。分享是快乐的。

### 第七步: 听活龙怎么说

我说的这么多,都是经验之谈,但这还不是全部。我的博客内容更加丰富,有<u>读书、英语</u>,也有用英语写的内容,甚至还编了个故事。学习英语,关注活龙翻译博客!

### 原文的风格

话说做什么的不吃什么。比如做薯片的不吃或者不再吃薯片。还比如菜农不吃自己卖的菜,只吃自留地上给自己种的特供菜。更绝的是自从开了饭店就所有饭店都不去吃了,即使被迫去吃也只吃几种菜。至于我,翻译做久了就再也不愿意看翻译的书了。如果一定要看也是挑着看,比如美国人伊迪丝•格罗斯曼翻译<u>英文版《霍乱时期的爱情》</u>,原文是作者马尔克斯用西班语写的。还比如<u>梁实秋翻译的《沉思录》</u>,<u>傅雷翻译的法语小说</u>。为什么会这样?原因很简单:知道内幕。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

还记得前一阵《霍乱时期的爱情》又出了中文新版,译者在新闻里面说她的译文保留了"原文的风格"。我心里说,她不如说这个新中文版采用了英语或者西班语语法得了。目前中国出版的<u>汉语</u>译著几乎靠毫无例外的都是严格遵循外国语语法的<u>中文造句练习</u>,而且很多情况下原文都没有看懂译者也敢拿来练。我很难把这种东西称为"中文"。

这种欧化的语文垃圾在中国还颇有市场。不过,图书市场的消费者也真是没辙,就好比他们也必须得吃滥施农药的农产品和被人下"毒"的加工食品一样。但有一点不同的是,至少还有法律法规来管管这些农产品和加工食品,而且菜农和食品厂至少还不太好意思为自己辩白。制造欧化语文垃圾的人就不一样了。他们有尚方宝剑——"原文的风格"。他们不但振振有词地说"原文就是那样",而且还非常可恶地说中国读者已经习惯乃至喜欢"欧风"了。实际情况是,跟我们绝大多数人不得不吃本国产的菜和食品一样,绝大多数人的外语又没有好到可以直接去读原著的程度,不读这种语文垃圾又能读什么外国书呢?

如果"原文风格"说成立的话,那么英语的著作也可以用中文的语法来造句。这样一来,就不 用太麻烦外国人,中国的作品就可以由国人大翻特翻成英语,打入欧美图书市场。如果英语 母语读者受不了了,我们就说:"忍忍吧,同志。原文就是那样的!"

我认为出现欧化的原因有两个。一个是故意的。译者原本可以把自己的译文按照汉语现时的习惯改造一下,但这样做耗时费力又劳神,他们不乐意。俗话说"画鬼容易画人难",这类译者深谙此道。他们就把外国或英俊或漂亮的"人"活活画成丑陋无比的中国"鬼"。吊诡的是,这种鬼数量多、势力大了以后居然不怕阳光,不但入了中国籍,与原本的中国人平起平坐,现在还想把我们赶到一边凉快去。这简直是岂有此理!另外一个是译者真不是故意的,只是因为他们的外语理解能力和汉语写作能力实在有限,强求不来。

另外,就凭现在市场上给中国译者开出的图书翻译稿酬,能找到什么"好人"来翻译?"好人"早就去攀别的高枝了,剩下的要么是"坏人",要么就是几乎不存在的余则成式"深海",出淤泥而不染。此外,出版社图书编辑的日子也好过不到哪里去,也许还更差,就凭给他们开出的那点"军饷",还能指望他们都是想当将军的好"战士"吗?随便给看看、改改就不错了。

解决的办法,一是译者不要再故意制造中国语文垃圾,二是译者学习提高外语理解能力和汉语表达能力,写真正的汉语文章。同时也期待图书翻译市场除了能让译者获得成就感之外,也有与所译图书重要性相称的丰厚报酬。

### 疯狂的李阳

我很早就发现很多人对李阳极力推广的英语学习方法并不以为然,还有人甚至因为他的学习方法而讨厌他,觉得李阳大喊大叫的学习方法有病,跟轮子、传销差异不大。最近更是因为他让"弟子"对他<u>下跪</u>,以示对恩师的感谢之情,并且让女"弟子"<u>剃光</u>头发以"名"学好英语的志向,而惹得众人大为不满,认为他侮辱了学生的人格。

英语学习在中国有着巨大的市场,花样翻新的英语学习法、英语大师、学习工具和英语学校让人应接不暇。它们就像一阵阵的风潮,吹过一阵再来一阵新的。就好像新的手机款式一样,

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

等市场对某个款式的手机审美疲劳了,就有新的出来接棒,如此循环长盛不衰。而且,只要 美国和中国都不倒,这股热潮永远不会消退。

对于我来说,就赶上了两股风潮,一个是<u>扶忠汉</u>,另外一个就是李阳。据我现在想来,曾经在台湾当过兵的扶忠汉对我最大的影响就是把我的英语学习的口音从懵懂的学校发音改成了一种美国发音。还好当时我有一本比较好的美语词典,不然要被他的方言口音的磁带训练成不知道什么样子。

时间到了1996年,在我上学的会计中专的阅览室里面,我看到了一期《英语沙龙》,里面介绍了李阳和他的学习方法。记得当时非常激动,马上就按照上面的地址寄过去一封信,不久以后收到一份学习资料的清单。我狠了狠心,选了200多块钱的书。钱寄出后不久就收到了他的学习资料,包括录音带。

跟现在的李阳的弟子一样,我当时也受到了极大的鼓舞,除了按照他的方法"疯狂"练习之外,还充满信心地踏上了疯狂英语推广之旅。我不但在家乡的一所初中学校散发自制的传单,还找到曾经教过我数学、时任另外一所中学校长的初中老师,组织起了一个班级的学生听我在讲台上讲述李阳的学习方法。对于一个曾经在课堂上回答问题张可结舌,怕羞的要死的我来说,能做出这种事情就证明我真地也着了疯狂李阳的魔。

尽管我也为"疯狂英语"做了一些推广的事情,但从来没有跟"总部"发生过任何联系,基本上算是李阳学习法的热心推广者。但我推广"李阳"疯狂学习法的热情没有持续多长时间,因为我后来发现人们只不过把它当作"另外"一种英语学习方法而已,他们学习的方法还是迫于种种需要或者身边的小环境或者积重难返等等原因跟应试的学校英语教育方法并无二致,无非就是背背单词,做做选择题,英语写作最好的情况也就像八股文一样。后来,我抱着能拯救自己的英语就可以了的态度,对向我"讨教"如何学英语的人不再那么热心,因为我知道这些人大都是三分钟热血而已,因为对于他们来说,学英语是一件需要"坚持"的事情,做自己根本不喜欢的事情几乎没有人能够"坚持"得长久。就我来说,我从来没有在学习英语的过程中"痛苦"地坚持过任何东西,我觉得那是一种乐趣,一种通过另外一种语言窥视人类文明的乐趣。

如果现在有人再问我怎么学英语,一般我的做法就是把李阳列出的十个学习概念和方法的<u>链</u> <u>接</u>(为此我专门做了一个)发给他们,嘱咐其中每个方法背诵一个星期,两个月之后再来找 我谈谈自己的背诵心得,结果是没有一个人后来再找过我。于是我据此认为,他们根本对李阳的方法不感冒,我也就懒得再费什么口舌,也不算我对不起他们,不愿意帮他们那个忙。

说来惭愧,从 96 年算起到现在也有 10 多年了,我的英语学得怎么样呢?离我的目标还是有很远、很远的距离。随着学习的加深,并没有觉得要学的东西就能变少了,相反却是越来越多。比如,我听的不够,读的也不够,结果就是因为没有可以模仿的样板,口语和<u>书面</u>表达能力都难尽人意————我的最低目标是要达到英语为母语的人的平均水平,最高目标是要高过受大学教育的母语人群的水平,就像在中国众人皆知的大山那样—————般的中国

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

人哪个会说相声?我的老实话是这样说的,但是到了我的工作中,还是得靠仅有的这一点英语的知识去养家糊口。

李阳的疯狂英语到底是个啥东西呢?我觉得。如果理解了以下几点,就不用再去买李阳的书、录音、录像资料了。这也许是我后来没有再买他的书的原因吧。

语言是要用来交流的,学它不是为了考试。学语言就是学说、学写。那怎么才能又会说又会写呢?每个上过初中英语课的人其实都知道,那就是语言大家们很早很早以前就总结出来的"<u>听说读写</u>"。这四个字并不是随机排列的。就跟婴儿呀呀学汉语那样,他不听大人怎么说自己拿什么说?还有就是写,没见过正确、优美的书面语,怎么知道该写什么?更别谈自己的发挥了。

那,从哪里开始呢?从眼睛和嘴巴开始。

李阳有两个方法,一是"三最口腔肌肉训练法",即"用最大声、最清晰、最快速的办法反复操练句子或小短文直至脱口而出"。这个方法也要注意顺序,我就亲眼见过一个哥们一大早上跟神灵附体一样阴森地站在黑暗的走廊窗户旁如同和尚念经一般快速、大声嘟囔着我怎么也听不懂的英语句子。他精神可嘉,但方法不对。大声是基础,清晰准确地发音是正途,接下来才能是快速。

具体怎么个<u>操练法</u>呢?李阳的方法是"一口气练习"和"五大发音要点",即"长元音双元音饱满;短元音急促;连音;略音和咬舌头"。这五点个个都是针对中国人的,比如普通话的发音基本没有什么长短原音———都是一般长!于是father和mother在大多数中国人的口里听不出这个a和o有什么差别。

在此基础之上,如果一个人会正确地说出的英语,他自己会听不懂吗(听力)?会不认识话里的单词吗(背单词)?会不了解里面的语法吗(语法)?这句话在考试题里出现这个人会像眼吗(考试)?

写作也是同样的道理,多读多看多听,知道了什么是好的、正确的、高雅的,照着模仿就是了,然后就可以自己发挥了。

### 学好英语的秘诀: 四字真言

实际上本文的题目应该是:学好外语的秘诀。可是,我觉得,要谈的其实是英语,需要更具体一点,就权且用这个题目。实际上,这个"四字真言"我觉得也适用于其他外语的学习。

学好外语的秘诀是什么?书店可以给出至少一书架的答案,外语培训机构也可以给出价值从**100**元到**10**万元不等的解决方案。

实际上,学好外语的秘诀在义务教育阶段的学校里我们一开始学习外语的时候老师就已经告诉我们了。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

这个秘密可以用故弄玄虚的"四字真言"来增加神秘色彩。其实这四个字就是"听说读写"。每个学过外语的人都不会对这四个字感到陌生吧。但是,似乎并不是每个人都能深刻理解这四个字所传达的终极含义。

从回忆我们开始汉语的儿时开始谈。

首先自然是**从听开始**。不听大人们说,我们就没有学习的样板。如果汉语怎么说的连听都没听过,我们怎么能说得好呢?所以,我,还有有兴趣读这篇短文的你,下次再自责自己口语不是很好的时候,问一下自己:"你知道英语是**怎么说**的吗?你到底知不知道要表达某个意思的时候,英语是**怎么说**的?"如果这些我们都知道,还有什么问题?知道怎么说的自己学着说不就完了!如果不知道,我们不会说就对了。

光会听会说汉语就完了吗?自然不是,那样岂不是跟文盲一样了。会听会说的下一步就是会读会写,这是所谓的"读书认字"。语文课本里那么多的文章,都是历久弥新留存于世的经典中的经典。让我们读这些文章,不是读着玩。那些都是我们要模仿的对象。只有自己积累了一定的厚度才**有资格**自己去写,开始的时候只能模仿。这就是所谓的"厚积薄发"吧?英语何尝不是如此呢?

但我们中国学生(也包括曾经是学生的老师)的传统似乎是"哑巴聋子英语",号称"读写"比"听说"好得多、强得多。

我个人觉得这是屁话。就好像人的身体健康,语言能力也是一个整体,它健康与否的一个关键性的指标都出大毛病了("你会不会听?会不会说?"———"不好意思,听说都不太好。"),它的另外一部分(读写)能安枕无忧?别骗自己了。听说读写之间,绝对是相互关联、"一损俱损、一荣俱荣"的关系。一个方面比较强自然能对其他方面带来好处,但是同样的,任何一个方面不足都会拖其他方面的后腿。实际上,这里可以用著名的"木桶理论"来描述一个人的英语"健康程度"—它取决于那个最短的板。就是说,不是听说读写来个平均值就是英语能力的值了,而是最差的那个方面(对中国学生来说就是听说)就代表了我们英语水准的现状。不用怀疑,也不用狡辩:我们的英语千真万确地跟听说能力一样的差。

现在回到怎么写好英语的问题。其实答案在本文讨论上一个问题的时候就已经有了。-

"我,还有有兴趣读这篇短文的你,下次再自责自己写得不是很好的时候,问一下自己:'你知道英语是**怎么写**的吗?你到底知不知道要表达某个意思的时候,英语是**怎么写**的?'如果这些我们都知道,还有什么问题?知道怎么写的自己学着写不就完了!如果不知道,我们不会写就对了。"

BBC Radio 4: http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/

说翻译——中国式英语和欧化汉语

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

狭 义的中国式英语大概是指中国的道路、各种营业场所、媒体等等各种场合中出现的看似 英语字母其实并不是"英语"的文字。这类中国式英语大都是劣质翻译的产 物。广义一点的 中国式英语,也许还能有一点正面的色彩,大概可以包括所有具有中国特色的"好"英语。中 国的事情用英语说,中国特色似乎是免不了的了。

狭义"中国式英语"普及的深度和广度似乎已经超出了一般人的想像。我的观察结果是,在中国的出版物中,如果同时出现中文和英文,英文正确无误的情况非常少见。出版物尚且如此,其他场合出现的中文附带的英译更是可想而知了。如今已经平等开放了的中国,张开臂膀迎接海外来客,他们带回国的除了对这个巨变之中的"中央之国"的惊愕,还有对这片土地一大奇景"Chinglish"的嫣然 1。汉语欧化,据说从五四运动开始,就已经成为了一种潮流。伴随新时代应运而生的那批青年人要把一切都跟过去划清界限,中国语文自然是不能例外的。其中一个典型人物就是大名鼎鼎的鲁迅,他的文章读起来别有风味,疙疙瘩瘩,还能间或瞧见和制汉字的影子(比如《记念刘和珍君》一文题目中"记念"二字)。 2 其实这只是汉语言发展变化中一个历史阶段而已,后来的中国文人用自己的辛勤劳动把汉语言的书面语发展成现在这个样子——现在的书面语到底是什么样子,用一本书也说不清楚。

汉 族人几千年走过来,血统其实已经变得十分复杂。据说比较纯粹的汉族人是现在被称为"客家人"的独特群体。这样看来,唯独要求汉语保持"纯粹"是十分没有道 理的,而且也不符合"事物始终是在发展变化的"这一马克思辩证唯物主义真理。但是,这也绝对不是"欧化"为害汉语的理论根据。

东方奇景"中国式英语"和为害一方的"欧化汉语"的作恶者就是我们这些"翻译"。

在翻译当中,如果不是有政治、法律、场合等方面特别的要求的话,最理想的状态是:用目标阅读人群的写作和阅读习惯去重写要翻译的内容。此乃翻译实为重写之意。

这对翻译人员来说是极高的要求,不但需要翻译人员精通源语言和目标语言本身以及背后的 文化、政治、经济和历史等等各个方面的背景知识,而且如果涉及到各科专业,虽然有人会 体贴翻译人员并不是这行真正的专家,但还是会要求翻译人员对相关的专业相当地了解。

学海无涯:翻译路上生命不熄,学习不止。至少别残害我们的汉语。

1 甲:如今已经平等开放了的中国,张开臂膀迎接海外来客,他们带回国的除了对这个巨变之中的"中央之国"的惊愕,还有对这片土地一大奇景"Chinglish"的嫣然。【这句话滥用名词,典型的欧化汉语】

乙: 如今,中国以平等、开放的姿态,张开臂膀迎接来世界各地的朋友。这些人来到中国,看到了"中央之国"近 30 年里所发生的巨变,这让他们感到惊愕;同时,不知所云的奇景 "Chinglish"也让他们无可奈何,乃至嫣然而笑,感受到了另一番别样的东方滋味。【这也许更接近口语】

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

**2** 虽然根据现在文法规则,他的作品不合规矩的地方太多,但是一代又一代的中国学生还是在前赴后继钻研不止。力捧鲁迅可能与政治有关。虽然鲁迅在当时代表的不过是中国各种不同声音中的一种,但他的作品跟中国共产党**当时**的意识形态相一致,得到了共产党人的推崇,而且大有把鲁迅纳入自己阵营的意思,于是现在的学生甚至不是学生多年的人都误认为鲁迅的声音是那时的主流,实际非也。

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### 推荐阅读:

- 1. 搶救台灣中文
- 2. 有关「欧化中文」
- 3. 認識歐化詞法對中文的影響

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

### 2.3 实务议题

### 中国人是天生的蠢货吗?

就算是吧,但你见过这么"聪明"的蠢货吗?这里说的"聪明"有两个意思。一个是"真聪明"。 文明与文化的中国历经几千年的风霜雨雪而屹立不倒,依然枝繁叶茂,这是生命力顽强的表 现,非"真聪明"无法做到。另一个是"小聪明"。当然,小聪明经常"聪明反被聪明误",是另 外一种"愚蠢",但它只是哲学家所说的"愚蠢",而非词典学家所说的愚蠢,与脑子不灵光的 "愚蠢"又不全是一回事。比如,在改革开放之初,中国原本打算避免西方工业化走过的"老 路",比如"先污染后治理",还比如"贫富两极分化"。三十多年后的今天,中国被自己和国外 转移过来的污染行业和国民的消费文明的弄得山河失色, 不见天日。 华北各大城市连续几年 时长雾霾压顶,俨然是一个又一个的雾都,让阅读狄更斯、福尔摩斯时代英国小说的中国读 者在读到伦敦大雾的描写时倍感亲切。最近十几二十年,中国的国民普遍富裕起来了,整个 国家跨入了消费新时代,似乎人人都在享受新时代的物质文明发展带来的硕果,但有些没能 赶上时代大潮和被抛下时代列车的群体却还在过着黑非洲穷国国民也不如的日子。不过,中 国人是很有点小聪明的。比如,对于蓝天的天数、污染的指数和国民的收入、贫困线,可以 用测量数据、衡量标准和统计数字来粉饰。对于一些工厂来说,既然不能排放污水到河流里 面去,那就把污水高压打进地下水,"看不到"河水有污染就好了,当地政府也不置可否,反 正政府收到税、长官有政绩就行了。至于当地不知情的居民喝了被污染的地下水得了病怎么 治,治不好了怎么死,不关他们的事。

最近我在网上看到<u>有人报告说马克思曾批评中国人"天生愚蠢",是"生来的蠢货"</u>,上面这段议论就是我看到之后的感言。果真如此的话,这让以马克思主义为立党立国之本的现代中国情何以堪呢?其实不光这些,让中国的马列主义者难堪的还有马克思与女佣私通生子还"栽赃"给恩格斯、列宁死于梅毒、苏联早期干部腐败就很盛行等等说法。

其它事情可能还有情可原。不过,我总觉得"中国人天生愚蠢"这句话会出自马克思的口有点奇怪,因为中国人是"大智若愚"的,作为智者的马克思不会看不透这个。

原来,在马克思于 **1853** 年 **6** 月 **14** 日在《纽约每日论坛》(York Daily Tribune)上发表一篇题目为《中国革命和欧洲革命》(Revolution in China and In Europe)的文章里有一段结尾处写到:

It would seem as though history had first to make this whole people drunk before it could rouse them out of their hereditary stupidity.

这句话里,stupidity 是"愚蠢",hereditary 是"与生俱来",hereditary stupidity 合起来就 是"天生愚蠢","生来的蠢货"。

真是无巧不成书,几个月前我恰好写过一篇《<u>人类的语言是相通的:"傻了"英语怎么说?</u>》, 里面就探讨了 **stupid** 和 **silly** 这两个表示"傻"的词。我发现,同汉语里的"傻"除了表示"愚

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

蠢"之外,英语的 **stupid** 和 **silly** 也有"感觉迟钝、昏沉、麻木、呆若木鸡"等等意思。那么,中国人"天生愚蠢",是"生来的蠢货"这个说法是不是一个翻译错误呢?

马克思这段话的原文如下:

Up to 1830, the balance of trade being continually in favor of the Chinese, there existed an uninterrupted importation of silver from India, Britain and the United States into China. Since 1833, and especially since 1840, the export of silver from China to India has become almost exhausting for the Celestial Empire. Hence the strong decrees of the Emperor against the opium trade, responded to by still stronger resistance to his measures. Besides this immediate economical consequence, the bribery connected with opium smuggling has entirely demoralized the Chinese State officers in the Southern provinces. Just as the Emperor was wont to be considered the father of all China, so his officers were looked upon as sustaining the paternal relation to their respective districts. But this patriarchal authority, the only moral link embracing the vast machinery of the State, has gradually been corroded by the corruption of those officers, who have made great gains by conniving at opium smuggling. This has occurred principally in the same Southern provinces where the rebellion commenced. It is almost needless to observe that, in the same measure in which opium has obtained the sovereignty over the Chinese, the Emperor and his staff of pedantic mandarins have become dispossessed of their own sovereignty. It would seem as though history had first to make this whole people drunk before it could rouse them out of their hereditary stupidity.

中国官方版的马克思文献如下翻译这段话:

在 1830 年以前,当中国人在对外贸易上经常是出超的时候,白银是不断地从印度、不列颠和美国向中国输出的。可是从 1833 年起,特别是 1840 年以来,由中国向印度输出的白银是这样多,以致天朝帝国的银源有枯竭的危险。因此皇帝下诏严禁鸦片贸易,结果引起了比他的诏书更有力的反抗。除了这些直接的经济后果之外,和私贩鸦片有关的贪污也从精神方面使中国南方各省的国家官吏完全腐化。就像皇帝通常被尊为全国的君父一样,皇帝的每一个官吏也都在他所管辖的地区内被看作是这种父权的代表。可是,那些纵容鸦片走私、聚敛私财的官吏的贪污行为,却逐渐腐蚀着这个家长制的权力,腐蚀着这个广大的国家机器的各部分间的唯一的精神联系。存在这种情况的地方,主要正是首先起义的南方各省。所以很明显,随着鸦片日益成为中国人的统治者,皇帝及其周围墨守成规的大官们也就日益丧失自己的权力。历史的发展,好像是首先要麻醉这个国家的人民,然后才有可能把他们从历来的麻木状态中唤醒似的。

英文原版和中文译文全文我都仔细读了几遍,发现中文译文虽然读起来不够通顺,但译文很明显经过了千锤百炼,在准确传达原文意思方面堪称典范。而且,我觉得中文版里面把hereditary stupidity 翻译成"历来的麻木状态"并无不妥。恰恰相反,"麻木"就是"stupidity"在文中的意思,而非现在更为常见的"愚蠢"。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

马克思的这篇短文,讲的是中国作为欧洲列强的倾销市场如果发生大的变故会给欧洲带来严重的政治后果。文中对中国有很多描述,但没有一处可以看出作者是在说"中国人天生愚蠢"。只是在第四段讲鸦片贸易和被禁止后的鸦片走私以及鸦片作为毒品对中国的经济、政治、社会和民众的瓦解作用时说到鸦片主宰了中国人民,而皇帝和他的官员则相应地失去了对人民的主宰。本段结束时,马克思才说:"历史的发展,好像是首先要麻醉这个国家的人民,然后才有可能把他们从历来的**麻木状态**中唤醒似的。"很明显,马克思这里说的 drunk (麻醉)与后面的 stupidity (麻木)都跟吸食鸦片有逻辑上的联系。他是在说,中国人似乎只有在类似鸦片这种让人昏昏欲睡的"毒品""麻醉"之后(不过,不合时宜地自诩为"中央之国"、"天朝上国"何尝不也是一种让我们当年自绝于世界文明的精神"昏睡"呢),才能从这种麻醉状态下的"麻木"中振奋起来。整篇文章,前面和后面都没在说中国人"蠢",把 stupidity 理解成"愚蠢"应该是一种误读。

根据《韦氏大辞典》(第三版)stupid 词条的语源部分:

Middle French *stupide*, from Latin *stupidus*, from *stupēre* to be benumbed, be astonished, be stupefied; akin to Greek *typtein* to beat, strike

英语中的 stupid 从 14-16 世纪的中古法语词汇 stupide 而来,最初来自拉丁语的 stupidus 和 stupēre, 意思是"使迟钝; 使麻木; 使失去感觉","吃惊","目瞪口呆、呆若木鸡"。

在马克思的这篇文章中,从 stupid 衍生而来的 stupidity 的意思是"冷漠、无动于衷、漠不关心、感觉迟钝、麻木、神志不清、不省人事、无生气"(《牛津大词典》简编本):

Stupid: Apathetic; indifferent, insensitive; characterized by stupor or insensibility, lethargic.

在当代英语中, **stupid** 这个词的最常见意思确实为"愚蠢"。一些词典已经把表示 **stupid** 的 "麻木"义项标为"废语"或者"罕见",或者根本没有收录这个意思。不过,在马克思写这篇文章的 **19** 世纪,这一用法还是比较常见的。

不仅如此,人昏睡过去,麻木不仁可以"唤醒",属于"功能性障碍",但天生的"愚蠢"是"器质性病变",是"硬伤",如何"唤醒"?唤醒之后,不还是蠢蛋一个吗?马克思原话里面的"……rouse them out of their hereditary stupidity" 里面的"rouse"也能从侧面证明"stupidity"是"麻木"而非"愚蠢"。

根据《牛津大词典》简编本, rouse 原意是"猎物从藏身处现身"或者"老鹰舒展身体, 抖抖羽毛", 具体如下:

- a. Of game: rise from cover. rare.
- b. Cause (game) to rise or issue from cover or a lair.
- c. Of a hawk: raise and shake the feathers.

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

- a. Cause to start up from sleep or repose; wake. Freq. foll. by from, out of.
- b. Get up from sleep or repose; wake up.
- W. Golding I was roused...from a too brief...sleep.
- J. M. Coetzee Before dawn...K roused his mother.
- P. Ackroyd He had been roused from his reverie by voices chanting.
- a. Startle (a person) out of a state of inactivity, security; etc.; provoke to activity, excite; refl. overcome one's indolence.
- b. Become active; stir oneself. Freq. foll. by up.
- c. Provoke to anger.
- **D. H. Lawrence** Kate had to rouse her into getting some...medicine.
- **C. P. Snow** It roused me to...savage, tearful love.
- J. Glassco Nothing could rouse us from the delicious lethargy of the Parisian spring.
- **G. Kendall** Rousing himself from...a stupor.

从这些相关释义所描述的状态当中,我们可以看到,在"唤醒"之前,被"唤醒"的对象要么是在"睡觉"、"休息",要么是"静止"、"懒散"、"平静",唯独没有"愚蠢"。"愚蠢"是不能"唤醒"的,这本词典调查来的证据可资证明。

对于翻译工作者和"普通"的读者来说,如何能正确理解原文的意思是一个很大的问题。对原文的正确理解建立在译者、读者有足够的人生阅历、背景知识、语言知识尤其是词汇知识的基础之上。只有对原文进行解读时这种依据充分、可靠,读者才能正确理解原文的意思,译者才有可能写出正确的译文。但在很多情况下,因个人经历、知识面与语言知识方面的积累所限,译者和读者想正确理解原文并不容易,有时甚至不知道自己理解错了。这个时候,仍然需要发挥译者以往所积累的各种知识和经验,对所理解的意思进行逻辑和常识上的判断。如果发现所理解的意思跟逻辑和常识有矛盾,那么这就是需要进一步查证的信号。只是有时这种信号过于微弱,很难察觉。我觉得,要解决这个问题,除了有老师教导之外(这是很奢侈的事情,有老师指导的时间也就那么几年,终生学习要靠自己),最好方法就是"读万卷书行万里路",谦虚谨慎、勤于思考,扩大阅读面、增加阅读量,尤其是遇到有疑惑的词汇要勤查各种词典,直到彻底搞清楚为止。

### 词义辨析: civilization 与 culture

civilization 与 culture 这俩词还真不太好区别,因为既然要区别就要首先确定对比的范围,但这两个词各自又有很多的意思,甚至可以理解为一张纸的两面,无法分割。不过,我觉得一个公式可以给出一个大致的概念,即: 文明=文化+n(n=科学、技术、政治、军事等等)。从某个角度来看,二者的区别是: 与 civilization(文明)相对的是人类的野蛮、未开化的时期或者其他生物的情况,重点为"是否野蛮"(当然,具体哪些为"野蛮"行为,不同时代、

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

不同地方的人有不同的看法),而 culture(文化)则是让人类内部各个群体之间有所差别 的一种特征,包括成就、思想、习惯。现在一般认为 culture 的高级形式即为 civilization。

其实二者之间的密切联系远多于二者之间的区别。现在一般认为,文明始于人类开始使用文字。但要是一个民族开始使用文字从而有了"文明",那它一定就有"文化"了,虽然"文明"不仅仅包含"文化"。

这两个词的实际使用情况其实更为复杂。下面是《韦氏大词典》对这两个词的部分解释(很长,需要好好研读一下,尤其需要注意加粗体的那些词,因为每谈到文明与文化,那些词几乎是必用的):

### **Civilization:**

a: an ideal state of **human culture** characterized by complete absence of **barbarism** and nonrational behavior, optimum utilization of physical, **cultural**, **spiritual**, and human resources, and perfect adjustment of the individual within the **social** framework <true civilization is an ideal to be striven for>

b: a particular state or stage of human advance toward civilization: as (1): the culture characteristic of a **particular time or place** <medieval civilization> <the impact of European civilization on primitive peoples>; sometimes: a widely diffused long-lived culture often with subcultures <the Aegean civilization was a confluence of many Bronze Age cultures>

(2): the stage of cultural development at which **writing** and the **keeping of written records** is attained; also: the stage marked by **urbanization**, advanced techniques (as of agriculture and industry), expanded population, and complex social organization <modern civilization with its helpless dependence on technology>

### **Culture:**

2 : the act of developing by **education, discipline, social experience** : the training or refining of the moral and **intellectual** faculties

4 a: the state of being **cultivated**; especially: the **enlightenment and excellence of taste acquired by intellectual and aesthetic training**: the intellectual and **artistic**content of civilization: **refinement** in **manners**, **taste**, **thought** 

b: acquaintance with and taste in **fine arts, humanities**, and broad aspects of science as distinguished from vocational, technical, or professional skill or knowledge

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

5 a: the total pattern of human behavior and its products embodied in **thought**, **speech**, **action**, **and artifacts** and dependent upon man's capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations through the **use of tools**, **language**, and systems of **abstract thought** 

b: the body of **customary beliefs**, **social forms**, **and material traits** constituting a distinct complex of tradition of a **racial**, **religious**, **or social group** <a nation with many cultures > <Plains Indian culture > <but to many men today the most interesting thing about society is its culture .... that complex whole that includes **knowledge**, **belief**, **morals**, **law**, **customs**, **opinions**, **religion**, **superstition**, **and art** — Preserved Smith>

c: a complex of typical behavior or standardized social characteristics **peculiar** to a specific group, occupation or profession, sex, age grade, or social class <youth culture> <middle class culture>

d: a recurring assemblage (as of artifacts, house types, methods of burial, and other evidences of **a way of life**) that differentiates a group of archaeological sites

### 读书学单词琐记

学英语最好的办法\*就是从原版英语材料里面学——即观察英语实际是如何使用的,而不是想当然地自己编造,或者参照有可能"不足为训"的中译英材料或者中国人自己写的英语材料。这是一点一滴汇聚成汪洋大海的方法。虽然看着有点笨,但这种"捡宝"的方法却是最有效的。想想看,古人不是说"千里之行,始于足下","不积跬步,无以至千里;不积小流,无以成江海"吗?

下面几个词是我阅读过程中发现的一些"珍宝",写在这里既是献出来与大家分享,也是自己做做笔记,促进学习,省得以后忘了。

### 1. 幸福是什么?

有人说,幸福是种感觉,跟有多少钱、有多高的地位无关。还有人说,幸福是过自己的日子,不跟人攀比。但还有人说,只要想想还有人过得比自己惨就能感到幸福了。最低要求的人会说,活着就是幸福!如此看来,幸福是什么,跟外在的境遇和内在的感受都有关系。

美国第一位第一夫人(First First Lady)马莎·华盛顿认为:

The greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our **dispositions**, and not upon our **circumstances**.

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

原来,英语里是可以用 disposition 和 circumstance 这两个词来分别指内在的感受和外在的境遇的。

### 2. 魔鬼附身怎么办?

在英语看来,被"附身"就是被"控制"了,这个词是 possess:

**J. Conrad** Had I lived in the Middle Ages...I would have believed that a talking bird must be **possesse**d by the devil.

那么"驱魔"呢?

自然可以是 dispossess:

dispossess: Free (a possessed person) of an evil spirit by exorcism. Formerly also, exorcize (an evil spirit). (SOED)

其实,"附体"的不单可以是魔鬼,还有缪斯的之类的好"灵魂":

**B. Mason** As if he were **possessed** by the Comic Muse herself, who simply used him as a channel.

### **3.** 赞美破坏者?

人有时候就是"贱",似乎都有点受虐狂的癖好。比如爱德华·吉本在他的《罗马帝国衰亡史》 里写到:

[A]s long as mankind shall continue to bestow more liberal applause on their destroyers than on their benefactors, the thirst of military glory will ever be the vice of the most exalted characters.

接下来,爱德华·吉本就讲述了罗马皇帝图拉真(Trajan)仿效亚历山大大帝(Alexander the Great)东征。图拉真一举将博斯普鲁斯、Colchos、伊比利亚、阿尔巴尼亚、Osrhoene、帕提亚(即中国史书上的安息帝国)、亚美尼亚、美索不达米亚与亚述并入罗马帝国的版图。不过图拉真当时年事已高,在他死后,这些新领土立刻变得岌岌可危。

### 4. "始建于"英语怎么说?

我们当然可以首先想到 begin、build 之类的词。这些动作发生在过去,需要用过去时的动词。不过,"始建于"说的是"时间"。下面这段话里用的是 date,而且用的还是"现在时":

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Stockholm had by then become the cultural center of Sweden; many literary societies and scientific academies **date** from this time.

### 5. "再不滚,就放狗咬你。"

有时候,我们很生气。"我没时间跟闲人啰嗦。这里禁止陌生人入内。走开,不然放狗咬你!" 英语咋说呢?福尔摩斯探案故事里面一个偷马贼在福尔摩斯找上门来时说:

I have no time to talk to every gadabout. We want no strangers here. Be off, **or you may find a dog at your heels**.

6. "大牌女歌"星? 衣服"做旧"?

A true **diva** would have **blown off** the interview. Instead, Lopez apologizes for the delay.

这句里的 blow off 的意思是"没有现身"(to fail to attend or show up for)。

好好的东西要做旧,实在有点可惜:

Distressed: Of furniture, fabric, etc.: having simulated marks or other features of age and wear. M20. **Times** Distressed leathers give new interest to the uppers.

### 陆谷孙《英汉大词典》与高永伟《新英汉词典》义项勘误一则: froward

今天碰到一个外形"奇怪"的词(froward),是形容小孩的。刚开始我还以为是拼错了(forward?)。我先查了最近买的高永伟《新英汉词典》(第四版修订本),知道了这个词有两个意思:一个是"不易控制的,难驾驭的;刚愎的,固执的";另外还有"相反的,不利的"意思。奇怪的是,这本词典把这个词标为"古",也就是说现在不用这个词了。可我是在最新版的《美国传统英语词典》(第五版)里查词时在解释里面碰到的,怎么可能是"古"词呢。于是我又去查陆谷孙的《英汉大词典》,发现两本词典的解释几乎就是"孪生"的,它也把这个词标为"古",只不过陆谷孙的版本在第二个意思里面增加了"敌对的"。

于是接着查词典,发现只有第二个意思"相反的,不利的,敌对的"才是"古"义,第一个"不服管的"意思不是古义。

《韦氏大学词典》(MWCD):

Froward: 1. Habitually disposed to disobedience and opposition; 2. Archaic. Adverse.

为了再确认,我又查了《简编牛津词典》(SOED),结果跟《韦氏大学词典》一样:

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Froward: 1. *Obsolete*. Adv. In a direction away from a given person, place, or thing. 2. Adv. Perversely; untowardly. 3. Adj. Perverse, hard to please; refractory, ungovernable; untoward, unfavourable. 4. Prep. (In a direction) away from. Long rare. 5. N. *Obsolete*. A froward person or thing.

看来,我们学英语、查词典,要合理怀疑,小心求证。要想学好英语、做好翻译,**"勤查词典,查好词典"**是绕不过去的步骤。而且**,即使有捷径,词典也是这条路的一部分,别无他途**。

### 人类的语言是相通的:"傻了"英语怎么说?

周末看小说。书中说到,女主角听了一番话之后,整个晚上就 stupid 了,让一个长辈甚为不满。看到这我就傻了,这个 stupid 是什么意思呢。一查<u>我的 W3</u>,原来这个 stupid 就是"傻"啊。

Stupid: a : dulled in feeling or sensation : being in a state of stupor : torpid

<stupid with drink — Sherwood Anderson>

<stupid with the lust of gain and the sloth of slavery — Van Wyck Brooks>

<let fall the stupid inanimate limbs of the gone wretch — George Meredith>

为了进一步验证人类的语言相通到什么程度,我又查 Silly 这个词:

Silly: dazed, stunned, stupefied —used postpositively

<was knocked silly by the blow>

<would slap me silly — J.H.Burns>

<br/>
<br/>
<br/>
dored silly by the unwonted inactivity>

以后就这样寻宝似地学英语,复习汉语,不亦乐乎?

### 词汇学习:"睡城"英语怎么说?

所谓的"睡城"是指大城市郊区的大型居住区,这里的居民绝大多数每天都要坐很长时间的公交车、地铁或者开车通勤上下班,甚至生活、娱乐、购物等等都要在别的地方解决。这里几乎只是每天晚上睡觉的地方,其它什么都做不了,故被戏称为"睡城"。北京著名的"睡城"有望京、回龙观、天通苑,甚至通州区也被视为睡城。这个词的英语说法目前网上几乎只能查到源自中国英文媒体的 Sleepers' Town 和一些英语学习网页。但这个说法实际上是纯正的

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

中国土产英语词汇。"睡城"的出现算是一种大城市病,发达国家几十年前就生过,照例是会在英语留下痕迹的。"睡"这个字英语里可以是:commuter、bedroom 或者 dormitory。

"睡城"在英语中有如下叫法:

- Bedroom community、bedroom suburb(加拿大、美国用法)
- Dormintory town、dormitory suburb(英联邦、爱尔兰用法)
- Dormitory village (英联邦、爱尔兰用法,不常见)
- Commuter suburd \ commuter town

### 英文的词典:

Dormintory: a residential community consisting of homes for sleeping and personal activities from which the majority of the working population commute to places of employment, trade, and recreation <br/>brings the millions from their dormitory suburbs to their benches and desks and takes them home again at night — Samuel Pollock>

Bedroom: inhabited or used by commuters <a fringe of bedroom towns around the city>

Commuter: one that commutes (as between suburban home and city work)

中国出版的汉英词典里有 bedroom, 但明显不接地气,是解释而非翻译,再版时应该更新成"睡城"。

bedroom suburb: [美国英语]城郊住宅(或宿舍)区(住在那里的人白天在城里工作,晚上才回到郊区的家里)

对于辛辛苦苦搜索到这篇博文的男男女女,请笑纳下面的"福利"——

Bedroom: dealing with, suggestive of, or inviting to sex relations usually illicit <a bedroom farce concerning a wife and her lover> <bedroom eyes which caressed the female on whom he looked — Ethel Wilson>

Bedroom eyes: eyes holding an expression of sensual invitation

这再次验证了我的想法,<u>人类的思维方式是相通的</u>,只不过有时思考的角度不大一样而已。这个 bedroom 不就是"房事"里的"房"吗?这个 bedroom 大约可以翻译成"风情万种"、"无限风情"、"妩媚迷离"、"眼神热辣"之类的说法。

不过他们还有一种喜剧叫 bedroom farce, 貌似现在中国还没有, 编剧们可以开发一下:

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Bedroom farce: a play dipicting an absurd situation deriving from one or more (esp. extramarital) sexual adventures

这个大约可以翻译成"闺房闹剧"。

另外这个肯定不陌生了:

Bedroom slipper 室内拖鞋: a fabric or soft leather house slipper often without heel or counter

注:以上的英文解释均源自权威的《韦氏大辞典》、《简编牛津词典》、《21世纪大英汉词典》。

### 词汇学习: Rule、reign 与 govern 有什么区别

最近买了一本上海译文出版社<u>《新英汉词典》第四版修订本</u>。在查"rule"的时候看到一个用法说明:名词 rule 做"统治"解释时,应注意与 reign 区别。Rule 相对更常用,侧重于实际的统治,有时强调绝对控制或者独裁统治,也常指外国、外族的统治,如 That country was at one time under military rule。Reign 比较具有文学意味,多指旧时王朝中君主的统治,强调抽象的统治,如 What were the special events during Queen Victoria's reign?

首先,词典用法说明部分内容"说而不明",除非展开说明,否则以下部分应该删除:

- "Rule 相对更常用"(其实是使用的领域不同,故"常不常用"没有起到"说而明"的目的)
- "常指外国、外族的统治" (不一定是"常指", 异族也可以治理 Govern 某个国家)
- "Reign 具有文学意味"(其实古代的东西未必都有文学的意味)
- 多指旧时王朝中君主的统治(但现代也有君主制的国家)
- "Reign 是抽象的统治"(啥叫"抽象"?)

大家在国外英文网站读到西藏的新闻时想必会看到 Chinese **rule** in Tibet 之类的话。在其它场合也能读到 govern 这个词。那 Rule、reign 与 govern 这三个词各指什么,都是什么含义呢?

Rule 当然是指实际的"统治工作",不过 reign 也可以是古代或者近代一国君主(monarch)的实际的"统治工作",只不过现代社会中绝大多数君主制国家君主(monarch)的统治(reign)只是名义上的,真正治理(govern)、统治(rule)国家的是政府(government)。目前最著名的例子是"统而不治"的英国女王: The Queen reigns but she does not rule or govern。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

govern 一词所暗示的"权力"很广泛,它可以由武力获得、继承而来、当选而得,也可以根据法律规定授予。它可以是"专制"的权力,也可以是"宪法规定"的权力。但通常,govern 暗指"顺畅运行",避免了灾难,促进了个人和全体的福祉。

例如:

Parents who cannot govern their children.

Govern one's emotions.

Every prince should govern as he would desire to be governed. (此句的 prince 指"君主",非"王子")

而 rule 与 govern 的含义区分并不总是十分明确。比如:

The territory is ruled by a high commissioner.

但 rule 一词常指制定法律、做出决定、发出指令,而且必须得到遵守。因此,这个词一般指独断的权力,一般不用于民选的官员。

一个很好的例子:

The country is **ruled** but not **governed**; there is little **administration** and much**lawlessness**. (这个国家"统而不治",没有行政管理,只有无法无天。)

### 外国人不知道什么是"面子"吗?

在中国有很多传说,比如外国人不知道什么是"面子"就是其中一个。而且连林语堂也这么说:"中国人的'面子'这个东西,无法向外国人翻译,无法为之下定义。它像荣誉,又不是荣誉。它比任何世俗的财产都宝贵。它比命运和恩惠还有力量,比宪法还受人尊敬。中国人正是靠这种虚荣的东西活着。"林语堂不但解释了什么是面子,还顺便骂了中国人靠"虚荣"活着。看来这是"铁案如山"了,无法翻案。中国人不但要"面子",而且宁可"活受罪"。这不,央视著名主持人芮成钢的微博又转发了林语堂的这句话,引起一片赞同之声。其实,我比林语堂高明多了,因为我不但知道"面子"就是"脸",而且还知道"脸"在英语里就是"face"。但是,可惜我的"面子"太小,我和其它为数不多的几个人在微博里无论怎么留言解释外国人其实是知道什么是"面子"的,也没人给我们"面子"仔细看看。

中国人自然是要"脸"的,不过外国要脸的人也大有人在,虽然"不要脸"是古今中外的一种人类现象。这一切,跟文化和传统没有关系。不是因为我是中国人,我知道什么是脸,我要脸;你是美国人或者英国人就不知道脸面是何物,可以不要脸。"面子",在本质上是人这种社会动物要的东西,而中国人和外国人都是社会动物,要面子是共通的,外国人怎么可能无法理解?

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

我只能揣测林语堂是假装不知道外国人也知道什么是"面子",而芮成钢是真不知道。林语堂在美国生活、工作多年,不知道美国人不但知道什么是"面子"而且也重视自己和别人的"面子",不大可能。芮成钢有点不同,毕竟是在自己的主场,虽然众多的国外人士接受了采访,与他聊天,但谈及"面子"一事时也不好拂了主人的"面子",只好给"面子"表示自己不知道中国人说的"面子"是什么东西。

真的不知道吗?

非也。至少讲英语的一定知道。

### FACE 在英语中的意思

《韦氏大辞典》里有解:

An outward appearance of dignity or prestige or of freedom from abashment, confusion, anger, or distress <though he was obviously distressed he put the best face he could on the matter>; broadly: disguise, **pretense** 

Dignity, prestige <a man of considerable face in the local community> <trying to save face>; also: concern for or preservation of one's prestige <face is sometimes a major consideration in diplomatic negotiations>

《柯林斯词典》里也有解:

Worth in the eyes of others; dignity (esp in the phrases lose or save face)

兰登书屋 Kernerman 韦氏大学词典也有解:

good reputation; dignity; prestige.

怎么样, 什么是面子解释得再清楚不过了吧。

不但如此, face 还是漂亮脸蛋的"脸蛋"呢。

Beauty or glory of countenance <in face far exceeding her sisters> <the Lord make his face shine upon thee — Numbers 6:25 (Authorized Version)>

还是龙颜大怒的"颜":

cast of features as expressing emotion or character: expression of countenance

<a grave stern face> <turned an angry face on his erring son>

还是全新面貌的"面貌":

<the whole village presented a face of placid contentment>

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

所以,我一直都说,中英文的"思维方式差异"也是一种传说,有"思维方式差异"的大约只有精神病患者。不过我不知道我这么说有没有人相信。

# 全国翻译专业资格(水平)考试指定教材 (CATTI)《英语笔译实务 3 级》中参考译文错误辨析

如要查阅完整版,请点击链接。

大约七年前,我写过一篇 <u>《关于"野鸡读物"》</u>,谈及一些出版社粗制乱造英语和翻译类书籍;一个月前,我又分析了 <u>译言网一篇拙劣的译文</u>。我最近随便翻了翻外文出版社出版的全国翻译专业资格(水平)考试 (CATTI) 指定教材 <u>《英语笔译实务 3 级》</u>(独家授权、指定教材、最新修订版;总主编黄源深、主编张春柏;2012 年 5 月 2 日第二版第 22 次印刷),结果大出意外:无论是中译,还是英译,乃至注释解说和所选的原文都有问题,有些问题还相当严重,与这本书作为全国翻译专业资格(水平)考试指定教材的"身份"严重不符,而且在我看来这让中国国家级的"全国翻译专业资格(水平)考试"颜面尽失。

我从这本教材中第一单元"旅游观光"和第十五单元"科学技术"选了三篇原文与译文(英译中两篇,中译英一篇)仔细分析了一番后发现,英译中远远好于中译英,但英译中的译文质量仍然差强人意。

下面,我首先摘录出《教材》的原文、译文和解说,再给出我的修改意见和改译。后面,我 用贴图的方式详述我的译文做了哪些修改(<u>同时附上更清晰的 PDF 版</u>)。欢迎方家批评指 正!

第一单元"旅游观光": Maya: Away from Crowds

1. 原文: The view into the crater of the Masaya Volcano in Nicaragua is a breathtaking experience, enlivened by the accompanying strong smell of sulphur and the loud screaming of parrots.

教材解说与参考译文:

本句意为:当你往尼加拉瓜的玛莎雅火山口望进去(the view into)的时候,你会倒吸一口冷气(breathtaking),但是当你闻到那股浓烈的硫磺味,听到鹦鹉尖利的叫声时,你又会回过神来,惊叹(enlivened)它的壮美。本句有人译为"游览尼加拉瓜的玛莎雅火山是一次惊心动魄的历程。置身其中,你会被从火山口喷发出来的强烈硫磺味和鹦鹉尖利的叫声所震撼。"这样译法实际上是误解了原文。原文中的两个意义相反的关键词"breathtaking"和"enlivened by"表明,主句和从句描写了两个动作或者状态,一个是朝玛莎雅火山口看了以后有点窒息的恐怖感,后一个动作则是闻到浓烈的硫磺味和听到鹦鹉的尖叫声后为之一惊(enlivened)的感觉。两者不应该割裂开来。另外,experience 一词这里还是不译为好。

我的评价:

- 1. Breathtaking 的原本意思是"上气不接下气","震惊之后呼吸停止",也可以指有些人或东西"能引起人们极大兴趣","让人敬畏","让人感到惊奇"。
- 2. 如果我没搞错的话,"全国翻译专业资格(水平)考试"考的是"翻译",不是"编译"。
- 3. Enliven 有两个意思: a: 是让什么人或者东西有生命,有动作,有活力,活跃起来; b: 让什么人或者东西有精神,活泼起来,高兴、快乐起来。但惟独没有"惊叹"。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

- 4. 所提到的另一个版本译文是新华网上 2002 年贴出的版本。
- 5. Breathtaking 是壮丽的大自然让人忘了呼吸, enlivened 是回过神来。这是个"很好"的"编"译思路。

我的改译:向尼加拉瓜的玛莎雅火山口望去,壮丽的景象令人惊叹不已。空气中弥漫着浓烈的硫磺味,鹦鹉尖利的叫声不绝于耳,更让这自然的美景变得生动而真切。

2. 原文: Honduras is developing a means of connecting the native American communities in the Atlantic coast from the Garifuna, descendents of the Caribbean Indians and Africans, to the Miskito Indians in the jungle.

### 教材参考译文:

洪都拉斯也正在开发一条信道,把大西洋沿岸的美洲土著人社区,如加勒比印第安和非洲的后裔加里福那人社区,和生活在丛林中的墨斯奇陶印第安人社区连接起来。

我的评价:整句我读着有点糊涂。Garifuna 人和 Miskito 人都是非洲黑人和美洲印第安人的混血后裔,而整个洪都拉斯的人口大多数都是欧洲白人和美洲印第安人的混血后裔。为什么原文作者要把 Garifuna 人单独拿出来说是非洲黑人和美洲印第安人的混血后裔呢?原句的印第安原住民指的是谁呢?不过,译文把 means 翻译成"信道"真有点匪夷所思。这里的means 意思是手段、方法、方式或者做法。也许是条路?

我的改译:洪都拉斯也正在想办法把大西洋沿岸的美洲土著人社区(如加勒比印第安和非洲的后裔加里福那人社区)和生活在丛林中的墨斯奇陶印第安人社区连接起来。(读不懂原文,只能改一个地方。)

3. 原文: Geological enthusiasts could also follow a volcanic trail through Central America. There are many volcanoes in just a small area, some with perfectly cone-shaped peaks constantly emitting smoke from their craters. Some of them are partially accessible.

### 教材参考译文:

地质爱好者也可以沿着连接各座火山的小道穿越中美洲。中美洲面积不大,但火山众多。有 些火山呈完美的圆锥形,火山口终年喷着烟雾。有些火山因烟灰浓烈而难窥全貌。

### 教材解说:

这里后一句中的 some 是前一句中的 some 的一部分,意为:在那终年冒着烟灰的火山中,有些山因为烟灰较为浓烈而难以接近。这里"因烟灰浓烈"是句子的隐含意义,如不译出,本句与上句的联系就断了,很容易给人一种突兀之感。另外,partially accessible 不可以译为"只有部分可以接近"或"不能完全接近"那种诘屈聱牙的汉语。在理解原文的本意(即:有些火山由于烟灰浓烈而难以接近)的基础上,可以把结果(即:因此人们无法完全看清他们的庐山真面目)表达出来。

### 我的评价:

- 1. 这里用的是泛指 a, 因此 area 并非整个中美洲, 而是说中美洲的一个地方, 意思也就是中美洲很多地方都这样: 面积不大, 但火山很多。
- 2. 前后两个 some 其实没有直接关系。山高坡陡无法靠近的火山也是可能存在的吧?
- 3. 解说的推理("本意"与"结果")实乃自圆其说,毫无根据。
- 4. "难以接近"不会只是因为烟灰吧? 山高坡陡行不行?

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

我的改译: 地质迷也可以沿着火山小道穿越中美洲。这里火山极为密集,一些有着完美的圆锥形山顶,终年烟雾缭绕。其中一些火山无法完全通达。

4. 原文: This is a boon for daring travelers who can enjoy all the beauty without having to share it with hordes of other visitors.

教材参考译文:

这是给勇敢者的一种奖赏,他们可以尽情独享这一切,而不必同比肩接踵的其它游客分享美景。

我的评价:

- 1. 教材的解说里面还着重强调了 boon 是"奖赏"。这是在告诉学员本书的译者、编者、编辑坚持按自己的意思来瞎编,从不查词典是吗?那我来查查:
  - 1. obsolete: an order or command in the form of a request
  - 2 : benefit, favor; especially : one that is specifically asked for or is given as the result of a request <told he would be granted any boon he asked>
  - 3 : an often timely and gratuitous benefit received and enjoyed : blessing <the rain was a boon to parched crops>
- 2. 参考译文中,"这一切"和"美景"是同一个东西,后面"分"享,前面独"享",有点罗嗦了。

我的改译:勇敢的游客可以尽情感受这一美景,而不必同比肩接踵的其它游客分享,这实在是人生一件美事。

第一单元"旅游观光": 西藏旅游: 揭去神秘的面纱

1. 原文: 西藏旅游: 揭去神秘的面纱

教材参考译文:

The tourism of Tibet: Reveal the Mysterious Veil

我的评价:

**1. Reveal** 是 **to make (something secret or hidden) publicly known**。译文是"要揭开面纱的面纱吗?"

我的改译: Visiting Tibet: Unveiling the Mystery

2. 原文: 西藏地处中国西南部。13 世纪中叶,正式纳入中国元代版图。尽管中国历经多次 改朝换代, 政权更迭, 但是, 西藏始终在中央政府控制之下, 是中国的一个不可分割的部分。

教材参考译文:

Tibet is located in the southwest of China. It formally belonged to the domain of the Yuan Dynasty in the mid-thirteenth century. Although China has undertaken changes and replacements of dynasties and central government in Chinese history, Tibet has always been under the control by the central government and been an inseparable part of China.

教材解说:

本句中作者要表达的重要信息是"西藏始终在中央政府控制之下,是中国的一个不可分割的部分",因此在翻译时已处理为主句,而将前面的内容使用状语从句译出。另外,本句中"改朝换代,政权更迭"部分意义重叠,可合并译作 changes and replacements of dynasties and

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

central governments, 以求语言的简洁性。

我的评价:

- 1. 国际上的惯例是,译员只把外文翻译成自己的母语,但 CATTI 却还要考察考生的中译英。我还以为"国家队"必出精品,结果令人失望。
- **2.** "政权更迭"和"改朝换代"的相对区分还是比较明确的。比如,从元到明到清到民国到人民 共和国是"改朝换代",但从毛泽东到邓小平到江泽民到胡锦涛到习近平以及日本频繁更换首 相是"政权更迭"。
- **3**. 教材解说中呼吁"求语言的简洁性",不过我觉得把这句删掉"的"和"性"两个字,改成"以求语言简洁","简洁性"更高。
- **4.** 原文本可以再严谨一些。根据官定历史,西藏在元代首次并入中国版图(虽然坐庄的是蒙古人),但最近一次正式并入中国是在清代,而元代之后和清代之前西藏并非"始终"处在中原王朝的统治之下。

我的改译: Tibet is located in the southwest of China. It was first brought under central control during the Yuan Dynasty in the mid-thirteenth century. Although China has seen numerous changes in dynasties and governments in its long history, Tibet has all along, more or less, been under central control and been considered an inseparable part of the country.

3. 原文:由于其地理位置偏僻、地形地貌独特,原始的自然风光和仍鲜为人知的民俗风情,以及本世纪初一些外国探险家带回去的种种宣传,这一切可能使人们对西藏形成了一种神秘感。

### 教材参考译文:

Because of its geographical position, unique topography and terrain; unknown but existent original customs and natural scenery; and various propaganda brought back by foreign explorers, all these render people possible to form a mysterious picture of Tibet.

我的评价:

- 1. Propaganda 这个词是很大的一个坑。至今仍有很多人掉进去,比如这本教材的编著者。 我们看看韦氏大辞典里是怎么解释的:
  - 2: dissemination of ideas, information, or rumor for the purpose of helping or injuring an institution, a cause, or a person
  - $<\!$  steady erosion of Socialist propaganda about the wrongs done to the people Roy Lewis & Angus Maude>
  - $3\,$  a : doctrines, ideas, arguments, facts, or allegations spread by deliberate effort through any medium of communication in order to further one's cause or to damage an opposing cause
  - <br/>
    <br/>
    <br/>
    dushed aside the peace proposals as mere propaganda>
- 2. 教材参考译文: "all these render people possible to form a mysterious picture of Tibet", 乱成一锅粥了。

我的改译: Tibet is regarded as a mysterious place probably because of its remote geography, unique topography and terrains, primitive natural scenery, little known local customs, and stories brought back home by foreign adventurers.

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

**4.** 原文:西藏南、西、北三面分别被喜马拉雅山,喀喇昆仑山和昆仑山所环抱,是世界上与外界隔绝的地方之一。

教材参考译文:

Tibet is also one of the world's most isolated regions, surrounded by the Himalayas on the south, the Karakoram on the west, and the Kunlun Mountains on the north.

我的评价:

1. 我总觉得,通了火车、飞机、公路和互联网的西藏实在算不上"与世隔绝"。

我的改译: Tibet is also one of the world's least visited regions, surrounded by the Himalayas to the south, the Karakoram to the west, and the Kunlun Mountains to the north.

5. 原文:降雨集中在五月到九月之间。

教材参考译文:

Most rain falls during May and September.

我的评价:原文说的是5-9月5个月下雨,译文改为五月和九月下雨。拧了。

我的改译: Rainfall mostly occurs May through September.

6. 原文: 今天是一个以喷气式飞机、高速公路和计算机网络为标志的信息时代。

教材参考译文:

Today is an age of information with jet aircrafts, highways and network of computers as its symbols.

我的评价:

- 1. 公路和高速公路还是不一样的。
- 2. "计算机网络"其实就是因特网吧,只有局域网的网络用处不大,不值一提。
- 3. aircraft 的复数形式,保持原样,不加 s。

我的改译: Today is an age of information characterized by jets, expressways and the Internet.

7. 原文: 西藏位于中国西南边陲......

教材参考译文:

Tibet is located in the southwest of China.

我的评价:上面的译文里一模一样的译法已经用了一遍,这里最好还是改改。而且,上文说的是与外国的情况,这里说的中国版图的内部情况。

我的改译: Tibet is a frontier region in southwestern China.

8. 原文:西藏拥有大量经典和文学作品。

教材参考译文:

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

### Tibet is abounded of classics and literature works.

我的评价:查遍我的词典,只在《牛津简编词典》(SOED)里面发现了可以跟 of 连用,不过没提是否可以用被动式,而且还是废语的用法。现代英语中 abound 只能跟 with 和 in 连用。

我的改译: Tibet abounds in classics and literature works.

第十五单元"科学技术": Orphanages Stunt Mental Growth

1. 原文: "Most of us take it as almost intuitive that being in a family is better for humans than being in an orphanage," said a psychologist at the University of Wisconsin, who was not involved in the research. "But other governments don't like to be told how to handle policy issues based on intuition."

教材参考译文:

"多数人凭直觉就知道,生活在家庭里比生活在孤儿院好,"威斯康辛大学一位没有参加过此项研究的心理学家说道。"但其他国家的政府并不喜欢别人叫他们如何根据直觉处理政策问题。"

我的评价:这个"就"字仿佛是说"生活在家庭里比生活在孤儿院好"是不容质疑的真理,而"多数人"只不过是知道了而已。但有些家庭真的"就"不如孤儿院,这才是事实。

我的改译:"我们一般都不假思索地认为,人生活在家里要比生活在孤儿院好。"威斯康辛大学一位未参加此项研究的心理学家表示:"不过,其他国家的政府不喜欢别人教他们如何根据直觉处理政策问题。"

2. 原文: "[B]ut I think these findings generalize to many situations, from kids in institutions to those in abusive households and even bad foster care arrangements."

教材参考译文:

"但我想从这些研究结果中可以把他们分为许多不同的种类,包括收养机构、暴力家庭,或者不合适的领养家庭。"

我的评价:

- 1. 这里的 Generalize 意思是: Of a law, theory, etc: apply more generally; become extended in application。
- 2. Kids 这个关键的对象在译文里消失了。
- 3. 很明显, 虐待不只有"动手打人"一种办法。

我的改译:"但我认为,除了孤儿院中的孩子以外,许多其它情形中的孩子也属于这种情况, 比如存在虐待现象的家庭和不佳的领养家庭。"

3. 原文: Any number of factors common to institutions could work to delay or blunt intellectual development, experts say...

教材参考译文:

专家认为,机构收容中的任何共同因素都可能有延缓或阻碍智力发展的作用......

我的评价:

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

- 1. 能删掉而不影响意思,则必删之。
- 2. Any number of: quite a few, 也就是"不少"、"挺多"的意思。

我的改译: 专家认为, 收养机构中很多共有的因素都可能延缓或阻碍孩子的智力发育......

### 英汉劣译解析:译言网译文一篇

译言网是一个怪胎。首先,版权不明。我看不到网站发布的译文是否得到了原文版权方的许可。其次,效果不佳。即使得到了许可,我也不明白版权方为什么要把自己高质量的文章交给那么多低水平、业余译者来翻译。第三,客户群不明。我搞不懂谁会购买他们未经审核和编辑的拙劣译文。如果这也算作是一种商业"运作"模式的话,那它就是无根之木、无源之水。其中,最大的问题是那些蹩脚的译文到底能给读者带来多少价值。那些英语能力欠佳、没有译文辨别能力的译言网读者根本无从知道自己读到的关键信息很可能是错的。当然,英语能力欠佳的读者既读不懂英文原文又不可能出钱请人来翻译,只好退而求其次,能读到什么就算什么。这大概也是译言网这个中国语文污染源能够存在的原因。

我几年前就对比着原文检查过译言网的译文,发现译者大都是热情有余而专业素养不足的业余人士。如果把这些东西当作严肃内容来读,那可真是误人不浅。今天我又一次查阅了译言网,仔细查看了首页以图文形式推荐的六篇译文。除了其中的《观察的艺术》和《孟加拉之虎》没有提供原文无法对比以外,我发现另外所有四篇都存在严重错译。



### 专为书籍发烧友设计的十款 座椅

译: guoyanzi

座椅与书架二合一的设计——书籍发烧友,赶快来看下你喜欢哪一款吧!



### 观察的艺术

译: Somewhere

犀利的观察能够将信息转化为知识,但是,人怎么培养这个关键的能力呢?



### 呼吁战争的马里歌手

译:精神飞翔者

美国音乐家们总是在歌词中呼吁远 离战争,但在马里,这个国家最富 盛名的歌曲之一却反其道而行之.



### 孟加拉虎之死

译: li-rong

在孟加拉,深入丛林,面对老虎威胁的养蜂人成了最危险的职业。



### 比特币沉浮录

译:梦剧场球童

虽然比特币币值突破了100美元, 但带有原罪的比特币却不一定是现 有货币的完美取代。



### 自杀式袭击者是如何炼成的

译: singsangsong

杀人狂和自杀式恐怖袭击者是极度 相似的。他们的不同之处只在于他 们为哪种文化塑造,以及他们打算

截图说明:译言网在首页推荐的六篇译文

下面以译文《自杀式袭击者是如何炼成的》头四段为例对这篇<u>劣质译文</u>进行解析。<u>原文</u>的标题是 What Drives Suicidal Mass Killers (原意: **亡命杀手滥杀无辜的动机何在?**)

1. 原文: WHAT do Mir Aimal Kansi , Ali Abu Kamal , Hesham Mohamed Hadayet and Nidal Malik Hasan have in common with Eric Harris, Dylan Klebold, Seung-Hui Cho and Adam Lanza ? The first four claimed to be fighting the American government's unholy oppression of Muslims; they struck the C.I.A. headquarters , the Empire State Building , Los Angeles International Airport and the Army base at Fort Hood, Tex. , respectively. The last four seemed to be driven by personal motives; they shot up a high school , a university and an elementary school .

原译:梅·爱摩·康斯、阿里·阿布·卡马尔、希沙姆·穆罕默德·哈达耶、尼达·马里克·哈桑与埃里克·哈里斯、迪伦·克莱伯德、赵承熙、亚当·兰扎有什么共同之处?前面的四位被人们看作美国政府亵渎和压迫穆斯林的反抗者,他们袭击了美国国防部所在地五角大楼、帝国大厦、洛杉矶国际机场和位于德克萨斯的美国陆军基地胡德堡。后面的四位似乎是受一些个人动机所驱使,他们在小学、高中和大学制造校园枪击案。

改译:梅·爱摩·康斯、阿里·阿布·卡马尔、希沙姆·穆罕默德·哈达耶、尼达·马里克·哈桑**这些** 人与埃里克·哈里斯、迪伦·克莱伯德、赵承熙、亚当·兰扎有什么共同之处?**头四个号称**抵抗 美国政府对穆斯林的邪恶压迫,分别袭击了**美国中央情报局总部**、帝国大厦、洛杉矶国际机 场**和美国陆军位于德克萨斯州胡德堡的基地**。后四个似乎受了个人动机驱使,分别**在高中、** 大学和小学肆意射击,大开杀戒。

2. 原文: For years, the conventional wisdom has been that suicide terrorists are rational political actors, while suicidal rampage shooters are mentally disturbed loners. But the two groups have far more in common than has been recognized.

原译:大家一直认为制造自杀式袭击的恐怖分子并未失去理智,他们是在进行政治作秀;与之相应,以自杀为目的的杀人狂是孤僻的精神病患者。其实,这两类人有很多共通之处,多得超乎我们的想象。

改译: 多年以来,一般认为**搞恐怖活动的亡命徒是理智的政治演员**,而**滥杀无辜的亡命枪 手**则是精神失常的"独行侠"。但人们一直没有意识到,其实这两类人**是一丘之貉**。

3. 原文: Over the last three years, I have examined interviews, case studies, suicide notes, martyrdom videos and witness statements and found that suicide terrorists are indeed suicidal in the clinical sense — which contradicts what many psychologists and political

scientists have long asserted. Although suicide terrorists may share the same beliefs as the organizations whose propaganda they spout, they are primarily motivated by the desire to kill and be killed — just like most rampage shooters.

原译:在过去的三年里,我展开了对包括采访、个案研究、袭击者的自杀记录、殉道录像带和证人证词等材料的研究,发现制造自杀式袭击的恐怖分子从临床的意义上来看,表现为自杀行为。这一发现与许多心理学家和政治学家的假设大相径庭。尽管制造自杀式袭击的恐怖分子可能接受了某些组织灌输给他们的一些理念,他们最初的动机还是希望去杀人和被人杀,这恰恰与大多数杀人狂的动机完全一致。

改译:在过去的三年里,**我仔细研究了**采访、**案例研究、亡命笔记**、殉道**视频**和证人证词,发现搞恐怖活动的亡命徒**确属"奋不顾身"**,这与许多心理学家和政治学家长期以来的**看法**大相径庭。尽管这些亡命徒的信仰可能与那些组织大肆宣传的信仰相同,但他们作案的主要动机是"**杀戮别人**"和"牺牲自我",这正好跟大多数滥杀无辜的亡命枪手一样。

4. 原文: In fact, we should think of many rampage shooters as nonideological suicide terrorists. In some cases, they claim to be fighting for a cause — neo-Nazism, eugenics, masculine supremacy or an antigovernment revolution — but, as with suicide terrorists, their actions usually stem from something much deeper and more personal.

原译:实际上,我们应该把许多杀人狂理解为不是出于意识形态的原因去制造自杀式袭击的恐怖分子。在一些案例中,他们声称是为了一些理念而战,如新纳粹、优生学、男权至上或反政府革命等等,但是,和自杀式恐怖袭击者一样,他们采取行动往往出于某些更深层、更私人的原因。

改译:实际上,我们应该把许多滥杀无辜的亡命枪手看作搞恐怖活动的亡命徒,他们的行为**与意识形态无关。有时**,他们声称为新纳粹、**人口改良**、男权至上或者反政府革命这些事业而战。但是,他们的行为跟不要命的恐怖分子一样,往往出于更深层的**个人**原因。

如果译言网上传播的都是这种水平的译文,那么这个模式很难持续下去,也无法实现它为自己设定的目标:

译言早期定位于用翻译的方式消除互联网资料中的语言障碍,将优质的外文网络资料介绍给中文读者。随着社区的壮大和运营理念的成熟,译言网对运营目标扩展为:通过提供互联网社区平台无缝链接版权方和读者,在跨越多语言信息传输的时间/空间障碍的同时,帮助更多的有意愿的专业化人才实现个人价值、获得合理收入和成长机会。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

译言网想消除障碍,但却在这个过程中制造了新的障碍;译言网想把优质外文资料翻译给中文读者,结果读到的是山寨版。它的新目标是要做翻译公司了,而且还要做出版中介公司。如果是这样,没有过硬的译文质量,一切都是空中楼阁,而且会成为图书市场上的"语文垃圾制造者"。

### 附:改译的修订痕迹(点击放大,另有PDF文字版供下载、查阅)

下面以译文《自杀式袭击者是如何炼成的》头四段为例对这篇<u>劣质译文</u>进行解析。<u>原文</u>的标 题是 What Drives Stricidal Mass Killers (原意:亡命杀手滥杀无辜的动机何在?)

原文: WHAT do Mir Aimal Kansi, Ali Abu Kamal, Hesham Mohamed Hadayet and Nidal Malik Hasan have in common with Eric Harris, Dylan Klebold, Seung-Hui Cho and Adam Lanza? The first four claimed to be fighting the American government's unboly oppression of Muslims; they struck the C.I.A. headquarters, the Empire State Building, Los Angeles International Airport and the Army base at Fort Hood, Tex., respectively. The last four seemed to be driven by personal motives; they short up a high school, a university and an elementary school.

原文: For years, the conventional wisdom has been that suicide terrorists are rational political actors, while suicidal rampage shooters are mentally disturbed loners. But the two groups have far more in common than has been recognized.

改译: 多年以来, 一般认为搞恐怖活动的亡命使大家一直认为<mark>国是白系式表击的恐怖分子并</mark> 未失去要是理智的政治演员等, 而滥杀无辜的亡命枪手则是他们是在进行政治作者, 与之相 强。 以自杀为目的的杀人还是延鲜的精神病患者整神失常的"独行侠"。 其实。 没有意识到、其全这两类人有很多共满之处是一行之数。 多得超率我们的想象。

 $\mathbb{R}\dot{\chi}$ : Over the last three years, I have examined interviews, case studies, suicide notes, martyrdom videos and witness statements and found that suicide terrorists are indeed suicidal in the clinical sense — which contradicts what many psychologists and political scientists have long asserted. Although suicide terrorists may share the same beliefs as the organizations whose propaganda they spout, they are primarily motivated by the desire to kill and be killed — just like most rampage shooters.

改译。在过去的三年里,我任组研究展开了对包括采访、个案案例研究、表击者的自命记录 广金笔记、殉馆展像相<mark>找極和证人证词等材料的研究,发现制造自杀实表击的恐怖分子透改</mark> 语证动的广金柱機遇"音不顾身"从临床的意义上探看,展现为自杀信为。。这一发现与许 多心理学家和政治学家长期以来的假设看过大相径庭。尽管这些广金柱的信仰可能与制造自 参先来出的恐怖分子可能被受了某些组织解决也们的一些理念那些组织大肆宣传的信仰 担间。但他们往来的最知主要的动物还是"举望去杀人和被人办杀戮别人"和"牺牲自我", 这<u>正好跟给给与</u>大多数<u>指杀无辜的亡命枪手杀人狂的动机一样完全一张</u>。

原文: In fact, we should think of many rampage shooters as nonideological suicide terrorists. In some cases, they claim to be fighting for a cause - neo-Nazism, eugenics, masculine supremacy or an antigovernment revolution — but, as with suicide terrorists, their actions usually stem from something much deeper and more personal.

改译:实际上,我们应该把许多<u>造杀无辜的亡命枪手看作搞恐怖活动的亡命徒,他们的行为与杀人其理解为不是</u>出于意识形态的器医<u>无关</u>表明准白杀式袭击的恐怖分子。在一些案例中有时,他们声称是为了一些理念而战,知新的粹、优生学人<u>口改良</u>、男权至上或反政府革命这些事业而战等等。。但是,和自杀式恐怖袭击者一样,他们<u>的行为</u>罪不要命的恐怖分子一<u>样,采取行动</u>往往出于某些更深层<del>、更私人</del>的个人的原因

批注 [CGH1]: "位"字在汉语中有 尊敬的意味。就好比客人到饭店,服 务员会问:"您几位?"不会说:"你 们几个?"这是用词不加小心的一个 例子。

批注 [CGH2]: Claim 不是别人"认 为",而是这些恐怖分子自己"号称"。

批注 [CGH3]: CIA 是一个独立的情报组织,并不隶属于国防部,不在国防部办公。

推注 [CGH4]: 这里是按与上文恐怖 分于对应的顺序排列的, 不能改动原 文 high school, a university and an elementary school 的顺序。

批注 [CGH5]: "制造", "自杀式", "分子"这些词新闻上用的太多了。 一点阅读"美感"都没有。

批注 [CCH6]: "进行"这个词用得 越少越好,大多数情况下可以规避, 直接用那个具表示动作的词。

批注 [CGH7]: "一丘之貉", 作者就

批注 [CGI8]: "展开"这个词也无 甚阅读美感,可以删掉,只用那个具 表示动作的词。

批注 [CGH9]: 原文没说这是列举。

批注 [CGH10]: 谁说一定是"录像 待"?

批注 [CGH11]: 这是新闻传播的功劳,人们都忘记了"亡命"和"亡命徒"这两个词。

推注 [CGH12]: Clinical 的意思是帧 事论事的"分析",不受个人"情感", 和"利益"的影响,"冷酷无情"。外 利大夫助手术时只会把刀下的病人 都作病人,必无感情绝影,否则怎么 能下得了手? 外利大夫的"行规"是 不能给家人开刀,越家的人越不分 小时候呐说一个外科大夫给儿子开 刀制侧尾。肚皮制开野几个小时没有 找到闹风店驱鹿,最后只好换人

批注 [CGH13]: "临床……表现"。 译者真以为这是在谈医学了。

**批注** [CGH14]: Assert 是"有理由的 认为", 就是"看法"。

批注 [CCH15]: 接受了灌输。这完全 是译者的杜撰。作者都说了跟那些主 义无关,只与狂徒个人有关。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

### 《罗马帝国衰亡史》里一句话的翻译能弄出多少故事来

读<u>《罗马帝国衰亡史》</u>第二卷时,看到一句话: "But if the <u>clergy</u> were guilty of any crime which could not be sufficiently expiated by their <u>degradation</u> from an honorable and beneficial profession, the Roman <u>magistrate</u> drew the sword of justice, without any regard toecclesiastical <u>immunities</u>."作为当代的中国人,我笑了。这不就是"撤销党内一切职务,移交司法机关处理"吗?党内处分从轻到重依次为"警告"、"严重警告"、"撤销党内职务"、"留党察看"、"开除党籍"。基督教的情况我也不太熟悉,但我可以猜"开除党籍"等于"逐出教会"(excommunication)。"开除党籍"和"逐出教会"的可怕之处都是组织内的"温暖"全都没有了,马克思和上帝都无法再拯救他们。 于是我就想翻译一下这句话,一番修改之后,得到一个版本:

但是,如果贬去牧师位尊处优的职位不足以抵偿他们的罪过,那么罗马帝国的行政长官就会拔出司法之剑,不予考虑教会的豁免权。

### 词典释义

后来,我一查<u>韦氏大词典</u>,发现 **degradation** 有两个特别的意思(但<u>《简编牛津词典》</u>没收!):

a: a canonical punishment in the **Roman Catholic Church** by which a clergyman is perpetually deprived of all office, titles, benefices, and ecclesiastical rights and privileges

b: a censure of a **Church of England** clergyman involving deprivation of office and usually the exercise of holy orders

于是, 思考之后, 我又匆忙把译文又改成:

但是,如果**终身革除牧师**位尊处优的圣职不足以抵偿他们的罪过,那么罗马帝国的行政长官就会拔出司法之剑,而不会考虑教会的豁免权。

我把新译文发到微博上,并且说"degradation 在天主教中有专门的意思",@医学翻译那点事马上回复:"天主教一般不用牧师这个词吧?"他接着还贴过来查到的解释:

Clergy: a body of ordained ministers in a Christian church. In the Roman Catholic Church and in the Church of England, the term includes the orders of bishop, priest, and deacon. Until 1972, in the Roman Catholic Church, clergy also included several lower orders.

这时我才发觉,基督教的情况我知之甚少,要翻译的这句话虽然短,但"水"实际上很深。

### 基督教简介

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

原来,基督教的各个宗派在传入中国时,因为<u>中国的传统文化博大而精深,包而罗宽厚</u>,相 关词汇翻译成汉语时不同教派区别对待。

神父,原意是"灵魂之父",是天主教、东正教神职人员,一般是一个教堂的负责人,职位在主教之下,称为司铎,尊称神父。"神甫"是不信仰天主教的人对神父的一种称谓。

牧师是基督教新教的圣职,负责教徒宗教生活,管理教堂事务。基督教《圣经》中把耶稣比喻为牧人,把教徒比喻成羊群,于是就把主持教务的人成为"牧师"。

天主教的"神父"和新教的"牧师"有比较大的区别。"神父"只能是男性,而且终身不能结婚。 而"牧师"可以是男性,也可以是女性,而且男的可以结婚。怪不得以前在新闻里看到的性丑 闻都是说天主教的神父!

另外,基督教与佛教、伊斯兰教并称为"世界三大宗教",其中包括天主教、正教、新教(这一教派在中国通常称为基督教,也称耶稣教)和其它小派别。公元1世纪起源于巴勒斯坦。公元2世纪中叶起,罗马帝国对基督教从迫害专为宽容并利用,4世纪时成为国教。1054年基督教分裂为东西两派,史称"东西教会大分裂",分别为正教和罗马公教(即天主教)。16世纪,从天主教分裂出反对教皇制的多个教派,通称"新教"。新教后来不断分化,派系众多。基督教的聂斯托利派在唐代初期(7世纪)传入中国,称为"景教"。天主教元代曾传入中国,后又于明代万历年间(1573-1620)再度传入。清代康熙五十四年(1715年),俄罗斯正教的北京传教团正式在中国传教。新教各派从1807年开始陆续传入中国。以上资料来自第六版《辞海》。

### 如何更好地翻译这句话?

本文开头那句话说的是基督教刚刚成为罗马帝国国教不久时的情况,那个时候天主教还没有诞生(当然,这是我们这些把天主教司铎称为神甫的人的看法)。那么,韦氏大辞典对 degradation 的解释就不适用了。根据释义, degradation 似乎是跟逐出教会差不多的待遇了。因此, degradation 还是当作一个"普通"词来翻译为好。 再查牛津词典:

Degradation: Deposition from some office, rank, or position of honour, as a punishment.

那么,这句话:

But if the **clergy** were guilty of any crime which could not be sufficiently expiated by their **degradation** from an honorable and beneficial profession, the Roman magistrate drew the sword of justice, without any regard to ecclesiastical immunities.

之前两个版本的译法:

第一版:但是,如果贬去牧师位尊处优的职位不足以抵偿他们的罪过,那么罗马帝国的行政 长官就会拔出司法之剑,不予考虑教会的豁免权。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

第二版:但是,如果终身革除牧师位尊处优的圣职不足以抵偿他们的罪过,那么罗马帝国的 行政长官就会拔出司法之剑,而不会考虑教会的豁免权。

可以继续改成:

第三版:但是,如果**革除神职人员**位尊处优的圣职不足以抵偿**罪行**,那么**罗马行政官**就会将**其绳之以法**,不再考虑其教会豁免权。

第三版译文中,我不再提革职终身与否;把"罪过"改为"罪行";把"罗马帝国的行政长官"简化为"罗马行政官"也许更好,但具体是指我仍然不明。根据网上查到的情况,这个职位从古罗马漫长的时间中职权一直是在变化的,所指也不同。最后,把"拔出司法之剑"改成"绳之以法",原有的独特比喻没有了,但我更喜欢改后的流畅阅读感。

### 《罗马帝国衰亡史》简介

# INTRODUCTION Edward Gibbon is, in an important respect, the first modern European historian. That is, he is the first historian of the past whose work is still read not merely for pleasure but for instruction. The first volume of his Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire appeared in 1776, the last in 1788. It was challenged at the time and has always aroused opposition in some quarters; but no criticism has ever been able to sink it. Its intellectual content remains valid today, and any discussion of the course and causes of the decline of Rome is still dominated by it. Of no other historian writing before 1830 can this be said. Both as an historical scholar in his mastery and judgment and use of the evidence, and as an historical interpreter in his examination of causes and effects, Gibbon is unique in his time. Of course there are earlier historians whom we still read and

《前言》,作者: 特维罗伯(Hugh Trevor-Roper)

去年夏天,我大手笔买了这套英国十八世纪历史学家爱德华·吉本的英文原版《罗马帝国衰亡史》。它被称为欧洲第一部现代历史著作,因为它突破了之前历史著作以宗教观念为依归的"传统"。不但如此,在书中他虽然没有直言,但明确表现出并不"待见"基督教的态度,这在当时也掀起了一场轩然大波。

书是德国印刷装订的,质量就可想而知了。两个盒子,六本书,纸张厚重,装帧小巧,装订结实,印刷清晰,字体漂亮。精装书竟然也能做得如此便于翻看,几乎让我爱不释手。当然,

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

除了这么奢侈的书让我不得不珍视以外,书的内容更是让我仰视了。有人评论说,即使英语灭亡了,只剩这书,也掩盖不住英语的荣光(原话忘了)。 让我感到惊喜的是,虽然这套书几乎是两个半世纪以前写的,比较难读,但基本还能看懂。后来一复习英语历史,发现1500年之后是早期现代英语时期,1700年之后就是现代英语了。那这套 18世纪末写成的书我能读懂就不足为奇了。不过,在读过第一本之后再接再厉攻读第二本时,很快就看不太懂了。于是就停了下来,去读福尔摩斯的侦探故事了。等过段时间再重读这套历史巨著。

### Manslaughtered in translation

In an article titled *Why the West shuts out subtle Chinese concepts* published in *Shanghai Daily*, German scholar <u>Thorsten Pattberg</u> (裴德思) complains that the West has for centuries remained ignorant of some key concepts and ideas unique to the Chinese and demands the West to learn from us the Chinese about how the world should be run. As long as there are different peoples who speak different languages, translation is an indispensable trade that makes this exchange of concepts and ideas possible in the first place.

Ironically, the **something** missing in translation Pattberg so laments is in many cases not actually lost, but manslaughtered, as shown in <u>the translation</u> he posts of a slightly <u>modified version</u> of the *Shanghai Daily* piece. A little surprisingly, the translation is not done by Pattberg himself, who is "a German scholar at the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Peking University", but by a person who seems to have all the qualifications ever required to do translation. As shown by his short biography, the <u>translator</u> works as associate professor and holds a Master's degree, presumably in English. He is also a published author and a contributor to newspapers, periodicals and online media.

A closer examination of his translation, however, reveals a serious problem that has always plagued translation as a trade: The translator simply does not understand what the original author says. In a better scenario, the translator only finds himself struggling with how to write in his language what he has correctly understood of a foreign text. The worst scenario, however, is his fatal success in completely misrepresenting or distorting the words of the author.

Unfortunately, this is also the case with the translation of Pattberg's piece. Let me present some examples that will make clear my points.

The translation: 从欧洲历史的视角看,这意味着任何一个德国哲学家都确切地知道中国人在想什么,只不过他不明白这些想法罢了。所以无需学习外语,他只要译文即可。

Pattberg's original: From a European historical perspective, that has always meant that, say, any German philosopher could know exactly what the Chinese people were thinking,

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

only that he couldn't understand them. So instead of learning the foreign language, he demanded a translation.

My comment: The author's little intelligent word play is totally lost on the translator, as shown in his translation in which he produces a self-contradictory sentence (确切地知道中国人在想什么 vs. 不明白这些想法). What the author actually says is that the German philosopher does *know* the thoughts of the Chinese, but does not *understand* them when they are spoken about or written down in Chinese.

The translation: 巧合的是,《圣经》之后是大写 H 的历史。

Pattberg's original: Coincidentally, or maybe not quite so, History with a capital 'H' followed the Bible.

My comment: The translation does not make any sense at all in Chinese. What can an average Chinese reader have known about 大写 H 的历史 (History with a capital 'H') before consulting a good English dictionary? Also, the translator omits "or maybe not quite so" in his translation.

The translation: 我想,他的反应是既担忧又觉得可笑。

Pattberg's original: His reaction, I think, is as funny as it is disturbing.

My comment: What is funny and disturbing is actually his translation, a very good example of what I call "manslaughtered in translation." If translated back to English, it would read something like: *His reaction is both to worry about it and think it laughable*.

The translation: 我认为,历史在沃尔夫那里终结的说法就如此建立起来了,或者至少变得疲惫不堪和玩世不恭了。

Pattberg's original: It's thus pretty much established, I think, that "History" stopped with this Wolff, or at least became too tired and too cynical.

My comment: Very obviously, *tired* in Pattberg's prose is not feeling *fatigued*, but *overused* or *no longer fresh*.

I have long ago noticed the weird Chinese translation of *cynical* into 玩世不恭 or 愤世嫉俗 in dictionaries published in China. Philosophically, a cynic is a disciple of a Greek philosophical sect which "strove to destroy social conventions (including family life) as a way of returning to a 'natural' life" and whose followers "lived as a vagabond pauper, slept in public buildings, and begged his food … also advocated shamelessness (performing actions that were harmful to no one but unconventional in certain

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

circumstances), outspokenness (to further his cause), and training in austerity." In later uses, **cynical** has come to mean "distrustful or incredulous of human goodness and sincerity; skeptical and mocking."

However, literally, 玩世不恭 means "disdaining worldly affairs" AND "taking nothing seriously". And, 愤世嫉俗, taken at its face value, is "hating the society and its manners one deems as irrational". I think that the Chinese translations are only factoids that so many of China's dictionaries repeat again and again even though they don't make sense at all.

The translation: 如果德国人审查所有重要的外国术语,德国公众可能被引导独自思考,知道世界上的一切都可以搞明白,隐喻地说,像它那样行动。

Pattberg's original: If Germany censors all important foreign terminologies, the German public is lead to think it alone knows everything there is to be known in the world, and — metaphorically speaking — behaves like it.

My comment: If translated back to English, it could read: ... the German public can be lead to think alone and understand that everything in the world can be understood...

But obviously the translator *doesn't understand* Pattberg. A very good case in point indeed.

\_

This post was soon <u>picked up by Thorsten Pattberg</u>. And I feel too greatly flattered by him describing me as an "activist" and a "well-known" blogger. I'm merely a "weekend" blogger, far from being well-known and really, not at all an activist! Update added: Jan. 31, 2013.

### 词汇用法指南: ad hoc

ad hoc 来自拉丁语,原意是"为此"(to this),在英语中使用广泛,含义是"特地、专门、为此时此地某一特定目的"。这个词的延伸含义是"没有一贯原则",但美国著名的英语用法专家 Bryan A. Garner认为这是马虎的用法,不应提倡。比如: The D.C. Council, for example, undermines the work of the commission by approving tax changes on an ad hoc basis in response to the whims of business groups。Garner 认为句中的 on an ad hoc basis 应改为haphazardly。

尽管 Garner 不喜欢 ad hoc 的这个新用法,但韦氏大词典最新释义已经收录了新用法:

### Ad hoc

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

1: made, established, acting, or concerned with a particular end or purpose

<a coordinated policy instead of ad hoc decisions>

<an ad hoc commission of inquiry>

2: fashioned from whatever is immediately available: improvised

<He had written a screenplay for the guidance of the producers and the crew, but he asked the actors to improvise, to speak as they knew these characters would speak in these situations. This ad hoc approach is hardly new, but the result here is exceptionally good. — Stanley Kauffman, New Republic, 21 Apr. 2003>

<When you don't have all night to nibble cured meats, olives and cheese in an ad hoc dinner, this antipasto-style salad satisfies that craving but is also robust enough to serve as a main course. — Renee Schettler, Washington Post, 21 July 2002>

此外,他还认为: on an ad hoc basis、in an ad hoc manner 比较啰嗦,应简化为 ad hoc 这个原本该使用的词;不应该用 very 或者 fairly 来修饰 ad hoc;不应缩写为一个单词(比如 adhocing);不使用连字符。

最后,派生词 adhocracy, 意为用临时而非永久或者制度化的办法完成某项任务的体制、组织或者政府组织。

### 韦氏大辞典释义:

a temporary organization or committee set up to accomplish a specific task; also : a system of government utilizing such organizations

## 同义词辨析: fast、rapid、fleet、quick、speedy、hasty 和 expeditious

这些词都表示动作敏捷,但他们之间有什么侧重点呢? fast 和 rapid 使用时常常没有差别。但 fast 常描述移动的"物体",强调的是移动的"方式"、"速度",而 rapid 更多描述的是动作本身,同时表示速度非常快。例如: A fast horse、a fast train、a fast boat、a rapid current、a rapid gait、rapid progress、rapid firing。

Swift 描述动作,常与其"轻松程度"或者"灵巧"相关联。比如: The flight of his imagination is very swift; the following of it often a breathless business。

Fleet 常在诗和新闻中使用,表示轻盈、灵巧与速度极高。比如: Antelope are fleet of foot。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Quick 表示"用于反应的时间短",尤其用来表示"即刻发生"、"耗用时间很短",它特指动作敏捷,不从"动作的速度"来描述。例如: Quick thinking saved him from the trap。

Speedy 用于指人或者其动作时表示快速,常常表示匆忙或者慌忙;而指物体或者其动作时也表示速度高,与表示"拖拉"、"不慌不忙"的 dilatory 是反义词。例如: No mode sufficiently speedy of obtaining money had ever occurred to me。

Hasty 表示"匆忙"或者"慌忙",而非"速度",常暗示导致"混乱"、"不加小心"。例如: He gobbled down a hasty meal。

Expeditious 表示迅速而有效率。例如: An expeditious movement of troops。

区分词义的金钥匙: fast 用"速度"衡量,而 quick 用"时间"衡量。

# 活龙谈英语翻译: Judicial 与 Judicious 辨析

很容易一眼看出,这两个词在词源上是亲戚关系。只不过第一个词进入英语的时间(第一次记录于 1382 年)早于第二个词(16 世纪),前后差了 100 多年。在目前的用法当中,两个词的差别还是很明确的: Judicial 主要与"法官"与"法律"相关,而 Judicious 则是指一般意义上的"判断正确"。

比如:

Administrative and **judicial** authority still rested with the gentlemen Justices of the Peace.(行政与司法权仍然由治安法官先生们掌握。)

A **judicious** administrator who found personal pleasure when his fields produced more wheat.(小麦产量增加时,精明的庄稼地管理人自己就非常高兴。)

不过,需要注意的是,这两个词在历史上曾是同义词,因此在不少文章里面,至今两个词还是混用的。但这种情况不是很常见了,在牛津和韦氏词典里面,这种混用的做法要么标成"过时",要么标成"罕见"。

### 相亲=blind date?

新浪微博网友"<u>夏威夷暖风</u>"在一篇长微博里面说,"相亲"等于"blind date"。但我认为 date 是普通的"约会"、"对象"。"相亲"可是为了结婚由介绍人安排的相看,blind date 根本没有这个"觉悟"。另外,我觉得相亲的双方也不一定从未打过照面,跟 blind date 的完全瞎蒙不同,但这不是重点。

我查了下手头的词典:

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### Blind date 的词典解释:

<u>SOED</u>: A social engagement with a view to a personal relationship between two people (usu. of the opposite sex) who have not met before; a person with whom such a date is arranged.

Collins COBUILD Advanced Learner's English Dictionary: *A blind date is an arrangement made for you to spend a romantic evening with someone you have never met before.* 

陆谷孙《英汉大词典》:由第三方安排的男女间初次见面;初次见面的男方或者女方。

### "相亲"的词典解释:

商务《现代汉语词典》:定亲前家长或者本人到对方家想看;为寻找结婚对象,男女双方经介绍人见面。

吴光华《汉英大词典》: blind date。

真是不查不知道,陆谷孙和吴光华的词典"全军覆没"。首先,陆老的解释得让多少人"躺着中枪"?他真是把汉语"不精确"的特点发挥得淋漓尽致。吴老更不用说了,他这次是躺着中我的枪。

《简编牛津词典》定义得够圆满了,连男女基友、炮友一块都包了。personal relationship 虽然包括了各种、各阶段的男女(男男、女女)关系,可惜它并不专指为了"结婚"这一目的(括号里的在中国结不了婚)。而这恰恰是汉语"相亲"活动的精髓。你当然可以说"普通"的谈个"恋爱"、搞个"对象"的初次见面也是一种"相亲",只是没那么严肃而已。但是,须知这只不过是借用"相亲"这个严肃词汇"调戏"一下"次级相亲"的双方而已。

后来"夏威夷暖风"又艾特我一条:

在微博上提及"相亲"的英译,认为可用 blind date,@翻译活龙活现 认为不对等,因为二者活动目的、当事人熟悉程度不同。个人觉得,二者**确有不尽相同之处**,但**差异可能是在婚姻的联想程度**。印象中,相亲的典型情景是两个人经**媒人**约好时间、地点,见面探讨开始恋爱的可能性。

我的回答是,这程度的差异是"质"的差异,而非"量"的差异。

另外, 夏兄既然表露出内心的真实想法:

......媒人【商务《现代汉语词典》: 男女婚事的撮合者。】......

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

那讨论是不是就可以告一段落了?@夏威夷暖风

# Mathematical Certainty 与 Mathematical Chance: 板上钉钉与基本没戏

Mathematical 这个词早就遇到过,因为数学实在不太好,一直没有深究过。昨天,在<u>讨伐中国文坛十年骗局韩寒</u>的战斗间隙,方舟子谈了谈电影《泰坦尼克》,顺便说起 Mathematical Certainty 的意思。在我的印象当中,Mathematical 就是"在理论上"。那么 Mathematical Certainty 就是在"理论上肯定",其实就"实际上不肯定"了。

### 翻译活龙活现 >

方老师,这次你真翻译错了。mathematical 的意思是"只在数学上有可能",即"理论上可能",实际是基本不可能。

@方舟子▼: 15年前我觉得《泰坦尼克号》冗长、老套而浅薄,现在仍然觉得如此。不过3D效果还不错,看卡梅隆的电影主要就是去看科技手段,不必有太多其他的指望。但字幕翻译一堆错误,甚至意思都翻反了,例如把"根据数学肯定(要沉)"(mathematical certainty,表示绝对肯定)翻译成"不沉只是数学上的可能"。

4月10日 19:46 来自新浪微博

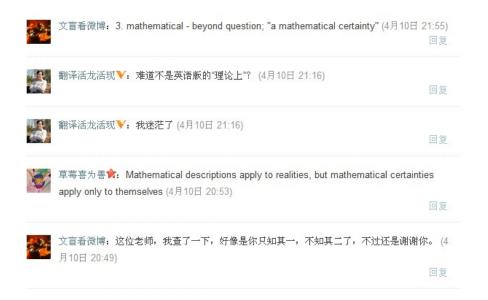
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### 但很快有人表示反对:



为了验证我是不是真的搞对了,就到网上搜索了一阵。但 Mathematical Certainty 似乎不是一个常用的词组,搜来搜去没找到确切的结果。我在《简编牛津英语词典》、《柯林斯英

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

<u>语词典</u>》、<u>大英百科</u>、甚至<u>牛津在线词典</u>上也没有找到 **Mathematical Certainty**。于是从昨天郁闷到了今天。

刚才我又拿起了已经潮湿、干燥后变形的《<u>朗文当代英语词典</u>》(**1995** 年版),翻到 **Mathematical** 那页,我的眼睛亮了:

A mathematical certainty is something that is completely certain to happen.

看来方老师和那位同学(@文盲看微博)是对的——如果一种情况根据精密、可靠的数学计算肯定要发生,那就是板上钉钉、百分之一百的事情了。

然后,我接着往下看,眼睛更亮了:

A mathematical chance is a very small chance that something will happen.

原来这才是"理论上的可能性"!

我简直是百感交集。

精密的数学计算显示"肯定"会发生的情况一定会发生,与不精确、不科学的估计相对应;而精密的数学计算出的"机会"基本就是"没有机会",因为这种机会只出现在数学计算里,与"现实"情况相对应。

还有一点我没想到的是,我那些声名卓著的词典和及时更新的网上词典没有解决的问题,被一本小小的破词典轻而易举的解决了。我决定,再买一本大的朗文词典!

## **Learn something new: Serendipitous**

1 Reply

Serendipitous: 【翻译】 意外之喜, 无心插柳柳成荫

<u>Shorter OED</u>: 1 Of people: having a supposed talent for making happy and unexpected discoveries by accident. M20.; 2 Of an event, discovery, meeting, etc.: occurring by (esp. fortunate) chance; fortuitous. M20.

Serendipity: [ORIGIN from Serendip, -dib, said to be a former name of Sri Lanka + -ity; formed by Horace Walpole after the title of a fairy tale, The Three Princes of Serendip, the heroes of which 'were always making discoveries, by accidents and sagacity, of things they were not in quest of'.] (A supposed talent for) the making of happy and unexpected discoveries by accident or when looking for something else; such a discovery. Also loosely, good luck, good fortune.

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Thankfully, we now have at least such a word in English to describe the good things we discover when we're looking for something else. Life is an uncertain, serendipitous journey. We set out for something and get something else instead. Work is also full of serendipities. The joys of making unexpected happy discoveries when working are irresistible to people who take delight in working. We occasionally take some paths that lead off the main road we are hitting, find something new and unexpected, feeling excited, and then get back to the main road. It can be someone or something new.

Serendipitous learning has also been proposed as an interesting learning method.

# Learn something new: Augean, plot ratio, the plot thickens

### 1. Augean: 【翻译】肮脏至极, 积年老泥, 积重难返 (非大动作无法清除)

<u>Shorter OED</u>: "Abominably filthy; resembling the stables of Augeas, King of Elis, that had not been cleaned for thirty years until Hercules turned the River Alpheus through them."

<u>Merriam-Webster Vocabulary Builder</u>: "Leaders of many of the newly formed nations in Eastern Europe found that the old governments of their countries had become Augean stables they must now clean out."

Words originating from Greek and Roman myths are very expressive and effective because they all have some self-evident stories behind them and can provoke emotional feelings among native English readers who are well versed in the stories.

# 2. Plot ratio: 【翻译】容积率

Shorter OED: [It's a number] representing the density of building in a specified area of land.

A plot ratio is the result you get when you divide the gross floor area by the land area. For the residents, the lower density a housing project has the greater comfort. However, for developers, the higher density it has the bigger profit.

## 3. The plot thickens: 【翻译】情况越来越复杂了, 激战正酣

<u>Shorter OED</u>: (Esp. of the plot in a book etc.) become more complex or intricate; increase in intensity. L17. C. Rayner The silence they left behind thickened.

OxfordDictionaries.com: used when a situation is becoming more and more complicated and puzzling.

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

If this happens when we read a novel, we can't possibly put down this page-turner (令人 爱不释手的书). If it happens when we translate a document, we'll have to make a greater effort to grasp or deal with it.

# 词汇研习: Helpless=无助?

什么是"无助"?查遍《现代汉语词典》和《辞海》也没有查到。其实这也不奇怪,跟英语不同,汉语还没像<u>《牛津英语词典》</u>那样的词典可以查"每个词"(至少牛津词典的广告是这么说的)的由来、首次出现年代和词意。

没办法,只好到网上去看看"无助"这个词在实际中是如何使用的。

# 网上有一个比较文学化的解释:

无助是你漂流江面却没有船桨。无助是你夜遇暴雨却无处蔽身。无助是你峭壁攀爬却没有一根稻草可揽\*。

无助是你艰难中摸到的船桨被巨浪冲走。无助是你骤雨中的一把小伞被狂风卷跑。无助是你攀援时唯一的缆绳被岩石磨断。

无助是你痛苦时不能去发泄,任泪水浸泡自己的心灵。无助是你受伤害时没有倾诉的角落,任不幸咀嚼你残破的心境。无助是你伤心欲绝时,居然找不到一块可以拭去眼泪的手帕。......

简单点说,"无助"是有事儿时没人帮,没东西靠,只能听之任之,听天由命。

无助一词的由来虽然无从查证,但极可能是英文 helpless 一词的中文翻译: help=帮助, -less=没有,于是 helpless 等于"没有帮助"。把 helpless 翻译成"无助"再方便不过了。可惜,英文的 help 含义不只是"外来的帮助",还有"自己的努力":

### Help:

1 Provide (a person etc.) with what is needed for a purpose; aid, assist. Also, supply the needs of, succour. Freq. in imper., expr. a need for assistance. OE. > b With inf., with or without direct obj.: give help or assistance to do etc. or to do etc. ME.

2 Benefit, do good to; be of use or service to; profit. OE. > b verb intrans. Be of use or service; avail. OE. > c verb trans. Make (an action, process, etc.) more effective; assist in achieving; promote, further. LME.

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

3 Relieve or cure (a disease etc.); remedy, amend. Long arch. OE. ► b Succour in distress or misfortune; deliver, save (from, of); spec. cure of a disease. ME.

4 Make an effort on one's own behalf; do what is needed for oneself; extricate oneself from a difficulty. ME.

5 Assist (a person etc.) to progress in a specified direction. ME. ▶ b Foll. by with: assist (a person) to put, take, or get something (esp. an article of clothing) on, off, etc. ME. ▶ c Give assistance in dealing with. E19.

6 Avoid, obviate, prevent, remedy; cause to be otherwise; refrain from, forbear. LME. > b With neg. omitted after a neg. expressed or implied. Be unavoidable. colloq. M19.

7 Foll. by to: assist (a person) in obtaining, provide or present with; refl. (also absol. without to) provide oneself (with), take for oneself, euphem. take without permission, steal. Cf. sense 8. LME.

8 Serve (a person) with food etc. (foll. by to); serve (food etc.). L17.

# **Helpless**:

1 Lacking help or assistance; needy. Often passing into sense 2. ME.

2 Unable to help oneself; incapable.

来源: Shorter OED\*\*, p 1232

因此,我们可以得出结论:"无助"翻译成"helpless"基本上是可以的,但"helpless"不能每次都翻译成"无助",应该根据实际情况翻译成"无能为力"、"无可奈何"、"心有余而力不足"等等意思。

<sup>\*&</sup>quot;无助是你峭壁攀爬却没有一根稻草可揽"这句逻辑不通,因为头两句提到的好东西有了就可以管用,这句里的"稻草"有了也是个死。

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>缩写说明: OE=Old English(古英语)、ME=Middle English(中古英语)、LME=Late Middle English、E19=Early 19th Century(19 世纪早期)、M19=Middle 19th Century、L=late。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

### "6000万人明天起免交个税"

"6000万人明天起免交个税"了,这是人民日报海外版发的一条消息,并且广泛转载。

这又是一个词不达意的典型。

何为"免"?"免"是"免你一死"的免,本应该砍你的头,考虑种种原因,放你一马。

不过,个税起征点提高至 3500 元是人大常委会的决定,并且写进了《个人所得税法》,这 意味着这 6000 万人从明天开始就有权利不交个人所得税了,有人再来免,就多此一举了。

这跟刑法里面的"免予刑事处分"与"无罪释放"的差别是一样的。前者是宣告某人有罪,然后再免罚;后者是某人根本没有犯罪,释放理所当然。

应该是: "6000 万人明天起无需再缴个税"

## Activism 怎么翻译?

### 老枝发新芽 —— 旧帖新发

de Alwis, a former Chairman of the Sri Lanka Tourist Board, most recently served a second term in that capacity and went into a life of active social activism and work living in a rural environment in the Deep South of Sri Lanka.

de Alwis 先生曾任斯里兰卡旅游局主席,最近从第二个主席任期卸任,现居住于斯里兰卡南方腹地农村地区,积极投身于激进的社会活动。

前天,一位名字叫 Gentleheart 的网友发来邮件,认为这句译文里面的 <u>activism</u> 翻译得有问题。

为此,我又仔细查阅了词典。其中《兰登书屋词典》(Random House Dictionary)和《美国英语传统词典》(The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language)两部词典对这个词的解释分别是:

The doctrine or practice of vigorous action or involvement as a means of achieving political or other goals, sometimes by demonstrations, protests, etc.

The use of direct, often confrontational action, such as a demonstration or strike, in opposition to or support of a cause.

对于该词实际使用所指的对象,维基百科(Wikipedia)如此描述:

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Activism consists of intentional action to bring about social, political, economic, or environmental change. This action is in support of, or opposition to, one side of an often controversial argument.

The word "activism" is used synonymously with protest or dissent, but activism can take a wide range of forms from writing letters to newspapers or politicians, political campaigning, economic activism such as boycotts or preferentially patronizing businesses, rallies, street marches, strikes, both sit-ins and hunger strikes.

如此看来,**activism** 是指带有社会、政治、经济或环境目的的行动或者活动,其手段和方式从最"温柔"的给报纸或者领导写信到"动真格"的绝食,形式丰富。那么我把 activism 翻译成"激进的社会活动"就是以偏概全,是错误的。

对于很多"向钱看"的国人来说,这些事情是"吃饱了没事儿干的人"干的,也就是事不关己的"闲事"。

我也是这么理解的:这些林林总总的社会、政治、经济或环境问题都有相关部门和领导管着; 当这些部门和领导的工作不尽如人意的时候,有人会自己行动起来,要么施加压力让领导动 起来,要么干脆自己出手解决问题。这就是 activism 的含义,它是一种"体制"外的力量。

这么一个含义丰富的词汇,汉语应该怎么翻译呢?

翻译成"社会活动"?在中文惯常的用法里,"社会活动"指"本职工作以外的活动"(商务印书馆《现代汉语词典》)。这么翻译就有可能误导了不知就里的读者。

可是,除此之外,似乎没有什么更好的译法了。我觉得可以把"社会活动"的含义扩大为"在社会上进行的活动",其中自然就包括本职工作内外的各种事情。以改善民生为目的的 social activism 也是一种在社会上进行的活动。

不过,想改变一个词汇根深蒂固的含义,谈何容易?

《21世纪大英汉词典》里对这个词的解释为:

- 1. 激进主义,行动主义(主张为社会、政治目的可采取暴力等一切手段)
- 2. 行动第一主义(强调行事要积极、果断等),活动主义;积极;活跃;活动
- 3. 【哲学】能动论(宣扬精神有自发的能动作用,否认物质第一性)

再看看这个词的词根 —— active。词典就翻译得很好嘛。我还一直在这里发明轮子!

在此,我再次引用"不是所有的 ism 都是主义"的观点,把译文修改如下:

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

de Alwis 先生曾任斯里兰卡旅游局主席,最近从第二个主席任期卸任,现居住于斯里兰卡南方腹地农村地区,积极投身于社会行动和工作。

在这里,我想感谢 gentleheart 的指正,还想请各位网友出高招来更好地翻译这个词!

请参阅:《一句话翻译:需要搞清楚动词和连词的含义》、《局长是做什么的?》

### 恐怖 (Terrorism) 是什么主义

答案: 恐怖的是活动,不是主义。什么是"主义"? 《现代汉语词典有》有解:

- 1. 对客观世界、社会生活以及学术问题等所持有的系统理论和主张: 现实主义、浪漫主义
- 2. 思想作风:本位主义、主观主义
- 3. 一定的社会制度;政治经济体系:社会主义、资本主义

Terrorism 既不是系统的理论主张,也不是某种作风或者制度、政经体系,所以根据以上的定义就不是"主义"。

这个词是本博的<u>老主题了</u>,之所以又提一遍是因为昨天人大通过了一个决议:<u>《关于加强反</u>恐怖工作有关问题的决定(草案)》。

"恐怖活动是指以制造社会恐慌、胁迫国家机关或者国际组织为目的,采取暴力、破坏、恐吓或者其他手段,造成或者意图造成人员伤亡、重大财产损失、公共设施损坏、社会秩序混乱等严重社会危害的行为。煽动、资助或者以其他方式协助实施上述活动的,也属于恐怖活动。恐怖活动组织是指为实施恐怖活动而组成的犯罪集团。恐怖活动人员是指组织、策划、实施恐怖活动的人和恐怖活动组织的成员。"

这个定义跟柯林斯词典对 Terrorism 的解释异曲同工:

Terrorism is the use of violence, especially murder and bombing, in order to achieve political aims.

不过, Shorer Oxford English Dictionary (简编牛津英语词典) 里面对 Terrorism 的解释 有所不同:

Terrorist principles and practices; the **unofficial** or **unauthorize**d use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims; the fact of terrorizing or being terrorized.

也就是会说,同样的活动,如果是一个小组织、一小撮人做下的就是恐怖活动,但如果是某个国家大张旗鼓进行的或者授权了的,那就不是恐怖活动,而是——战争了,比如美国在阿富汗,在伊拉克等等。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

这部<u>牛津英语词典</u>的编辑人员要具有多广的视角,要做多少调查工作才能写出这样的定义啊!

# 北京故宫博物院道歉信深度解析

北京故宫博物院最近丢东西又丢人,死不要脸又想要面子,还被人揭发出来在搞富豪会所。 这让无数戴眼镜的国人大跌眼镜,也让不戴眼镜的国人为故宫和里面珍藏的宝贝深感忧虑——我们的故宫居然是由博物院这么一帮唯利是图的草包、饭桶来管理的!

相信看过博物院道歉信的朋友,都觉得不太爽。我们再来回忆一下:

由于我们的工作疏漏,在5月13日向北京市公安局赠送的锦旗上出现错字,谨向公众致歉。

此次赠送锦旗由院保卫部负责联系、制作,由于时间紧,从制作场地直接将锦旗带到赠送现场,未再交院里检查。下午媒体播出后,院里才发现把"捍"写成"撼"的严重错误。尤其错误的是,在媒体质疑时,该部门未请示院领导,仍然坚持错误,强词夺理,不仅误导公众,而且使故宫声誉受到严重影响。

事情发生后,院里即进行认真调查,给予当事人严肃的批评教育,并采取了补救措施。故宫博物院现在正组织全院各部门举一反三,吸取教训,堵塞漏洞,增强工作责任心,进行全面整改。

为啥让人不爽呢?

我们来把第一段删掉,变成了:

此次赠送锦旗由院保卫部负责联系、制作,由于时间紧,从制作场地直接将锦旗带到赠送现场,未再交院里检查。下午媒体播出后,院里才发现把"捍"写成"撼"的严重错误。尤其错误的是,在媒体质疑时,该部门未请示院领导,仍然坚持错误,强词夺理,不仅误导公众,而且使故宫声誉受到严重影响。

事情发生后,院里即进行认真调查,给予当事人严肃的批评教育,并采取了补救措施。故宫博物院现在正组织全院各部门举一反三,吸取教训,堵塞漏洞,增强工作责任心,进行全面整改。

诸位,看明白了吧?这两段话明明就是博物院的内部工作汇报,而且还出自一个低级官员的手笔。你看看,里面满口的什么"院"呀、"院里"呀、"领导"呀这些颇为避长官讳的说辞。

把内部的工作汇报改头换面变成道歉信的好处就是,把公众对博物院的不满转移到了保卫部门的头上,还撇清了领导的责任。这简直就是博物院里的一个无名小卒挺身而出,为拍领导的马屁而写的。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

从善意的角度来揣测,这份工作汇报所讲内容也许是真的,但却恰好暴露出来博物院的问题: 泼墨题字是由保卫部门来做的吗?交给他们也罢了,为什么不把写字的工作交一个能把字写 对的人来做呢?出了这么"大"的事,保卫部还"坚持错误",这让博物院领导情何以堪啊?

另外就是,从写错一个字到写烂这三段话,让人猜测博物院里到底有没有一个能把中文写得像点样的人。

我斗胆按第一段是道歉信的帽子,后两段是内部工作汇报的方向修改了一下这三段话。诸位有兴趣的话看看改后是不是更好一点。附PDF版和Word版修改文件。

【第一段按照道款信来改。】由于故宫博物院<mark>我们的工作疏漏,在5月13日 ★ 批准 [CGH1]:首先要自报家门。</mark> 向北京市公安局赠送的锦旗上出现错字中。我们谨向公众致歉。 \_\_\_\_\_ **批注 [CGH2]:**两个事情分开来写。 【按内部汇报来改】<del>此次赠送</del>锦旗<mark>的</mark>制作和赠送由院保卫部负责<del>联系、制</del> 批注 [CGH3]:原来的写法意思可以理 <del>作т。</del>由于时间紧,<mark>未再交院里检查,而由保卫部人员</mark>从制作场地直接将锦 解,但逻辑十分混乱。锦旗的制作和 旗带到赠送现场,未再交院里检查。下午媒体播出锦旗赠送现场的新闻后, 赠送是两个事情,搅在一起说,前后 不容易照应得到。 院里才发现把"捍"写成"撼"的严重错误。尤其错误的是, 在媒体质疑时, 该部门未<mark>不请示院领导</mark>,仍然坚持错误 $_{ extbf{ iny T}}$ 强词夺理 $_{ extbf{ iny E}}$ 这 $\overline{ extbf{ iny CQ误导公众}}$ ,而 批注 [CGH4]:先后顺序要搞清楚。按 且使故宫<mark>博物院的</mark>声誉受到<mark>了严重影响<mark>损害</mark>。</mark> 原来的写法,难道在通常情况下送到 公安局之后再交给领导检查吗? 【按内部汇报来改】事情发生后,院里即立即采取补救措施,进行认真调查, 批注 [CGH5]:如果真是这样很快发现 后严肃批评、教育给予当事人严肃的批评教育,并采取了补救措施。故宫博 错误,那还真是不错! 不过从这封道 物院现在正在全面整改,已经组织全院各部门举一反三十、吸取教训十、堵塞 歉信发出的时间来看,领导的反应未 漏洞工、增强工作责任心工进行全面整改。 免也太慢了。 活龙翻译博客 ChangGuohua.com 批注 [CGH6]:不请示领导与坚持错误 都是严重错误,而且不请示领导更严 重。 批注 [CGH7]: 难道是特别喜欢"误导" 这个词吗?咋误导了,误导啥了? 批注 [CGH8]: 扯地太远了。原来的紫 禁城,现在的故宫,不是博物院这个 单位的蠢事能损害得了声誉的。损害 的只是博物院这个管理故宫的单位 的声誉。 批注 [CGH9]: 内部批评要严厉! 批注 [CGH10]:突出有错必改的行动 来表明措施得力。 批注 [CGH11]:用动词来表示,多么地 批注 [CGH12]:全面整改是大的政策, 后面的都是整改措施。要放在前面强 调大的方针。

不过,如果博物院真心道歉,这封道歉信可以改成这样:

由于故宫博物院的工作疏漏,在5月13日向北京市公安局赠送的锦旗上出现错字。我们在 此谨向公众致以真诚的歉意。

在此次锦旗的赠送过程中,博物院各个相关部门未能尽到职责,忽视了对工作质量的管理,导致锦旗出现将"捍"写成"撼"的严重错误。而在媒体和公众指出这一错误时,我们却辩称没有写错字,这一点是尤其错误的。我们原本可以避免发生这样低级错误,而在被指出错误时,

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

我们也应该首先反思自己在工作中的不足,而不是一味地推卸责任。我们作为故宫的管理组织,辜负了社会公众对我们的期望,对此我们再次致以真诚的歉意。

事情发生后,我们立即采取补救措施,重新制作了锦旗。此外,我们在认真调查后严肃批评、教育当事人。我们现在正全面整改,已经组织全院各部门吸取教训、堵塞漏洞、举一反三、增强工作责任心。

诸位,这么写行不?

# 侵略怎么翻译?

### Leave a reply

说到侵略,国人一定不会感到陌生,因为中国近代史就是一部悲惨的被侵略史。根据《现代 汉语词典》第五版,"侵略"是指:

侵犯别国的领土、主权,掠夺财富并奴役别国的人民。侵略的主要形式是武装入侵,有时 也采用政治干涉、经济和文化渗透等方式。

而联合国在 1974 年还专门通过决议来定义什么是侵略(aggression):

Aggression is the use of armed force by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations...

英语中有"侵略"含义的词有这几个 invasion、aggression 和 incursion。我一直没有仔细查过这几个词跟汉语中的"侵略"有什么关系。

今天查了查,发现:

- 汉语中的"侵略"一词在英文中是 aggression,在国际上有专门的定义
- Invasion 一词对"入侵"行为是否为正义没有隐含的意思,它可以是正义的,也可以是非正义的: 比如 Invasion of Normandy 和 Invasion of Poland
- Invasion 一词也用于一国内战中一方攻入另一方控制地区的行为
- Invasion 与 Incursion 相比,前者的策划和实施的武装入侵都是"大规模、长期、具有战略意义的";而后者无此含义

因此,在使用侵略、invasion、incursion 时,我们应该知道一下几点:

- 上个世纪八十年代的"对越自卫反击战"可以是 invasion
- 英文中把上个世纪五十年代解放军解放西藏的行为称为 invasion 没有"恶意"

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

- 对二战中的盟国 invade 法国和德国,或者二十世纪美国军队 invade 阿富汗和伊拉克也不必感到"诧异"
- "文化侵略"或者"经济侵略"在不同人的眼中可以是 invasion, 也可以是 aggression

通过今天的学习,我又一次认识到,英语是外语,词典、资料一定要勤查!

# 翻译时地名如何处理?

## 特殊的地名

中国的地名分几种情况。大陆这面,大多数用汉语拼音,比如 Beijing 、Tianjin、Shanghai、Shijiazhuang 等。但也有例外,尤其是使用自己民族语言的少数民族自治区的地名(以维、蒙、藏尤甚,宁夏、广西的地名中为汉语的不在此列),一般不能用汉语拼音,因为这些地方地名是由当地语言直接进入到英文的,比如乌鲁木齐(Urumqi)、呼和浩特(Hohhot)。还有西部大各大山脉(如喀拉昆仑山脉为 Karakoram; 珠穆朗玛峰"正确"的英译是 Mt. Qomolangma,不是 Mt. Everest)、湖泊、沙漠的的名字,一般都不是汉语拼音。这时需要专门的词典,或者到网上搜索才能知道这些地理名词在英文中的正确拼法。还要注意到是,黑龙江省的两座城市"哈尔滨"和"齐齐哈尔"原文均为蒙古语,英语中的正确拼法分别是 Harbin 和 Qiqihar,不是 Haerbin 和 Qiqihaer;山西是 Shanxi,陕西是 Shaanxi。作为山的名字,大兴安岭是 Greater Khingan Range,小兴安岭是 Lesser Khingan Range。要是地名,可以处理成 Daxing'anling 或者 Xiaoxing'anling。

港澳台的地名拼法用他们当地的拼音系统,比如台北是**Taipei**,不是**Taibei**。不过,最近要由台北县升格为市,新名字英译拟采用 <u>New Taipei City</u>。这些需要特别注意,不清楚的到网上搜索。

还有一个特例,即韩国和朝鲜。这两个国家在中文里的正式名称分别是"大韩民国"、"朝鲜民主主义人民共和国",中文里的正式简称分别是韩国和朝鲜,不称南朝鲜或者北朝鲜,或者南韩、北韩。英文中用 South Korea、North Korean 区分,但务必记住这只是"非正式"的称呼,正式的名称分别是 DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea (朝鲜); ROK(Republic of Korea)(韩国)。

### 敏感的地名

政治敏感的地名。如果英文中出现 China、Taiwan、Hong Kong 并列的情况,中文要翻译成"大陆、台湾、香港"。如果其中又有国家队名字,如"Australia, China, Taiwan"可以处理成"澳大利亚、中国内地/大陆和台湾"。总之,不能在中文中显示台湾是独立于中国之外的一个地方。两岸问题一日不解决(统一或者独立),这个语言难题就无法根除。

另请注意,英文中"中国大陆"最"正确"的写法是"the Chinese mainland",不是 the Chinese Mainland(大写的 M 过于强调了),不是 Mainland China(隐含另一个中国),也不是

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

China Mainland(大写的 M 同样过于强调了),更不是 Communist China(这个词不仅已经过时,与事实不符,而且还是个冷战时的词汇)。

### 翻译时人名如何处理?

翻译时,一般应遵循"名从主人"的原则(Burma 改 Myanmar、"汉城"改"首尔"),即"谁的儿子叫什么 ta 爹说了算"。不过,这孩子如果长大了要改名,也用改后的。但间或也有例外,美国总统奥巴马在美国驻华使馆的中文文件里称为"欧巴马"。新华社坚持不改奥巴马不改也有自己的理由:欧巴桑是日语里的一个贬义词,而且欧在中文里跟"欧洲"关系最密切。

具体怎么写呢? 古今中外的情况各有不同,需要根据具体情况具体处理。

中国大陆的汉族人一般用标准的汉语拼音来拼写其名字,按汉语的顺序,姓在前,名在后,且名字的拼音连着写,不加连字符,如Zhang Sanfeng(不用Sanfeng Zhang、Zhang San feng,Zhang San Feng)。但间或会有例外,比如阿里巴巴的那个马云,它是Jack Ma,因为他给自己起这个英文名。中华民国原总统陈水扁是Chen Shui-bian,具体什么规矩我不清楚,但不写成Chen Shuibian。少数民族的人用各自民族语言的拉丁化标准去写,一般不用汉语拼音。比如,各大自治区的主席,还有少数民族的歌星、影星等等。

港澳台的人名字比较复杂,各地采用的拼写方案不一。对于名气较大的人,网上能够找到。 他们名字的拼写中很可能有英文的名字。比如,香港财政司原司长唐英年的英文名字为 Henry Tang Ying-yen。

中国近代重要历史人物的写法就有点复杂了,变复杂的起点是 1949 年人民共和国成立。孙中山(Sun Yat-sen)、蒋介石(Chiang Kai-shek)、蒋经国(Chiang Ching-kuo)等这些只跟民国有关系的人名字拼写保持不变,而后来又在人民共和国里发展壮大起来的民国人毛泽东(Mao Tse-tung)、周恩来(Chou En-lai)等人的名字拼写都改为汉语拼音规范的拼写: Mao Zedong、Zhou Enlai。再古老一些中国人的名字,除了孔子(Confucius)、孟子(Mencius)、老子(Lao-Tse)等这些在西方和世界已经闻名遐迩的世界级人物,大部分人的名字英文名字到底怎么拼,已经没人计较了,用汉语拼音即可,比如张骞(Zhang Qian)、诸葛亮(Zhuge Liang)。

关于外国人的中文名字,大多数都是音译。但要注意,他们有的人给自己起了中文的名字。这种情况下,找到这两个版本,互为参照。比如, Christopher Patten 是谁你可能不知道,但他的中文名字是彭定康,你肯定认识。在这个例子中可以写成"末代港督彭定康(Christopher Patten)"。不过,像这种实在太家喻户晓的老外,只用中文的名字无妨,还比如加拿大的那个"大山",本名 Mark Rowswell,几乎没人认识。另外,澳大利亚原总理陆克文,听着蛮亲切的,他的英文原名 Kevin Michael Rudd。

但以上只是大陆的情况。同样是在 **1949** 年之后,外国人名字的翻译成中文时在港澳台又有所不同。罗斯福在海峡两岸都是罗斯福,但"艾森豪威尔"在台湾是"艾森豪","肯尼迪"在台湾是"甘乃迪","约翰逊"(Lyndon Johnson)在台湾是"詹森","尼克松"在台湾是"尼克

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

森",里根在台湾是"雷根",在香港是"列根",布什在台湾是"布希",在香港是"布舒",克林顿在台湾是"柯林顿",希拉里在台湾是"希拉蕊",奥巴马在台湾是"欧巴马"。

### 曝光台: 错译和欧化中文

不知道是中国的翻译行业不够发达,还是我们这个社会不重视语言翻译,不合格译员的大作 现在堂而皇之地招摇过市。中国移动的手机新闻早晚报逃不过,华尔街日报网站的中文版也 无法幸免。

这两天在手机早晚报里惊闻"保险政策"(insurance policy=保单)和"新闻制造者"(newsmaker=新闻人物)。依我看,这些人明明就是"垃圾制造者"!

把<u>《华尔街日报》</u>当神一样崇拜的翻译界新人 <u>Vincent</u> 惊讶地<u>发现跟它合作的中文译者居然</u>也有点不济:

One widely touted solution for current U.S. economic woes is for America to produce more of the high-tech gadgets that the rest of the world craves.

人们普遍看好解决美国当前经济问题的一个方案是,美国生产更多世界各地趋之若鹜的高科技电子产品。

这句译文什么毛病? 定语太长! 读着好累。拆散成下面这样的,岂不是更好一点? 至少中国读者可以舒坦地喘两口气。

如何解决美国面临的经济困局?对此问题,不少人<mark>鼓吹</mark>的一个办法是——美国生产出更多<mark>在</mark>国外市场<mark>热卖</mark>的高科技电子产品。[不过, ......]

Tout:

If someone touts something, they try to sell it or convince people that it is good.

It has the trappings of an election campaign in the United States, with slick television ads touting the candidates.

Source: CCALED

Crave:

If you crave something, you want to have it very much.

There may be certain times of day when smokers crave their cigarette...

Source: CCALED

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

砖头已出,玉请出来。谢谢。

# Some Meanings of Authentic Love (爱情真谛)

英文作者: 佚名,中文译文: 佚名,译文修改、润色: 活龙

原帖发布时间: 2004 年 5 月 18 日,修改原因: 六年,弹指一挥间,有了太多的改变......

修改感言:

英文罗嗦,中文简练,是各自的语法和风格使然。英文需要交代几乎所有的语法关系,而中文则可略去。英文如同编织精美的刺绣,巧夺天工,而中文则是珠玉满盘,璀璨夺目。

《爱情真谛》的原译者遇到了所有英译中翻译都要面对的问题:不懂原文,写不好译文。希望我修改后的译文解决了这两大问题。其中一定还有改进提高的余地,希望大家不吝赐教,我好在下次修改时接着完善。另,按字数记,这次修改删掉了原译的五分之一。**其中改动的部分请见此文件。** 

\_\_\_\_\_

Love means that I know the person I love. I'm aware of the many sides of the other person—not just the beautiful side but also the limitations, inconsistencies and flaws.

爱你,就要了解你。要解你的很多方面——其中有美好的一面,也有不足、矛盾之处以及各种缺点。

Love means that I care about the welfare of the person I love. If I care about you, I'm concerned about your growth, and I hope you will become all that you can become.

爱你,就关心你的幸福。关心你,就关心你的成长,并希望你能成就自己。

Love means having respect for the dignity of the person I love. If I love you, I can see you as a separate person, with your own values and thoughts and feelings, and I do not insist that you surrender your identity and conform to an image of what I expect you to be for me.

爱你,就不会侵犯你的尊严。爱你,就把你看成独立的人:你有自己的价值观、思想和情感。 我不会要求你为我放弃自己并屈从于我对你的期待。

Love means having a responsibility toward the person I love. If I love you, I'm responsive to most of your major needs as a person.

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

爱你,就要对你承担责任。爱你,就满足你作为人的多数重要需求。

Love means growth for both myself and the person I love. You are a stimulant for me to become more fully what I might become, and my loving enhances your being as well.

爱是一同成长。你激励着我更完美地自我实现,而我爱你也让你的人生更加完美。

Love means making a commitment to the person I love. This commitment does not entail surrendering our total selves to each other; nor does it imply that the relationship is necessarily permanent. It does entail a willingness to stay with each other in times of pain, uncertainty, struggle, and despair, as well as in times of calm and enjoyment.

爱你,就要对你做出承诺。承诺并非意味着完全屈从于对方,也不意味着双方的关系一定永恒不变。但相爱会让我们有决心在一起。平静、欢乐也罢,痛苦、迷茫、挣扎、失望也罢,我们都不分离。

Love means trusting the person I love. If I love you, I trust that you will accept my caring and my love and that you won't deliberately hurt me. I trust the reciprocal nature of our love.

爱你,就信任你。爱你,就相信你会接受我的关爱,也相信你不会故意伤害我。我相信我和你心心相印。

Love can tolerate imperfection. In a love relationship there are times of boredom, times when I may feel like giving up, times of real strain, and times I experience an impasse. Authentic love does not imply enduring happiness. I can stay during rough times, however, because I can remember what we had together in the past, and I can picture what we will have together in our future if we care enough to face our problems and work them through.

爱可以容忍不完美。相爱时,我们也会感到厌烦,想放弃,感到难以承受,也会面临绝境。 真爱并不一定会带来持久的幸福。然而,想起我们有过的美好时光,我就能顶住困难。我也 能预见,我们如果愿意面对、解决问题,就会有光明的前景。

Love is free. Love is freely given, not doled out on demand. Authentic love is not given with strings attached. There is an unconditional quality about love.

爱是自愿的。爱你,就要给你很多关爱,而不是在要求时施舍一点点。真爱的付出没有前提。 爱,没有条件。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Love is expansive. If I love you, I encourage you to reach out and develop other relationships. The honest evidence of our love is our commitment to encouraging another's full development.

爱,是敞开的。爱你,就鼓励你与别人建立人际关系。鼓励对方去充分发展自己是我们相爱的明证。

Love means having a want for the person I love without having a need for that person in order to be complete. If I am nothing without you, then I'm not really free to love you.

爱你,就是需要你,但没有你,我依然完整。如果无你则无我,那么我就无法自由自在地爱你。

Love means identifying with the person I love. If I love you, I can empathize with you and see the world through your eyes. I can identify with you because I'm able to see myself in you and you in me. This closeness does not imply a continual "togetherness", for distance and separation are sometimes essential in a loving relationship. Distance can intensify a loving bond, and it can help us rediscover ourselves, so that we are able to meet each other in a new way.

爱你,就要理解你。爱你,就会与你产生情感共鸣,并能用你的眼睛看世界。这是因为你身上能看见我的影子,而我身上也能看见你的影子。这种亲密并不意味着我们一刻也不分离。有时候,离别和距离恰恰无法避免。距离能加强爱的纽带,能使我们重新发现自己,从而以全新的方式认识对方。

Love is selfish. I can only love you if I genuinely love, value, appreciate, and respect myself. If I am empty, the all I can give you is my emptiness. If I feel that I'm complete and worthwhile in myself, then I'm able to give you out of my fullness. One of the best ways for me to give you love is by fully enjoying myself with you.

爱并不是无私的。我只有真正爱自己、珍惜自己、欣赏并尊重自己,才能爱你。如果我空虚,那么我给你的也只有空虚。如果我充实完整,活得有价值,那么我给你的也是充实和完整。 充分享受和你在一起的时光是爱你的一个最好方式。

Love involves seeing the potential within the person we love. In my love for another, I view her or him as the person she or he can become, while still accepting who and what the person is now.

爱你,就要看到你的潜力。爱你,就会接受你的现状,同时把你当作有潜力的人。

Mature love is union under the condition of preserving one's integrity, one's individuality. In love this paradox occurs that two beings become one and yet remain two.

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

成熟的爱是保持个人完整、独立的同时合成整体。合二为一,却又一分为二,这就是相爱的 悖论。

# 研究一下几个词的含义: 欧美、百度、网络

## 欧美

中国人一说"欧美国家",指的是欧洲和美洲的老牌发达资本主义国家,绝不是随便哪个欧洲或者美洲的国家都算得上是"欧美国家"。再一说"西方发达国家",就把亚洲的日本和大洋洲的澳大利亚、新西兰也包括进去了。

不过,"欧美国家"这一概念与冷战时东西方政治、经济、意识形态的对立和对抗息息相关。一方是以欧洲、北美生产力高度发达的民主国家为代表的西方国家,另一方则是以实现世界人民大团结、大同为目标的社会主义国家。较量的结果是柏林墙倒掉,怀着崇高理想的共产党人"无可奈何"地看着自己的事业"花落去"。

冷战之后,世界大变。北美还是原来的那个北美,但欧洲却早已不再是过去的那个欧洲了。 西欧几个发达国家从煤炭、钢铁共同市场开始,建立起了横跨几乎整个欧洲的"<u>欧洲联盟</u>"。 现在的"欧",恐怕就该是"欧洲联盟"了吧?

不过,有特殊含义的"欧美"概念会继续在汉语中存在下去,以方便与<u>我们的社会主义初级阶段</u>对比。一如既往地,"欧"不会包括欧洲国家俄罗斯。苏联解体马上二十年了,<u>俄罗斯</u>还是无法完全融入欧洲。以俄罗斯的体量和历史传统,它只能自己玩了。

### 百度、网号、上网

不明真相的中国网民总是喜欢把百度当成"自己人"来围观。殊不知<u>百度</u>其实跟<u>谷歌</u>一样,也是一家美资公司,只不过是由<u>华人</u>买办管理的而已。

腾讯公司的业务引领中国的数字生活方式。对于很多初级网民来说,网号不是宽带上网时拨的号码,而是 QQ 号码;上网不是用谷歌、百度这两个搜索引擎,而是 QQ 聊天。能做到这份上的 IT 公司,除了腾讯中国没有第二家了。

### 网络

互联网早已走入千家万户。有的人没有互联网就活不下去,比如我。"网络"一词是指 Internet 或者 World Wide Web (Web)。Network 这个词的含义要广得多,虽然包括 Internet 和 Web,但它还包括电网、关系网等等。在网络空间(cyberspace)里,我们可以"在线"(online) 做很多事情,比如网上银行服务(online banking),网络游戏(online gaming),网络购物(online shopping)等等。

以下是维基百科对互联网和 Web 之间差别的解释。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

The Internet and the World Wide Web are not one and the same. The Internet is a collection of interconnected computer networks, linked by copper wires, fiber-optic cables, wireless connections, etc. In contrast, the Web is a collection of interconnected documents and other resources, linked by hyperlinks and URLs. The World Wide Web is one of the services accessible via the Internet, along with various others including e-mail, file sharing, online gaming and others described below. However, "the Internet" and "the Web" are commonly used interchangeably in non-technical settings.

### 做好翻译的一个前提:对原文所谈事情要有了解

这是因为,只有了解了相关背景,翻译时才会掌握准确信息。否则,译文要么与事实不符,要么语焉不详、"说而不明"。下面是取自简历的一句话。如果译者不了解背景信息,就无法理解,更不要说翻译准确了。

He was president of the European Liberal Democrat Group from 1998 to 2002 and played a decisive role in the **demise** of the Santer Commission on the question of **parliamentary accountability**.

读到这句话,我们就可以判断出,原文信息不足,必须搜索到相关信息后才能翻译好。

与传统的百科全书相比,维基百科的一大优势是更新迅速,信息更"新鲜"。

读过维基百科的 Santer Commission 之后,我们了解到,雅克•桑特任主席时的欧盟委员会 因欧洲议会对委员会中的个别委员不满而集体辞职。这样一来,我们就可以知道,demise 的意思是"集体辞职",而 parliamentary accountability 的意思是"议会问责"。

知道这些补足信息之后,我们就可以这样翻译:

他在 1998 年至 2002 年期间担任欧洲自由民主小组主席(European Liberal Democrat Group),对雅克•桑特任主席的欧盟委员会因议会问责而全体辞职起到了决定性作用。

另外,目前欧盟的主要机构和领导人如下:

- 欧洲理事会(<u>European Council</u>), 主席范龙佩(Herman Van Rompuy)
- 欧盟委员会(European Commission),主席巴罗索(José Manuel Barroso)
- 欧洲议会(<u>European Parliament</u>),议长布泽克(Jerzy Buzek)
- 欧盟理事会(Council of the European Union), 轮值主席国比利时(从 **2011** 年 **1** 月份开始为匈牙利)

其中的"欧洲理事会"和"欧盟理事会"不要弄混。前者的成员是欧盟成员国的国家元首或者政府首脑,而后者的成员是欧盟成员国的部长,因此又称"部长理事会"。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

另外,欧洲还有一个:

• 欧洲委员会 (Council of Europe)

它有 47 个成员国,其中包括土耳其和俄罗斯,跟上面的"欧洲理事会"不是一家单位。比较 著名的欧洲人权委员会 (European Commission of Human Rights)和欧洲人权法院 (European Court of Human Rights)即隶属于欧洲委员会。

# 词汇研习(CW 49/2010): 怎么翻译 Moving forward 和 Going forward

这是两个新词(<u>neologism</u>),一般的字典里根本查不到。大约两三年前第一次遇到的时候,我感到十分迷惑不解。后来在<u>都市词典</u>(<u>Urban Dictionary</u>)里查到了,<u>这两个词的意思都</u>是"未来":

Going forward is purported to mean, "In the future" or "somewhere down the road" when in fact it is an attempt to dodge the use of these words, which generally indicate "I don't know". A newer development in corporate doublespeak... (据说, Go forward 的意思是"未来"、"今后"。但使用这个说法实际上只是为了避免"未来"、"今后"这些字眼而已。一般来说,它所表达的含义就是"我不知道将来会怎样"。这是商界故弄玄虚的一个新说法。)

这个说法含义的重点是"前进"、"发展"。跟"在发展中解决问题"这个说法异曲同工。它的意思就是:不管现在的情况如何乱糟糟,都要留待以后再解决,不过我也不知道将来到底会怎么样,但现状呢,您只能忍着。

示例:

- 1. Going forward we are confident our competitiveness in the British market will improve.
- 2. Going forward, the scalability of processors will make the transition to new algorithms faster and allow the hardware platform to be expanded as need arises.

为了不把英语里面的"垃圾"进口到汉语当中,我觉得我们当翻译的可以根据这两个词的"意思"和"精神"把他们直接翻译成"未来"、"在未来"、"将来"等等。

### 政治制度背景与翻译

翻译的时候,我们要理解内容的背景,这样才能翻译准确。之前我写过一篇<u>中国国家主席为什么英语是 President</u>的博文。今天,我又研究了一下"中国政府"是否与"美国政府"或者"英国政府"在理论上是否对等。

全国人民代表大会是中国的最高权力机关,由它选举产生国家主席和副主席,国务院总理由国家主席提名并由全国人民代表大会决定。但这些机构和职位的实际运作全由我党包办。《宪

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

法》规定"中华人民共和国国务院,即中央人民政府,是最高国家权力机关的执行机关,是最高国家行政机关。"因此,在中国,中央政府是国务院,只是"行政"部门。

但美国的情况不同。美国政府根据"三权分立"(Separation of Powers)和"权力制衡"(Checks and Balances)原则分为三部分:行政、立法和司法。国会负责立法,但总统可以否决。议会又可以推翻总统的否决。总统任命行政官员,但须国会认可。国会可以弹劾官员,乃至总统。最高法院法官由总统任命,国会批准。法官又可以法律违宪为由宣布其无效。其中,总统由各州选民直接选举的选举人选出。总统掌管"政府"的"行政"(Administration)部门,同时是军队最高统帅。由此可见,"美国政府"是行政、议会和司法三合一的权力分立、相互制衡的组织。

与中美两国的共和体制不同的一点是,英国为君主立宪制国家(constitutional monarchy)。 "英国政府"的**内阁首相**由下议院多数党领袖担任,首相从议会中选择议员组成政府中的实权机构——内阁。君主是军队的总司令,但首相和内阁实际掌控军队。这个老牌的民主国家甚为"独裁",三权并不分立:多数党为执政党,执政党领袖任首相,执政党控制下议院(立法),大法官以及检察长和副检察长由多数党领袖挑选本党党员担任,其中大法官既是最高法院院长,又是上院议长和内阁阁员。"英国政府"包括君主、首相及其领导的内阁、文职部门等。

实际上,我觉得以上各种形式只是操作时的具体程序有差异,政府是由"少数人来统治多数 人"这种安排本质在三个国家完全相同。

在翻译中,我们知道了这三个国家的政治制度,才会"知其然"。

- "中国政府"是国务院(State Council), 首脑为总理(Premier)。
- "美国政府"包括总统(President)、国会(Congress)和最高法院(Supreme Court)。 比如,奥巴马担任总统的行政部门还称为 Obama Administration,中文叫"奥巴马政府"。
- "英国政府"包括国王或者女王(Monarch)、王室(The Crown)、枢密院(The Privy Council)、内阁(Cabinet)、文职部门(Civil Service)。

知道了这些,以下内容就会更清楚:

- 掌握党政军大权的中国国家主席才是跟美国总统和英国首相对等的人物
- 美国国会通过了刘晓波决议,我们不能去找美国总统理论,因为国会不对总统负责
- 英国首相和内阁对议会负责;中国总理和国务院对全国人大负责;美国没有总理, 各部部长只对总统负责;美国国务卿实际上是"外交部长"
- 英美人口中的 Chinese government 很可能不只是我们的"国务院"
- 我们口中的"美国政府"和"英国政府"很可能只相当于他们政府当中的一个组成部分,即行政部门

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

### 貌似无聊但很有意义的问题:北京和北京市有区别吗?

我想起了这个很多年曾经问过别人的一个问题。我觉得二者有区别。北京不是有"京通快速路"吗?不是有从"怀柔"到"北京"的长途车吗?不是有人觉得只有二环里面才算是"北京"吗?不是还有觉得"城八区"(在北京(崇)文(宣)武全废、四核变双核之后,现在应该是城六区了)才是"北京"吗?

二者的区别是,"北京市"可以烟消云散,而"北京"永远不灭。"北京市"是白纸黑字确定的一块地方,而"北京"则可以根据不同的划分标准可大可小、位置漂移。

其实,"中国"和"中华人民共和国"之间、"中国"与"中华民国"之间的区别何尝不也是如此呢? "中国"的历史文化、风俗传统、语言文字、政治经济、科学技术的内涵和外延远远大于"中华人民共和国"或者"中华民国"。"北京市"是北京从原来一小块地方开始,扩大,再扩大而形成的一个地方。"中国"也是。

这也是"华北"、"华南"、"华东"、"华西"、"华中"与"中华人民共和国"目前的版图根本对不上的原因。这些地名里面的"华"是"入主中原"里面的中原。

因此,"华北"、"华南"、"华东"、"华西"、"华中"的正确英文说法分别是: North China、South China、East China、West China、Central China(首字母均大写,表示特指)。而中国的东部、北部、西部、南部、中部则分别是 eastern China、northern China、western China、southern China、central China(表明方位的词均小写,表示非特指)。

## 美国首都叫什么名字?

现在,不少人把美国首都(Washington, District of Columbia, the U.S.A.)称为"<u>华盛顿特</u>区"或者"<u>华盛顿哥伦比亚特区</u>"。其实,这两种称呼都不准确。它的正确的全称应该是"美国哥伦比亚特区华盛顿"。

美国另外还有华盛顿州(State of Washington),该州的首府西雅图是波音公司的总部所在地,位于美国的太平洋沿岸,而首都华盛顿则位于大西洋沿岸。一东一西。为避免混淆,中文里一直都称美国首都为"美国首都华盛顿"。

哥伦比亚特区的"特"至少体现在两个地方:一是,它是当年专门为美国建都而由马里兰和弗吉尼亚两个州"贡献"出来的地方(后来弗吉尼亚拿回了土地);二是,哥伦比亚特区的地域与华盛顿市完全重合,因此这块土地实际上具有双重身份:它既是美国的联邦区,受美国政府直接管辖,也是一座城市,是美国政府驻地。

以下是《大英百科全书》对这个地方的介绍:

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Washington, D.C. ("District of Columbia"), city and capital of the United States of America. The city is coextensive with the District of Columbia and is located at the head of navigation of the Potomac River, which separates it from Virginia to the southwest. In 1790 Congress designated 100 square miles (260 square km) of territory for the seat of government for the new nation on land ceded by Maryland and Virginia. However, in the mid-19th century the land south of the Potomac was returned to Virginia, and since then the District's boundaries have made it essentially a 68-square-mile (177-square-km) enclave carved from Maryland. The greater Washington metropolitan area includes several surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia and such Virginia cities as Fairfax, Falls Church, and Alexandria. Pop. (1990) city, 606,900; Washington PMSA, 4,223,485; Washington—Baltimore CMSA, 6,727,050; (2000) city, 572,059; Washington PMSA, 4,923,153; Washington—Baltimore CMSA, 7,608,070.

Washington, D.C., Encyclopedia Britannica

## 词汇研习(CW 49/2010): 怎么翻译"主人翁精神"

### 开篇语:

房子是一砖一瓦盖起来的,砖瓦质量好,尺寸、外形没问题,房子才有可能结实。与此相类似,只有"树"都生得郁郁葱葱,"林"才可能兴旺。"独木难支"、"独木不成林"说的就是这种情况:"人多力量大"!

学英语何尝不是如此呢?我们要努力理解、知道一个词的全部常用意义,它的左邻右舍,邻 里关系。这样在翻译中碰到它才能"知其然",也能"知其所以然"。

今天我研究了一下"主人翁精神"。简单来说,"主人翁精神"是一种把工作或者事情"当成自己的事儿"的态度。有了这种态度没有做不好的事情。这也是为啥国家总是倡导我们要发扬"主人翁"精神的原因。我总觉得,虽然讲汉英两种语言的人虽然背景、文化各不相同,但思维、感情都是相通的,否则翻译就没法做了:"鸡跟鸭讲"的话怎么翻译得了?

# 英语里也有"主人翁"的态度和精神,它就是 ownership。

- 1. Regional President supports the program and encourages local **ownership**.
- 2. Giving your team a clear sense of **ownership** is a key goal of this exercise.

欢迎大家留言发表看法,也欢迎大家翻译一下这两句英语。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

## 从中国国家主席的英语译名说起

你想过没有,为什么中国国家主席叫 president,而不叫 chairman?

因为中国总统在中国叫"国家主席",跟中国警察在中国叫"公安"是一个"道理"。也可以这么说,主席就是总统,公安就是警察,公安局就是警察局。中国是一个共和国,当然会有总统(国家主席),有总理(政府首脑,即掌管行政权力的国务院总理),当然也有警察(维护内部安全的公安)。

1982 年的《宪法》没有授予国家主席这一职位以实权,主席只是一个虚职。但从江泽民开始,主席由掌握实权的党总书记和党军事委员会主席兼任之后,"含金量"大增,成为代表中华人民共和国的最好职位,名正言顺,与大权独揽的美国总统或者英国首相会晤时也毫不逊色。不然,如果中方对等代表是Party General Secretary 或者 Party Military Commission Chairman 会显得多么地不符合国际惯例啊。

# "名"与"实"

凡事都有"名"和"实"。有的是"有名无实",有的是"有实无名"。在邓小平时代,乃至江泽民三位一体地担任国家主席、总书记党和军委主席军的时候,江也是"有名无实"的。为甚?因为在邓小平活着的时候,他虽然只担任或者已经卸任军委主席,但他仍然毫不含糊地是中国"最高领导人"(paramount leader)。

类似的例子还有,缅甸国家和平与发展委员会主席丹瑞(Than Shwe, chairman of the State Peace and Development Council)、朝鲜国防委员会委员长金正日(Kim Jong II, Chairman of the National Defense Commission,朝鲜宪法规定国防委员会委员长是"国家的最高领导人")、古巴国务委员会主席劳尔·卡斯特罗(Raúl Castro, President of the Cuban Council of State)、伊朗最高领袖哈梅内伊(Ali Khamenei,Supreme Leader of Iran)。这些人担任的职务是各自国家里面最高的,我们做翻译的,一定要搞清楚这些人、担任的职位和国家的情况。比如劳尔·卡斯特罗职位的英文名称跟中国总理(Premier of the State Council)差不多,但千万不要搞错,一个是国家元首,一个是政府首脑。

另外一个要注意的问题是,只有君主制的现代国家里面才有大臣和首相这两个说法,比如日本各个省(相当于中国的部)的大臣、日本首相(正式称呼是总理大臣)。目前,世界尚有英国、荷兰、比利时、丹麦、瑞典、挪威、西班牙、卢森堡、列支敦士登、摩纳哥、马来西亚、摩洛哥、泰国、斯威士兰、汤加、阿曼、沙特阿拉伯、科威特、卡塔尔、阿拉伯联合酋长国、约旦、莱索托、不丹等君主制国家。君主制有两种,一种是君主立宪制(比如欧洲的君主国),一种是君主专制(比如中东的君主国)。

### 总理还是首相?

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

我国现在把马来西亚和泰国政府首脑的职位翻译成"总理"。这个译名实际上不太合乎汉语惯例。大马和泰国<u>当地的华语媒体都是称"首相"的。</u>君主制国家的政府首脑,汉语中一直称"首相"。"总理"何来,实在是搞不清楚!难道是日语"总理大臣"的简称?

## "党和国家领导人"

我们也要对自己国家的领导非常清楚才行,否则就会"闹笑话"了。常说的"党中央、国务院"、"中央"、"中央政府"、"中宣部",你知道都是什么单位吗?

### 答案:

- 党中央: 中国共产党中央委员会 (CPC Central Committee)
- 中央: 党中央的简称
- 中央政府: 国务院的另一个名字 (State Council)
- 中宣部:全称"中国共产党中央委员会宣传部",缩短形式"中共中央宣传部"(注意: 国务院可没有这个"部"!)

## Propaganda 是什么意思?

中宣部的英文译名里面不能用 propaganda 这个词来指"宣传"。为啥? 因为用这个词就等于给党的头上"扣屎盆子"。

美国传统词典(American Heritage Dictionary)里有解:

### Propaganda:

- 1. The systematic propagation of a doctrine or cause or of information reflecting the views and interests of those advocating such a doctrine or cause.
- 2. Material disseminated by the advocates or opponents of a doctrine or cause: wartime propaganda.

Propaganda 是指为了达到"神圣的目的",不惜用撒谎、骗人的方式传播不实信息的。这种事情虽然哪个政府都在做,但不能还没开始宣传就从机构名称上承认了吧?中宣部要 翻译成"the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee"就对了。这也是英文的《中国日报》里面提及相关人员时的译法。

### 书记和X长

我们国家是党领导下的社会主义国家。在党认为比较重要的机构里面,党组书记的权力要大于行政的"长",比如省委书记大于省长,市委书记大于市长。不过,在党认为可以放开的地方,比如大学和公立医院,则是校长或者院长的权力大于书记。国企实行现代企业制度之

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

后,书记变身董事长,厂长变身总经理。在很多 部级(分正副)单位里面,**X**长和书记是一个人,比如国家林业局局长、党组书记贾治邦、国家工商总局局长、党组书记周伯华、国家计划生育委员会主任、党组书 记李斌。

国家机关领导的英文译名要搞对,就必须要知道这些机关是什么级别的,还得知道英语国家同等官员的职位名称。当然,最简便的办法是到它们的官方网站是去看。比如,国家工商总局是部级单位,局长是 minister, 计划生育委员会主任也是 minister, 人民银行行长是 governor。

# 宪法和宪政

我国很多与"国际惯例"的共和国体制不太一样的原因大概是中国是一个<u>"有宪法没宪政"的</u>国家。而且现行的《中华人民共和国宪法》也不是一部"合格"的共和国宪法。

我这个纯粹外行的人也能看出其中的一个漏洞——宪法规定"国家的一切权利属于人民",但《宪法》通篇没有对谁是"人民"明确加以定义,而在字里行间中,把"人民"限定为部分中国人,而非全体中国公民。

**第一条** 中华人民共和国是**工人**阶级领导的、以**工农联盟**为基础的**人民**民主专政的社会主义 国家。

第二条中华人民共和国的一切权力属于人民。

第三十三条凡具有中华人民共和国国籍的人都是中华人民共和国公民。

### 也就是说,人民等于全体公民减掉工农以外的人。

同时,"人民"是一个政治概念,而非法律概念。《刑法》中,由危害国家安全罪取代的"反革命罪"也是一个不折不扣的政治概念,而非法律概念。

我们来对比一下 1986 年开始在台湾实施的 1946 年《中华民国宪法》:

第二條 中華民國之主權屬於國民全體。

第三條 具有中華民國國籍者為中華民國國民。

我乃翻译,而非宪政专家,也非宪法历史专家。关于这个主题,请参阅:

- 《中华民国宪法》与《中华人民共和国宪法》比较(备份链接)
- 中国缘何有宪法之名而无宪政之实: 以《立法法》的七年执行为例(备份链接)
- 中国的宪法与宪政(备份链接)
- 《宪法》第一大错误:"国家"和"政府"相混淆(备份链接)

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

# 局长是做什么的?

常来这个博客的各位同学会知道,出于对翻译工作的热爱,我特地建立了一个邮件列表。到目前为止,已经有 **80** 位志同道合的翻译界同仁下载了我草草写成的<u>电子书《活龙揭秘翻</u>译》,并定订阅了我定期发送的通讯邮件。

**8** 月份,我在通讯里提到一句话的翻译,并改写成了<u>一篇博文</u>。今天,一位名字叫 **NCM** 的读者发来了他的译文:

斯里兰卡旅游局前理事长埃尔维斯(de Alwis)最近从第二任期卸任后,便深入斯里兰卡南方农村积极从事社会激进活动。

这句话的原文是:

de Alwis, a former Chairman of the Sri Lanka Tourist Board, most recently served a second term in that capacity and went into a life of active social activism and work living in a rural environment in the Deep South of Sri Lanka.

我建议的译文是:

de Alwis 先生曾任斯里兰卡旅游局局长,最近从第二个局长任期卸任,现居住于斯里兰卡南方腹地农村地区,积极投身于社会行动和工作。

并目,他还说:

个人感觉唯一的难点就是这个 Tourist Board 的处理,按字面理解应该翻译成理事会的,但目前似乎一般翻译作旅游局,从俗了。但 board 和 bureau 毕竟不一样,表现在设置上,board 就有两套班子,理事会理事长 chairman 那一套和行政上的 president 局长那一套。这里估计不是局长,故翻译为旅游局的理事长,颇不伦不类,但没有进一步的信息下也只有这么模糊处理了。

我感到十分惊讶,因为这个问题我还从来没有考虑过:英文中的机构 board 和 bureau 有什么不同?

于是,我就用 Google 进行了一番搜索,结果不是很多:

A board is a final decision maker on policy and budget, and a council provides a forum for discussion and then makes recommendations. .... Cihlar expressed the concern that if the board changes to a council, it may not have the authority to make decisions...

来源: 威斯康辛州农业、贸易与消费者保护部的一份会议记录

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

The difference between a board and a bureau is significant for both the consumer and the profession. While both boards and bureaus are made up of appointees from the public and the profession, a professional board has authority to enact rules and regulations for consumer protection and for the practice of the profession. A bureau has an advisory committee which does not have this same authority. The advisory committee can only make recommendations with ultimate decision making vested in the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA).

来源:加利福尼亚听力学学会的一份政府和立法事务说明

从这两个例子中可以看出,在这两份资料作者的工作环境中,board 的权力大于 bureau 和 council。它不但可以制定规章、规定,也许还能亲自负责实施这些规章和规定,而 council 只是一个咨询机构、讨论的场所。Bureau 在这一点上与 council 类似,它只有"建议"规章、规定如何制定的权力,上级听不听是另外一个问题。

不过,我国的国务院英语叫 State Council,是国家的中央政府,应该是中国各个 council 中最"大"的了。那 council 在英语里是什么意思呢?

Council: a body of persons specially designated or selected to act in an advisory, administrative, or legislative capacity: the governor's council on housing.

那就是说, council 的权力可大可小,全看它是在什么环境当中了。

再来看 bureau 在英语中是什么意思:

Bureau: a division of a government department or an independent administrative unit; an office for collecting or distributing news or information, coordinating work, or performing specified services; agency: a travel bureau; a news bureau.

这是 board 的意思:

Board: an organized body of administrators or investigators; an official group of persons who direct or supervise some activity

这样看来, Council 可以起到咨询、行政或者立法的作用,"用途"最为广泛; Bureau 最小,只是政府内一个"按指示办事"的部门。词典里的 Board 解释最不详细,但根据开头引用的两个例子,可以推测在实际的机构当中, Board 也是一个"立规矩"的机构。

现在回到 NCM 同学的邮件内容。他说自己是"从俗"才把 Board 翻译成了"局",又猜测 chairman 不是"局长",就把它翻译成了"理事长"。这个译法我也认为不太好。《现代汉语词典》里有解:"理事:代表团体行使职权并处理事情的人:理事会,常务理事"。他是推举

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

出来的代表,代理别人处理事情的人,不能"领导"别人,只能"商量",比如行业协会的理事长、理事等。

那翻译成"斯里兰卡旅游局局长"是否妥当呢?

我们来"透过名称看实质"。Board 是一个既能立规矩,又能实施规矩的机构,典型的"议行合一"。我国的"局"也大都有这样的权力。比如,国家工商总局、国家林业局、国家体育总局等等。据此看,翻译成"斯里兰卡旅游局"没有不妥。

Chairman 翻译成"局长"对不对呢?不太对。原因是 Chairman 是"议行合一"里面的"议" 的最高长官,手下还有办事的官员,就是 NCM 说的行政负责人 President 或者其他什么 名称的一个人。

非常无奈的是, **Sri** Lanka Tourist Board 这个机构似乎已经不复存在了,无法继续查证。最新的搜索结果是它已经分成了:

- 1. The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority
- 2. The Sri Lanka Tourism Promotions Bureau
- 3. Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management
- 4. Sri Lanka Convention Bureau

于是,我只好找了一家 National Labor Relations Board 来做个对照。

The NLRB is organized into two major components: a five-member governing Board, and the Office of the General Counsel. ... The Board is a quasi-judicial body that decides labor issues, while the General Counsel investigates and prosecutes cases.

很明显,这就是一个典型的 Chairman 领导 President 的搭配。根据我国的"党领导政府"的安排,这个 Chairman 就是我们熟知的"书记"(上面提到的国家工商总局、国家林业局、国家体育总局,毫无例外局长都兼任书记),翻译成"主席"似更妥当一些。

据此,在 Robert Z. 帮我改进译文之后,根据 NCM 十分到位的提醒,我特此把译文再次 修改如下:

de Alwis 先生曾任斯里兰卡旅游局主席,最近从第二个主席任期卸任,现居住于斯里兰卡南方腹地农村地区,积极投身于社会行动和工作。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

### 华文、华语、汉文、汉语、普通话、国文、国语、中文、中国语、中语?

假如要是有"中语"这个说法,今天的博文就没有灵感了。

近日,《重庆日报》有云:以"快乐汉语、健康成长"为主题的第3届"汉语桥"世界中学生中文比赛将于10月16日至30日在重庆举行。届时,来自亚洲、美洲、欧洲、非洲和大洋洲35个国家的160名优秀中学生和领队教师将来渝参赛。

在下面,报道如此介绍汉语桥:

"汉语桥"中文比赛是中国国家汉办主办的一系列大型国际汉语赛事之一,目前已经开展的比赛有"汉语桥"世界大学生中文比赛、"汉语桥"世界中学生中文比赛、"汉语桥"在华留学生中文比赛 3 项赛事。自 2002 年第一届"汉语桥"世界大学生中文比赛开赛以来,已成功举办了 9 届"汉语桥"世界大学生中文比赛、2 届"汉语桥"世界中学生中文比赛和 2 届"汉语桥"在华留学生中文比赛。来自世界 70 多个国家的近千名外国大中学生来华 参加了决赛,各国参与预赛活动的汉语学习者达 10 万余人。"汉语桥"世界中文比赛已成为各国汉语学习者学习中文、了解中国、体验中国文化的重要平台,在中国与世界各国青年中间架起了一座沟通心灵的桥梁。

我在翻译中早就注意到了这个问题。

假如有这么句话: Languages used at the conference: English, Russian, Chinese and Japanese

有人会翻译成:会议所用语言为英语、俄语、中文和日语。这个"文"字是不是有点扎眼呢?别人都是"语",为什么只有 Chinese 是"文"呢?

在严格的用法当中,"语"和"文"是两个东西,合起来是"语言"。简单地说,语是用来"说"的,而"文"是用来写的。一个是口头的,一个是书面的。要知道,有的语言是没有文字的,也就是只有语,没有文。中间的差别不可谓不明显。一场会议,主要是大家聊聊天,讲讲话。因此,Chinese 应该是也是"语"。推算下去,英语、俄语、中语……非常可惜,只有中文,没有"中语"!也不管是否"正确",只好写成"中文"了。改成"汉语"总对了吧?可还是不搭,英、俄、日都是国家的名字,"汉"又不是我们现在的国号。

那就叫"华语"?也很可惜。这个名字虽然很好,但却只是**海外华人**才这么叫。而且,"中"和"华"还未完全统一。**2008** 年北京奥运会上,台湾派出的是"中华队",大陆派出的是"中国队":中华对决中国!着实很搞。

换成"国文"不对,换成"国语"不搭。总之,这个问题很难办。我也不想再继续观察这个复杂的问题。而且,即使我想观察,也未必能全面。我搜到马来西亚华语规范理事会网站上的一篇长文,专门讲这个问题。有兴趣的同志可以去看一下: 《汉语、华语、中文、普通话与国语》。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

但我想思考一下同一个东西为什么会有这么多的称呼。

大概,是因为历史和世界太过复杂。这个让人纠结的问题恰好反映了这一现实。

对于汉语言,不同的人,在不同的时期,从不同的角度,都会有自己的叫法。

先从中国(你说我该不该包括台湾? 烦。这是中国语言中事关"政治上是否正确"的一大烦心事)内部说起。一般说,我们有 56 个民族,汉族是其中一个。在"中国"就是天下、华夏大地就是"中土"的以汉族为中心的传统思维当中,汉族人当然会根据自己的政治、文化、历史经验来把我们的语言叫做"汉语言",要么是汉语,要么是汉文。

可能有的同学会想,为什么偏偏是"汉",不是"秦",也不是"唐"呢?中国在秦代第一次统一,但第一次成为一个自觉的民族却是在汉代发生的事情。而唐则是后来的后来的后来的事情。

两汉前后绵延四百多年,许许多多的"第一次"都是这个时期发生的。第一次确立自己的大一统意识形态(罢黜百家,独尊儒术),第一次韬光养晦几十年,后来击败劲敌(匈奴,"明犯强汉者,虽远必诛!"),第一次确立令四海臣服的文化(汇集荆楚、齐鲁、中原、关中、北方、巴蜀、吴越、岭南而成的大一统汉文化)。有人把那时的中国比作一个青年,第一次觉得自己长大了,世界就在自己脚下。他觉得自己是猛虎,路,想跑多远跑多远;他觉得自己是鸿鹄,天空,想飞多高飞多高;

"在汉代,华夏民族刚刚经历了创造力勃发的轴心时代。他像一个十七八岁的少年,有着无限的好奇心和无穷的自信心。春秋战国的百家争鸣,积累了一切它所需要的智慧。同时,他又刚刚走出血与火相涤荡的上古时代,保持着原始的野性和活力。如今四海一统、民生恢复,这个精力旺盛的年轻民族终于摆脱了内部的自相杀伐,内求巩固,外求扩张。中华大地的面貌从此发生了永久的改变,亚洲的格局为之一新,余波一直冲击到遥远的西方世界。正如高祖在《鸿鹄歌》中所唱:"鸿鹄高飞,一举千里。羽翮已就,横绝四海。"

我们这10几亿人"汉"的名号,这样看来不是白来的,而是自己努力得来的。

其实,它更是别人赋予的。在我们"内求巩固,外求扩张"之后,就与外界有了交流。被击败的匈奴,逃跑的闻风丧胆,留下的"心悦臣服"。"围观"的"国际友人"无不胆战心惊、顶礼膜拜。汉族人认识了自己,别人何尝不也认识了汉族人呢?从此有了汉族、汉语和汉文。

历史的车轮一刻不会停歇。到了清代,虽然在汉族看来,华夏由异族统治,但清仍然是一个大一统的王朝,中华民族融合早已完成。到了"五族共和"的中华民国,中华第一次成为了现代政治意义上的"国家",汉语成了各族人民的"国语",汉文成了大家的"国文"。到了人民共和国,国语有了新的名字"普通话"。我一时查不到"中文"这个说法从什么时候开始有的,根据我合乎逻辑的思考,也应该是 1949 年之后的事情。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

于是,在与中国以外的地方和人(包括海外华人、深受汉文化影响的日本、韩国、朝鲜、越南和华人聚集的东南亚各国)打交道的过程中,我们的国语——汉语在他们看来就是中国语(他们忘了中国有多少种语言)、中文(他们忘了中国有多少种文字,不知道有多少种语言没有文字)、华文(他们忘了曾经还有东夷西戎,南蛮北狄)、华语(他们忘了中国各地有多少种"话")。

我觉得,虽然有的时候从不同的角度来看"汉"不是这种语言"最好"的名字,但却是它最原本、最"正确"的名字:汉语、汉文、汉字。一如英语到了世界任何一个地方,在历史中的任何一个时候,都是英吉利人的语言,虽然它早走出了英伦一隅。

# 一句话翻译: 需要搞清楚动词和连词的含义

### 一 动词的"完成"和连词的"先后"含义

de Alwis, a former Chairman of the Sri Lanka Tourist Board, most recently served a second term in that capacity and went into a life of active social activism and work living in a rural environment in the Deep South of Sri Lanka.

这句话来自一篇新闻稿。新闻稿是最难搞的一类东西。它难在看似简单,其实遍布陷阱。比如这句里的关键动词 **served** 和非常不起眼的 **and**。能不能避开这两个陷阱,全看平时对英文表达方式的微妙之处是否了如指掌。

这句话的意思是, de Alwis 先生做完(served)第二任的主席之后, 就(and)深入农村参与社会去了, 而且还不是一般的社会活动。翻译起来, 可以这样:

de Alwis 先生曾任斯里兰卡旅游局主席,最近从第二个主席任期卸任,现居住于斯里兰卡南方腹地农村地区,积极投身于社会行动和工作。

如果不知道 served 是"完成"了第二个任期,也不知道 and 表示的是事情先后发生,或者不知道其它什么词的意思,这句简单的话意思能理解拧巴得匪夷所思。我经常想,这就好比医院里病人生的千奇百怪的病,一个与病绝少打交道的健康人是绝想不到的。也好比托尔斯泰讲的,"幸福的家庭总是相似的,而不幸的家庭则各有各的不幸。"(All happy families resemble one another, but each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. English translation by Louis & Aylmer Maude)"好"的译文意思是准确的,出不出彩有时倒是次要的。对于"工业化生产"的翻译公司和译员来说,"意思准确"既可以当作最低标准,也可以当作最高标准。

我举两个理解拧巴的译文实例:

甲: de Alwis 先生为斯里兰卡旅游局前任局长,并于最近刚刚再次被任命为局长。他居住在斯里兰卡南方腹地的一个乡村,热衷于参与各种社会活动,并非常热爱自己的工作。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

乙: 德·阿尔维斯曾两度出任斯里兰卡旅游局主席。在第二届任期内,他积极投身于斯里兰 卡南部乡村地区的社会活动与工作。

我们来看看这两句译文所的患"怪病",还有它们的"不幸"之处。甲乙两句都坚信老先生在做着局长的同时还能在老远的农村积极从事社会工作。问题是,他两边的工作能忙过来吗?

"无中生有"是这两句译文另外一个毛病。原文只说他农村社会活动很积极,可没说什么"热爱不热爱"的事情。"热衷于"也属无中生有。从感觉上说,"热衷"一词用"过了",而且还不搭——"热衷"跟"赶时髦"差不远了。**不能打客户的耳光,这是个原则——**客户出钱让我们翻译,我们还在译文里说他的坏话。这至少是没有职业道德。"两度出任"也有问题。如果中间没有隔着一任,那应该叫连任。"出任"乃"请出来担任",如果一直都没离开过,就无所谓"出不出"了。最重要的是,原文只说了做了两任主席。至于怎么个两任,它没说,作为译者的我们也没必要去搞清楚了。

还有就是, activism 也不是一般的"社会活动", 而是手段比较直接、激烈的实际行动。词典里有解:

The doctrine or practice of vigorous action or involvement as a means of achieving political or other goals, sometimes by demonstrations, protests, etc. (Random House Dictionary)

关于 -ism的含义,请参阅我的另一篇博文《恐怖主义?》。

总结来说,把意思翻译对,跟"保持健康"、"要家庭幸福"一样具有挑战性(这是鬼子话,中国话说"一样困难","一样不容易")。

延伸阅读:《局长是做什么的?》、《activism 怎么翻译》

# 讨论一下"粮食"的"安全"

英语改变了一个常用汉字的读音,这是真的。"卡车"和"卡片"这两个词都是汉语中由中外两种元素合成的产品,一般被归为外来语——不过没几个人能想到他们是"外来"的。其实,凡是跟这种车和各种卡片没关的场合,"卡"字传统上一直都念qia(三声)来着,比如"发卡"、"关卡"、"卡脖子"等等。但是,这个字单独出现时,甚至跟其他词一起出现时,把这个字念成ka(三声)现在是必须的了,不然别人就不会懂你在说什么。

还有一个跟外语无关的。台湾有个电脑品牌叫"宏碁"(Acer)。这个看起来很奇怪的字——"碁" 其实是念"旗"的。现在,大家都把这个牌子当成"宏基"。不知道"宏基"回到它的台湾老家, 那里的乡亲父老还能不能认出来它就是"宏碁"。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

如果说,因为误会或者懒惰,某个字的读音变了还不奇怪的话,那因为外语的影响,汉语词汇的意思也跟着变了就匪夷所思了。但这也是真的。

### 粮食。

根据在线词典"<u>汉典</u>"的定义,"<u>粮食</u>"是"古时行道曰粮,止居曰食。后亦通称供食用的谷类、 豆类和薯类等原粮和成品粮。供食用的**谷物、豆类和薯类**的统称。"

其实,普通人不会搞错,搞错的是那些"专家"。但是,就因为他们搞错了,我们还必须得跟着错,原因同上:不跟他们的来就会影响交流。

### "粮食安全"!

它源于联合国粮农组织"对大家是不是都有东西可以吃"的一种担心。

### 什么是"粮食安全"呢?

联合国粮农组织对粮食安全的定义是"确保所有人在任何时候既买得到又买得起所需要的基本食品"。包括三个具体目标:确保生产足够数量的粮食;最大限度地稳定粮食供应;确保所有需要粮食的人都能获得粮食。

### 新华网:《全球背景下的中国粮食安全状况与应对》

据我国粮食问题专家陈锡文介绍,国际粮农组织对粮食安全的权威解释是"要保证任何人在任何时候都能买得起他所需要的食品"。这个概念非常复杂,首先是说你必须有这么多食品,有这么多粮食,这些粮食可以是你自己生产的,也可以是进口的;第二有这么多供给,消费都必须有他自己有支付能力的需求,如果有粮食,但有部分人买不起,对这部分低收入的贫困人口来说仍然是不安全的。就全球的粮食来说,现在过剩量很大,但非洲还有人挨饿,对非洲人来说粮食就是不安全的。从我们国家的情况来看,改革开放以后,地区之间的差距。人均之间的差距在拉大,尽管这几年农村扶贫力度很大,进展也很大,贫困人口去年年底已减少到3400万人,但毕竟还是有一部分人,即使在口粮方面还是有一定困难的,所以真正按世界粮农组织的这个定义去做,我们国家还有很多工作要做,粮食安全既有粮食生产的总量问题,也有通过进出口调剂,库存的吞吐,保证市场供求平衡的问题,还有怎么样保障低收入贫困人口的食品安全问题,这是一个完整的概念。

### 来源: http://www.fzgrain.com/lspf/scdt/d-2000-11-16-1.htm

如此跳跃的逻辑!也就是说,所有的人都有东西吃,大家营养都充足,"粮食"就"安全"了。在这里,"粮食"被等同于了"食品"。虽然"粮食"就是"食品",但"食品安全"不是"粮食安全"。国家"食品"药品监督管理局不管"粮食",只管加工之后的"粮食",于是"粮食"又不是"食品"。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

其实,很明显,能吃的"食品"不都是"粮食"。可这个时候,逻辑和常识是不起作用的。

"食品"和"粮食"如此地纠结在一起,彼此分拆不开。咋整呢?没关系,我们也有"<u>红楼梦</u>"里的风月宝鉴一样的东西——反过来照一照就知道咋回事了。

"粮食安全"和"食品安全"其实是从英语翻译过来的,它们原来的样子是:

Food security refers to the availability of food – in other words whether it is physically available and if so at what price.

Food safety refers to the extent to which food is safe to eat.

### 来源: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/glossary/index\_en.htm

Food security refers to the availability of food and one's access to it. A household is considered food secure when its occupants do not live in hunger or fear of starvation.

### 来源: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food\_security

Food safety is a scientific discipline describing handling, preparation, and storage of food in ways that prevent foodborne illness.

### 来源: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food\_safety

细心的朋友,还会发现: Food 这个词被分别翻译成了不同的词: "粮食"和"食品",而不同的两个词 Security 和 Safety 又被翻译成了同一个词: "安全"。汉语,也许还有其他语言,就是这么没有什么逻辑可讲。

这两种安全(Security和Safety)又有什么异同呢?我试着查了一下老外们是怎么理解二者的差异的,<u>结果我越看越糊涂</u>。查查我的英文词典吧,它还用一个词去解释另一个词,让我无所适从。

于是,我决定自己去理解: Security 讲的是"能不能进入"、"能不能接近"、"能不能得到",而 Safety 讲的是"某物体本身有没有物理、化学等意义上的危险"。比如一座大楼的 Security 很好的话,闲杂人等是不能进入的,也不会被贼偷,而它的 Safety 是指这座大楼会不会有火灾,吊顶的灯会不会掉下来,地震时会不会倒塌。当然了,如果这座大楼在地震时有倒塌之虞,那你在这座大楼肯定没有 sense of security。而且,如果有贼随时能潜入这座大楼,你在里面也不感到很 Safe,你会是感觉自己的人身 Safety 处于危险之中。所以,我觉得这两种"安全"既有区别,也有联系,而且区别是相对的,联系是绝对的。看俺这马克思辩证唯物主义学得多好!

这又让我想起了"主义"这个词。它是从<u>日语进口的无需多讲</u>,我今天只说"恐怖主义"。我两年多以前写过一篇关于这个词的博文,今天再简单说一下。

"恐怖主义"实为有政治目的的"恐怖活动"。"恐怖主义"的原文是 Terrorism,虽然它里面有-ism (Socialism 和 Capitalism),但它跟"主义"真的没什么关系。

Terrorism is the intentional use or threat to use violence against civilians and non-combatants "in order to achieve political goals".

来源: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism

Longman: [Terrorism is] the use of violence or the threat of violence to obtain political demands

Collins: Terrorism is the use of violence, especially murder and bombing, in order to achieve political aims.

-ism 的含义如下:

- 1. (a movement or religion based on) the stated principle or the teachings of: Buddhism
- 2. an act or the practice or process of: witticism
- 3. the state or quality of being: heroism
- 4. illness caused by too much: alcoholism
- 5. the practice of making unfair differences between people: sexism

(Source: Longman)

想象一下: criticism (批判主义)、magnetism (磁性主义)、plagiarism (剽窃主义)。

顺便再提一下我比现在愤青时写的《<u>没有雷锋就没有中国</u>》,里面讲了一些关于什么是"爱国"的问题。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

# What does it mean when the Chinese say to you that you hurt their feelings?

It means that they will no longer care about how you will feel about what they are going to do - it's almost an unqualified grave threat or warning in some cases.

When the Chinese say someone else has *shanghai le tamen de ganqing* (伤害了他们的感情) and this expression is translated as they "have gotten their feelings hurt", something is missing to native English speakers – the part of it that makes this expression really meanful to the Chinese.

How important is *ganqing* to the Chinese? If *ganqing* between Chinese people is hurt, it doesn't simply make the victim "feel bad". It makes him extremely disheartened. The victim interprets the hurt as a denial of all previously established rapport over a long and maybe very difficult time together and his past efforts to look after the inflicter's well-being — it's how you feel when a friend of yours betrays you, who you think you're a loyal friend with and who you've always believed is a loyal friend with you, too, until the infliction occurs.

After *ganqing* is totally lost between two Chinese people, nothing else that matters in this relationship survives – either a romantic one or a long-time friendship.

\*This post was inspired by Austin Ramzy, an Iowa, U.S.-grown, Harbin, China-educated, and thus presumably Mandarin-speaking reporter Hong Kong-born bastard writing for *The TimesTime*, who again does his subtle China-bashing in the magazine's blog.

### 恐怖主义?

关于这个问题,我从一位翻译老前辈的书里得知:这个词翻译错了。

后来我自己也查了一些词典,并研究了-ism 这个后缀。

这个词的来源肯定是英文中的"terrorism",那个翻译顺手把它翻译成了"恐怖主义"。

但是,凡是 ism 就是"主义"吗?那 criticism 是批判主义? magnetism 是磁性主义? plagiarism 是剽窃主义?

请看 Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture 和 Collins COBUILD Advanced Learner's English Dictionary 当中对"terrorism"一词的解释:

Longman: the use of violence or the threat of violence to obtain political demands

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Collins: Terrorism is the use of violence, especially murder and bombing, in order to achieve political aims.

很明显,这个 terrorism 里面的 ism 跟 socialism 里面的 ism 根本不是一个意思!

-ism 的含义如下:

- 1. (a movement or religion based on) the stated principle or the teachings of: Buddhism
- 2. an act or the practice or process of: witticism
- 3. the state or quality of being: heroism
- 4. illness caused by too much: alcoholism
- 5. the practice of making unfair differences between people: sexism

(Source: Longman)

纵上, terrorism 的中文含义应该是:恐怖活动,跟"主义"无涉。

### 我比你大几倍?

这是一个简单而复杂的数学问题。

说它简单,是因为小学就学过了的。说它复杂,是因为有包括我在内的一些小学上过了N多年的人,不知是脑瓜子后来进水了,被驴踢了,被门yan(三声)了,吃福寿螺了,还是怎地,不会回答这个问题了。

经过我的研究,小学和中学课本会告诉你:

- 1比1大0倍。
- 1是1的一倍。
- 2是1的二倍;2比1大一倍。
- **4**是**1**的四倍;**4**比**1**大三倍。**「(4-1)/1=3]**。
- 1 增加 1 倍等于 2; 1 增加 2 倍等于 3。 『1+(1×2)=1+2=3』
- 1增加100%也等于2。『1+(1+100%) =1X2=2』
- 1 增加 14%等于 1.14。 『1+ (1X14%) =1+0.14=1.14』

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

请小学生朋友指正!

### 古代与现代的速度

早就在琢磨中国的古代和现代之间有啥差别。

今天读到白居易寄赠给元稹的一首诗。他把对朋友的思念写得细腻而感伤。先不说现在朋友 之间会不会有白居易和元稹之间的那种因为怀念而落泪的情谊。只说即使现在有这种友谊, 又会有几个朋友有时间逐字逐句地给你写什么诗赠给朋友呢?如果说写诗是白居易的"本 职"工作,不过是顺便给朋友写写诗相赠,那也只能说明白居易确实有"闲"时间去写。

现在中国的发展,快到这里的人几乎跟不上它的前进速度,更别说想停下来。跟古时的中国不太相同,现在的中华大地一切都讲速度,不顾一切地追求速度,效率和质量暂居于之后。

白居易从构思、动笔,到写成,托人寄出,再等元稹去读,时间太长了。现在,怀念之意通过短信几秒钟之内就可以传递给朋友。假设白居易写诗用用三天,托人寄赠给元稹用一个月。相比较之下,三天不算长。但是现在,一秒钟传达的情谊用十分钟写都嫌长。十分钟之内,大概写不出白居易的好诗吧?

什么是"速度快得跟不上"呢?就是"江湖中人"只有快才能不被甩在后面,只好踉踉跄跄地跟着,因为他们知道:慢,"必死"无疑。既然不讲一切地"快",出错就难免了。错,就错了。

经济发展成本高了又怎么样?环境污染了,人民铅中毒了,又怎么样?公仆腐败了、堕落了,又怎么样?拿救灾款去盖楼了,又怎么样?我执法、知法我又犯法了,又怎么样?当权者犯错误的成本太低。错!其实他们很愿意不停地用纳税人的钱不停地交"学费"。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

### 2.4 谈天说地

### "成吉思汗是中国人吗?"

有人说,成吉思汗是蒙古人,不是中国人。其实,这么说还是不太明白,因为什么是"中国",什么又是"中国人"没有事先界定,说了等于没说。西方人口中的"中国"或者 China 很多时候只相当于我们所说的"中原"、"中土",或者他们自己定义的 China proper(中国本土)。如果把"中国"缩小成汉人的"中原",成吉思汗自然就不是中国人了。但是,要是把"中国"放大成一个不以"汉族王朝疆域的变更和伸缩为历代中国领土范围"的国家,而以"现代中国领土"为准,凡在此版图之内者皆视为"历史上的中国",认为它是"经历了三皇五帝、夏、商、周、秦、汉、魏、晋、南北朝、隋、唐、五代、宋、元、明、清、中华民国、中华人民共和国等一系列朝代和政权的连贯历史的整体",那么成吉思汗就既是蒙古人,也是中国人。很明显,对于什么是"中国"和"中国人"并非是对历史"客观事实"本身的争议,而是对历史事实"人为解读"时出现的争议。在某种程度上,它甚至还是中国和西方对中国历史话语权的一种争夺。

中国有文字记载的历史有 **4000** 余年,它作为一个文化、政治、经济的统一体生生不息,历久弥新,这在当今世界绝无仅有,而中国现在的版图规模在全世界也是屈指可数的。这一切是祖先留给我们的丰厚遗产,它不仅仅是汉族人作为中华民族一份子的丰功伟绩,也是蒙、回、藏、维、苗等其他 **55** 个民族的历史荣光。我们的国号"中国"是 **1912** 年亚洲第一个共和国——中华民国成立之时由国父孙中山确定的,他把中华民国简称为"中国",后来的中华人民共和国沿也用了这一简称。此外,孙中山还把新国家的人民称为"中华民族"。

由此可见,现代中国人所理解的"中国",其实是一个相当"新"的概念,始于 19 世纪中叶与西欧新兴民族国家"碰撞"之时。它完全是按照新兴西欧国家的民族国家理论而"构建"出来的多民族、现代意义上的国家。

而在中国古代(一般是指鸦片战争之前,但西方的"古代 Ancient"则止于西罗马帝国覆灭的公元 476年),"中国"有着完全不同的含义。"国"这个字,本来就有几个意思,比如"国家"("爱民治国,能无为乎?")、"国都"("京大于国,非所以封庶也。")、"地域"("红豆生南国,春来发几枝。")。而"中国"最开始意指"京师",后来是指四夷之中的"华夏、汉族地区",与"中土"、"中原"、"中州"、"中夏"、"中华"含义相同。随着汉人活动范围不断扩大,"中国"从最开始的黄河南北扩大到黄河中下游。到了 19 世纪中叶,"中国"才开始指我国的全部领土。

因此,在讨论成吉思汗或者什么历史人物是不是"中国人"之前,必须首先搞清这"中国"的含义:是**汉人**的"中原",还是**全体中华民族**的连续统一体"中国"?否则,争论的双方各自衡量的标准都不一样,争论不会有任何结果。

中国现在是一个统一的多民族国家,他们的祖先在历史上建立全国性或地方性的政权。据考证和猜测,英语中对中国的称呼 China 首次出现在 1558 年,最初源于梵文,经由波斯语

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

进入英语。有人根据发音,猜测 China 一词最初源自中国在秦代时的国号。实际上,世界各国与中国接触的时间、密切程度与程度各不相同,在他们的语言里给中国起的名字也因此随之不同,比如俄语中称中国为"契丹",而中亚一些国家的语言则称中国为"唐"。不管别人给我们起什么名字,都只是"名",严格来说与"实"未必匹配。就英语来说,China 一词跟汉语的"中国"一样,在不同的历史时期和场合有不同的含义。很多时候它用来指"中原",这也是为什么会看到"China, Tibet, and Mongolia"这种说法的原因;有时它用来指中国大陆,于是就能看到 China and Taiwain/Hong Kong;还有就是指现代中国,包括现在的两岸四地(大陆、台湾、香港、澳门)。

### 微博论题

1. 成吉思汗居然还上了中国传统文化金银币,没文化真可怕。

**回复:** 这句话是一位中国人说的,我很纳闷这位兄台是在哪里上的学校。成吉思汗是现今内蒙古自治区以及中国境内其它省份蒙古族人的伟大祖先,他的孙子忽必烈创立了正统的中国朝代——元朝。为什么他就不能上中国传统文化金币?

2. 有种说法是有骨气不愿屈服的中国人都被杀害或者迁到海外了,留下的多是耸包软蛋的后代//@戒吃仙人:有些中国人习惯了下跪,你要他站着,他会觉得你剥夺了他下跪的权利!

回复:用现代人的政治、社会理念去考察古代历史,是犯了用牛顿力学理论解决爱因斯坦问题的错误——方法不对。所有国家的历史都包含相互杀伐的血腥历史,但这并不是历史的全部。正是这血腥的战争促进了中华民族以及所有其它国家民族的融合,概莫能外。过去的事情已然过去,现在的中华民族是一个大家庭。

3. 成[吉思汗]的屠刀遍及世界统治了当时欧亚大陆上的很多国家,那照你这么说成[吉思汗]不仅是蒙古人,还是中国人俄罗斯人伊朗人伊拉克人土耳其人阿拉伯人大约有几十个国家都会认为成是本国人?

回复:现在的世界虽然不那么血腥了,但依然是一个靠实力,靠拳头立规矩的时代。请问它们那个国家曾经将整个蒙古包括在自己的版图之内了?(只不过是因为历史的遗憾外蒙古才在苏俄的支持下独立成国而己)哪个国家拥有数量最多的蒙古人?哪个国家有版图庞大的蒙古人自己的行政区?哪个国家的蒙古人还在用传统的蒙古文?哪个国家的蒙古人 GDP 最高?我认为现在的蒙古国只剩下"蒙古"二字,徒有虚名。

4. 象 [像]这样不了解历史的人估计占绝大多数,可悲。

回复:如果你跟"绝大多数"人不一样,可悲的很可能是你。根据概率。

5. 回复@何风 us:那华盛顿的祖爷爷是美国人吗? //@何风 us:如果成吉思汗不是中国人,那么我们对内蒙、西藏、新疆、甚至吉林满州的统治都是非法的。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

回复: 待写。

**6.** 还有丰成秀吉,如果他们成功,估计都可以享受铁木真的待遇 //@**JerryOyu:**突然想到。如果当初日本真的成功侵占了中国,那么我们是不是也把东条英机当英雄?

回复:如果 1592 年的丰成秀吉做了中国的皇帝,日本的"下场"会跟满洲和蒙古差不多。

7. 回复@戒吃仙人:我真的肺都要气炸了 //@戒吃仙人:所以呀! 在中国有很多人,你只要强大到可以把他打趴下,他不但不怨恨你,还会崇拜你,歌颂你! 哭着喊着求你虐他! 这种贱到骨髓的精神,世上少见!

回复:正相反。真实的世界历史就是一部相互征服的历史,即使是现在也是不流血的相互征服 (美国用军事、科技、经济、文化实力"剥削"中国)。你们这么刚强,会像屈原那样投河 自尽,还是像荆轲一样去刺杀奥巴马?因为在 300 年以后世界大同了,那时的道德标准很可能是,忍受别国军事、科技、经济、文化"剥削"是不能原谅的懦弱行为。——你们用现在的尺子去量古代,那我用未来的尺子衡量现在的你们,而让你们按古代义士的做法去做,也不算是太过分吧?

### 8. 同声翻译 bill 的艺术世界:

"有关成吉思汗是不是中国人?很简单,不是中国人。首先,中国的概念是?根据文化和文明的传承关系,现在的中国是自夏朝以来中华五千年文明的合法继承者,血脉清晰,世界公认,成吉思汗年代,中国正处于宋代(中华文明当时唯一的合法继承国),成吉思汗是当时蒙古帝国的最高统治者,和当时的宋朝是两个国家……"

**回复:**中国绝非汉人一家的财产,中华文明也不只是汉人自己的成绩。宋和蒙古当然是两个古代国家,但他们是中国古代的两个国家。

9. "他和他的军团征服了当时世界上很多国家,他本人死于征西夏军中,是他的孙子忽必烈军团灭亡了宋朝,建立了元朝(就相当于日本灭掉了中华民国,然后把日本和中国及其它吞并的国家比如 1910 年日本的确吞并了朝鲜,然后再建立一个新国家,名字叫啥不重要,关键是日本人是这个国家的统治者和一等公民),看到这里,你应该明白,其实在元朝统治中国的 90 多年里,中国其实就是灭亡了……"

回复:但事实是,在元代,中国非但没有亡国,西藏还首次纳入了北京中央政府的管辖之下。 几百年以后,满人做了中国的皇帝,他们不但把满洲当作"嫁妆"送给了中国,还把内外蒙古、 新疆和西藏牢牢地控制在了北京中央政府的手里。正所谓"塞翁失马焉知非福",正是他们在 汉人无能的情况下收拾天下,统一中国。你当然可以说蒙古人和满人征服汉人是落后的民族 征服了先进的民族,造成了社会发展的大倒退,但也正是因为他们创建的帝国才有了我们现 在实现国家振兴的战略资源和资本:广大的国土和海洋。世界上还没有一个小面积的强国能 经久不衰的。你说蒙古人和满人做中国的皇帝是祸事还是好事呢?

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

即使是日本"统一"了中国,再保持两三百年,最后谁做新帝国的老大真不好说。中国 4000 多年的历史是意图蛇吞象者的前车之鉴。

10. 从各个方面的历史证据都可以证明这一点,毫无疑问,换一个角度说,如果你是蒙古人,在读本国历史的时候,发现自己的祖先成吉思汗古代灭了很多国家,他孙子忽必烈灭了古代中国,然后成吉思汗就成中国人了,是否很可笑,再说个题外话,其实印度的最后一个王朝莫卧儿王朝,莫卧儿即是"蒙古"的意思,整个亚洲的历史很有意思,大家有兴趣研究下。"

回复:现在的蒙古国人口区区<u>300零几万</u>,还没有北京地铁每天运送的人来得多,国民生产总值只有微不足道的 95 亿美元,还不到<u>内蒙古自治区</u>的 27 分之一。要不是因为有成吉思汗,谁还能想起现在还有个国家叫"蒙古国"?

另外,谁是"蒙古"的正统还真不好说,尤其是在蒙古国几十年前废除老蒙文,开始用与俄文相同的斯拉夫字母拼写自己的语言的情况下(现在内外蒙古的书面材料需要专业人士翻译了,当代的蒙古国人已经看不懂自己祖宗的蒙文了)。

**11.** 我们认为韩国人把端午节作为他们的节日申请文化遗产和把屈原,孔子认为是韩国人很可笑,那我们把成吉思汗认为是中国人更加可笑,事实上,他本人一定会认为这是件非常荒唐的事情,因为他孙子吞并的国家把他当祖宗了,历史还是应该尊重事实,不能意淫。

回复:韩国自大狂的病确实尽人皆知。非常可惜的是,韩国的可笑之处在于没钱还充阔佬。换成中国自大就不一样了,我们有资本,有资源:现在蒙藏新疆依然在中国的版图之内。在霸道这方面,我们跟美国那是一样的。想想看,美国或者美利坚是一个连自己名字都没有的国家和民族:合众国 United Sates 在美洲有好几个(墨西哥就是),美国居然抢了去用,American 也是从所有美洲人借用的,而且最后还不归还了。

12. 另外我想大家应该知道,明朝建立后,元朝并没有灭亡,而是退回了北方沙漠他们的老家,就好像日本人又被赶回了日本一样,后来蒙古人又和满洲人联合,南下灭了南明,后来孙中山革命又恢复中华

回复:这个我还真不知道。我只知道满清统一了蒙古各部和吐蕃各部,平定了西域。后来,孙中山建立了中华民国,"合汉、满、蒙、回、藏诸地方为一国,即合汉、满、蒙、回、藏诸族为一人。是曰民族之统一"。

# Premier Li Keqiang's misplaced fundamental principle of law – presumption of guilt

The newly appointed Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at a televised press conference this morning accused an American reporter of "presumption of guilt" when the latter asked "[...] will China stop the cyber hacking against the US since it has now become an issue of American national security?"

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

### To the reporter's question, Li said:

"你说到的黑客攻击问题,这可以说是一个世界性的问题,中国本身就是主要的被黑客攻击的受害者,中方不仅不支持,而且反对黑客攻击行为。刚才你说的话我怎么有有罪推定的感觉啊?我想我们还是少一些没有根据的相互指责,多做一些维护网络安全的实事。"

(The issue of cyber hacking you mentioned can be said to be a global issue. China herself is a major victim of such hacking. China not only does not support but opposes cyber hacking as well. **I seem to sense a presumption of guilt in what you asked.** I think we should as well make less groundless accusations against each other and make more concrete efforts to maintain cyber security.)

### "...presumption of guilt..."

Li's answer assumed a higher, arbitrary, and legal authority that imposes rules on the governments of the US and China. This authority, however, does not and will never exist.

"Presumption of guilt" is a principle of law. It means that the accused are <u>considered</u> <u>guilty</u>until they prove their innocence or the government completely fails to prove its case. This principle prescribes that the accused have the burden of proving their innocence.

The principle to the contrary, "presumption of innocence," is held to be more desired in that it relieves the accused of the burden to prove their innocence. However, according to the same source linked to above, even this concept is a misnomer:

The presumption of innocence, an ancient tenet of Criminal Law, is actually a misnomer. According to the U.S. Supreme Court, the presumption of the innocence of a criminal defendant is best described as an assumption of innocence that is indulged in the absence of contrary evidence (Taylor v. Kentucky, 436 U.S. 478, 98 S. Ct. 1930, 56 L. Ed. 2d 468 [1978]). It is not considered evidence of the defendant's innocence, and it does not require that a mandatory inference favorable to the defendant be drawn from any facts in evidence.

Since the governments of both the US and China will not take their mutual accusations of cyber hacking to a higher, third-party organization for arbitration or a ruling, their accusations are actually arguments resulting from the concerns about their respective national security interests. By definition, parties to an argument can of course accuse each other of wrongdoinas long as they **assume** that their complaints are well grounded, just as Mr Li at the press conference **accused** the American reporter of "presumption of guilt."

### Ignorant, incompetent and shameless, Han Han as a writer

It's been more than a month since I started following the rivalry between Fang Zhouzi (方舟子, real name: Fang Shimin,方是民) and Han Han (韩寒). Fang graduated from Michigan State University with a Doctor's degree in biochemistry. He is a scholar and a popular science writer and is better known for devotion of his spare time to exposing academic and scientific fraudulence in China. Han was a high school dropout. He is widely extolled as a once teenage literary genius, a popular novel writer, an accomplished car racer, and, most recently, an advocate of freedom and democracy. Fang accuses Han of being a fake writer and having most, if not all, of his works ghostwritten.

I wrote a Chinese blog post titled <u>Closing of Han Han's Ghostwriting-Gate</u> that didn't pack much punch. In the post, I tried to produce a point-by-point analysis of too many contradictions and inconsistencies found in Han Han. He has long ago demonstrated writing talent as a teenager (as shown in his early award-winning compositions) and a sought-after writer of bestsellers. However, in his video interviews, he showed a surprising ignorance of literary writing, traditions, and even his own works. It later occurred to me that the message of the post I wanted to get across could be as simple as one sentence:

### Everyone should rely on their sound logic, common sense and life experience to make sure they are not enchanted or fooled.

And of course, as I later figured out, this message had been intended for people in their right mind, not those who are muddle-headed. For the latter, they won't listen to anything they are told.

Couples of days later, I made another attempt in vain to create a powerful post. Suffering this "blogger's block" not uncommon to me, I turned to read other Han Han-bashing articles. Their writers presented their well-thought-out, insightful, and evidence-rich arguments so eloquently and amazingly.

Looking at People through a Glass (杯中窥人) by Han Han at the age of 14 and *Three Important Things* (三重门) at 17 are already far beyond my current writing capabilities. As if it were not enough, after reading some student composition books on offer in a supermarket, I found that even today's ten-year-olds write better than me.

I have no intention to complete that unfinished post. So I decide to paste its fragments here for the entertainment of my blog readers:

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

...

Is now Han Han dead as a writer?

Answer in Han Han's casual writing style he used in a <u>Sina Weibo private message to one of his supporters</u> (It's hard enough for me to mimic Han Han's untrained and uneducated writing style in Chinese. So I decided to give up trying to do so in English. I'll just write in normal English, at least as I define it):

Though he as a writer is already stone dead, Han Han as human being is still alive and thrives. His father, Han Renjun (韩仁均) who used to write in the pen name of Han Han before his son was born, is hale and hearty. They are now secretively planning their doomed strategies with which to strike back at Fang Zhouzi and his supporters.

Han Han is a character I cannot possibly fathom. Casting my eye to the rest of the country, I can find no one like him, so divided in personality. This only makes him seem even more mysterious to me.

...

For that matter, I'm almost as good as Han Han. I taught myself to translate from scratch. Also a drop-out from an occupational school where accounting was taught, I joined a nationally accredited, but not nationally appreciated and often discriminated part-time self-study program (自学考试), and later earned a diploma of English. It is roughly equivalent to a two-year college degree. My ten years of hard work in Beijing paid off. I now have a happy family living in an apartment we call our own. When asked about how she thought of my looks, my wife would say "You're so very handsome, honey". About my height, she would say "You must not be taller. If taller, you'd be a perfect man I'm not worthy enough to have you as a husband!" Not being completely convinced, I brought the questions to my son. He simply answered, "en!", "en!", "en!", with which he meant he approved very much of how good I look and how tall I stand. Well, both my wife and son speak so highly of me. So, I have no other choice than to believe their words! ... Oh, sorry, I forgot to mention that my son was just one-year and three-month-old this February. [Note: With this almost disgusting narcissism also found in Han Han's book Just Drift Like This (就这么漂来漂去), I'd wanted to quip in later paragraphs: "Some supporters of Han Han are like men or women who are head over heels in love with him and they won't be able to see his true self; others are like one-year and three-month-old innocent babies who only know it's fun to stir their fresh pee with dirt and know nothing of what's bad or good for them."]

...

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

A man called Mai Tian (麦田, or apparently Wheat Field) wrote a blog post entitled Man-made Han Han (人造韩寒). In the post, he accused him of being a fake writer and a product of only commercial packaging, and having his award-winning compositions and bestsellers ghostwritten. Angered by this accusation, Han Han offered CNY 20,000,000 and the future loyalties from his books as a reward to anyone who can prove a line or even a single word was done by people other than Han Han himself. He made clear his seriousness about this offer by writing out all the 7 zeros in the award amount. He was even willing to die before his daughter grew up if any of his works had been ghostwritten, according to one of his blog post which was later edited to exclude this oath. However, in an interview with Hunan Satellite TV that followed hot on the heels of his prize offer, Han Han, who dressed himself like a trend-setting actor with a scarf around his neck and wore a charming smile, said calmly: "The award I offered was a joke. [I didn't have any better idea than that offer. I wanted to show how angry I was about being accused of having my works ghostwritten]. I cannot possibly prove I don't have a team [to ghostwrite for me]." ("我又没有办法证明我没有团队, 所以才开玩笑 的,拿出了这个悬赏。")

Han Han's inability of keeping his promise did not stop there. The award caught the attention of Fang Zhouzi. He then read through Han's early, recent and new books, as well as a biography "My Son Han Han" (我的儿子韩寒) by the older Mr. Han, and watched absorbedly Han's video interviews. By doing so, he did find clues that made him believe some of Han's articles and books were ghostwritten. He then posted his findings and textual analyses on his Sina blog. However, Han Han again found this infuriating. He accused Fang of "libeling" and brought his grievance to a court in the Putuo District, Shanghai against Fang and another man named Liu Mingze (刘明泽). No one seemed to know who this faceless Mr. Liu was – Mai Tian is not surnamed LIU. It later turned out that Han Han's "extra-luxury" lawyers' team sued that poor Shanghai-based Mr. Liu because they wanted the court to have jurisdiction over the case. To achieve that end, one defendant had to be domiciled in Shanghai. His lawyers' team makes being an innocent onlooker a very dangerous thing: Just because Liu was in Shanghai, of all the people against Han Han in the controversy, he was chosen to be a privileged defendant in a libel case doomed to be so high-profile. [Han later dropped the case against Liu.] (In a very unexpected and surprising twist of the events, Han Han later in an interview with Renwu magazine 《人物》杂志 admitted of his own accord that Mr. Liu was actually one of his friends and he simply used the cooperating Liu as a "bridge" to his advantage: to initiate the proceedings at the Putuo District, Shanghai Court that "does not fear Fang Zhouzi". A self-styled advocate of freedom, democracy, rule of law, justice, and equality, Han Han tried to make a mockery of China's judicial system by misrepresentation and an act of perjury. One of his lawyers, Tao Xinliang, who is also president of the Shanghai University College of Intellectual Property Rights, plays a part in a joint teaching and intern program with the court.)

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

This can be likened to an imagined challenge invitation in the colonial days of Shanghai. Han Han, who was a much acclaimed and self-styled kungfu master, invites Fang Zhouzi, a taiji boxer who questions Han's worthiness as a kungfu fighter, to a contest in which Han wanted to show his power. Then the much anticipated duel started with a fanfare. In the first round, Fang soon confirmed his suspicion by finding Han's lack of strong kick power. Without meeting any effective resistance, Fang casually took advantage of one of Han's many weaknesses and swept Han off his feet. Han hit head-first against the ground and suffered a bleeding head. The referee whistled and the first round ended. Han complained to his father, "Dad, we provoked the wrong man. He's not to be intimidated. I'd thought he'd back down. I cannot possibly defeat him!" The older Mr. Han had a better idea, "Sweet. Don't panic. If you cannot win him in the duel, just don't go back to it. We can report him to the Shanghai International Police and accuse him of physically assaulting you in the duel!"

....

Some people cannot figure out why Han Han would want to bring the case to a Chinese court. "Hadn't he criticized the Chinese court system as a mockery of justice?" "That's exactly the reason he wanted his case tried there."

...

If you're not interested at all in the argument over these seemingly trivialities, or just don't like the way in which Fang Zhouzi seems so intent to do injustice to an innocent man.

### Think twice. Is this that trivial or simple?

An ignorant and incompetent writer, Han Han has gone so far as to have been admired as a talented adolescent. He is now acclaimed as a bestseller writer, an advocate of democracy and freedom, a social and government critic, and a public intellectual (公知, yet another stigmatized Chinese term after 小姐, Miss, young lady, which now often means a prostitute; and 同志, comrade, which now can mean gay men.). His ascent reflects the distorted values of the present-day Chinese society, in which fake, attractively packaged and effectively promoted, sells well as the  $real\ McCoy$  to the unsuspecting consumer.

The ongoing rivalry between the two sides is very much like the elections on Taiwan. Almost half of its voters support the Democratic Progress Party (DPP), as corrupt and deceitful as it used to be, simply because they don't want the Kuomintang in power. The problem for Han Han now is: Can he also reinvent himself like the DPP has done and prove his worthiness?

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#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

The Chinese people always admire the Germans for their strictness and rigorousness in their work, the Japanese for their great attention to details in their manufacturing, and the Americans for their love of freedom and democracy in their politics. However, when it comes to the crunch, some of the Chinese refuse to do what their role models have done. In a split personality, they only drift along in their work, are not ashamed of the jobs they've botched up, or take sides in disputes only by judging what's good for them, instead of what's right or wrong.

Essentially a contradictory, impossible presence, Han Han can only be true if he meets two criteria: a) he's a genius; and b) he's an average man. However, these two are mutually exclusive. If one is true, then the other is false.

For example, in the *Three Important Things* he supposedly began writing as a 16-year-old and finished a year later, the books and people he cited and made reference to include, according to an incomplete list compiled by an unidentified source:

### -Books:

Guanzuibian (管锥编), a study journal in which QIAN Zhongshu annotated ancient Chinese books; Huainanzi (淮南子), a collection of Taoist writing in the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C. – 25 A.D.); Shangshu (尚书), a collection of imperial archives before China's first unified Qin Dynasty (221 B.C.-206 B.C.); Wanli Yehuobian (万历野获编), a compilation in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644); 康河里的诗灵, Google yields no immediately relevant or definite search findings in the first few pages; 《西学与晚清思想 的裂变》, Google yields no immediately relevant or definite search findings in the first few pages; Quintus Horatius Flaccus (贺拉斯), a Roman poet and critic (65 B.C. – 8 B.C.); 流 浪的人生, Google yields no immediately relevant or definite search findings in the first few pages; Eight Travel Records of Yongzhou (永州人记), including The Travel Record of the Little Stone Lake (至小丘西小石潭记), written by LIU Zongyuan (柳宗元, 773 – 819); The Analects of Confucius (论语), a Confucius classic; The School of Huitong Says So (会 通派如是说), by WU Mi (吴宓, 1894-1978); From Chaos to Order (从混浊到有序), Google yields no immediately relevant or definite search findings in the first few pages; Formal Logics (形式逻辑学), Google yields no immediately relevant or definite search findings in the first few pages; Stories of Searching for Gods and Spirits (搜神记), attributed to GAN Bao (干宝, Eastern Jin (317-420)) but mostly modified in later generations; Everlasting Regret (长恨歌), a love poem about Tang Emperor Xuanzong and Imperial Concubine Yang by BAI Juyi (白居易, 772 – 846); 本 • 琼森与德拉蒙德的谈话录, Google yields no immediately relevant or definite search findings in the first few pages; 心理结构及其心灵 状态, Google yields no immediately relevant or definite search findings in the first few pages; On the Death of David Hume (论大卫•休谟的死), David Hume (1711-1776), a British philosopher, historian and economist; Madame Bovary (包法利夫人), by Gustave

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Flaubert (French writer, 1821 – 1880); A Chronicle of Zuo (左传), a Confucius classic during China's Warring States (403 BC - 221 BC); 铁轨边的风, Google yields no immediately relevant or definite search findings in the first few pages;教学园地, Google yields no immediately relevant or definite search findings in the first few pages; Flowers in the Mirror (镜花缘), a novel written by LI Ruzhen (李汝珍, 1763-1830); 佳人, Google yields no immediately relevant or definite search findings in the first few pages; 美女赋, Google yields no immediately relevant or definite search findings in the first few pages; 江南的水, Google yields no immediately relevant or definite search findings in the first few pages; Guangyang Zaji (广阳杂记), by LIU Xianting (刘献廷, 1648 – 1695); Being Digital (数字化生存), by Nicholas Negroponte (1943 – ) in 1995; Xianqing Ouji (闲情偶寄), by LI Yu (李渔, 1611 – 1680); Chushibiao (出师表) by ZHUGE Liang (诸葛亮, 181 – 234); Three Character Classic (三字经), a traditional Chinese primer book; 李敖快意恩仇录 by LEE Ao (李敖, 1935-), a mainland-born Taiwanese writer; Shehualu (舌华录), a collection of witty remarks by CAO Chen (曹臣) in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644); Romance of the Western Chamber (西厢记) by WANG Shifu (王实甫, ca. 1260 – 1336); Chinese Literature History (中国文学史), Google yields no immediately relevant or definite search findings in the first few pages; A Dream in Red Mansions (红楼梦) written in the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911); All Men Are Brothers (水浒传) by SHI Naian (施耐庵, 1296-1371); Four Generations Under One Roof (四世同堂) by Lao She (老舍, 1899-1966); Shiji (史记) by SIMA Qian (司马迁, ca. 145 BC – 90 BC); Zhanguoce (战国策) by LIU Xiang (ca. 77 BC – 6 BC); Master Sun's Art of War (孙子兵法) by SUN Wu (孙武, birth and death dates unknown, a contemporary of Confucius); Shuowen Jiezi (说文解字) by XU Shen (许慎, ca. 58-147); The Metamorphoses (变形记) by Roman poet Ovid (43 BC - AD 17/18); A Biography of Chinese Writers (中国作家传), Google yields no immediately relevant or definite search findings in the first few pages; Mencius (孟子), a Confucius classic by Mencius (372 BC - 289 BC); Journey to the West (西游记) by WU Chengen (吴承恩, 1501 – 1582); Liaozhai Zhiyi (聊斋志异) by PU Songling (蒲松龄, 1640 – 1715); Boule de Suif (羊脂球) by French writer Guy de Maupassant (1850 – 1893); QIAN Zhongshu Who Has Walked Out of the Magic Mirror (走出魔镜的钱钟书), a biography of Qian by WANG Yinfeng (王吟凤) in 1999; The Carnal Prayer Mat (肉蒲团) by LI Yu (李渔, 1611 – 1680); and Liezi (列子), a Taoist classic.

### -People:

Oscar Wilde; Martin Heidegger; Auguste François Xavier Comte; Franz Kafka; Gregor Samsa; Zhu Tao-sheng (竺道生), a Chinese Buddhist thinker; LI Liangping (栗良平), a modern Chinese writer; Émile Zola; Guy de Maupassant; Gustave Flaubert; ZHANG Junou (张俊欧), not found in Google search; ZHU Guangqian (朱光潜), a modern Chinese scholar; Denis Diderot; Ortega; van der Sar; Socrates; Athena; DAI Wangshu (戴望舒, a modern Chinese poet); Takashi Kashiwabara (柏原崇), a Japanese actor; Yosuke Eguchi (江口洋介), a Japanese actress; TANG Yin (唐寅, also known as 唐伯虎 in Chinese), an

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

ancient Chinese painter; CAO Juren (曹聚仁), a modern Chinese writer; LI Yu (李渔), an ancient Chinese writer; DU Mu (杜牧), an ancient Chinese poet; LU Xun (鲁迅), a modern Chinese writer; CAO Zhi (曹植), an ancient Chinese figure; DU Fu (杜甫), an ancient Chinese poet; Laotze (老子), the founder of Taoism; QIAN Zhongshu (钱钟书), a modern Chinese scholar and writer; WU Mi (吴宓), a modern Chinese scholar; George Yeh (叶公 超), a modern Chinese diplomat; LEE Ao (李敖), a modern Chinese writer on Taiwan; Hu Shih (胡适), a modern Chinese scholar and liberal; Han Feizi (韩非子), an ancient Chinese thinker; HsunTzu (荀子), an ancient Chinese thinker; Zhuangzi (庄子), an ancient Chinese thinker; Xu Zhimo (徐志摩), a modern Chinese writer; LIU Yong (柳永), an ancient Chinese poet; Mao Zedong (毛泽东), a modern Chinese politician; SONG Yu (宋玉), an ancient Chinese poet; HAN Yu (韩愈), an ancient Chinese poet; LIU Zongyuan (柳宗元), an ancient Chinese writer; LIU Yong (刘墉), a Taiwanese writer; Mozi (墨子), an ancient Chinese thinker; LIN Huiyin (林徽因), a modern Chinese writer; CHEN Yanque (陈寅格), a modern Chinese scholar; Paul-Marie Veriaine; Li Yu (李煜), an ancient Chinese poet and emperor; Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsch; GUO Moruo (郭沫若), a modern Chinese writer and politician; Benito Mussolini; Arthur Schopenhauer; Filippo Tommaso Marinetti; Napoleon; Hitler; Madame Curie; James Watt; Thomas Edison; ZHANG Haidi (张海迪), a modern Chinese writer; Confucius; LIANG Shiqiu (梁实秋), a Chinese writer on Taiwan; LIU Yazi (柳亚子), a modern Chinese poet; Montesquieu; ZEN Guofan (曾国 藩), a late Qing Dynasty (1616-1911) politician; LI Baichuan (李百川), an ancient Chinese writer; Kong Xiangxi (孔祥熙), a modern Chinese politician; Empress Dowager Cixi (慈禧 太后), a late Qing Dynasty ruler; XIAO Fuxing (肖复兴), a modern Chinese writer; Nikita Khrushchev; William Shakespeare; JIANG Qing (江青), Mao Zedong's wife and Chinese politician; Romain Rolland; SU Shi (苏东坡), an ancient Chinese poet; YANG Wanli (杨万 里), an ancient Chinese poet; and SHAO Jiaxuan (邵稼轩), an ancient Chinese man.

He managed to write this complex long novel with only slips of the pen the needed correction. At such a young age, he could make references to the books and the people and integrate their elements in the creation of the novel. His manuscripts are as clean as transcripts, as shown in a photo of his "manuscripts" he posted in his blog trying to convince the public he was indeed the creator of the novel.

Han is no doubt a genius as it comes to writing. However, to the great surprise of the least literarily minded, such a well-read genius admitted repeatedly and strongly in an interview with Hong Kong-based Phoenix TV that he has never read *A Dream in Red Mansions* (红楼梦). However, in his novel *Three Important Things*, he made reference to the Chinese novel classic in at least three brilliantly written paragraphs. In the novel, he has also demonstrated great knowledge of and familiarity with things and witty talks even in his father's generation. Moreover, in the interview, he said to the effect that "There is no such a thing as a classic book; it's only an average book that has later become classics after much reading by generations of people who had nothing better to read".

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Furthermore, he couldn't even distinguish between an embassy and a consulate. In a blog post about Wang Lijun ( $\pm \vec{x}$ ), Han referred to the U.S. consulate as the "US Embassy in Chengdu[, Sichuan province]".

Additionally, he committed a laughable anachronism in a TV interview. He accused Fang Zhouzi's tactics of "being like those of Yao Wenyuan (姚文元)" (1931-2005), who, according to Han, locked up his comrades in dark rooms in the Yan'an Rectification Movement (延安整风, 1942-1944, a purge that reportedly claimed the lives of 10,000 Communists).

It's hard to believe that the Han Han featured in the video interviews is truly the one who has personally written all his award-winning student compositions and early books.

According to Han Han, a "little notebook" helped him write the intelligent and almost pedant books as a very young high school dropout. But he claimed that he later lost such capabilities. In the notebook he kept all the quotes and references he used in his book. This makes me wonder whether the booklet was a synthetic steroid, Viagra, or the helping hand of God: Why couldn't Han Han perform the functions as a skilled writer in the absence of a compilation of mysterious notes?

### What else Han Han said in video interviews:

As shown by these revealing video interviews, Han's actually an "honest" man who often speaks his mind unwittingly. It must be his father or someone else who chose for Han a path that leads to his today's fame and fortune he doesn't deserve.

(Video not embedded here. You can view it here.)

In the above Sina interview, he showed his unfamiliarity with a book he wrote recently. He reacted with surprise, saying (12'26") that he "didn't weep", when answering a question the hostess asked for the audience, "In your book you wept because of a loss you suffered in racing... Have you ever wept because of a racing loss?"

(Video not embedded here. You can view it here.)

In a <u>interview with Netease</u> in 2005, Han Han personally confirmed that a paragraph conspicuously advertised in the book covers and chapter introduction of *Just Drift Like This*(就这么漂来漂去) was not written by him. When asked about what he thought of the paragraph, a quite surprised Han said (16′ 12″), "[...] I didn't know where my editor got the words and put them there. It's not written by me. It's totally not written by me. They are particularly not my words. [...]" Han last month argued in a separate interview that he "did write those words", but he "did not agree with them".

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

(Video not embedded here. You can view it here.)

In the video, in his broken, hesitating, off-topic, and sometimes rambling language, he said to the effect that,

"I don't love writing at all. Neither do I like being called a writer. I write only because I have to. To me, writing is a job I have to do and is something that brings me the money I need."

My comment: Writing is what makes Han Han. And yet he doesn't like it. He only talks about writing like a high school dropout who can't seem to understand why he's now a writer.

"How well a writer writes depends on what books he or she has read in the past."

My comment: In other interviews, he said that reading books by others is not necessary for the writers and they can always rely on information they get on their own and then builds it into his books.

"All books are created equal. There is no such a thing as one being better than the other in terms of the thought they can provoke. The priority of a book is not the message, big or small, its writer wants to convey, but the feelings it can arouse in the reader."

My comment: Bill Gates and Steve Jobs had been outstanding students when they decided to leave school. However, Han Han was mighty different. He was virtually kicked out of high school because of his extremely poor academic performance (seven subjects failed, including Chinese). His words can be translated as follows: Though I was kicked out of high school because of poor school scores, I'm as good as or better than those who have attended college or university because I'm now nonetheless just as rich, famous, and successful.

As I see it, the essence, or the message, of a book is more important than its other aspects. Great books can be read by generations of thinking readers who are willing to read them several times. Han's ideal books are for people who prefer sensual pleasures and don't want to use their brain too much while reading.

"I don't like the pretentious or affected way of writing. Writers should be themselves and write directly what they actually feel and think."

My comment: He says so simply because he doesn't know how to write like a real writer. To him, putting words on paper itself is writer's writing. If this was the case, an illiterate person could dictate a long epic.

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

"My books are not perfect. There are lots of loopholes I intentionally left there to be found."

My comment: This is very true indeed. His biggest loophole is that some of this books published under his name were not written by him.

"I don't know what Confucianism is. I don't know what it or other traditional Chinese isms are about. I've even never read A Dream in Red Mansions (红楼梦). I don't know who is who in the novel."

My comment: He knows nothing about them. So his ghostwriters helped him incorporate those isms and classics into the works published under his name.

"I spend thousands of yuan each month in buying newspapers and read them."

My comment: Calculated at 2,000 yuan, 2 yuan per copy of newspaper, and 12 pages per copy, that would be 12,000 pages. Then, he would have no time for writing, racing or womanizing.

"I like the books by writers active after the May 4th, 1919 Movement because of their particular attention to writing elegant and charming Chinese."

My comment: The period leading to and several decades after May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1919 Movement was a transition of written Chinese from Classic to Vernacular. It's a period of experiments and nothing was perfect. Though the new ideas introduced in the early Vernacular Chinese from abroad were transforming, the language itself was anything but elegant or charming.

"If I don't like a writer, I won't like his works."

My comment: So Han can refuse to eat the egg simply because he doesn't like the hen.

"I don't know the intention with which I write my books."

My comment: Because it's not he who wrote them and he has never carefully read them.

"As a writer, I don't need to read novels by others. What I need is information. I have my own brain and I know what novel I want to write. I don't need to read novels by others to get some inspirations about how I can better write my novels."

My comment: As a genius, he never needs to learn from others. And yet as an average boy, he must read books by others so that he can write.

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

### 念错一辈子的词,会错一辈子的意

还记得看过一篇微型小说,是讲念错字的事情。故事里面,一个刚毕业的大学生分配到县级畜牧业主管单位上班。领导做报告时,把牛的"臀部"念成"殿部",年轻人深感诧异。正待要问问同事是怎么回事,发现他们都无动于衷!后来又发现大家都把"臀部"叫"殿部",他就彻底不好意思再追问什么了,遇到自己念这个词,不好意思"与众不同",也跟着大伙儿一块儿"殿部""殿部"的念。几年后,年轻人业务突出、成绩斐然,上级决定考察他一下,有可能的话就升他的职。在给上级介绍本县的工作时,他大谈在自己努力下本县畜牧工作的成绩,其中自然提到了牛马羊的"殿部"。他发现几位听讲的领导每次在他说起"殿部"的时候,面部都有抽搐的模样。后来,领导没升他的职,原因是他居然连字都能念错!这是故事,未免有些夸张。

不过下面要说的可是我的真实经历。初中时上政治课,我们的政治老师(一位和蔼可亲的老太太)讲到人口问题,说起中国因为没搞好优生优育有不少弱智、痴呆人口,说他们吃起饭来风卷残云(这个成语我就是在这里学到的,现在想想政治课本的编者真够可恶的)。正在我毫无思想准备的时候,她在讲台上讲起"知呆"。我十分不解——"知呆"是个什么玩意呢?对比课本,发现老师实际上想说的是"痴呆"……我们在讲台下一动不动地"惊呆",整个教室鸦雀无声。

但凡哪个勇敢的学生打破学校里面"为师者讳"的强大气场,私下里"好心"地为老师指出这个 误读的词,老师也不至于年复一年地在一拨又一拨的学生面前颜面尽失,让曾经是她学生的 我铭记到现在!

我相信几乎每个人都有念错的读音或者理解错的词意,只是自己一直不知道,直到有一天偶然发现或者被别人指出,才恍然大悟!比如我前几年发现自己一直把"允许"念成"run(三声)许"。前两天又发现我一直理解错了"来"的一个意思,令我十分抓狂。之前我一直以为"30来人","40来岁"里面的"来"字是"多"的意思。根据我之前的错误理解,"30来人"是"30多个人","40来岁"是"40多岁"。哪知道它们的实际意思是"将近30个人"、"将近40岁"。天哪,那我以前跟别人算数的时候不知道说错了多少次!

亲们, 你们有没有这种情况? 分享一下——也让我心里平衡一点......

**更"正"**: 查遍词典,只查到"来"表示"概数",如我在下面的评论中所说,这个"概数"是"左"还是"右",全看讲话人和听话人的个人经历了吧!我只听说笑话是否可笑要看读者和听者的个人经历,没想到一个表示约数的词的含义也要看个人经历。不管怎么说,我把"来"理解成"多"是不符合词典定义的——而词典是描述人们如何语言使用的。(**2012** 年 **5** 月 **22** 日)

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

## 怎么在历史上和现实中给中国定位——读《宅兹中国: 重建有关"中国"的历史论述》

它是一本集,汇集了作者各个时期在不同出版物上发表的文章,甚至还有发言稿。作为一本"书",它前后并不连贯,甚至有重复论说的地方。因此,想要从本书中找到作者系统化"重建'中国'历史"的读者可能就要失望了。不过,作者在书中汇集了很多自己整理的历史资料。读者在了解作者观点的同时,还能找到不少史料,比如历史学家的名字、著作、观点、地图、古人文章等等,书后还附上了参考文献。搞历史的朋友可以买来一读。但如果只是想随便翻翻的话,那看两眼我写的这篇和上一篇博文就行了。

### "宅兹中国"这一书名的来历

**1963** 年陕西宝鸡出土了西周铜器<u>何尊</u>(何姓贵族所作的祭器),上面的铭文中有"宅兹中国"四个字。据称这是"中国"二字首次在文字记载中出现,可能是指"天之中"的洛阳。

### 我从书中读到了什么

- 目前大多数历史论说都把中国与西方加以对照,而另一种研究的角度则是把中国历史放在整个东亚历史中来看待;
- 但无论西方,还是东方,东亚,乃至中国,各自的内部并不是"同一"的,比如西方 有众多民族国家,而中国则有汉族主体和其它民族之分;
- 因此,西方和中国互为镜子、相互打量,虽然可以照出的轮廓,但一定会遗漏不少 重要细节:
- 研究中国历史的另一方法就是把中国放在整个东亚来解读,同时"拆开"来解析,分为汉、满、蒙、回、藏、鲜、日,甚至可以把越南也包含进来;
- 这种分法很容易就让人想到日本肢解中国的战略意图,而"东亚"这个中国人并不待见的历史概念更是因为二战时日本的"大东亚共荣圈"图谋而让东亚人民心生忌惮;
- 尽管如此,它仍然是一个研究中国历史的好视角,因为如果要从现在的东亚国境线来研究中国,那么一定会诸多限制和掣肘;
- 这里作者引出了美籍印度裔学者杜赞奇(Prasenjit Duara)获奖著作《Rescuing History from the Nation》的书名《从民族国家拯救历史》;书名有点耸人听闻,而且中文译名也有点让我莫名其妙;根据内容,我觉得不如翻译成"构建跨民族历史";当然了,这么一改,中文版就不好卖了;
- 作者认为早在宋代时汉族中国在北方辽、金、蒙古的压迫之下就形成了自觉的民族 国家,而并不像欧洲历史学家认识的那样世界上所有的民族国家是最近两三百年的 事情;
- 朝鲜与日本最迟在明代中期的时候,还奉中国为中华,而在北方蛮夷——满洲入主中国之后,则认为中国沦为蛮夷之地,代表中华的荣耀从此归于朝鲜与日本;这种情况一直延续到日本开始向西方学习,努力"脱亚入欧",转而想主宰东亚为止。

### 我的一点感觉

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

对于我的狭小宇宙来说,亚洲只是个地理概念。这个区域在历史、文化,乃至政治、经济方面其内部国家和民族差异太过巨大,实在难以用这个词来概括在这里生存与繁衍的人们。在我的历史、文化、政治、经济想象里面,如果中国是"我",那么从朝鲜到智利到南非到西班牙再到印度的全世界就都是"它"。

也就是说, 东亚和亚洲在我这里不存在,除了中国就是世界,除了地球就是整个宇宙。我相信这也是不少人下意识的想法。有极端的人可能想的是,除了自己的肉身就是全世界。这虽然太过于以自我为中心,但仍不失为一种观察世界的方法。

### 我心目中的中国——读《宅兹中国:重建有关"中国"的历史论述》

这两天在看<u>《宅兹中国:重建有关"中国"的历史论述》</u>,作者葛兆光想在书中为历史上的中国重新定位。我快看完了头三章外加挺长的序,感觉有点凌乱,还没有理出系统化的东西。总体感觉是,他谈的就是——感觉。另外一个关键词就是"想象",也就是说他谈的这些问题都是想出来的,实际上可能并不存在,至少在某些人看来纯属子虚乌有。本书一会讲感觉,一会谈想象,一会拿出不同方向的地图来印证中国和世界古人当时的感觉和想象。感觉颇具意识流的风格。他提出的问题简单又复杂,那就是:"中国"到底是什么?"

对于这个问题不同的人有不同的——感觉。就我来说,我的总体感觉基本就是中国初中课本式的:中国五千年前开始有文字记载的历史,经过中间王朝的更迭,到现在成为一个现代意义上,或者说欧洲人定义的民族国家。我总喜欢说不要用平面几何的理论去解释立体几何的问题,也不要用现代的尺子去量古代,因为这两种做法的后果要么是"此题无解",要么是谬之千里。

就"中国"来说,我一直把 1911 年中华民国成立当成一个分界点,把中国历史分成古代与现代两个部分。此前所有的改朝换代都是古代的"玩法",绝不跟此后的政权更迭这个现代的"玩法"混成一谈。原因很简单,现在所谓的"国家",包括"中华人民共和国",其所有理论基础都源自两三百年前的西欧形成民族国家之时,是一个非常年轻的概念,此前不光"中国"没有,整个地球也都没有。中国古代当然有"中国"二字,但是它的含义绝不是现代人所理解的"中国"。完全可以把它们当作两个"同形同音异意"词。不管是我们用古代的尺子衡量现在的中国,还是别人用现代的尺子去衡量古代的中国,都是用错了地方。

简单说来就是,现代的"中国"是"中华人民共和国",它源于中国古代最后一个王朝的皇帝退位时得以创建的"中华民国"。清帝退位时其中一份诏书是这么说的:

奉旨朕钦奉隆裕皇太后懿旨:

前因民军起事,各省相应,九夏沸腾,生灵涂炭,特命袁世凯遣员与民军代表讨论大局,议 开国会,公决政体。两月以来,尚无确当办法,南北暌隔,彼此相持,商辍於途,士露于野, 徒以国体一日不决,故民生一日不安。今全国人民心理,多倾向共和,南中各省既倡议於前, 北方各将亦主张於后,人心所向,天命可知,予亦何忍以一姓之尊荣,拂兆民之好恶?是用 外观大势,内审舆情,特率皇帝,将统治权归诸全国,定为共和立宪国体,近慰海内厌乱望

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

治之心,远协古圣天下为公之义。袁世凯前经资政院选举为总理大臣,当兹新旧代谢之际, 宜有南北统一之方,即由袁世凯以全权组织临时共和政府,与民军协商统一办法,总期人民 安堵,海宇乂安,<u>仍</u>合满、汉、蒙、回、藏五族完全领土,为一大中华民国,予与皇帝得 以退处宽闲,优游岁月,长受国民之优礼,亲见郅治之告成,岂不懿欤?钦此。

说的非常明白,清帝交给中华民国的是他的祖先在满洲入关后几百年间在这片土地上创建的庞大帝国的领土及其人民。从这一刻起,中国就是现代意义上的国家,才是我们理解的中国,其所有的领土、主权与人民就是名义上清帝退位的状况,而此后的领土丢失与获得都属于历史的微调。这里说"名义上",是指当时"应该怎么样",但实际情况不一定如此。比如,民国成立时台湾仍然是日本的领土,在二战结束后才由民国收回。

"中华人民共和国"是根据现代的"玩法"创立的,也就是继承中华民国而来。现在它对领土与领海的占有和主张的法律和历史基础全部源自中华民国,而非清朝或者之前的任何古代王朝。因此我觉得,目前中国政府的外交、宣传部门每次声明某岛屿、某土地属于中国领土时,总要加上一句"XXX 自古以来就是中国领土",比如唐代时如何如何,元代时如何如何,理由太过虚弱无力了。如果这个理由成立,那么为什么不对蒙古共和国的土地提要求?为什么不对越南的土地提要求?为什么不对哈萨克斯坦的土地提要求?为什么不对俄罗斯的土地提要求?这些都是国外人民揶揄中国政府外交和宣传部门常用问题。

为什么不能提这种领土要求?原因很简单,那就是人民共和国创立时没有从民国继承这些地方。那些地方在继承之前已经独立成国或者划入了别国的领土,而根据现代的"玩法",想拿别人的领土就是意图侵略。

反过来也是一样,国外人民如果认为满、蒙、回、藏在历史上曾经是独立的实体,或者黄岩岛、钓鱼岛现在已经由菲律宾、日本实际控制,所以它们都不是人民共和国的领土。我们回应的理由就是,人民共和国的国土源自清帝退位后成立的民国,人民共和国创建时国土包含满、蒙、回、藏、黄岩岛、钓鱼岛,所以它们是中国的领土,并非只是历史上曾是中国的领土。

这一点想通了,那民国之前的历史,都是在现时中国领土上或者旁边在"历史上"发生的是是 非非、分分合合。如果根据现代的标准,说吐蕃、金辽、蒙元和满清不属于"中国"我也没意 见,反正现在这片土地上的民族融合早已经完成了。

由此观之,人民共和国必须正视民国仍然存在这一事实,而且把它奉为正朔,因为从法律继承的顺序上来看,民国原本就是人民共和国的前生,二者的国号意义完全相同。就我来说,我愿意看到中国再次统一的原则是"民族、民权、民生",而统一的方式是"民主统一、一国一制"。

### My seven links

I started my first website with the now dead Yahoo! GeoCities in the summer of 2000. I still remember how joyful I was when I saw my first ever website went online. Later, I

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

hosted my webpages with some of China's leading portal websites where free personal web page service was offered. As the Internet bubble popped in the early 2000s, the portal websites, one by one, all shut down their free services with the free personal webpage service being one of the victims. I eventually got tired of having to move my website around. I went on to register a domain name, which is exactly how my Chinese name is officially spelled in English (ChangGuohua.com), and subscribed to a hosting package in December 2002. In 2006, I started using Google's Blogger and in 2007 migrated to IXWEB HOSTING and set up a WordPress blog there. It's been more than five years since I became a "blogger" and I can see no reason why I should stop being one.

A tagging game called <u>My Seven Links started by Tripbase</u> reached me via <u>a German</u> <u>China blogger Just Recently</u>, who is an extremely prolific blogger focusing on China. With my more than 10 years of online life, I hope that I can come up with seven of my posts and recommend five other blogs that are beneficial.

Now, according to a Tripbase rule, as one of the tagged, I should point to seven of my old posts. Let's see what I've got:

My Most Beautiful Post: "儿子的心跳——记老婆怀孕" (Part 1 and Part 2) (My son's heart beats: My wife's pregnancy). In this post I wrote about my family's life during my wife's pregnancy. I still remember the extreme excitement and expectancy I felt when hearing for the first time the quick and forceful heart beats of my son still in the form of a fetus. They were magnified by a special device and filled the entire room. I was asking myself, "Is that my son's heart beating?"

My Most Popular Post: My most popular post is also the post whose success surprised me (Read below). To not waste a chance to point to another post, I've come up with another category My Most Romantic Post: 失踪十四年的同桌找到了 (I found my deskmate lost for 14 years). Before I continue, I should explain what a *deskmate* is. In my elementary and secondary school days, a *deskmate* was a classmate who shared a desk with me in the classroom. Unlike most of today's schools whose students each have a desk and a chair to their own, in the good old days students shared a desk with others. This post was written more than seven years ago. So, that was 2004. I got married with her in 2006. She was also my first girl friend, and we had <u>our son</u> last year (Read "My Most Beautiful Post" above).

**My Most Controversial Post:** "The China market for its foreign investors". Basically, I said in the post that China is a good market for some investors, but not for others. You have lots of things to worry about when running a business here: how fast your clients pay you, what people you can get to work for you or supply you with goods or services,

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

how careful you must be about complying with regulations and laws, how greedy the officials can get, etc, etc.

My Most Helpful Post: "What does it mean when the Chinese say to you that you hurt their feelings?" Foreigners always fail to understand that "hurt feelings" the Chinese have about something or someone means that "they will no longer care about how you will feel about what they are going to do — it's almost an unqualified grave threat or warning in some cases." *Ganqing* (feeling) is extremely important among the Chinese. I assure you that you won't want to lose it when dealing with them after you have developed close relations with them.

A Post Whose Success Surprised Me: "HP Compaq Presario V3500 V3625AU 重装机必备" (Must-read for re-installing the OS onto HP Compaq Presario V3500 V3625AU). I just wrote this post to record what I did to make my HP notebook fully functional again after re-installing the OS and how I solved an audio driver problem. Lots of readers are flocking to read it. This model reportedly sucks, but mine works fine.

A Post I Feel Didn't Get The Attention It Deserved: "邓小平: 中国的改革已经失败" (Deng Xiaoping: China's reform has failed). Deng is said to be the architect of China's reform and opening-up movement. If he lived to today, he would sadly have to admit the movement has failed, miserably if judged by his standards. He said at a national science conference on March 7, 1985 that "… The goal of Socialism is common prosperity for all the Chinese people, not polarization. If our policies result in polarization, then we fail; and if China sees the bourgeoisie re-appearing, then we walk on an evil path…" The polarization and the bourgeoisie he feared are exactly what the Chinese people today are facing today. As I see it, China is not a Socialist state at all. Rather, it's a Capitalist state with government power getting out of control.

The Post I'm Most Proud of: 讨论一下"粮食"的"安全" (On food/grain and safety/security). As I've observed, English has changed the <u>pronunciation</u> of a Chinese character. No big deal? It can even change the meaning of Chinese characters. My observation is that this <u>utterly ridiculous thing</u> has happened because of poor English to Chinese translation. It cannot be remedied now — they have been now deeply entrenched in government and academic discourse.

Next, let's see which five blogs I want to "nominate" for the next round of "snowballing":

1. <u>弗虑弗为</u>. The guy, <u>Hu Cheng</u>, behind his blog is extremely learned. I, who has been proud of having worked in the language profession since 2000, feel humbled by his level of knowledge with the ancient Chinese language. Even after I checked several times his *About Me* page, I can't understand what his blog title exactly means. He derived his blog title name from one of China's earliest written history books. On surface, it seems to

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

mean "No worries because of no desire-driven action." But, all this is only remotely related to why I want to share his blog with you. He travels across China and takes photos wherever he goes. His blog is a journal of his trips and beautiful photos taken with both traditional cameras and digital cameras. I've never read about it in his blog, but I'm sure the man he most admires is  $\underline{Xu\ Xiake}$  (1587 - 1641), a great traveler, geographer, and writer, who recorded in <a href="his journals">his journals</a>his trips that brought him to almost every present-day northern, eastern and southern Chinese province. Unlike Xu Xiake, Hu Cheng mainly visits places of traditional, cultural and historical significance. For safety reasons, this is good for him.

2. <u>Beyond the rhetoric</u>. Michael Kwan is another prolific (almost daily) blogger I want to recommend. I translated his blog title as "华章之余". He's a full-time freelance writer and <u>makes his work a business</u>. His blog is mainly a place where he puts down his work-related musings that are thought-provoking and inspirational. He also regularly shares <u>quotes</u> and <u>links</u>. It's very rewarding for me to read his posts. By courtesy of him, I translated his post "<u>All Success Carries the Risk of Failure</u>" into Chinese <u>in October 2010</u>.

So, Hu Cheng and Michael Kwan, if you've reached this post, you can choose to come up with**your seven links and five recommended blogs**, or not, according to another rule set out by <u>Tripbase for this tagging "My seven links"</u>. Though joining this tagging is purely voluntary, I'm sure you have very great stuff to share with your readers and keep the snowball gaining momentum!

[The following two are added on Oct. 16, 2011. They are two corporate blogs about encyclopedic (literally!) and linguistic topics. I'm adding them here not in the hope that they will take notice of my nomination and respond with their seven links and five blogs!]

3. <u>Britannica Blog.</u> When I have more money to spend and bigger bookshelf space, I will buy a print set of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. But currently I only have a 2009 Student and Home<u>version installed on my computer</u>. I have found it a spring of knowledge and love it very much. As it happens, I'm a translator working between Chinese and English. I've found that everything I read that seems relevant or not to the work at hand will turn out to be a blessing in my later work. Its blog is regularly updated and covers encyclopedic (no surprise!) topics. For example, its latest post is about <u>Kazimierz Pułaski</u>, a Polish American who was referred by Benjamin Franklin to General George Washington and who then led a guerrilla force valiantly fighting British troops. From the post, I know that a) he was the most famous Polish man in the American Revolution, b) Illinois observes his birthday as a holiday, and c) Chicago has one of the largest Polish communities outside of Warsaw. Very encyclopedic indeed. Strongly recommended.

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

### 二则: 德式英语和基本问题

### 一则:

今天彻底给德式英语折服了。不说"在特殊情况下,如果受邀吃饭的人是一个群体,无法知道每个人的名字(如展会的观众),则不必提供人员名单",而是说"在例外情况下,如果受邀吃饭的人可以用一个明确的集合名词涵盖,而且这些人的名字无法确认和证实(如展会的观众),则不必提供人员名单"。明确的集合名词?欧麦雷的嘎嘎!这是双保险,就好比<u>动</u>车追尾了,铁道部怕没死的乘客不死,先放倒车厢、破拆、掩埋,然后再挖出来拉走。

### 二则:

有些基本问题很重要。不然 fundamental 的问题就不会因为基本而变得重要了。记得儿子在医院诞生那会儿,听见大夫护士问病房里病人和家属的问题是:今天吃几顿?今天拉几遍?排气了吗(就是放屁了没有)?还经常嘱咐:不要吃太多!记下排便的时间!把尿拿来我看看!

又想起来我儿子出院回家好几个月后的时候,一次好几天没拉屎。全家都盼望着小子快点拉出屎来。后来终于拉了,大家都围观。我说:"看这粑粑颜色、样子多标准!"大家那兴奋的劲头,就差击掌庆贺了。

另外,吃饭、拉屎、撒尿本来是很严肃的基本问题。但这些对于我儿子不是什么严肃问题。 他可以一边吃奶一边撒尿。

有时,我这边大快朵颐地吃着,他那边就不分场合和场地地拉了;我饭还没咽下去,就得赶快去把儿子捞起来,把他对准便盆(我家用的是洗衣服的大塑料盆,与小凳子配对);情况好的时候他就继续"前面机枪扫射,后面炮火连天";不好的情况下,被抱着好似钓鱼一般,悄悄地半天没有动静,等收拾完了把他放回去,一会屎尿又来了。类似这种情况,无论何时发生,都不影响我的好胃口和好心情。这就是儿子还小的时候爹的心理素质。当然了,妈自然更是不在话下。

### **Huolong on blogs: An interview by Justrecently's China Weblog**

These questions and answers are an interview by and will also be published at <u>Justrecently's China Weblog</u>. I'm one of the China bloggers he interviewed.

1. You have been blogging for more than a decade, and for much of the time, you have been a bi-lingual blogger. Why do you blog? Was there a key moment where you felt that you should share your experiences and your feelings, which got your blog (or blogs) started?

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

**Huolong:** Firstly, I want to express myself. A blog, or rather the broader Internet with all its applications built and flourishing on it, is a blessing for people like me. Secondly, I want to help. I'm a professional translator with Chinese as native tongue and English as a foreign/second one. I've been in this trade for more than a decade and have learned a great deal I want to share to do some good. Last but not least, I want to build some online brand for myself. My website helped me land my first and second jobs in Beijing and even played a great role in making my wife (just a classmate back then) believe I remained a not-so-bad person in 2004 after the long 14 years during which we'd lost each other.

# 2. What's the worst online article or post you have ever read about China (that you remember)?

**Huolong:** The article or post I can't remember. But I still remember a China blog that never fails to repulse me: Mylaowai.com. <u>In its newest post</u>, he called the Chinese police officers "monkeys" and implied that their brick-breaking palms are useless for performance of their duties. This only further enhances my belief that Mylaowai has an unbalanced mind. For example, he couldn't seem to understand that physical sturdiness is a *small* but *key* part of their overall capabilities. Only Mylaowai seems to assume that the Chinese officers don't think high-tech is crucial to modern police actions.

# 3. A number of your readers have subscribed to your translation training serial. How many persons are taking part? Do you know some of them personally? Do you feel that they are making headway, and do you get feedback which you put back into your courses?

**Huolong:** Currently, there are about 300 subscribers to my newsletters, with some of them being my office colleagues. Most of them are only casual subscribers. I've seen no meaningful results since I started the newsletter more than a year ago.

# JR: Are you mulling ways to *guide* subscribers to more efficient problem-solving?

**Huolong:** Yes. I've tried in vain and found that it's extremely difficult to change how they think about translation learning or that they are not dedicated enough.

# 4. How did you learn English? Which approach was most helpful? School? Work? Reading? "Real Life"?

**Huolong:** Generally, I taught myself to use the language. I owe my English to a now controversial man named <u>Li Yang</u>, an English-language teacher-businessman whose teaching and motivation approach is characterized by crazy shouting by large English-learning crowds. I haven't met him personally. But I bought some of his books in

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

1996. And in his books, he showed how people could learn good English in a non-English-speaking environment. According to his teachings, if I speak English *well*, I can then understand it *well*both spoken and written and write it *well*. Another secret he revealed is that reading is the shortest-cut to wisdom and knowledge accumulated over the years. I then went almost crazy practicing speaking English and became a devouring reader. As every language professional understands it, learning and studying a language involves *everything* associated with it and is a never-ending uphill battle. His methods make the process easier for me. My problem is the same as that of most other English learners in China: I have listened and spoken too little. This is where I must and will improve.

JR: Baike Baidu describes Li Yang's approach as one that would tear down psychological barriers, when it comes to speaking (or shouting) – the fear of making mistakes and losing face (false shame). Does this explain his concept correctly?

**Huolong:** His concept is more than tearing down the barriers, which I think is the only the first step. It also includes *practical* methods about how learners can learn English better, e.g. tongue muscle training and special English-pronunciation techniques for Chinese speakers. His concept also includes a key component: Learners should learn the language sentence by sentence, article by article, and book by book. This is a very effective antidote to the bad habits of most English learners in China, who tend to learn and study English vocabulary, grammar, listening, speaking, reading and writing as completely *separate components*. They dream that the components will fall into place automatically and then their English will be good one day. That day will never come.

5. Do you expect a broader readership to pay attention to your articles – about translation, or about your personal life -, or is yours rather a niche blog for a small circle of specialists? Would you mind if a broader readership got strongly involved in your commenting threads? Would you mind controversy?

**Huolong:** I've only recently – that's about one year ago – shifted my blogging focus to translation and languages. So now I only expect a much less-varied audience. It's always good to have a bigger and more participatory readership for any types of blogs. I don't mind controversy as long as I consider it constructive.

6. Do you have a policy on trolls? Can you think of a reason to ban a commenter from your threads?

**Huolong:** No. I don't need any currently maybe because my posts don't attract those people. I don't like off-topic, abusive, or meaningless comments, to name a few.

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

7. How closely do you follow Chinese and non-Chinese blogs respectively? Do you (as a reader) or they (as bloggers) focus on certain, recurring kinds of news or topics?

**Huolong:** I like blogs with meaty contents. I'm a subscriber to quite a few Chinese and English blogs and read them every day. Most of them are in English. Their topics include translation, language, Internet, history and quotations.

8. Being a bilingual blogger, you seem to follow both Chinese- and English-language blogs, and blog posts written by Chinese and foreign bloggers alike. Do you see anything their blogs would have in common? And what makes them different from each other?

**Huolong:** The blogs I read are too diverse in topics and styles to have any commonalities. If there is one, I think it's the dedication with which the bloggers write great contents.

9. Have you seen big changes in your own blog or blogs, and in the Chinese, or foreign "China blogosphere" respectively since you started blogging yourself? Have you seen changes in the mainstream media?

**Huolong:** For my blogs, I have changed to focus on language and translation topics. Sorry, I haven't read enough China blogs or pay enough attention to changes, if any, to the mainstream media to offer useful inputs.

10. Which is your favorite blog? (Please don't name mine.) What's the most informative online source about China?

**Huolong:** My favorite is <u>EB Blog</u> because it's written by experts and very informative and intelligent. I only casually read "China blogs", and this is not enough for me to come up with any informed answer to the second question.

11. Have you ever stopped reading blogs because you felt they were becoming boring, or because they angered you?

Huolong: Yes. Mylaowai, for example.

12. In your view, has China changed since you started blogging? Have your feelings changed? Has the world changed? How so?

**Huolong:** Ten years have passed since I began my first website. A great many things have happened. China now is a polarized and layered society and people in it don't always know or bother to know what's happening in the rest of the society. That's about the case

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

for me, my peers, and those within my close and remote social networks. During the past decade, we worked hard under great pressure in competitive cities and thankfully our life got better year by year. And now we still see hope for even better life. This must be a unique feeling or observation from a global perspective. China is only one of the few countries that have generally succeeded in achieving its ambitious socio-economic development goals. It has lifted a large number of her people out of poverty during the past decade and positions itself for greater prosperity in the future. Politically, China is no better than ten years ago and might be worse. Government power still runs unchecked while the officials can have their own way in most cases. I'm not sure this is good for China's future even though they have driven the economic growth for the past several decades.

JR: You mentioned the Britannica blog earlier in this interview. The blog looks somewhat like the equivalent to BBC Radio 4 (a station you once had on your blog roll, I believe). This is what a British commenter once wrote:

Really, you must understand that Radio 4 is the nearest thing the British middle class has to Pravda. It dispenses a particular kind of wisdom which distinguishes one from the vapid upper class and the benighted working class. Its effect on the minds of the British public is to create an image of middle-class respectability which no evidence to the contrary can dispel.

In the context of Chinese society having become a more layered society, can you think of something similar to BBC Radio Four – a Chinese website or a broadcaster – who would cater to a similar middle class in China?

**Huolong:** It's hard to define what the Chinese middle class is. So is it to determine their preferences. If they are well educated, have professional or technical jobs, and earn enough money, I think they will like CCTV's movie channels and Sina.com.cn.

13. Besides your main translation/personal blog, you have also run a blog devoted to the *Dream of the Red Chamber* (or Mansion), since 2007. It seems to be hibernating. Why is that?

**Huolong:** This blog is mainly one for collecting posts by other bloggers or writers. Maybe I'm looking in the wrong place, but Google searches yield few articles about that novel that I think warrant reposting. That novel is encyclopedic in scope and depth: life and death, life experience, history, philosophy, literature, food, health, architecture, and so on. Writing good articles about it requires lots of "been there, done that" stuff, acute observation, expansive thinking and great dedication. I view the novel as a description of a declining society in which the enlightened few saw no way out but still had hope in their heart. Historically, the novel described the decaying Chinese life and society in the

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

<u>17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries during which time Europeans</u> started to produce great science, technology, art, and literature, explored overseas and experienced drastic changes that led to the Industrial Revolution. China missed them all. This, I think, makes the author one of the most-visionary Chinese people in history.

### 14. Is there an unasked question to which you would like to reply anyway?

**Huolong:** Yes. I would like to say something again about the future of my blogging. I want it to be a source of useful information, a place where my readers find seriously written contents related to language and translation. I have learned to focus and concentrate in blogging. And finally thank you very much for this interview.

### The China market for its foreign investors

<u>China is not a good market to put your money</u>. This is about what a Shanghai-based foreign business owner, blogging as MyLaowai, said <u>in a post</u> at his China-bashing blog.

I've read quite a few China blogs, and his is one of the most personally vicious, so negative about his host country and its people, whining, chastising, satirizing, and complaining all the time. I must say reading his posts is a very depressive experience. (But, his and guests' posts make very good jokes, though, if you read them that way.) I can hardly associate such darkness and gloom in attitudes with a typical can-do businessman.

MyLaowai's style of China-bashing is relentless. He bashes everything about and never has a problem with insulting and offending the country and its people. For example, he makes fun of Chinese-English the Chinese people often use; and "debunks" everything the Chinese like, e.g. the noises Chinese New Year's celebration fireworks make.

MyLaowai's China-market claim is dubious. My common sense tells me it's not true.

As is known, China is a *developing* country, which means that it has a long way to go before it can match the *developed* ones in the West in terms of market maturity. Though people like MyLaowai rightly have loads to complain about, this should not stand in the way for other investors who want presence in China. After much complaining, MyLaowais must get down to work to solve or shun problems they are complaining about. If they don't, they might fail in a market of this size:

China, which excludes Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, had an inbound FDI flow of <u>US\$108 billion in 2008</u> and had the world's <u>third largest economy</u> (and according to the latest statistics, the second largest). In 2009, the country **exported US\$1.2 trillion** worth of goods (Office machines & data processing equipment (\$134.5 billion),

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Telecommunications equipment (123.6), Electrical machinery (101.7), Apparel & clothing (95.4), Miscellaneous manufactures (55.5)) and **imported US\$1.01 trillion** (Electrical machinery (\$174.8 billion), Petroleum & related products (84.1), Professional & scientific instruments (48.6), Metalliferous ores and scrap (44.0), Office machines & data processing equipment (40.7)).

Building a "harmonious" society is a comprehensive program of the Chinese government. Looking at it historically, nothing is new about this concept. It's just another slogan word that represents a natural addition to China's national strategic aims it set more than three decades ago — to make China into a country of *Wealth*, *Strength*, *Democracy*, and *Ethics*. Though it's true that China is a country far from being "harmonious", at least the country is making great progress towards her goals.

China is a country that had increased the life expectancy at birth of her people from an average of 35 years in 1949 to 70.4 years for men and 73.7 years for women in 2004; grown its gross national product to US\$2.6 trillion in 2006; and sent her people aboard her own spaceships into the outer space. China's achievements represented by the three examples are extremely laudable in Human history, especially considering the country's vast land and huge population and the short time in which the achievements had been made.

For the market prospering in such a country, investors should consider joining it instead of avoiding it, as their business dictates.

However, from an individual investor's point of view, it's up to him or her how the operations are run. *It's their business*. China's market welcomes successful companies and eliminates losing underachievers.

Running businesses in China and the rest of the world carries risks associated with management/administration, thefts, labor disputes, legal and judicial problems, and consumer preference (MyLaowai's grievances). If managed badly, these risks might lead to disasters. This is what running businesses is about, isn't it?

Contrary to MyLaowai's recommendation, my idea is that if you are an ambitious investor, are sure that you have the products and/or services the local Chinese consumers can use, and you are well prepared for a market new to you, come here, because the market here is for you. But, before and after you set up shop here, bear these in mind: don't try to fight local people and their ways of getting things done; and go about things within the Law and Government Regulations.

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

### 写博客就是写自己、城市、时代和国家的历史

似水流年,时光荏苒。不记日记的习惯不好,年复一年地不记录下自己所思、所想、所做的习惯也不好。**为什么呢?**因为再轰轰烈烈、再惊心动魄的事情过后也会在时间的侵蚀下变得模糊不清。比如说,历史上一个"美丽的误会":袁世凯。

他并非窃国大盗,实为议会民主选举出的**中华民国第一任大总统**。那孙中山呢?他是袁之前的临时大总统。创建民国的英雄谱里面真的应该有袁世凯的大名。

"自古英雄出少年"。他<u>25 岁时就在朝鲜指挥军队击败日本侵略军</u>,并且在后来的抗日战争中战功卓著。虽然他后来要签订卖国求荣的<u>《二十一条》</u>,但是想想孙中山、蒋介石和毛泽东在最困难的时候也都极力寻求"海外支持",也都有卖国之嫌,我们就不能对袁世凯要求太高。

我说毛泽东也"卖国",有人要跟我急。我只举两个我想得起来的例子:外蒙古和江东六十四 屯。在 1949年人民共和国成立后,跟袁世凯、孙中山和蒋介石的别无选择一样,毛泽东选 择了"一边倒",即全面与苏联结盟。在这种情况下,沙俄拿走的土地、苏联从中国分裂出的 国土,已经成了盟友碗里、肚子里的肉,毛泽东作为大哥手下的一个小兄弟能有什么辙?

看看下面这张地图,还有几个人能知道这赤橙黄绿青蓝紫后面风起云涌的故事?



来源: http://zh.wikipedia.org/zh-cn/File:Zhonghua\_Minguo\_Quhua\_Fanti.png

有点离题万里了,现在回到袁世凯这个问题。

为了简单地验证一下,我就又查了下相比之下更为公允一些的大英百科全书中对袁世凯的叙述。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

...Yüan appeared to conservatives and revolutionaries alike as the only man who could lead the country to peace and unity; and so both the emperor in Peking and the provisional president in Nanking recommended Yüan to be the first president of China.

(......守旧派和革命派都认为袁世凯是领导国家走向和平、团结道路的不二人选,因此在北京的清朝皇帝和在南京的民国临时大总统一致荐举袁世凯担任中国第一任大总统。)

# 来源: 大英百科

我算是看明白了。历史大事记不全、记不好尚且如此模糊不清,个人的事情更是如此了。记得前一段时间出版了邓小平的年谱。如果他老人家还活着,看这部年谱,没准儿其中的事情都忘了大半呢。好歹邓设计师的事情自己不整理有人给他整理,芸芸众生的我们也混不到别人给编年谱的程度。

因此,我决定,为了记录自己的历史或者我所生活的时代,今年的新年决心就包括"多写博文、多写日记"。

——撰文志之,来年此时再来回顾。

# 博客和日记

写博客和写日记还是大不一样的。博客是写给自己和别人看的,日记就是写给自己看的。写给别人看的东西,会有顾虑,写的时候会"收敛"很多,不能畅所欲言。日记就不同了,记下自己的所思所想,一是可以整理自己的思路,二是可以做个备忘录。日记上写的东西,可能过后就忘。不是说"好记性不如烂笔头"嘛?"备忘",日记即使起到这个作用也是极好的。

日记,想写就写,应该不是很难的事情。但是,真的要做起来,似乎也没那么简单。待我一一道来,尽管这有为自己的懒惰开脱之嫌。

日记是要写在日记本上的。而对于我,在纸上写字好像真成了一个问题。我在电脑上"写字"已经不是一年两年的事情了。从 **2000** 年开始到现在,我已经用电脑代笔十年了。让我现在回头去在纸上写,我有一百个不习惯。

多年不怎么写字,越发觉得自己的字惨不忍睹。习惯了在虚拟的纸上边写边改,在真纸上怎么个边写边改,想不明白。二十六个英文字母,只要我的两根食指分别找到字母 F 和 J,不用看键盘,脑子一想手指就过去找正确的字母。这个时候,我的大脑和这二十六个字母键是直接相通的,似乎不用通过我的手指来"中转"。如果我要提笔写字,忘了字怎么写一点也不稀奇。

在真纸上写日记好不好?好,有一万个好处。其中最大的好处是"感觉"。如同电子的书永远取代不了纸质的书一样,用笔和纸写日记写出的东西会真正地带有日记本所具有的时光的痕迹。跟冷冰冰的电子版不一样,用笔在纸上写出的东西看得见也摸得着,有自己的个性和生

# 实用英语与翻译学习指南

命。可是,我早已经习惯了"复制"、"粘贴"、"保存",习惯了备份,习惯了方便地与别人分 享。

说这些自己也觉得有点太矫情了。想写就写吧,咋写都行,那么废话干嘛?

好。那我就开始今年的第一篇日记。

# "人生旅途上罕见的先行者"

一记于京城九月飞雪日——一个人的一生,最重要的是能过上自己想过的生活。但问题往往 是,自己也不知道想过什么样的生活。昨晚在电视看了一部关于山口百惠的纪录片的后半部 分,于是就又想到了"人生"这个大命题。



山口百惠,对于年长的国人来说,这个名字不但一点也不陌生,而且还能勾起自己年轻时的 记忆。而对于80、90、00后的年轻一代,这个名几乎没有特别的意义,就是一个过气的 日本女星而已。

对于70后情况可能比较特殊一点,这十年头五年出生的,对山口百惠印象可能深一些,后 五年出生的,比如我,可能只有一点点印象。我估计,70后的这拨国人总体来说对她的印 象不是很深,因为在山口百惠如日中天、火遍东亚隐退时的1980年,这些人年纪最大的不 过10岁而已。

# 实用英语与翻译学习指南



纪录片在对她的人生进行某种总结的时候,引用了一个人说的话:

山口百惠是人生旅途上罕见的先行者。别人还没有动身,她已经到家;别人还没有化完妆,她已经把全戏演完;别人刚准备爬山,她已经登顶归来。

她 **13** 岁展露头角,**21** 岁隐退。隐退后一个半月与三浦友和结婚,从此只做三浦百惠。就在这八年她做完了"到家"、"把全戏演完"、"登项归来"这三件别人还没有开始的事情。





在宣布与三浦友和确定恋爱关系的记者招待会上,<u>在告别演唱会的舞台上</u>,在抱着自己刚出生不久的长子与丈夫一同出现在人们眼前时,山口百惠这个人知道自己的人生应该是个什么样子的,而且义无反顾地去追求这样的人生。这是真牛人的人生。

# 再聊聊红楼梦——是"恐领了赐去不恭",还是"恐迟去不恭"?

虽然好久没怎么好好看看我买的那些《红楼梦》小说了,但是三个月来我的中文博客第一篇 "大作"还是以这个为主题讲一些"扫盲级"的《红楼梦》问题。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

凡是喜欢看看《红楼梦》小说的人都认为或者知道有这一说,即小说头八十回是曹雪芹写的,写得很好,而后四十回是高鹗续写的,而且写得不大好。

但是,实际上还要更复杂一点,而且都是悬案。但我试着总结一下:主要分两个版本,一个是程伟元和高鹗 1791 年木活字印刷出版的"程甲本"(120 回),第二年又印行了"程乙本"(120 回),两个统称"程高本"、"通行本";另一个是印刷版出版之前和之后在民间流传的各种手抄本,因为上面有自称"脂砚斋"等人的批语,又被称为"脂本"(因为是手抄本,回数不等,有的就有几回,有的几十回),比如"庚辰本"。

"故事"到这里还没完。那书店里摆出来卖的,我们家里摆着的又都是啥版本呢?

答案还是挺复杂的。我知道的大概有这样几种:除了故事完整的程甲本和程乙本,还有各个抄本比来比去(或许还比了程高本)所得的脂本,但这种故事不全的版本一般书名都是《石头记》,不像程高本那样叫《红楼梦》。说到这里,故事差不多讲完了吧。实在不好意思,后面还有——

有人觉得程高本不好,可又想出版一个普罗大众想看的"完璧"《红楼梦》,于是就用脂本的 头八十回或者多少回当头,用程高本的后四十回当尾,组合成一个"嫁接"版的。比如,人民 文学出版社出版的由冯其庸主持编辑的《红楼梦》就是这样的一个版本。

现在一般好一点的小说《红楼梦》在书的开头会告诉你它是根据哪个"本"校对而来的。我这里有一个简单的办法区分一下你读的红楼梦到底是"脂本"还是"程高本"(有兴趣的同志可以分析一下下面这两句各自的逻辑,看哪个更好):

虽今日之茅椽蓬牖,瓦灶绳床,其晨夕风露,阶柳庭花,亦未有妨我之襟怀笔墨者。

来源:人民文学出版社冯其庸《红楼梦》,庚辰本

故当此茅椽蓬牖,绳床瓦灶,未足妨我襟怀;况对着晨风夕月,阶柳庭花,更觉得润人 笔墨。

来源:中华书局启功等《红楼梦》,程甲本

我还发现这两个版本之间一个有趣的差异。我头几遍读的都是"脂本",开头讲林黛玉到姥姥家,先去大舅家,然后又想到二舅家那一段,而大舅妈很想留黛玉吃饭,黛玉不肯。据"脂本":

邢夫人苦留吃过晚饭去,黛玉笑回道:"舅母爱惜赐饭,原不应辞,只是还要过去拜见二舅舅,**恐领了赐去不恭**,异日再领,未为不可。望舅母容谅。"邢夫人听说,笑道:"这倒是了。"

来源:人民文学出版社冯其庸《红楼梦》,庚辰本

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

看到这里我每次都想得满头是包。古代有这个规矩吗?二舅妈是舅妈,大舅妈就不是舅妈了?可以在二舅妈家吃晚饭,就不能在大舅妈家吃晚饭吗?林黛玉初次见面就这么不给大舅妈面子呀?

按我的想法,林黛玉和舅舅家是很亲的亲戚了,大舅妈想留林黛玉吃个晚饭,是人之常情,留下吃就是了,对二舅家有什么"不恭"的?难道就因为林黛玉在大舅家吃了在贾家的第一顿饭就给二舅家"没脸"了?

我觉得,即使吃了,二舅他们也不会挑什么理的。就比如,假如我有一个姐妹,她的女儿先到的我家,我留外甥女吃饭了,咋地?我弟弟会对她有啥意见啊?"近水楼台先得月",先到谁家就在谁家吃!不能先领了"赐饭"再去下一个亲戚家算是什么道理啊?还什么"这倒是了"!

咳, 谁知道呢, 古代也许就这个样子, 没有道理可讲。

我就这么一直纳闷着。直到前几天我再看程甲本时发现:

邢夫人苦留吃过饭去,黛玉笑回道:"舅母爱惜赐饭,原不应辞,只是还要过去拜见二 舅舅,恐迟去不恭,异日再领,望舅母容谅。"邢夫人道:"这也罢了。"

来源:中华书局启功等《红楼梦》,程甲本

说害怕吃饭时间太长,去二舅家太晚了,不太好,这倒是讲得通的。就这两句,同志们可以 仔细对比一下有多少不同:一个说是留吃晚饭,一个根本没提是什么饭;一个说黛玉怕二舅 不高兴所以不愿在大舅家吃饭,大舅母还觉得讲的在理,一个说不在俺家吃那就算了;一个 大舅妈笑了,一个可能没笑。如此种种。

这些版本谁先谁后,谁抄的谁,官司打不清楚。"红学界"的各大门派有了以上那么多版本提供"弹药"的情况下,彼此攻防都十分激烈,造就了一个十分"繁荣"的市场。前段时间的新版《红楼梦》电视剧选秀和现在的电视剧拍摄所产生的种种娱乐新闻还只是曝光度最高的一个方面。研究《红楼梦》小说种种问题和方面的出版物每年不知道要重印和新出版多少书。这是一个相当庞大的市场,我也为这个市场的繁荣做出了一点贡献。

我看这部小说,主要以欣赏它的故事为主,并且简单地琢磨下哪个版本或者部分更好一点。 随着自己年龄的增长,读着它顿悟一下,唏嘘一下,思考一下。

我觉得程甲本更好一点,目前看的是这个版本。原来"嫁接版"的看了很多次,最初看的可能是程甲本(书在东北老家),在哈尔滨时看的是程乙本,后来一直没好好看过,等有空再好好看看程乙本的。我还觉得小说的 120 回是一个整体,作者应该是一个人,后面的部分也很精彩,只是小说的悲剧本质大都在后半部分集中体现,让我不容易接受——可这就是这部小说震撼人心的一个根本所在。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

另外,我觉得不涉及小说内容本身的"红学"文章和出版物一般都是垃圾,全都是假设之假设之假设,都没有**法律意义上的证据**可以证明那些疯狂的猜测是对的或者是错的。连作者到底是谁都没证据。他们先争着,我们一般书迷看书自己去感觉就行了,不听他们忽悠。

# My English; seeking a language exchange partner

It's really frustrating when I find myself struggling to speak good English, especially when I think about this: I started to learn English as a junior high school student in 1990. It's 19 years now! Anything can happen in 19 years! But today, I still stammer or talk in a confusing way and nobody can understand me when I speak to native speakers on the phone.

I've had enough of this!

I want to speak really *good* English, like a really *good* native speaker.

Who can help me then? There is no way I can marry a native English-speaking woman now. Well, I'm talking (*writing, to be precise*) as though I can easily find one who is also interested in me!

I'm not the sort of guys women can have a crush on at first glance. People have to get to know me a lot before they can like me very much. Smacks of boasting then.

Now back to the topic of learning to speak a foreign language that your spouse speaks. If you're lucky enough to have one and you don't speak like a native speaker of that foreign language, you are wasting such a good opportunity and even your life!

But, I cannot justifiably blame you for that too much. It's a human weakness. Me for one. I've been in Beijing for more than six years and I've never been to the Great Wall *here* though I've been to Qinghuangdao and sometimes I got really close to the city's section of the Wall. I always think that if I really want to go to, say Badaling, I can do that on any weekend and so I don't do it.

The most immediate reason why I can't marry a native English-speaking woman is that **I've already got married with and want to keep at my side** the best woman in the world. But, she doesn't speak English. It would be wonderful if she spoke English as a native tongue!

There must be a work-around, though.

Yep, a language exchange partner!

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

I've spoken Chinese for almost 30 years (I don't remember when I started to speak it) and grew up in an area where Standard Chinese is spoken. My favorite books are ancient and modern Chinese classics. I can teach you some Dongbeihua if you like, though.

# So, anyone interested in my offer - be my language exchange partner?

In this world where people are connected via visible and invisible networks. Our mutual help will be very easy, via Skype, MSN, or QQ, or even recordings (e.g. I record <u>my</u> <u>translation lessons</u> for <u>some visually impaired students</u> who want to be translators).

For more about me and my contact info, click here.

# China is a country in change for the better

I wrote a post about how native English speakers should understand the Chinese when they say their "<u>feelings</u>" are hurt. I'm not sure if my idea has sunk in well for people who have read it.

After having <u>linked</u> to the post in his blog, <u>justrecently</u> read my May 3, 2008 <u>post</u> about whether Chinese fenqings can think for themselves and followed it with a post that focuses on freedom of speech in China.

He said that it's okay for Chinese people to exercise their freedom of speech to foreign countries and foreign people. But doing so inside China is dangerous and carries imprisonment as Hu Jia has suffered.

It's true, but it is only half-true.

Because people around me and everyone I know personally haven't shown any signs that they oppose the Chinese government's policies on Tibet and the Beijing Olympic Games, I had to google for a long time to find those people who have been put in prison because of their verbal opposition to the policies. Though I haven't found anyone who have suffered the ordeals Hu Jia has, I did find a guy who is verbally against the hosting of the Games on economic grounds and thinks that the economic resources should be saved for primary education in poor Chinese areas and another who thinks China should abolish all preferential policies towards minorities and put every Chinese citizen on an equal footing. Whether these two people are now behind the bars, I have no way to know.

However, I did find <u>others</u> who were jailed just because what they said ruffled the feathers of local Party bosses or their employers.

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

"Freedom of speech" is a citizen right enshrined in the Chinese Constitution, though China is far from being a country governed by its Constitution – the biggest violator of the Constitution is the Chinese governments and the Party.

Article 35. Freedom of speech, press, assembly

Citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of procession and of demonstration. (Source)

But, this doesn't mean China is still like what it was more than three decades ago, when a single disrespectful murmur against the Party and the Government resulted in the loss of freedom with or without a verdict of "anti-Revolution".

Freedom of speech is being exercised in China, though to a limited extent. This explains why the reports about the jailed people are run by private websites and even websites whose URLs end with gov.cn. In those reports, their writers did not mince their words to save the faces of the governments. This means that freedom of speech is a citizen right recognized by the public opinions, the Party and the Government.

Then, why those prisoners?

China is now in a changing process that has at least lasted three decades and will continue. Its economy has become capitalistic and its society's values and interests are diversified like any Western country. And, the Chinese people is not one with only one voice.

But, though its economy has long become capitalistically democratic, its Government hasn't changed that much and continues its monopoly on the State's political power. It only wants to share this power with trusted people outside of the Government, not those (e.g. Hu Jia) who want to replace the Government leadership with a non-Party-led one. Exercising the freedom of speech in areas other than challenges to the Government's grip on political power is encouraging. That's why China has been a largely successful economy and society.

Most Chinese people don't want drastic government leadership change. They think they need a strong Central Government empowered to govern its 1.3bn people who live in a vast country literally divided into population groups, classes and regions sharply different from each other in terms of social and economic development stages.

Even under its One-Party rule, China's local provinces are more than willing to fight the Central Government's policies and rules for their provincial interests. China would be doomed, if its government was organized in the Western way, which is only good for

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

well-developed countries with a strong middle class living in an economically balanced society. A strong middle class means stability in a country because it doesn't want revolutions or upheavals. China doesn't have that blessing.

China does not need yet another Revolution to start all over again. It needs a non-disruptive path leading to democracy based on an economically, socially, and politically sound society. This is exactly what China has been trying to build since 1949. China doesn't like the kind of democracy in Thailand where coups are routine in changes of government leadership.

This process is an interactive, changing one. China should be viewed as and actually is a country in change for the better.

You will be hopelessly wrong, if you think China is a fundamentalistic "Communist" country as how you may look at it through Cold-War glasses. It's a capitalistic one with strong government control. That is about it.

# 红楼梦谁写的?

很多《红楼梦》小说爱好者(这个词太旧了,应该叫"红粉丝")知道小说的后四十回是高鹗续写的;如果知道得多一点,会知道这后四十回写得不太好,不但文笔不如前面,而且人物与前面完全不同,好似电视剧的一二部之间主演突然换了一样;再知道多一点的,会愤恨高鹗和程伟元篡改前面作者曹雪芹的本意,误导了《红楼梦》读者很多很多年,直到胡适发现前八十回和后四十回不是一个人写的,一切才拨乱反正,红迷们也幡然醒悟,痛骂程高不是人。

这段故事我开始是相信的,对后四十回不屑一顾,也叹息为什么故事不全。但是,我后来开始对这一说开始怀疑——我没觉得后四十回差到狗屎一堆的程度;相反,我认为里面的精彩之处丝毫不逊色于前面的八十回——我感觉,除了前面八十回的作者,没有第二个人能写得出后面的四十回。

目前在大陆以外,以及建国以前的几百年里面,《红楼梦》小说的最流行本都是程伟元和高鹗的甲本和乙本,期间的各大文豪、有影响力的知识分子很少质疑过这本小说的完整性。

时间到了现代,突然一个叫胡适的人断定后四十回是程伟元和高鹗伪造的,红迷世界开始了"拨乱反正"——就好像基督徒突然知道了自己读了几百年的圣经是伪造的,知道了原来真本一直是某种手抄本。经过这场"反正"运动,"高鹗狗尾续貂"说在中国大陆成了教科书的标准答案——现在,在中国大陆的红迷界,不骂高鹗、程伟元的情况比较少见。

现在,红迷里面出来一个人物,正在"冒着敌人的炮火前进",要拆所有红学名人的台子。他称《红楼梦》小说的"真本"就是通行了数百年的程甲本,来历不明的脂砚斋各个手抄版本都是拙劣的伪造。这样一来,所有建立在各个手抄本之间差异的人生、感悟、思考、得意、文

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

章、论断、论文、出版物、学术、机构、组织和相关的那些人原本就没有存在的根基了——别人尚可,那些靠吃《红楼梦》小说的那一票人岂能善罢甘休,自己的半生、一生都是一个"笑话",甚至饭碗不保了——怎么可以?

陈林从 **2006** 年开始挑战"红界"的既得利益集团,难度可想而知——被红界各大论坛强力封锁,而双方的语言攻守也不再克制。这场战斗,谁胜谁败,我将拭目以待。

以下是陈林的一些主要看法:

陶洙伪造"脂本"事实清楚证据确凿 百年红学造假第一大案 程甲本才是真本《红楼梦》

# "小蛮腰"

我也不记得什么时候第一次听说"小蛮腰"这个说法。只知道它的意思是形容窈窕淑女的小腰 很细,而且这种腰是几乎每个女性梦寐以求的。

我曾经一度以为这里面的"蛮"字是"细"的意思,但从未查字典核实过。

昨天坐地铁回家,车上两男一女三个同事样子的人在我旁边讨论"小蛮腰"到底什么来历。这个说,大概是南方的人古代叫做"南蛮子",而那里的美女比较苗条,所以苗条的腰就叫"小蛮腰"。自己解释完了觉得很有道理,算是自己给自己找的正确答案。

但是,我后来知道了这"小蛮腰"到底什么来历。现在他们三个在讨论的时候,答案几乎要从我的嘴里奔逃而出。最后实在"忍无可忍",我脱口而出:"我知道。"

他们兴致也很高,因为旁边一个陌生人居然知道"小蛮腰"的来历,而且还要回答。

于是, 我跟他们解释:白居易曾经写过"<u>樱桃樊素口,杨柳小蛮腰</u>",里面写的是一个名叫"小蛮"的美女。小蛮是白居易的小老婆,舞技极佳,腰身极美。

学过唐诗的人大都知道白居易是个写过《卖炭翁》 的现实主义大诗人,悲天悯人的好人。 但几乎没人告诉说白居易其实还是个爱泡妞的人,家里的小老婆过了二十岁就嫌老卖掉,还 喜欢从小养小美女,一直养成大美女。

不过,这在当时(其实现在也是)是很普遍的事情,白居易当年可是很大的官。他中年崭露 头角,到了晚年活得特别安逸,很多同时代的唐代大诗人都羡慕他羡慕得要死,因为老白每 年可以从朝廷那里领到丰厚的工资,不但自己养得起,还养了上百的美女。

实际上,人们常用一些说法,但对它们的来历并不知道,或者"<u>视而不见</u>"。如果有人解释一番,大多数肯定还不敢相信,或者不以为然。

比如,"跳槽"、"哇塞"、"摇滚"等等。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

如果没事到网上搜索一下这些词,你会有惊人的发现。

# 两个你可能不知道的事实

- 1. 你所知道的"百度"不是中国公司,它是<u>"[注册于英属开曼群岛的]"……"一家在华经营互联</u>网业务的中美合资企业(也可以说是美资控股公司)"。它跟Google一样是<u>美资公司</u>。
- 2. 你用Google.com(睁大你的眼睛:不是Google.cn)搜索"南京大屠杀"、"钓鱼岛"等关键字的时候无法正常显示是因为<u>功夫网</u>不想让你看,不是Google在作怪,其他Google的服务无法正常使用时也是它在作怪。如果你用Google.com搜索"敏感"关键字时,会自动被转到Google.cn,特征是在每个页面的下面有"据当地法律法规和政策,部分搜索结果未予显示。"字样。

# Where China fits in history

Narrow-mindedness might be a problem for people who don't read history. Or, if they do, they might still have a provincial historical world view if their only history-reading experience has been in one single version of history, like history textbooks in Chinese schools. In both cases, they tend to be intolerant of other people who they think are "different". And, by looking only inwardly, they run the risk of losing the historical threads where their own world fits.

Instead, if people understood the historical contexts in which the world has existed, they would have a much clearer and different view on almost everything. Reading history gives people a revealing historical perspective.

We the Chinese are justifiably proud of only our long history that has extended for thousands of years running. For most of our history, China was a world leader in science, technology, economy, and military power and maintained a regional hegemony dynasty after dynasty.

This, in fact, is a mixed blessing and was precisely why China's leading advantage began to disappear when the people in West Europe were forced to revolutionize their technological, scientific, cultural, social, political, economic, and military systems under the huge pressures of invading nomadic tribes. After their land routes to the East had been cut off by roaming barbarians, they started to open up sea routes that they hoped would lead them to their trading partners in the faraway East. While being self-sufficient and self-centered, China, a haven tucked away in a safe Eurasian corner, was strong enough to repel or assimilate any invading nomads from only the north and didn't feel the need to change at all.

Time went by, as it ever did.

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Finally, when a static, agricultural China came into contact with a dynamic, industrialized West whose opium cargos and gunships arrived by sea from the other end of the Eurasian landmass, its world soon crumbled.

Then, it took China more than a century to gather itself and stand on its feet again only less than **60** years ago, which we should remember.

# "Can I take these books home to read?"

I just returned home from a hot two-hour bus trip to <u>Beijing Capital Library</u>, where I handed back an English language history book 36 days overdue and paid 7.2 yuan in overdue fine. This amount equals 72% of the library's card annual fee.

Every time I visit the library, I feel so good about being served by the government-funded institution because it makes me feel like a Chinese citizen being taken care of by the State. Wrong. The library is in fact financed by the city of Beijing rather than the State.

There is another library to the west a little closer from my department, the much larger National Library of China. This one is supported by the State. I once seriously considered starting to borrow books from NLC, but later was very disappointed to find that borrowing certain books there and taking them home to read required a card-holding borrower to have at least a postgraduate degree. They include imported foreign-language books.

Unfortunately, I'm not equipped with one of those required papers and the English books there in great quantities were the reason why I'd thought about changing over to NLC. I'd hoped I could take my favorites home to read!

When recalling my complaint about the discriminatory *national* library, my wife smirked over the phone, telling me that "You can wait for me to bring home my papers." She now studies medicine at a postgraduate school of <u>Guiyang Medicine College</u> and will graduate about this time next year.

The top librarian at NLC seems to think people without at least a postgraduate degree cannot borrow take-away English NLC books for a meaningful purpose that his or her counterpart at BCL identifies with so much.

实用英语与翻译学习指南

#### Dan Brown's novels

Reading order of his novels: *Digital Fortress, Angels and Demons, Deception Point,* and *The Da Vinci Code* 

Last night, I completed <u>Dan Brown's</u> Digital Fortress, the fourth Dan Brown's book in my reading order. His thrillers are characterized by a day or so time span during which his main storyline unfolds. Generally, his heroes and heroines have to wait almost the whole book before they can go to bed again (sometimes on different ones) after they get up close to midnight or in the early morning. One of his heroes Robert Langdon, in two thrillers, all starts with a rude wakening by phone rings at ugly hours and then checks his clocks, "groaning and dazed", before reluctantly getting up.

As I read it, among the four thrillers (The Da Vinci Code, Angels and Demons, Deception Point, and Digital Fortress, *in my reading order*), his earliest one, Digital Fortress, the last one in my reading order, is the most stupidly written.

I doubt that Dan Brown himself was convinced by the ridiculous behaviors of his brainchildren. The story begins with the hero David being sent in an early morning to Spain in search of a mysterious ring, which spoils a planned romantic stay with his girlfriend, the heroine Susan, in a mountain resort that day.

Susan works for National Security Agency, a secretive U.S. code-breaking unit that intercepts communications around the world and stores top-class U.S. intelligence and all the U.S.<u>engineering</u> blueprints, atomic bomb designs, trade secrets, and everything in the world's bestest database consisting of an enormous army of servers. Fontaine, the first-in-command of NSA is foolish enough to let Strathmore, the second-in-command, carry out a fishy yet seemingly well-intended scheme to publish a tampered algorithm (Digital Fortress) with a backdoor built in for the use of the unsuspecting world code-writing community.

Sadly, it turns out that Strathmore is just trying to get rid of David, the boyfriend of Susan, so that he can develop a love relationship with her and that the Digital Fortress Dan Brown has tried so hard to sell to his readers is in fact a clever, ruthless computer virus. Things go awry when the eager, deaf assassin Strathmore hires fails to kill David and Strathmore unknowingly and pig-headedly (so stupid for his position in one of the world's most intelligent organizations) feeds the virus into the array of servers that store everything that makes the U.S. what it is.

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Apart from the storyline, his descriptions of code-breaking, digital attacks and defenses, email tracing, computing languages and so on are simply unconvincing. Reading the novel is a little like watching a purportedly top-grade computer hacker who has to routinely check his keyboard when typing or uses an Internet Explorer with a local link in the address bar to supposedly browse an Internet site.

The best thriller in the box set is, of course, *The Da Vince Code*, which made Dan Brown. But my favorite is Deception Point. It's clear that Dan Brown has did enough homework before writing this one. He presents a convincing, brainy, and exciting venture at a faster pace than that of The Da Vinci Code, whose characters often sit, talking, reading, reading, thinking, thinking, talking. Angels and Demons starts as the revenges of an old cult resurrected, which turns out to be a stupid blunder of a high-rank Catholic official.

Bad or good with his stories, Dan Brown gives everyday and intelligent language in his books that can serve as good materials for me to hone my translation skills.

# 《红楼梦》的后四十回

# 同志们,后四十回尽管去读,不要有心理障碍!

要看现在什么书比较火,不一定要去看各个报纸、杂志或者书店里面的排行榜——看看大街小巷的盗版书摊上摆出来的书就能知道个大概了。盗版书摊上摆出来的书绝对是读者最最欢迎的书。在我家楼下不远的一个小店门口,有个人每天傍晚都会出这样一个盗版书摊。在那里,能看见《红楼梦》的身影。甚至有一本重新出版的 《红楼梦》小人书,只不过这新版的把原来数个独立单页的内容集中在了一大张纸上,于是变成了一本很大的书。

北京电视台运作的"红楼梦中人"选出了黛玉和宝钗的人选,但在我看来她们两个好像弄颠倒了,简直有点匪夷所思——从她们的脸部特征来看,北京电视台版的"黛玉"居然像李晓旭一样强壮,"宝钗"居然像姚笛一样瘦弱!



#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

时代不一样了,八七版的电视剧《红楼梦》可以拍三年半的时间,这零七版最多一年的时间。八七版的演员可以像上个大学那样,慢慢来;零七版的只能像上个短期进修班那样,短平快。

这个选秀活动也不说它一无是处。比如,活动的一个正面作用是,原来对《红楼梦》小说根本不感兴趣的人也拿起了小说开始津津有味地读起来了。不管怎么样,这算是中国古典小说的一次普及运动。

凡是读《红楼梦》的人都有一个"心结"——后四十回。对于有些人,读还是不读都成了一个问题,有些人根本不屑一读。我的第一本《红楼梦》是在火车站候车室里 面的书摊上买的,当时一起买的好像还有《水浒传》。时间是 1992 年,在黑龙江和四川老家之间的路上。我是一个比较驽钝的人,当时只记得《红楼梦》小说读 到后面结束得比较快,死的死、出家地出家,"白茫茫一片"很干净,但没看出这"高鹗"和"曹雪芹"作品之间的不妥之处。后来受到"红学家"们对于"后四十 回不好"的心理暗示,每次读《红楼梦》从第八十一回开始也总"觉得不好"。实际上也确实如此,与前八十回比起来,后四十回读起来比较"死",没有原来那么"爽"了。可是后四十回里面还是有很多地方写的非常精彩,比如李十儿、五儿部分,还有宝玉再回梦境的部分,我感觉这还应该是前八十回作者的手笔。

不久之前,我到网上搜索这方面的信息和观点,找到一个我觉得比较"通"的解释。这个解释 实际也是程伟元和高鹗在"整理出版"一百二十回本里面说的话,大致的意思就是程高二人不 过是搜来了当时流传下来的曹雪芹的后四十回与当时流行的前八十回合二为一成了现在的 通行本。

在我想来,《红楼梦》如此高深、庞大、盘根错节的小说,由另外一个人凭空去续(有人说应该是"补";"续"乃完整小说之后的东西才能叫"续")完全不可能。那这后四十回到底怎么回事呢?我觉得,它还是出自曹雪芹的手笔,因为即使这部分比前八十回差上很多很多,除了曹雪芹以外也没有第二个人能写得出来!

这 样解释似乎符合我的逻辑思维,或者说更合我的意。《红楼梦》这部长篇巨著,写作起来自然是十分艰苦的,作者创作的时候生活又是那么穷困潦倒,这是双重的"不容易"。作者写书,自然是像对自己的孩子一样,一定是想让它好,而且是锲而不舍地让它好上加好。这样以来就要改来改去,反复斟酌,这大概也是《红楼 梦》版本较多的一个原因。《红楼梦》里面也提到了小说众多的名字,可否想象一下每一个名字都是当时作者创作过程中的一个又一个的"升级"版本呢?

# 这样想似乎合理---

曹雪芹《红楼梦》小说的初稿早已完成,只是还没有确定"出版"级的终稿。天不随人愿,作者在生活的重压之下,撒手人寰,抛下未定稿的作品而去,仅留下了半成品的《红楼梦》。这现在的后四十回则是未经作者修改、润色、定稿的东西。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

或者,曹雪芹确实已经完成了《红楼梦》的终稿,但不幸丢失了其中的后四十回。于是书商程伟元找来"测试版"的《红楼梦》后四十回,找来文人高鹗把它跟定稿的前八十回合在了一起。

我们可爱的曹雪芹作是一名作家,他也会有一个成长、成熟的过程,不能期望他一开始就能达到定稿《红楼梦》前八十回的水平。而且,众观古今中外文学大家,虎头蛇尾的作品不是什么罕见的事情。如果曹雪芹也犯了这样的错误,也可以原谅。但我宁愿相信,他只是没有时间去修改那后四十回。

至于半成品的后四十回中那么多与前面部分"不兼容"之处,可以这样解释。曹雪芹写小说不大可能一回一回地顺着写下去,只能是根据故事的发展,想到哪里就去写哪里或者修改哪里,甚至是用"跳跃"的方式去做这些事情。同时他的创作思想也不可能一成不变,写着写着想起来要改,但又没全部修改完成,于是留下了众多前后不一的地方。另外,前后不一的情况在前八十回也不罕见吧?

不管如何解释,有一点我坚信:后四十回即使没有前面八十回那么精彩,也只能出自曹雪芹之手,即使这较"嫩"的笔法水平也不可能有第二个人能够达到,或者说没有第二个人有这个较"嫩"的能力把曹雪芹写的故事给补全了!

# My six pet peeves

# **Inconsiderate people**

It never seems to occur to them that they should consider people or things other than themselves. They don't think it a big deal smoking near others, standing in the way of others who have to get off a bus or overtake them on the road, leaving food wastes in the sink even though they are sure the wastes cannot pass through the drain, let lights or other electrical devices on even though they don't need so, or worse, never wanting to learn to be considerate......... I'm not implying that I can be considerate every time and on every occasion. But, at least, I want to be considerate and am ready to learn what I can do to be more considerate.

# Animal welfare activists and vegetarians who carry things too far.

Unless humans award citizenships to animals and allow them to form states, elect their leaders and build armies to defend their interests against human encroachment, the animal welfare activists can rest assured that humans will remain on top of the food chain and will not treat animals as equals.

Vegetarians, in my view, should die a hungry death because of the absence of "right" food. The animals, fishes, birds, snails, and others that produce meat for humans to consume as foodstuffs are no less sacred and respectable life forms than rice, maize, barley, potato,

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

apples, melons, wheat and other plants that form the "vegetarian" diet. It then follows that vegetarians will have nothing to eat. Maybe they can rightly eat stones and coals. For that matter, stones also have the right to remain to be stones and coals might be a fossilized life form.

People who are not Chinese may have difficulty understanding the following two peeves of mine:

# Grown-ups who sponge off their old parents for jobs, spouses, and houses.

If their parents can well afford all these things, it's quite OK they freeload off their parents. But, the problem is that lots of Chinese grown-ups take it for granted that their parents should give up everything they have for the offspring's expensive, luxurious welfare. They do so as if their parents owe it to them.

# People who say "China occupied Tibet in 1951", "Taiwan should be independent of China" or things like that.

China's ownership of Tibet dates back to the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). Tibet was an administrative region of the Republic of China (1912-1949) that had been created out of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) which ruled Tibet as a province. Today, Tibet is an autonomous region of the People's Republic of China.

As shown by both the Constitutions of the Republic of China under which the politics runs on Taiwan and that of the People's Republic of China, Taiwan is not a separate identity outside of China as defined by the two Constitutions. The very reason for the existence of the surviving ROC on the island, a leftover from a technically unfinished Chinese civil war, is that Beijing has elected NOT to dismantle it after it assumed starting from 1949 the exclusive role of exercising sovereignty over the whole of China including Taiwan. To read more about my views on Taiwan, please visit <a href="http://surefire.cn/atig">http://surefire.cn/atig</a>.

I wrote this entry in response to <u>Here comes my six pet peeves</u> in which solid copper "tagged" me to write my own peeves. I came up with four of them.

# 读历史敢想

——"祸兮福所依,福兮祸所伏。"

中国,之所以能存在于世界,得福于方块的汉字和儒家的思想。中国没能从半个前年以前领先于世界的地位再接再厉,也许也是因为这方块的汉字和儒家的思想。其实,这么说也只是自己的猜想。我也没那个能力进行学术的论述来证明我的猜测。尽管如此,我还想说说。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

一个方块字,走遍东亚,有文化的人都认得(至少 100 年前),不管这个字是中国人的念法,日本人的念法,朝鲜人的念法,还是越南人的念法,写出来总是一样的。如果汉语从秦始皇开始采用的是拼音文字,那现在的中华大地上有多少个方言区就有可能有多少个"国家"(不信看欧洲)。现在世界上最最通用的几种"语言"——数学、物理、化学——用的好像都是拼音的文字。其实这也不奇怪,这原本就是欧洲人发扬光大的东西。假如 500 年前中国人先把它们发扬广大,那现在这些自然科学、基础科学说的可能就是汉语了——或者用某种形式变化了的汉字,就像日本语的假名。

据历史学家说,中国作为世界上唯一一个从古代文明走到现代文明的国家,儒家思想功不可没,它是中国人精神的超强力粘合剂。跟当时欧亚大陆上另外两大文明希腊罗马和印度一样,中国也不断遭到亦被历史学家称为"蛮族"的游牧民族的挤压。不同的是,中国每次战争都是胜利者,或者虽败尤胜,而古希腊罗马和古印度没那么"幸运",作为国家彻底被游牧民族消灭。历史学家说,中国幸免于游牧民族的铁蹄,是因为优越的地理位置,如果没有喜马拉雅山,如果没有青藏高原,那一拨接着一拨的游牧民族也会从四面八方蜂拥而来,没准就这么也把中国给踏平了。

中国能胜利地"存活"下来, 感言中要致谢的人很多——感谢爸爸妈妈,感谢兄弟姐妹,感谢 老天爷给的好地方,感谢秦始皇统一了文字和度量衡,感谢孔夫子的精神感召力。一直到五 六百年 前,中国在世界上还是毋庸质疑的东方巨无霸,它的政治、文化、经济、科学、军事独步天下,所有与游牧民族战争的结果都是"中国胜"; 即使中国在战场上败 了,赢的还是中国,因为中国的征服者后来都变成了"中国人"。

正在中国人享受着的自己长命文明时,惨遭"蛮族"蹂躏的西欧人民"穷则思 变",用中国人发明的造纸术、印刷术、火药和指南针,广泛学习知识、发展科技,制造先进武器,远赴重洋开辟新天地。随着西欧前进的脚步,时间到了1840 年。一场接一场战争,终结了中国两千年的封建文明,终结了窒息中华民族的儒家思想。这是自然是一段中国人不堪回首的耻辱历史。可是,这何尝不是一件好事 呢?不这样,"中国梦"还不知道何时能醒。好在,梦醒时间还不算太迟。

日本是世界上唯一一个从欧美列强侵略中奋起的国家。它从"中国梦"里醒来的非常及时,在神州大地沦为满洲统治下的大清国时,日本视那片土地上的"中国"已死,认为只有自己才是真正的"中国"。1853年,美国舰队来到日本港口横须贺,强迫日本签订了不平等条约。但日本从此结束了闭关锁国,在其后短短的几十年时间里发展壮大为与欧美列强平起平坐的强国。1

而在此之前 300 多年的美洲印第安人醒得就实在太迟了。公元 1500 年,美洲大陆人民的文明发展水平终于赶上了公元前 2500 年的古埃及。这个时候虽然西班牙人也许还不能把中国怎么样,但是美洲原住民面对从欧洲新来的神2几乎是瞬间"消失"。欧洲人的枪炮还是其次,他们带过来的传染病更是厉害十倍的武器。据说仅天花就几乎把数以千万计美洲印第安人<u>消灭殆尽</u>,还不算麻疹、流感、伤寒这些其他的厉害角色。因为美洲印第安人跟欧亚大陆隔绝数千年,对这些传染病根本没有免疫能力,所以传染病所到之处无不兵不血刃,欧洲

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

殖民者后来在美洲各处都能发现人口锐减后遗弃的田地和村庄。人得传染病自然不是什么好事,但从美洲印第安人的历史来看,总体来说还算不上最不好的事。

如果世界不灭亡,人类历史的大戏还会继续下去。虽然我们中国落后于西方一百年(温总理语: 100年后中国能追上美国),但我们中国人可以努力把"成也萧何,败也萧何"争取在少于 100年的时间里变成"败也萧何,成也萧何"。

1 以这种语气讨论日本,国人肯定感到不是十分习惯。实际上,我们已经忘记了太多的东西。 历史就是"打打杀杀,胜者为王,败者为寇"的血腥记录。只不过因为"教育"的原因,我们 对日本侵略记忆仍然"十分清晰"而已。实际上,北面的俄罗斯对中国的侵略绝不是次于日本, 更不要说其他西方列强。

<sup>2</sup> 根据当时美洲印第安人的"神谕",这蜂拥而来的西班牙人是神派来惩罚他们的,于是美洲印第安人不予抵抗。

# 此文引起了莫名口水战

# "杞人忧天"和"头痛医头脚痛医脚"

"杞人忧天"这个词,一直以来是当作贬义词来用的,用来批评那些忧心忡忡,整天担心"天会不会有一天塌下来"的大傻子。

实际情况是, 古代的中国傻子的担心其实是很有道理的。

谁说天不可以塌?如果以万年甚至十万年为看问题的时间尺度,我们会发现,"天塌下"来不是一个会不会的问题,而是一个什么时候的问题。都说"常在河边走哪能不湿鞋",像地球这样在太空中飞来飞去,谁能保证撞不上那些路过的小行星什么的?

而且呢,有科学家就怀疑曾经统治地球不知道多少年的恐龙就是因为比较大的小行星撞上了地球,飞起的尘土遮住了太阳,恐龙太冷被冻死,然后灭绝的。

推荐两个网址,我们可以看一下,人类为了不重蹈恐龙的覆辙,我们的科学家在忙些什么。

# 小行星撞击地球的危险性和对策 王思潮 地球将在两年后再次面临小行星撞击威胁 黄龄

"头痛医头脚痛医脚"是批评解决问题时不解决根本性的问题,而只注重问题的表象。估计这个说法来自以整体角度来看人的健康问题的中医。有些情况下,这自然是不算错的。比如,前几天在电视上看到一个案例。说一个人浑身奇痒无比,看了N个医院也看不出他的皮肤出了什么毛病。后来幸好预见高人:你这是糖尿病的一个症状,检查一下血糖吧。果然,这位车房、老婆孩子具备的辛苦汉子确实得了糖尿病。医生随后解释:某些人对饮食不规律、

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

劳累、熬夜等等这些不良生活习惯会 导致患糖尿病有些不理解,其实不良习惯会破坏身体 各方面的平衡,导致糖尿病不奇怪。

但是呢,这种哲学跟西医就会发生冲突了。比如某人的头撞出一个大包、脚磨出了血泡,难道要从肚子开始治疗吗?如果是,也太曲线救国了吧。很难想象牙疼的治疗要从牙以外的器官开始治疗。

想起了学哲学时的一个"定理": 真理,有它的适用范围。

比如,我如果担心中国的天今天晚上会塌,就是自取其扰的大傻子了。同志们,生活不规律的人要引以为戒,照顾好自己的革命本钱。不过,也不用过分担心,毕竟不是每个不规律的人都得糖尿病的;但是,得不得别的病,就看同志们的基因排列了。

# 靓妃、兰贵人以及选美皇后

有些人不知道自己说的话到底啥意思。这似乎只有傻子、二百五或者好人偶尔也傻子、二百五一下才犯的毛病。比如,大概有种化妆品的品牌叫"靓妃",我还在哪里见过"兰贵人",还有很常见的"选美皇后"。

这些词儿到底啥意思呢?我来"翻译"一下:"靓妃"就是"漂亮的小老婆或者二奶";"兰贵人"就是一种"兰(蓝?)色、高贵级的小老婆或者二奶"。

"选美皇后"这个说法比较奇怪。想一下,逻辑是多么的可笑:一个美女,费半天劲,冻皮儿露肉的就搞了个"后"的位置,最终还得给别人当"大奶",时刻受到"靓妃"和"兰贵人"等二奶小老婆的"威胁"。

唉,那些用着"靓妃"、"兰贵人"以及争着当"皇后"的女同胞们,三思!

# 土著、原住民和中国的少数民族

后加的前言:虽然我在这里说了很多"中国的少数民族"不是"原住民"的"理由",但是我一直都知道:语言的 "习惯"基本上都是优先于"理由"的;说话、写字这东西,即使错了,如果错的时间长了,范围广了,错了的也就慢慢地变成对的了。之所以后加上这前言,是有感于汉字"龙"之 dragon 和 loong 英译之辩。在下觉得,即使当年把"龙"翻译成 dragon 是个错误,现在"龙=dragon"在语言使用中也已 经是既成的事实。所以,即使英文中的 dragon 含义为吐火的邪恶怪物,那么现在烦请国外出版的字典在新版中再加上一条: dragon 是中国人具有数千年 历史的图腾,含义为吉祥、力量、雄伟等等,以图让再次检视新版词典的读者知道中国的 dragon 乃一个好东西。否则,字典反映不了语言的实际使用情况,是 失职。于 2006 年 12 月 20 日

我就不在你的博客上留言了,这里讨论一下。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

是这样,我和你阅读的资料来源可能不太一样,所以得到的印象和感觉可能不一样不奇怪。

首先,有一点是确定的,就是"土著"、"原住民"这样的说法的最初含义是暗含着"以欧洲中心"的语境的,类似的还有"远东"、"中东"、"近东"这些以距离欧洲的远近划分的地区。中文中的"土著"是翻译自英文的"aborigine",最初是指从欧洲居民移民到澳大利亚时遇到了那里已经存在的居民,大概主要指毛利人。(信息依

据: <a href="http://www.answers.com/topic/aborigine">http://www.answers.com/topic/aborigine</a> 以及美国一本权威词典Merriam-Webster 对该词的解释第二意"a member of any of the indigenous peoples of Australia")

至于"原住民"的来源刚才查了一下。"原住民"的说法来自于日语对"aborigine"的翻译。历史上日本译法淘汰中国译法的例子很多。比较有名、但很多人可能不知道的例子包括"电话"。(网址: http://www.answers.com/topic/aborigine)

现在,至少是这样的:土著和原住民都是对"aborigine"一词的翻译。英语中是怎么定义的呢?

Merriam-Webster 词典的解释如下:

" an aboriginal inhabitant especially as contrasted with an invading or colonizing people"

从解释里可以看出,该词特指(就是说你的"泛指"是有根据的)"invading"(侵略)和"colonizing""殖民"。所以呢,我联想"aborigine"的翻译"土著"、"原住民"与"殖民"、"侵略"之间的关系是也有道理的,表明我的印象没有偏差。至少从赋予这个词的含义来说,是与欧洲历史上的殖民等比较负面的东西分不开的(比如,美国为白人腾出土地而将土著印第安人驱赶到贫瘠的保留地中去居住)。

这样一个词的翻译"土著"、"原住民"是否可以称呼中国的少数民族呢(在某些人看来,就是这样,比如达赖喇嘛,比如李登辉)?或者说该不该这么用呢?

第一,中国是不会承认在那几个自治区做的事情是殖民统治的。这里(中国大陆)的提法一直都是汉族和少数民族,至多也就是少数民族地区。至少在法律上,只有"多数"和"少数"之分,是平等的。土著或者原住民有"后来者挤走了先来着"这样的含义。历史上北美和澳洲都是白人赶走了原来的居民。中国即使有这种情况也是小规模的,现在中国有几大自治区,另外的省份还有规模较大的自治州之类的。情况跟北美和澳洲显然不同!同志,你想想,用"土著"或者"原住民"来指我们的少数民族兄弟是否有点不妥呢?

第二,你说的"台湾原住民"。背景信息是: 日本在台湾殖民统治 50 多年,产生的人物包括李登辉等等这些坚信自己是日本人的台湾人。有这样的历史作为背景,有"台湾原住民"一词就不奇怪了: 那是因政治、社会或经济的原因,该日语词混入到台湾话语了。再者,"台湾原住民"一词的险恶之处在于,从 aborigine 来看,它暗含着"后到台湾岛的大陆人是侵略者或者殖民统治者"之意。这跟台独分子的想法不谋而合: 在他们看来,台湾是类似澳大利亚和美国一样的地方,后来的人和先来的人共同组成了新的民族——台湾民族,台湾是国家。台湾和大陆事实上分裂已经至少一个多世纪了。二战前 50 年是日本殖民,二战后 50 年是

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

国共分治。他们不少人有这样的想法我不觉得奇怪。但是,同志,如果跟着受皇民思想潜移默化的台湾人走,我们也来用"土著""原住民"来指我们的少数民族兄弟,路是不是有点歪了呢?

第三,关于你给我的发的网址。这一向以来,我对现在活跃在大陆传媒上部分混饭吃的记者们的职业背景和职业素质不敢报太大的幻想。我假设,假设他们也了解了我上面列出的两条,还会不会说我们的少数民族兄弟姐妹是"土著"、是"原住民"了呢?如果还会,请你先替他们给我个充分的理由。

以上仅为个人依据经验和能获得的资料提出的看法,仅供参考。

同志,我总的意思是用这个词的时候我们小心一些!欢迎讨论!

# 活龙继续乱弹: 土著、原住民和中国的少数民族

另,我的感觉和理解可能偏狭隘,或者说我死揪着那两个词的来源不放。但问题要在历史中 看,才能有较好的理解。

再说一个题外话,"七七事变"、"卢沟桥事变"等关于"事变"的说法。该词原来中文里没有,最初是日本掩饰侵华把侵略行为说成是"事变"。日本也用汉字,当时也有很多中国人留学日本,日本说法流窜到中文里非常的容易。说来奇怪,不知底细的中国人直到现在自己也成天嚷嚷"事变""事变"。关于这个问题,有兴趣自己 google 一下!

另外一个题外话,日本输入国外先进东西的能力非常强,明治维新日本走上资本主义乃至军国主义、帝国主义道路后一直遥遥领先于中国。有人说二战后中国和日本都炸平了,再发展起点就是一样的。窃以为此乃误解。用点比喻的说法就是,二战后,日本是一只受伤的老鹰,暂时飞不高而已;而中国飞不高,是因为中国确实是一种飞不高的禽类。如果一只老鹰和一只母鸡在飞第一个50厘米的时表现是一样的,谁会认为这只老鹰和母鸡的起点是一样的?至少进化的阶段不一样吧?

我扯的太远了。现在只说日本和中国在翻译英语词语方面的表现。从我知道的几个单独的例子来看,日本,还有受日本影响很深的台湾,在翻译方面要比中国大陆强很多。现在大陆大学英语应该还是近几十年的例子。举例说,民国前后,中国人学习的一个好榜样是日本。这期间从日本输入到中国的词汇多到现在的中国人想不到的程度。比如"干部""主义""经济""民主""科学"都是从英语输入到日语,再从日语输入到中文的! (我的记忆可能会有偏差,但这几个例子大多还是对的)。再说建国后,那时候中国(大陆)学习的榜样就剩苏联,最时髦的外语是俄语。与此对应,大陆之外的台湾和香港依靠和学习的榜样是美国等西方列强。注意,二战后不短的时间里美国在各个方面都是绝对的霸主。这也是英语传播由美国接棒继续跑步前进的开始。原来的英语传播都是日不落帝国的英国来推动的。所以呢,我觉得大陆的英语水平相对于台湾和香港是要差一截的。举几个人名的例子,基辛格谁都知道吧?他的英文名字读音跟"基辛哲"(Kissinger)更相近。还有美国原来的一个总统里根,他的英文名

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

字 Reagan 读起来更像是"雷根"。最初的大陆译者是"望文生音",音是读错了的,反映到中文译名就是"基辛格"和"里根"。

再说对 aborigine 的翻译,日本译作"原住民",字面上无贬义;中国译作"土著",字面有贬义。个人觉得日本译法更好,日本这一次再次战胜中国,现在中国也"原住民","原住民"琅琅上口了。台湾已经那么称呼自己的"少数民族"了,"名从主人",我们也跟着叫他们的少数民族吧。

但是,个人觉得不能把"原住民"用在中国大陆的少数民族头上! 窃以为,"土著"和"原住民"的说法和中国的官方民族政策是不兼容的! 那些把中国的少数民族称作"原住民"的记者同志们政治敏感度有点儿低了! 因为,如果提"土著"和"原住民",势必要让人联想到它的对立面(就仿佛提男人,就一定说说女人一样),就是"后来者"和"现住民"。这几乎一定会让了解欧洲殖民历史的人产生不好的联想吧? 是否在暗示中国也是在少数民族地区殖民呢? 殖民在中国,在法律和事实上都是不存在的。至少民国后,官方的思想里,汉族和其他中国境内的民族都是被视作平等一员的(有人还记得民国一个时期的五色国旗吗? 那是孙中山号称中华民国是"五族共和")。这方面还可考虑一下建国后,尤其是改革开放后大陆采取的民族政策! 其中一个事实是,我们有数个大规模的自治区,别的省份还有为数众多的自治州、自治县、自治乡之类的行政区划。试问北美和澳洲哪个国家赋予了他们"原住民"这样大的权力?其中一个事实是,直到现在,美国的印第安人还住在"保留地"呢。

说了这么多废话,我的中心意思是,把"土著"、"原住民"用在中国少数民族和少数民族地区的宗教、文化、艺术身上是多么的水土不服!!

# "龙"之 dragon 和 loong 英译之辩

各位可能还记得我写了两篇长文,里面列出了"中国的少数民族"不是"原住民"的理由。因有感于最近"屠龙"的风波,特为两篇旧闻加上了"前言"———后加的前言,有马后炮之嫌。

后加的前言:虽然我在这里说了很多"中国的少数民族"不是"原住民"的"理由",但是我一直都知道:语言的"习惯"基本上都是优先于"理由"的;说话、写字这东西,即使错了,如果错的时间长了,范围广了,错了的也就慢慢地变成对的了。之所以后加上这前言,是有感于汉字"龙"之 dragon 和 loong 英译之辩。在下觉得,即使当年把"龙"翻译成 dragon 是个错误,现在"龙=dragon"在语言使用中也已经是既成的事实。所以,即使英文中的 dragon 含义为吐火的邪恶怪物,那么现在烦请国外出版的字典在新版中再加上一条:dragon 是中国人具有数千年历史的图腾,含义为吉祥、力量、雄伟等等,以图让再次检视新版词典的读者知道中国的 dragon 乃一个好东西。否则,字典反映不了语言的实际使用情况,是失职。.........

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

# 关于"野鸡读物"

十一假期以来,我一直在补充保险方面的知识。一共买了三本这方面的英语书,里面都附带了中文翻译。这三本书我都读了,但还没有读完,或者说还没有仔细研究。尽管如此,我还是感受颇多。

先说书的质量。人是会犯错误的,出版社是人开的,当然也会犯这样那样的工作错误。没人指望它们的产品完美无缺,就像再大的美国、中国大片也有穿帮的事情发生。这都可以理解。但是,就出版社来说,不能理解的是出一些质量很差、错误很多的书。你们不能光顾着挣钱,误人子弟呀!我不知道消费者协会管不管出次品的出版社,稍后研究一下。

"野鸡读物"是我今天早上造出的一个词儿,不知道其他人是不是已经搞出了这个说法。

这种读物的总体特点就是质量较差。其中一种"野鸡读物"的特点如下:

- 1. 出版社和它出的书的内容毫不搭界: 比如,一个水利专业的出版社出版了保险专业英语的书(我读了一本,这个今天重点讨论)。
- 2. 书的实际编著者可疑:在这种书的版权页或封面上,除了出版社还列出了其他机构,比如什么什么有限公司,某某机构等等。我估计,这些人就是野鸡出版社为了出书赚钱挂靠在" 正规"出版社上而已,所出书的质量就可想而知了。
- 3. 某某大学出版社:按理来说,大学的出版社应该可以了,可是这种出版社很可能已经沦为某些大学老师"露脸"的工具。我买的一本"复旦大学出版社"出版的书简直能让人笑掉大牙。印刷、拼写错误都先不说了。在最后一节"财产保险条款"部分中,我发现,一些我很想知道怎么理解翻译的英文条款其实书的编译者也很想知道:原来,在条款的中文翻译部分,他们把比较难理解的部分一带而过,按下不谈,不提供"参考译文"。

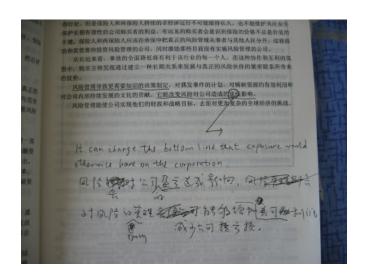
下面拿出"中国水利水电出版社"出版的《21世纪商务英语》系列《保险英语:理论与务实》与大家"分享"一下:

# 实用英语与翻译学习指南

and would not be in the interest of corporate buyers concerned with long term availability of secure protection. The forward-looking corporate buyer will realise the price of insurance is not always the key to value. Insurers and reinsurers should differentiate between the practitioners of sound risk management practices and those who do not, in their underwriting. This will encourage and reward corporations who invest in risk management as well as motivate those which currently do not practise risk management to do so.

In the long run, the overall reduction in incidents benefits everyone in the industry. Under this atmosphere of mutual co-operation and benefit, the corporate buyer will see the advantages of developing continuity with the right risk partners by building a long-term relationship.

Risk management leads to more informed decision-making, contingency planning, better utilisation of scarce resources, and contributes towards the strengthening of the culture of continuous improvement within the corporation. It can change the bottom line impact that exposures would otherwise have on the corporation.



请分别注意两张照片(点击右键,可找到清晰的原始尺寸照片的地址)中最后一个自然段。

照片中比较潦草的中文现誊写如下: "风险会对公司的盈亏造成影响,对风险加以管理可以增加公司利润、减少公司亏损。"

我写的这句中文是对英文原文的翻译。原文如下:

"It changes the bottom line impact that exposures would otherwise have on the corporation."

书中原来的翻译是: "它能改变风险对公司造成的底线影响。"从译文中的"底线"二字可以推断,该译者对什么是"bottom line"不太理解,而且也没有出手解决"otherwise"这个问题。

# 实用英语与翻译学习指南

根据我的读法,原文要表达的意思是这样的:风险对一家公司赚钱还是赔钱(体现在帐本上就是 bottom line 上的数字是正还是负)具有很大影响;如果把风险控制好了,公司就能赚钱;如果控制不好(这就是 otherwise 所要表达的情况),公司就得赔钱。

意思应该是这样的,如果让我来用中国人的语言习惯组织一下,就是: "风险会对公司的盈亏造成影响,对风险加以管理可以增加公司利润、减少公司亏损。"

除这句以外,照片中所能见的其他部分也有问题,比如"more informed decision-making"。有兴趣的朋友可以看一下。

现在列出"野鸡读物"黑名单,供大家在选购图书时参考,提高警惕:

- 1. 中国水利水电出版社 (《21世纪商务英语》系列)
- **2.** 奔流电子音像出版社(《**21** 世纪商务英语》系列之《保险英语:理论与务实》封底上莫名出现的公司名称)
- 3. 复旦大学出版社 ("复旦卓越"系列)

这本还没有仔细看: **1. 清华大学出版社(《专业英语阅读教材系列》之《保险》。这本书还没研究,稍后给出读书报告)** 

另,以上的翻译欢迎批评指正!希冀共同提高中文的文笔。

"野鸡读物"是根据"野鸡大学"生造的。Wikipedia 对"野鸡大学"的定义是: "野鸡大学是一个贬意词,指一些大学或学院随便向学生发出证书、文凭等,而该些证书或文凭并不获部分雇主或一般大学所承认。此类院校又被称为「文凭工厂」(Diploma Mill)。"

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

# 为什么很多人都把"9/11"读成"九夭夭",而不是"九一一"?

我想起这个问题,是因为凤凰卫视的人确实把"9/11"读成"九一一",跟我总听的和总说的不太一样,略感诧异。

这两种读法,当然都没什么错,但看在什么情况下。比如,为了避免对方误听,必须用不常用的读法。

中国人在说电话号码或者邮政编码时,"1"一般都读"夭",但为什么这么念,就不是所有人都知道的了。还有更高深的念法,就不是每个人都听说过的了,比如"o"念"洞","7"念"拐"。

其实,这么读是为了通讯方便。想象一下,"7"和"1"的元音都是"衣",在信号不好的情况下,无论自己怎么努力,对方听到可能都是"衣———"。谁知道你说的是"7"还是"1"?这种情况下,只能改读法了。"拐""天"都不会听错了。至于"0"念"洞",也许嫌"零"不够响亮吧。

这些我从小就知道,因为我爸在铁路工作。他们那的喇叭都是高喊"洞拐洞拐,夭洞洞",这样安排好了不容易撞车。

# Reading for knowledge, peace of mind, and more...

- \* Like in any country, you need to have enough literary, historical, artistic and philosophical knowledge to appreciate the culture that nurtures you and the people admired in your society. I want to appreciate the cultures of the English-speaking world and their roots and origins. And I want to be admired. One old friend of mine, who used to be my colleague back in Harbin where we both worked for his brother's company, teased me: "You continue learning and studying English? You want to teach Englishmen English?". I wish I could. But, not to be mistaken. Such deeds have been accomplished by others whose native tongues are not English at all and whose books on the English language have become authoritative ones in the English-speech world. I can set my goals as ambitious as theirs. After all, as I said, or rather I quoted another person as saying, "Nothing happens unless first a dream." Who can be sure you, Chang Guohua, are not to become Guohua the Great for Something?...
- \* Let me now preach a little about the European culture to those with little knowledge of it. Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian elements characterize the culture, just as Confucius and Buddhism have deeply influenced the Chinese culture, though maybe to a lesser extent.
- \* I now know that, after reading, the term "Bible" means different things to different people. For Judaism, it is the Old Testament as known to Christians. Judaism only

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

accepts the Old Testament as the true Bible and rejects Jesus Christ as the Son of God. But, for different denominations of Christians, it is a collection of different books or different versions or translations of them divided into the Old and New Testaments. (20050920)

- \* "You know what you're doing?" I have found myself facing a totally different world of cultures, histories and arts. There is too long a list of strange people, events, places, wars, styles of buildings and culture-charged passages I want to understand, appreciate and remember. I've decided that I must be a man knowing almost every facet of the cultures behind the English language. Without this knowledge, no major process can be made in my preparing to become a competent interpreter. When I opened the book that introduces me into the wonderful world of European culture, I might be as happy, pleasantly surprised as a famous man when he for the first time came across the ancient Greek mythology.
- \* Renaissance is a "rebirth of classical learning and knowldge through the rediscovery of ancient texts and also a rebirth of European culture in general". (Wikipedia.org) The term Renaissance (文艺复兴) seems to me a happy, historical period in the West during which a large number of artists (Leonardo da Vinci, etc.), buildings of different styles (Gothic, etc.), paintings, sculptures, music and others combined to create a great age that built up a great force leading to the Industrial Revolution. In my mind's eye, the Renaissance was the turning point when the West started to overtake China. I was very sad to find in my reading no Chinese thinkers, philosophers, scientists or artisans that were matches on their Western counterparts when the West was doing their "Renaissance". Renaissance refers to the period between 15th and the mid 17th century in Europe and roughly corresponds to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and early Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) in China. The Chinese people were busy trying to fossilate their long-accustomed feudalism glory and refused to be jolted by a rude awakening from their pipe dream of prosperity and fool's paradise-like pride. China was actually rotting inside with its outside appearance buoyed up only by its accumulation of the past, including tradition, wealth, knowledge, ideology, and burden of thousands of years, instead of innovations, inventions, and discoveries that might grow out of the past.

Now, I'd like to give you some more information you might need to make you updated on the idea of Renaissance. This term is now often replaced by "Early Modern". Renaisssance, like the Bible, means different cultural movements that started "at different places at different times". In addition, the period did not seem so happy to all the contemporary people, especially the poor, who even felt their Renaissance life worsened, compared to the dark days of the Middle Ages. (Wikipedia.org) (20050925)

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

- \* I believe I have chosen the right way to grow to be an interpreter or a simultaneous interpreter. First, establish a strong foundation on which I can build an empire of whatsoever knowledge and skills I need. Second, build this empire with whatsoever I can find and need.
- \* Here is what I want to tell myself: Set a goal and work towards it, and you will achieve it. Set another and approach it in the same way, and you will achieve it, too. WORK, DO NOT WAIT FOR TIME. (20051112)
- \*Good homework is what I need now. I know this might sound a little strange or disappointing after having spent so much time working and studying for a goal I've always failed to define. Yes, this is in fact what I've always wanted to do—good homework that is purely a phase I must go through before anything else. Two or three years are not long. Just look back at how many years I've been in Harbin (2 years and 9 months) and in Beijing (3 years and 7 months). And consider all my failed New Year resolutions or attempts to finish the Collins, a wonderful source of information on the English language.

I also bought dozens of Chinese classics, all in paperback. These perfumed books are churned out by a Jilin province-based publisher and feature, unfortunately, proofreading and editing under par. I've always understood the importance of a good publisher in producing quality books. This is easy to figure out: Sony's cameras are better than Aigo's, and they are all cameras though under different names. Nonetheless, I'm reading one of them, a collection of Bai Juyi's poetry, and have finished a collection of Su Dongpo's works. The books still have their own values and serve as a source of literary information.

I placed an order of another Longman dictionary to Joyo.com. The book offers a great source of information that is encyclopedic up to a point, which is different from the Collins. And I want to finish it, too. (20060617)

\*I know what my problem is. I don't have the means by which to communicate in the language with native speakers: I don't know what to say when I'm supposed to say something. For example, I don't know how to decline an invitation to lunch at lunchtime, and have no small talk and always get right down to business in phone conversations. I even deliberately avoid conversations with a British man also working for the newspaper. My philosophy here seems to be a pursuit of perfectionism: if I don't know how I can sound sociable in these situations where pleseantries are exchanged, I don't even bother about them.

It is a painful realization that I have inadequate communications skills when I speak English. In the Chinese context I'd be even thought of as talking too much sometimes.

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Reading can help me again. Now I'm planning to read a dictionary of spoken English. That might be a good start.

# 活龙复兴的日子

- \*Google 又推新服务"本地搜索"。我试了一下,还不错。我找亚运村的书店,结果就在我家门口找到一个,有地图,还有联系电话。绝了! Google 越做越牛了。真是佩服。不用说,下个星期一我还得卖力向同事们推荐这个新服务的。
- \*Google新服务"本地搜索"地址: http://bendi.google.com/clochp
- \*北京的好天气,我就盼啊盼啊。总也不来。妈的,看着外面灰蒙蒙的天,模糊的楼宇我就想骂人。还什么狗屁蓝天计划呢,就妈的这个德行,至少今年的蓝天计划实现不了了。
- \*我在想,晚上吃啥饭呢?只有两片面包可吃了,如果说粮食的话。当然还有西红柿。周末的自由是有代价的,扩而广之,所有的自由都是有代价的:你必须自己选择。有时候自己选很累啊。早上吃了不是很美味的方便面,没有上次买的好吃。郁闷。。。。打算喝鸡汤,这就去采购,哦哦哦,哦,类哦类哦哦。。17:35,0925
- \*昨天,我接待了来自广东的好友,多年没见的。其实一直也没见过。她是我的网友,浙江人,最初在家乡,现和老公在广东。从 2000 年我们就开始聊天了。在我看来,她的生活道路比较坎坷。幸好她是一个很坚强,也是一个具有商业头脑的人,这也许是所有浙江人的共性。这次她和老公来北京学习做菜,要加盟一个什么店,打算回到广州,在她老公的公司旁边先开一个小店。一路匆忙,他们来北京也没有其他时间,跑到西四环一个五名之地听课去了。祝她创业路上一路顺风。
- \*今天北京下雨。也许我痛恨了好几天的大雾天气明天就会结束了。同事告诉我预报有雨。 我觉得那也比大雾好。今天下班的时候,空中飘着小雨,于是过来的公交车上特别的拥挤。 我在车下,看着就难受。过去了数辆车仍然很挤,于是很生气。老子不坐车,走回去!也许 是一个走路特别匆忙,我走过很多街道,几乎每次都发现自己是所有行人走路最快的。也许 我就是是所谓的"暴走族"?只不过是在城市街头的暴走!
- \*今天的十一假期就开始了。说是假期,其实不是假期,因为这段时间仍然要工作。但是,工作的地方从闷罐式的办公室改到四处通风的家里的话,过节也开始有了一点气氛。这个假期(也是所有的假期)让我感到为难的就是:吃饭怎么解决。在公司的时候,因为觉得距离家里不是很远,可以每天至少去公司吃一顿饭。但是,在回家的路上不到一半就改了主意:在家至少有床可躺,东西不好吃,营养差不多就行了,毕竟路上是要花时间的。
- \*以下为"二简字"(第二次简化字)的相关信息,相信能够解答不少人的迷惑。比如我对"帐单"和"账单"之间的差别深感困惑。我记得非常清楚,我从小学语文中学的是"帐单",而不是"账单"。街上看到的很多"别字"是"二简字"的后遗症。我相信跟我同龄的人基本上没人对"二简字"有什么概念。我想起了有人搞的"夏商周断代"工程。简化字搞的也是"断代工程":制造代

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

沟。不可思议的是,连姓氏也未能在二次简化中幸免。(我有同学姓"付"!)请参考下文。(来源均为维基百科)

\*由于七十年代中华人民共和国政府对"二简字"发布和宣传的力度较强,并且在当时已经涉及到社会生活的诸多方面,包括媒体和报刊都使用"二简字";加上"二简字"笔画少,书写简单,易于流行,在当时社会上已经非常广泛。且在一些地方"二简字"已经成为教学用字,因此给一部分学生留下了很深刻的印象。这些原因都造成了"二简字"在当今社会较多的残留。 \*《中华人民共和国国家通用语言文字法》的颁布,从法律上禁止了错别字、异体字、"二简字"和繁体字的不正当应用。由于曾经在社会上"二简字"被使用了一段时间,而且简单易写,废止后的"二简字"有时会出现在非公开的需要快速书写的文本如笔记、病历等,在公共场所也影响着现在的社会生活,市场、商场甚至路牌等重要场所都有出现二简字。比如:市场中"鸡蛋"经常被写作"鸡旦",公共场所"停车"被写作"仃车",银行里"账户"被写作"帐户"。很多媒体在推广汉语的节目中都以此为例。

### \*"萧肖风波之类

在中国历史上,作为姓氏,只有"萧"而没有"肖",只有"阎"而没有"闫",只有"傅"而没有"付", 而二简字将"萧"简化成"肖","阎"而简化成"闫","傅"简化成"付"(在此前民间对于"萧"就有 这样的简化写法),虽然二简字很快被叫停,但是这次更改在社会影响很大。此后在大陆的 许多文献中两字几乎不分,比如:中国名将萧劲光在二简字后被写为肖劲光,现在的很多文 章乃至很多人都分不清,甚至于一篇文章中同时出现萧劲光与肖劲光。"(Wikipedia.org)

\*昨天国庆节假期第一天,我到朋友家吃饭。朋友的老公是美国人,在中医药大学教英语写作。去之前就告诉我有意大利面条可以吃。吃了之后,发现我应该把那个蝴蝶形的东西叫做面片,两大块烤肉着实不错。窗外紧邻北三环,我们都看到非典时期北京空空荡荡的大街。

\*今天是假期工作第一天。等我早上开始准备开工的时候发现在办公室时文件拿错了,错的大发!谁让文件东一个西一个呢?管理不善啊。不过好处是,去公司重新搞定文件的同时,今天的饭也都解决了。买了一大包回来,晚餐和明早的饭都没问题啦。(20051002)

\*从某种角度看,中国是一个非常奇怪的国家。它为自己心中的国家间民主、自由奔走呼号。但是,在它的内部却从来不实行这种自由、民主。它实行的是它自己也抨击的"双重标准"。最新的一个案例:十一国庆节,台北"总统府"前有人展开大幅五星红旗,这些人想表达什么意愿暂且不论。什么时候每年元旦在天安门升起中华民国的"青天白日遍地红",而又没有警察来干预呢?就像现在在台北那样?你看到差别了吗?台湾是民主、自由的。在它那里,你可以在他们的"首都"悬挂五星红旗,但是在中国大陆,你不可以相应的在天安门展示青天白日遍地红。每次抗日战争的受害者到日本法院去告日本政府我都感到十分怪异。为什么没有人想在中国大陆的法院告中国政府在文化大革命中的所作所为而要求赔偿呢?日本不管怎么样还认为状告政府是合法的,半个世纪以前的也可以告。但是在中国 30 年前的也不可以。谁能告诉我为什么?(20051002)

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

- \*说实话,我夏天还没有过够呢。现在就已经开始慢慢冰冷下来。我对秋天来临在头脑中的一个图像就是,在瑟瑟的秋凉之中穿着温暖的衣服,感受自己的温度。
- \*很久以来,我一直想读一些自己想读的书。去年,大概比现在早一点的时候,我买了一本《徐霞客游记》,因为我羡慕他几乎走遍了祖国的大好河山,感受了自然的壮丽和美景,还有旅途的辛酸和快乐。前几天,我在一家超市看到跟这本游记一个系列的其他古代经典。我于是一口气买下了25本书,从《孙子兵法》、《桃花扇》、《白居易》到《四书》和《五经》全都囊括其中。昨晚,一本一本清点已经收入囊中的书时,没有发现李白诗仙的专辑大作。这纯属意外,下周下班回家的路上一定补上。丽丽问我,其实我自己也在想:如此多的书,我什么时候才能看完。没关系,买了就是要看的。因为我喜欢,所以一定能看完。我对朋友们宣布:我要做一个文化人。我要饱读中外文学、地理、历史和哲学等等等。在现在这个很多事情都十分匆忙、混乱的时代,估计没有几个人像我一样,会希望在读书之中找到自己心灵休憩的世外桃源。虽然我无法摆脱车轮滚滚的时代所带来的狂躁,尽管我也是这匆忙、混乱和狂躁的制造者,但是我还是希望自己的心灵不会因此而迷失了前进的方向。

(20051022)

- \*获得经验一个最好的途径是从别人的错误中得到教训。
- \*难道另一场非典正在酝酿?刚才网易报道全球61人死于禽流感。这个美丽的冬天,千万不要这样。
- \*一位老友前几天告诉我,她同男友分手了。她对他说,男人要混出个人样出来。她不敢想未来的日记就这样苦下去,于是狠心分手。简单点说,就是女人嫌弃男人没有出息,抛弃了之。她曾经跟我说过,他除了没钱什么都好。我在想,如果有一天他真的有出息了,那她到时候会不会为分手的决定后悔呢?当然了,他俩在一起时间也不短了,要是有出息,那小子各个方面总有点起色吧?可能她真的失望了。
- \*苏东坡这厮,肯定是个酒鬼。他写的词里面,处处可见"喝酒"的影子。古代有出息的文人出路似乎不是很多,大概只有"被朝廷重用"、"归隐山林"或者被迫和小人"同流合污",不得志,就郁闷得不行,于是喝酒,喝了之后"劝"月亮不要亏,花儿不要谢。"对酒逢花不饮待何时?"靠,我看还是借口,他就是个酗酒分子。如果当时有鸦片、大麻之类的,他肯定更喜欢。

# 浪淘沙

(写于宋神宗熙宁五年,公元1072年)

昨日出东城, 试探春情。 墙头红杏暗如倾, 槛内群芳芽未吐, 早已回春。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

绮陌敛香尘, 雪霁前村。 东君用意不辞辛。 料想春光先到处, 吹绽梅英。

#### 蝶恋花

云水萦回溪上路, 叠叠青山, 环绕溪东注。 月白沙汀翘宿鹭, 更无一点尘来处。

溪叟相看私自语, 底事区区, 苦要为官去。 尊<mark>酒</mark>不空田百亩, 归来分取闲中趣。

# **Global Competitiveness-Getting the U.S. back on Track**

\*This is my book report for reading Global Competitiveness-Getting the U.S. back on Track.

\*This is a book written by some worrying people in the late 1980s about the seemingly likely decline of the United States. They were afraid that the U.S. was losing its competitive edge out to its international competitors, such as Japan and Germany. (Of course, no China-relating issues were mentioned in the first chapter depicting those days when Japan was the star performer, except the fact that China was one of the biggest exporters of immigrants to the U.S.) In the first chapter, author Richard D. Lamm insisted that everything in the U.S. ranging from its legal system to its political system, tax system, and even Americans' "hubris" be changed to regain the U.S. dominance over its competitors. The United States needs a "generation" to conduct institutional before it can lead in the pack again, he declared.

Well, it sounds quite strange to me. What I knew was that in the 1990s the United States led a revolution called Information Technology that saw a nearly decade of strong economic growth in the U.S. It did not, as Lamm believed, take a whole generation for the country to lead the world again.

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

The book was published in 1988 and probably had been in the making during the 1980s. Things happened beyond his wildest dreams almost in the wake of the book's publication. In the 1990s, things tipped in favor of the U.S. productivity and economy though its institutions or problems remained there, which he clamored to change or correct.

What on earth happened after the publication of Global Competitiveness-Getting the U.S. back on Track? The awfully sounding predictions, having a doomsday-of-the-U.S. air to them, made in the book proved upside down. I will read other books to find it out. But, as the first step, let me see what about the U.S. made Lamms squirm so uneasily in their chairs in the whole 1980s.

(Considering the upside down predictions, I have one more point to add, that is, predictions are no more than predictions. They just charter future changes based on current changes. They are all about changes. So, if predictions go awry, I'm amused, instead of amazed. They also remind me of the recent "Peaceful Rise of China". Will it last? Is it something we can take for granted? What can hinder it, stop it, or even reverse it?)

# Which one is more difficult to learn, English or Chinese?

Of course, they are two of the greatest languages in the world. One exerts the most powerful synchronic influence over the face of the Planet. The other, on the contrary, is the strongest diachronic language. It's been weaving together the history of a single largest country in population and later its much smaller neighbors since its first emperor froze the writing system of the language for the first time when the country proper came into being in A.D. 221.

Which one is more difficult for a foreign learner to learn to speak and write? I believe it is Chinese. Someone has jokingly commented that one needs three months to learn good English, three years to master French and at least thirty years to be proficient in German. As I see it, he has to double his efforts he has put in tackling German to speak and write good Chinese, and those foreigners who manage to speak and write good Chinese must be geniuses.

Does this sound a little too exaggerated? I believe not.

For one thing, most native Chinese speakers (e.g. me) find it hard to word things in decent Chinese because they have long been isolated from the traditionally accepted and correct way of expressing themselves in writing and do not know what rules to follow in their doing so. When it comes to foreigners learning Chinese, they have to first find decently and elegantly worded Chinese texts and use them as models. In everyday life in China, they may find that good Chinese writings are in short supply. It seems to me that the correct, smooth and natural tradition of wording Chinese texts was broken

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

somewhere (during the Great Cultural Revolution?) so that its modern speakers are at a loss to know how to write their language.

For example, earlier dated writings, more often than not, sound too old-fashioned, especially those written before 1949, and even before 1978. You can easily come across badly written news reports, government documents, corporate files, etc. Experts, or rather those of at least writing good Chinese, are hard to come by these days, I have to say.

For another, as far as I know, no complete and generally agreed-upon Chinese grammar system has been established out of the language and the current system, if it is one, is believed to be a poor relation of its Western counterparts.

# Why don't I translate what I wrote?

Because I think translation is a stupid thing to do. I would like to reserve the difficult job for someone else to do. Tie him or her to my way of wild thinking in Chinese. Make s/he crazy, curse, and feel themselves to be idiots to be translators. And even worse, make them doubtful about their abilities of using the two languages involved and about the reason for their being.

# Nostalgia

I always seem to associate a song or several songs with a period of my life in which I listen to them a lot.

Time is racing ahead. I can't stop it. Neither can anyone else. Nostalgia.

When I listen to songs such as Le Jour s'est Lev, one of the three incomprehensible French songs I got in exchange for three songs by Luo Dayou with a Frenchman, it never fails to reminds me of those days at Brightsun in Harbin, when I just began to learn of the Internet as a new guy at the company with the brand-new status of being an employee after years of being an English student.

Wei-ai-chi-kuang by Liu Ruoying brings me back to those days when I was beginning to learn love, yet another brand-new topic to a freewheeling, awkward, and stupid boy.

And shengxia-de-guoshi by Mo Wenwei comes to me as a reflection of those lovely summer days in Harbin.

Now, new songs, which now I'm not aware of, will serve, when I listen to them again in the future, as nostalgic ones associated with my beginning days in Beijing. Even Delta

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Force I will come to me as my first ever computer game I have played for years, when mom is Beijing to see me and US and Britain are invading Iraq.

Time, you don't stop continuing and we don't stop aging and dying.

### More than I can chew

Looking for a job in Beijing

To come here was a tough decision. I doubted my decision of giving up my long accustomed life back home. I was awed by the uncertainties of future in Beijing and the disbeliefs of my competence racked me. Nonetheless, I came here on November 10, 2002.

Life here can be real tough. Without enough money to pay for things I need, I will have to live with a poorer standard of living than at home, for example, sharing with my roommate a cold room in a one-story house without an indoor toilet in the winter.

Beijing is different from Harbin. It's a national city, if not an international one while Harbin is just a regional city. I hear Chinese people down the street in Beijing speaking every language and dialect known in China. Sometimes I may sit in a corner on a bus and be amazed, wondering if I'm really in China because a Chinese man who presses his cellphone against his ear talks a total foreign tongue, neither English nor German, it's an unknown Chinese dialect no other people than himself on the bus can understand.

Being in a national city means I have more opportunities than in a provincial city. The bad news is that I may have more than I can chew.

It's the second week I'd been in Beijing that I decided the adjustment to a new invironment was enough—I needed a job desperately. I sent numerous resumes through 51job.com, chinahr.com and zhaopin.com and printed dozens of copies of my application letter and resume and sent them out to my potential employers by post.

I still remember three of those job interviews.

The first one appeared to be a success for the immediate offer of the job. My job would involve translation in the fields of communications and set-top-boxes, something attached to the top of a TV set to receive paid programs.

I balked at the second interview. I crossed from the western to the eastern part of Beijing after changing several buses. When I got there, it turned out to be a PR (Public Relations) company that had something to do with The Oracle. The first interviewer was a formidable young man wearing a dark business suit. He told me that his was a

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

medium-sized PR company hiring dozens of people and the successful candidate would deal with translations of PR materials.

After he left the room, a woman came back to test my spoken English. I told her that I might have come to a wrong place to look for a job because I didn't think I was good with people which were an essential part of a PR position, otherwise PR would make no sense. I did not bother to take the following written test designated for each applicant. I came out of the impressive, imposing building, sighing. A company full of sexy women and big men is not my place. I'm happier with a much smaller company with a relaxed working atmosphere or a larger one without the dressing-yourself-up routine. Let me just think. Actually, I am not sure I like a large company because I've never been in one and don't have an idea of it.

The third company, a translation firm, was extremely small and amazingly young. It's not only that it just got started, but its boss was also a burgeoning one. I am sure we were born almost the same year and we should be friends, not employees and bosses. After a short spoken test and a long written test, he decided to hire me. But I had decided I would not accept a job offer from a company with a few girls looking like university kids under a young, novice boss. I left the young company, envying the young man's position of being am employer. I'm also young, what am I?

Things did not happen as expected. Jiang, the man who had made his immediate offer of the translating position, seemed to be reconsidering his "rash" decision when he made a follow-up phone call right after I left his office in a corner office building, telling me to do a test of translation. Later on, I did another test. I failed all of them. The translation of contracts regarding Set-Top-Boxes was more than I could chew.

There are at least two kinds of open positions in Beijing when I look for a job—one that I'm worthy of and the other that I'm not.

# 第 3 部分:翻译实战

# 3.1 练习说明

It's just natural that I want to write this book in English. After all, English is what I live on. And of course, that also depends on how GOOD my Chinese is and how BETTER it can become.

Translation is a job for those who really enjoy it. Only such enjoyment can promise them great progresses, if enough hard work is put in. My book and exercises are for them, too.

This section of exercises is almost all English-to-Chinese translations. As explained elsewhere in this book, the first step you as a beginner should take is try to write down in Chinese what you have understood in English.

I have a great tip for you if you are an ambitious student and want to learn Chinese-to-English translation. You can just read the exercises in a reverse order, i.e. first Chinese and then English. Please understand that all these English materials are products of professional English writers and copy-editors and that you can be sure that they are good English.

I know how you feel when have just started out as a translator: You feel intimidated by things written in English. And maybe for the first time, you find yourself wondering whether you can truly write in Chinese.

A tip of mine for you at this stage of your learning curve is that translation is for your target readers. In this case, they are your Chinese fellows. They don't care about how things were written in English, but they do care about how good contents now translated into Chinese read to them, if good at all.

Finally and as a departure from the overarching theme of this book, I want to let you know that we are always trying to hire GOOD translators in ANY fields. We need people who take their translation seriously and excel in it. So, if you think you are one of them and you are also interested in working with us on some translation projects, just send me your resume. If your resume looks good, I will request you to do a small test so that I can find out more about your competence and professionalism as a translator. I'll let you know it as soon as some good news comes up.

Please note that the exercises (English texts and their Chinese translations) on the following pages are highlighted in gray to avoid confusion.

# 3.2 实战练习

# 练习 1: 需要搞清楚动词和连词的含义

In this exercise, I would like to share with you one sentence.

The biggest problem with some Chinese-speaking English-to-Chinese translators is their inability to understand what they've read in English. The following sentence is taken from a press release my company did:

原文: "de Alwis, a former Chairman of the Sri Lanka Tourist Board, most recently served a second term in that capacity and went into a life of active social activism and work living in a rural environment in the Deep South of Sri Lanka."

这句话来自一篇新闻稿。新闻稿是最难搞的一类东西。它难在看似简单,其实遍布陷阱。比如这句里的关键动词 **served** 和非常不起眼的 **and**。能不能避开这两个陷阱,全看平时对英文表达方式的微妙之处是否了如指掌。

这句话的意思是,de Alwis 先生做完(served)第二任的主席之后,就(and)深入农村参与社会活动去了,而还不是一般的社会活动。需要特别注意的是,英语句子中动词含义可以按动作"是否完成"划分。比如,"Heroin can kill."的意思是"海洛因能要人命"。其中的 kill 不只是"杀",还是"杀死"。还比如,"The party attracted votes from the business and professional communities.",意思是"政党赢得了商界和专业界人士的选票"。其中的 attracted 不只是"吸引",而是"吸引成功"了。

翻译起来,可以这样:

"de Alwis 先生曾任斯里兰卡旅游局主席,最近从第二个主席任期卸任,现居住于斯里兰卡南方腹地农村地区,积极投身于社会行动和工作。"

更详细的讨论请参阅:《一句话翻译:需要搞清楚动词和连词的含义》、《Activism 怎么翻译?》(这两篇博文也收录在了《活龙活现的翻译故事全集》的第二部分"卓越之路")。

# 练习 2: 企业公关传播

Please understand that translation or rather writing is for a targeted audience on a targeted occasion and for a targeted purpose. So you have to tailor-make what you have to say to fit the entire situation.

The following questions and answers have been prepared for use, on a reactive basis only, in response to possible media inquiries in case news about the Materials Conversion Program is picked up by the media.

公司实施材料转化项目的新闻可能会受到媒体关注,以下问答针对这一问题编制,仅供回应媒体提问时使用。

#### About the Business

业务介绍

# 1. What is the Materials Conversion Program?

什么是材料转化项目?

It is a process of converting and reusing non-hazardous, recoverable silicone waste and silicone product beyond its shelf life. These materials otherwise would be disposed in landfills or through incineration. Converted materials are suitable for a range of industrial applications. Our program, the first commercial program of its kind, offers a sustainable solution for companies that use silicone. In addition to its sustainability benefits, it helps meet strong demand for silicone fluids and supports the government's goals for a circular economy.

该项目是一种对无害、可回收有机硅废弃物和过期有机硅产品进行转化和重复利用的工艺。如不加以回收利用,这些材料将被弃置于垃圾场或被焚烧。转化材料可用于一系列工业用途。这一项目首次实现了有机硅转化处理和重复利用的商业运作,可为使用有机硅的企业提供可持续发展的解决方案。除其可持续发展优势之外,此项项目还可以帮助满足市场对有机硅油的巨大需求,支持政府建设循环经济的目标。

# 2. How does it work?

项目如何运作?

The program involves the conversion of non-hazardous recoverable silicone waste and silicone product beyond its shelf life which is converted into useful raw materials for a range of industrial applications. The silicone waste is recycled by a converter, which imports the materials from the United States and Europe. Our selection process involved pre-qualifying the most established converters based on quality and environment health and safety criteria as well as the converters having the proper government licenses.

本项目将无害、可回收的有机硅废弃物和过期有机硅产品将转化成用于一系列工业用途的有用原材料。一家转化厂将从美国和欧洲进口的有机硅废弃物进行回收处理。在质量、环境、健康和安全(EHS)标准方面达标并得到政府许可的转化厂才能通过我们的筛选。

After conversion, we then receive the converted silicone fluids which are used in our processes and are available to customers for purchase.

经过转化处理之后,我们就得到了既可以自用又可以为客户提供的有机硅油。

#### 练习 3: 新闻稿

NVIDIA TESLA TURBOCHARGES HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING INDUSTRY WITH HP PROLIANT SERVERS

NVIDIA TESLA 力惠普 ROLIANT 务器 全面加速高性能计算行业

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

NVIDIA today announced that the Tesla™ S1070 Computing System is now being offered in the highly successful range of HP ProLiant servers. Several Tesla GPU based systems are already installed and are transforming a wide range of industries.

全球视觉计算技术的行业领袖 NVIDIA® (英伟达™)公司于今日正式宣布, Tesla™ S1070 计算系统现已在惠普极为成功的ProLiant服务器系列产品中得到了应用。基于多颗 Tesla GPU 的多个系统已经问世并且正在改变着各行各业。

Acceleware, a company that specializes in enabling software vendors to leverage parallel processing architectures, has been working with Kodak to deliver a solution of clustered Tesla GPU servers for accelerating their large engineering simulations.

Acceleware 是一家帮助软件供应商利用并行处理架构的专业公司。它在柯达公司的合作中采用了群集式 Tesla GPU 服务器解决方案,为柯达公司的大型工程设计模拟加速。

"Acceleware's cluster solution on NVIDIA Tesla GPU server-accelerated HP hardware enables Kodak to develop market-leading, high-performance image sensor products for consumer, professional, and advanced applications," said Herb Erhardt, Manager of the CMOS Sensors business unit at Kodak. "We have already seen significant productivity improvements that amount to greater than 10 times."

柯达公司 CMOS 传感器事业部经理 Herb Erhardt 表示: "Acceleware 群集式解决方案运行于 NVIDIA Tesla GPU 服务器加速的惠普硬件之上,让柯达能够为消费级、专业级以及高级应用开发出市场领先的高性能图像传感器产品。我们已经见证了 10 多倍的生产率大幅提升。"

"Customers can respond rapidly to changing markets and maintain a competitive advantage by dramatically increasing the performance of their systems," said Ed Turkel, product marketing manager, Scalable Computing and Infrastructure organization at HP. "Through participation in the HP Accelerator program, NVIDIA Tesla GPUs on HP ProLiant servers deliver unparalleled performance boosts and, in some cases, enable computations not possible with previous generation technologies."

惠普公司扩展计算与架构组织产品市场开发经理 Ed Turkel 表示: "凭借大幅提升的系统性能,客户能够对瞬息万变的市场做出快速响应从而保持竞争优势。在'惠普加速器'项目中,NVIDIA Tesla GPU 在惠普 ProLiant 服务器上实现了无与伦比的性能提升,而在某些情况下,还可处理上一代技术所无法处理的计算。"

Tesla GPUs are available through HP's innovative HPC Accelerator program – for more information, please visit: <a href="https://www.hp.com/go/accelerators">www.hp.com/go/accelerators</a>.

用户可通过惠普的创新型"高性能计算加速器"项目购买到 Tesla GPU,如需了解有关该项目的更多信息,敬请访问 www.hp.com/go/accelerators。

For more information on NVIDIA Tesla S1070, please visit: <a href="https://www.nvidia.com/object/tesla\_s1070">www.nvidia.com/object/tesla\_s1070</a>

如需了解有关 NVIDIA Tesla S1070 的更多信息,敬请访问:

# www.nvidia.com/object/tesla\_s1070.

# 练习 4: 致辞

This exercise is a speech script. Just imagine you are the speaker in front of the important guests. Speaking well in front of a small or large audience is a valued skill, especially when what you want to get across is complex. However, this practice piece seems easy. The speaker just reports what his company has achieved and offers his compliments to the audience. But he still needs to do the right thing the right way.

Gala dinner – SWFC

晚宴 - 上海环球金融中心

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the World Financial Centre and the World Premier of the XXX Paameran.

女士们、先生们,晚上好!欢迎大家光临上海环球金融中心并参加 XXX Paameran 全球首 发仪式。

I must offer a very warm welcome to our media friends, dealers and their special guest from around China. It is your loyal support has brought us here tonight.

我要向媒体界的朋友以及来自中国各地的经销商及其嘉宾们表示热烈的欢迎,是你们的一贯 支持让我们得以今晚在此相聚。

I hope you enjoyed the wonderful welcome provided by our XXX enthusiasts at the entrance. That was the start of what will be a very memorable evening for you.

我希望大家能够喜欢入口处 XXX 车迷朋友所准备的欢迎仪式,这个令人难忘的美好夜晚 也由此拉开了序幕。

We are gathered at this breathtaking masterpiece of human construction, to celebrate the birth of a new masterpiece - the XXX Paameran. As the CEO of XXX China, I am honoured that Shanghai has been chosen for this prestigious occasion. Tonight, while we enjoy this splendid hospitality in the world's highest observatory, we should reflect upon the great heights that XXX has now reached in China and globally.

我们在这个人类建筑史上的伟大杰作里欢聚,庆祝另一伟大杰作——XXX Paameran 的诞 生。XXX 选择在上海全球首发这款新车,作为 XXX 中国的首席执行官,我感到非常荣幸。 当我们今晚在世界最高的观光厅里接受盛情款待,难免会想到 XXX 如今在中国及全球市 场所达到的前所未有的高度。

XXX continues to break new ground for the Chinese luxury car market. In eight short years we have expanded to a thriving network of 24 XXX Centres throughout Greater China. We have achieved stunning sales growth and delivered over 8,000 new cars in the calendar year of 2008. Today, China is the third largest XXX market in the world. This astonishing growth has only been possible with the continued support of you, our loyal

### XXX enthusiasts that I see before me tonight.

XXX 不断在中国豪华车市场开辟新的领地。在短短八年时间里,我们已经在大中华地区搭建起了一个拥有 24 家 XXX 中心的经销网络。在 2008 年里,我们的销售增长令人瞩目,共售出 8000 多台新车。现在,中国已成为 XXX 在全球的第三大市场。正是因为有了在座各位以及今晚我所看到的 XXX 车迷的一贯支持,我们才能实现这样的飞速增长。

# 练习 5: 国家推介

The exercise's topic is a country having come back to normal business after street demonstrations and political rivalry. This piece is as long as 425 words, much longer than any of the previous ones. Take your time. For an experienced English-to-Chinese translator, it takes about an hour to complete it.

Thailand: Back in Business and Moving Forward

泰国: 重振旗鼓 奋勇向前

Thailand is back in business. Through peaceful means, the Kingdom has overcome its recent political challenges and the country is again moving forward. Political differences are now being resolved through legal channels and parliamentary means. The Government has pledged to address all grievances without bias and to improve the living standards of all Thais, with a view to promoting harmony, stability, and growth.

泰国现已恢复了往昔的平静和繁荣。泰王国以和平的方式成功地克服了政治困难,重新踏上了发展之路。政治分歧已经通过法律和议会协商的手段得以弥合。为了增进国家的和谐、稳定和发展,泰国政府保证公正地处理所有问题,并提高全体泰国人民的生活水平。

Despite the global economic downturn, Thailand has been coping fairly well and its economy has shown signs of recovery. Thanks to structural reforms undertaken during the Asian financial crisis of 1997, Thailand's economic fundamentals remain strong. In 2008, the Thai economy grew by 2.6 percent and our unemployment remained relatively stable at 1.4 percent. This year, the Government has initiated two stimulus packages to jump-start the domestic economy. The first, totaling US \$ 3 billion, was designed to alleviate the hardship of those most in need and vulnerable in society. The second package, worth around US \$ 45 billion, will be disbursed over the next three years and will concentrate on improving Thailand's infrastructure, human resources and energy security. These efforts will open up many new opportunities for Chinese investors. They will also afford both Thailand and China opportunities to help forge a new era of intra-Asian cooperation.

面对全球经济下行的态势,泰国积极应对,成果卓著,经济显示出了复苏的迹象。1997 年 亚洲金融危机期间,泰国进行了卓有成效的结构性改革,为当前的泰国经济打下了良好的基础。2008 年,泰国经济实现了 2.6% 的增长,失业率基本稳定在 1.4%。今年,泰国政府启动了两项重振国内经济的计划。第一项计划总规模达到了 30 亿美元,以改善社会中贫困和弱势群体的生活为目标。第二项计划总规模在 450 亿美元左右,将在未来三年内集中改善泰国的基础设施、人力资源和能源安全问题。这一系列举措将为中国投资者带来商机,还会为泰中两国创造亚洲合作新纪元带来难得的机遇。

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Economic relations is only one aspect of the multi-dimensional relationship that Thailand and China have long enjoyed, one dating back many centuries and long predating the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1975. In addition to growing trade and investment ties between us, we enjoy regular high-level exchanges, reinforced by the wide-ranging interaction and deep cultural affinities between our two peoples. These durable bonds form the bedrock of our friendship, unaffected by any domestic or external challenges each country may face.

经济关系只是泰中两国长期、多维度关系的一个方面。这种关系可追溯到几百年以前,在 1975 年两国建立外交关系之前很久两国就已经开始了交往。除了不断发展的投资和贸易关 系以外,两国还在高层定期交往方面硕果颇丰,而两国人民之间的文化交流极为广泛、深入。 这种历久弥新的纽带成为两国友谊的坚实基础,这种友谊不会受到各自国家内部和外部困难 的影响。

At the people-to-people level, Thailand has long been a popular destination for tourists from around the world, including from China. Chinese visitors will find safe and warm hospitality while enjoying Thailand's unique travel and culinary experiences. In a land area no larger than the size of Guangdong Province, travelers will discover that there is something for everyone — be it scenery, cuisine, diverse culture, shopping or sports.

在人员往来方面,泰国长期以来一直是中国以及世界各国游客的一个旅游胜地。中国游客在体验泰国独特旅游和美食的同时,也感受到了泰国安全的旅游环境和泰国人民的好客和热情。在泰国这个陆地面积与广东省相当的国度里,无论您是想鉴赏美景、品味美食、感受别样的多样文化,抑或是购物以及参加体育活动,这里都是最佳的选择。

As Thailand is now back in business, we look forward to further expanding the warm relations and strengthening the mutually beneficial strategic partnership with China. As always, we look forward to welcoming Chinese friends to invest in Thailand, trade with Thailand, and visit Thailand on holiday.

泰国已经恢复了往昔的平静和繁荣,我们希望进一步加强与中国的友好关系以及双赢的战略 伙伴关系。我们将一如既往地欢迎中国朋友到泰国投资、贸易和度假!

# 练习 6: 国家简介

I'm now following it up with an overview of Thailand. The country is a democracy with constitutional monarchy. Today, about one tenth of the Thai population still recognizes its Chinese ancestry. Other people of Chinese descent who have assimilated into the Thai culture, called Sino-Thai in English, have come to play key roles in Thai economy and politics despite discrimination against them several decades ago.

# Thailand at a Glance

泰国掠影

#### The Country

国家

Thailand, situated at the heart of Southeast Asian mainland, is the regional hub of

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# business and transportation.

泰国地处东南亚大陆的中央,是经贸运输区域中枢。

# Geography

# 地理

Land: 513,115 sq. km.

国土面积: 513 115 平方公里

People: 66 million inhabitants

人口: 6600 万居民

Capital: Bangkok and the largest city with over 11 million inhabitants.

首都: 曼谷, 也是全国最大的城市, 人口超过 1100 万

The climate: Tropical monsoon. Average temperature: 27°C.

气候: 热带季风气候。平均温度 27℃

# **Form of Government**

# 政府形式

Parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarchy

议会君主制

**Economy** (As of December 2008)

经济 (截至 2008 年 12 月)

GDP: US\$273.4 billion

GDP: 2734 亿美元

GDP per capita: US\$ 4,081 人均 GDP: 4081美元

Exports: US\$175.3 billion

出口: 1753 亿美元

Imports: US\$175.1 billion

进口: 1751 亿美元

GDP composition by sector:

GDP 各行业构成:

Agriculture 8.91%, Industry 40.12%, Services 50.97%

农业 8.91%, 工业 40.12%, 服务业 50.97%

# Rankings at a Glance

各项排名一瞥

#### Tourism

# 旅游业

Thailand is "Most Favored Asian Destination"

泰国是"亚洲最受欢迎的旅游胜地"

Source: the 2009 Go Asia Awards survey

来源: 2009"去亚洲"奖项调研

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• 1st "Best Country Brand for Value for Money" — Offering the most in return for the price you pay

"最物有所值国家品牌"第一名——你所支付的钞票将换来最大回报

 3<sup>rd</sup> "Best Country Brand for Friendly Locals" — Welcoming citizens who make visitors feel comfortable

"最友好居民国家品牌"第三名——人民非常热情好客,让游客感觉宾至如归

• 3<sup>rd</sup> "Best Country Brand for Authenticity" — Delivering distinctive, genuine and unique culture and experiences

"最具真实原貌国家品牌"第三名——出众、真实、独特的文化与体验

Source: the 2008 Country Brand Index (CBI)

来源: 2008年国家品牌指数

 Bangkok is 2<sup>nd</sup> among "Best Cities for Shopping in Asia" and 3<sup>rd</sup> "Best Cities for Business in Asia"

曼谷位列"亚洲最佳购物城市"第二名,"亚洲最佳商业城市"第三名

Phuket is 2<sup>nd</sup> among "Best Holiday Destinations in Asia"
 普吉岛位列"亚洲最佳度假胜地"第二名

Source: Smart Travel Asia "Best in travel poll 2008"

来源: Smart Travel Asia 杂志"2008 年最佳旅游目的地投票"

Bangkok is 1<sup>st</sup> "Best Cities of Asia 2008", and Chiang Mai is 2<sup>nd</sup>.
 曼谷位列"2008 年亚洲最佳城市"第一名,清迈位居第二。

Source: American readers of Condé Nast Traveler survey

来源:《旅游者》杂志(Condé Nast Traveler)美国读者调研

### Business

### 经济

• 4<sup>rd</sup> in Asia (13<sup>th</sup> in World) for "Ease of Doing Business" "适宜经商"排名亚洲第 4 名(世界第 13 名)

Source: World Bank, 2009 来源: 世界银行, 2009年

Biggest automotive producer in Southeast Asia.
 东南亚最大的汽车制造国

Source: The Economist's Pocket World in Figures, 2009

来源:《经济学人世界数字袖珍书》,2009年

# **Exports**

#### 出口

World's largest producer of natural rubber
 世界最大天然橡胶出产国

\_\_\_\_\_

- World's largest exporter of rice
   世界最大稻米出口国
- World's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest exporter of sugar 世界第二大糖出口国

Source: MOC, January 2009 来源: MOC, 2009年1月

# 练习 7: 小孩不简单

One of the best things about the Internet is it allows you access to a wider audience than ever before. You can better share your ideas and thoughts with your audience. As for me, I love sharing my translating experience with you and I'm now doing it with my blogs and email newsletters.

This exercise is about what a toddler could do via the Internet while its mom is taking a nap.

# Toddler buys earthmover in online auction

蹒跚学步的婴儿在拍卖网站买下一台挖掘机

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — A New Zealand mom made some online bids on toys before napping. Then her 3-year-old daughter took over and bought a bigger plaything than expected — a huge earth-moving digger for a cool \$12,300.

新西兰惠灵顿——新西兰一位母亲在网上竞拍玩具之后打了一个盹,之后她三岁的女儿接着竞拍,但没有想到最后买下的是一个大家伙——一台价格高达 12 300 美元的大型挖掘机。

Pipi Quinlan made the winning 20,000 New Zealand dollar (\$12,300) bid on the Kobelco digger with a few mouse clicks at the auction site TradeMe while her parents slept, the Rodney Times newspaper reported in northern New Zealand.

新西兰北部一家报纸《 Rodney Times》报道, Pipi Quinlan 在父母睡觉的时候, 在拍卖网站 TradeMe 上轻点鼠标, 以 20 000 新西兰元(折合 12 300 美元)的价格成功拍下一台神钢建机挖掘机。

"The first I knew about it was when I came down and opened up the computer," said Pipi's mother, Sarah Quinlan.

孩子的母亲 Sarah Quinlan 表示: "我下来打开电脑才知道女儿在网站上买下了东西。"

"I saw an e-mail from TradeMe saying I had won an auction and another e-mail from the seller saying something like `I think you'll love this digger,'" she was quoted as saying in the paper.

报纸引用孩子母亲的话说:"我看到一封来自 TradeMe 网站的电子邮件,告诉我竞拍成功。

我还看到一封卖家发来的邮件,说'我相信你一定会喜欢这部挖掘机'。"

Quinlan said she had made auction bids on several toy sets and assumed she had bought a toy digger.

Quinlan 表示,她之前对几套玩具进行了竞拍,以为自己买下的是一个玩具挖掘机。

"It wasn't until I went back and reread the e-mails that I saw \$20,000 — and got the shock of my life."

"直到我回到电脑,再读那些邮件时,才发现价格是两万块钱——我目瞪口呆。"

She immediately called the auction site and the seller to explain what happened.

她马上打电话给拍卖网站和卖家,解释了事情的原委。

TradeMe reimbursed the seller's costs for the auction and the digger was relisted.

最后,TradeMe 网站补偿了卖家拍卖的费用,并重新开始拍卖那部挖掘机。

# 练习 8: 企业社会责任

This exercise's topic is corporate social responsibilities (CSR). It's about what a company does for the communities where it operates. You could argue that it's almost indistinguishable from advertising and the company still seeks returns, e.g. media exposure and influence over their targeted customers, on their investment in performing their self-imposed CSR. It's, after all, better than nothing.

When the destructive earthquake struck Sichuan in 2008, an American entertainment sports company helped AmeriCares raise donations for the people in need in the province. The exercise is a statement from the company.

WWE - Rey Mysterio's appeal for donations to AmeriCares for Sichuan earthquake relief

WWE: Rey Mysterio 呼吁向美国关怀组织提供捐赠,以赈济四川地震灾民

As a global icon in entertainment, WWE's television programming can be seen in more than 145 countries around the world, putting smiles on millions of faces. WWE is also able to employ its significant media presence to support local communities in times of need.

世界摔跤娱乐公司的电视节目执全球娱乐业之牛耳,在全世界 145 个以上的国家播放,为数以百万计的观众带来了欢乐。在当地社区需要帮助的时候,世界摔跤娱乐公司还能够利用自己强大的媒体网络施以援手。

In response to the devastating earthquake that struck Sichuan Province in southwest China, WWE supported AmeriCares in a major relief effort to raise donations and

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# contributions for the injured and homeless.

中国西南部四川省发生了大地震之后,世界摔跤娱乐公司积极行动起来,鼎力支持美国关怀组织所举行的一次大型捐赠活动,以赈济在地震中受伤和无家可归的灾民。

WWE Superstar Rey Mysterio was in Xi'an for a media tour when the earthquake struck. Rey described his experience and his admiration for the courage of the Chinese people on WWE.com; generating sympathy and donations from WWE fans. "I hope everyone who can, will support this effort," said Rey. "The Chinese people faced a terrible catastrophe and they need our help."

地震发生之时,世界摔跤娱乐公司超级巨星 Rey Mysterio 正在西安参加一次媒体巡回活动。他在世界摔跤娱乐公司网站(WWE.com)上描述了自己当时的经历,并对中国人民所表现出来的勇气表达了钦佩之情。世界摔跤娱乐公司节目观众由此对地震灾民表现出了极大的同情心,并为地震灾民慷慨解囊。Rey Mysterio 表示:"我希望每个能够伸出援手的人都能为这次捐赠活动做一些事情。中国人民身处灾难之中,他们需要我们的帮助。"

AmeriCares used donations to airlift medicine and supplies to China, as well as coordinated the delivery of a field hospital to Qingchuan in the northern Sichuan Province.

美国关怀组织利用捐赠所得向中国空运了药品和物资,并协调组织四川省北部青川县一座临时医院的建设。

### 练习 9: 大英百科中的中国

This exercise is taken from Encyclopedia Britannica.

Encyclopedia Britannica is a valuable source of accurate, authoritative and trusted knowledge and information. I bought a software version in 2009 on Amazon.com and a 1993 print set from a book lover in Guangxi. The software version has at least one benefit the print version cannot offer - multimedia contents! The encyclopedia is highly recommended for anyone who wants a warehouse of information at your fingertips.

If you want something to supplement the well-known online encyclopedia Wikipedia.org as a source of information and inspiration for your work, you should seriously consider investing some money in buying the software. It's very cheap considering how much the print version costs and the print version of China Encyclopedia costs, even if you factor in the shipping fees from abroad. The buying link is here.

If you have a Chinese mainland address, you might need help of someone in the U.S. or elsewhere where Amazon.com ships software products. When I tried to buy it, I only found out when checking out that the online company did not sell software to China. Then, I asked an American Chinese friend in the U.S. to receive the software I bought using my credit card and then to send it to me in Beijing by snail mail.

As a child, I heard about this great book, a source of helpful information. However, no book, even great encyclopedia, is perfect, just as nobody is perfect. You still need to consult it with a critical mind and may find some errors in it if you happen to know more

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than the book's contributors.

For example, I found that the book wrongly identifies Jiang Zemin as an ex-chairman of National People's Congress!

...The Chinese leadership was reshuffled following the forceful suppression of demonstrations in Beijing and elsewhere in 1989, with Jiang succeeding Zhao Ziyang as general secretary of the CCP. He was a compromise choice who combined a commitment to continued free-market economic reforms with a determination to preserve the CCP's monopoly on political power. Also in 1989 he succeeded Deng Xiaoping as chairman of the party's Central Military Commission, and in 1993 he became president of the National People's Congress (ceremonial head of state)....

No <u>Chinese Paramount Leaders</u> have EVER served as chairman of NPC. In fact, he was elected President of China by NPC that year.

It's interesting to read about our country in another language because it offers another perspective. That's why I chose the entry China as our exercise.

China is vast and its cities are large. For example, we in its capital Beijing spend an average of 52 minutes commuting from home to our places of work in the city, according to a report. For me, the figure is 80 minutes; and for my wife, 15 minutes.

It's because poor overall urban planning and concentration of government and business organizations in central Beijing that the residents in Beijing spend so much time commuting every day. Beijing can be described as a city with main roads arranged like "rings" with easily jammed routes linking the rings. It's easy for commuters to travel on a wide ringroad without traffic lights. However, it becomes not so easy if a single point of congestion occurs on the road because the traffic has no easy way to leave it and head towards an alternative route.

I've never traveled abroad. The longest route I've ever traveled was from Heilongjiang to Sichuan and the farthest south I've made it was from Beijing to Guiyang. Though it's hard for me to imagine what it's like traveling overseas, I often like to compare overseas travels to my inter-provincial ones. These two types of trips share at least one thing: I cannot understand local speeches, thought they are supposed to CHINESE dialects! Many linguists consider some Chinese dialects as different languages. I think they have a good reason to think that way.

Languages are just one topic of the exercise. This EB entry also concerns the relationship between China and the world and the role of provinces in Chinese people identifying themselves.

This EB entry also reminds me of a <u>blog post</u> I wrote in 2007, which was inspired by a world history book I'd read. According to the book, Japan was the only country that had survived the Western invasion of the world in the 1800s. More than that, in an effort called <u>Datsu-A\_Ron</u> (Good-bye Asia), Japan "departed" from Asia and joined Europe as a world power (脱亚入欧). A modern-day example which wants to say or has said good-bye to Asia is <u>Turkey</u>. It's a NATO member and wants to be a full E.U. member, though 98% of its land is geographically located in Asia. While European countries want to be *one*,

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

we've already been one for thousands of years, as shown in this excerpt from the EB.

China is a country of East Asia. It is the largest of all Asian countries and has the largest population of any country in the world. Occupying nearly the entire East Asian landmass, it occupies approximately one-fourteenth of the land area of the Earth. Among the major countries of the world, China is surpassed in area by only Russia and Canada, and it is almost as large as the whole of Europe.

中国地处东亚,是亚洲面积最大的大国家,人口居世界第一位。它几乎占据了整个东亚大陆,领土面积约占地球陆地总面积的十四分之一,在世界各国中仅次于俄罗斯和加拿大,与整个欧洲相当。

China has 33 administrative units directly under the central government; these consist of 22 provinces, 5 autonomous regions, 4 municipalities (Chongqing, Beijing, Shanghai, and Tianjin), and 2 special administrative regions (Hong Kong and Macau). The island province of Taiwan, which has been under separate administration since 1949, is discussed in the article Taiwan. Beijing (Peking), the capital of the People's Republic, is also the cultural, economic, and communications centre of the country. Shanghai is the main industrial city; Hong Kong is the leading commercial centre and port.

中国有 33 个国家一级行政区域,其中包括 22 个省、5 个自治区以及重庆、北京、上海、天津 4 个直辖市和香港、澳门两个特别行政区。台湾岛自 1949 年以来一直处于不同于其它省份的行政管辖之下。该地区在"台湾"一文中进行了讨论。首都北京也是中国的文化、经济和交通中心;上海是主要的工业城市;香港是主要的商业中心和港口。

Within China's boundaries exists a highly diverse and complex country. Its topography encompasses the highest and one of the lowest places on Earth, and its relief varies from nearly impenetrable mountainous terrain to vast coastal lowlands. Its climate ranges from extremely dry, desertlike conditions in the northwest to tropical monsoon in the southeast, and China has the greatest contrast in temperature between its northern and southern borders of any country in the world.

中国自然环境极为多样、复杂。这里有世界海拔最高的地区,也有海拔极低的地方;从人类几乎不能穿越的山地到广大的沿海低地,从西北部极端干燥的沙漠气候到东南部的热带季风气候,中国各地的地势和气候差异极大。中国还是世界上南北温差最大的国家。

The diversity of both China's relief and its climate has resulted in one of the world's widest arrays of ecological niches, and these niches have been filled by a vast number of plant and animal species. Indeed, practically all types of Northern Hemisphere plants, except those of the polar tundra, are found in China, and, despite the continuous inroads of humans over the millennia, China still is home to some of the world's most exotic animals.

中国复杂的地势和气候形成了各种各样的生态位,其广度在世界居于前列。在这些不同的生态位当中生存着众多的动植物物种。除了极地冻土地带的植物以外,北半球几乎所有的植物都能在中国找到。虽然在过去的几千年中人类不断侵袭自然环境,但中国仍然拥有一些世界上最为珍稀的动物。

Probably the single most identifiable characteristic of China to the people of the rest of the world is the size of its population. Some one-fifth of humanity is of Chinese nationality. The great majority of the population is Chinese (Han), and thus China is often characterized as an ethnically homogeneous country, but few countries have as wide a variety of indigenous peoples as does China. Even among the Han there are cultural and linguistic differences between regions; for example, the only point of linguistic

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

commonality between two individuals from different parts of China may be the written Chinese language. Because China's population is so enormous, the population density of the country is also often thought to be uniformly high, but vast areas of China are either uninhabited or sparsely populated.

对于世界其它地方的人们来说,中国最显著的特点莫过于其庞大的人口数量。人类中大约有五分之一是中国人,其中又以汉族为主,因此中国常被认为是一个民族单一的国家。但实际上,中国有众多的世居民族,数量之多在世界各国中非常少见。即使在汉族当中,不同地区人们之间也存在着文化和语言的差异。比如,中国不同地区的人在语言上的唯一共同之处是所使用的汉语书面语。中国人口众多,因此人们又常常认为中国各地的人口密度都很高,但实际上中国有大面积的国土无人居住或者人烟稀少。

With more than 4,000 years of recorded history, China is one of the few existing countries that also flourished economically and culturally in the earliest stages of world civilization. Indeed, despite the political and social upheavals that frequently have ravaged the country, China is unique among nations in its longevity and resilience as a discrete politico-cultural unit. Much of China's cultural development has been accomplished with relatively little outside influence, the introduction of Buddhism from India constituting a major exception. Even when the country was penetrated by such "barbarian" peoples as the Manchu, these groups soon became largely absorbed into the fabric of Han Chinese culture.

中国有文字记载的历史长达四千余年,在人类文明之初就取得了辉煌的经济和文化成就,有过如此恢弘历史的国家在当今世界屈指可数。中国经受过无数次政治和社会动荡的严重破坏。作为独立的政治和文化整体,中国悠久的历史和动荡之后的恢复能力在世界各国中绝无仅有。除了从印度传入的佛教以外,中国在文化发展的过程中很少受到外部影响。即使在由满洲人等"蛮夷"统治的时期,中国也大都将这些民族融入到了汉文化当中。

This relative isolation from the outside world made possible over the centuries the flowering and refinement of the Chinese culture, but it also left China ill prepared to cope with that world when, from the mid-19th century, it was confronted by technologically superior foreign nations. There followed a century of decline and decrepitude, as China found itself relatively helpless in the face of a foreign onslaught. The trauma of this external challenge became the catalyst for a revolution that began in the early 20th century against the old regime and culminated in the establishment of a communist government in 1949. This event reshaped global political geography, and China has since come to rank among the most influential countries in the world.

中国在几千年的历史长河中与外部世界相对隔绝,但也因此发展出了繁花似锦、博大精深的中华文化。但这种隔绝状态也让中国在十九世纪中叶面对西方技术强国时措手不及。中国在面对西方列强入侵时几无抵抗之力,从此开始了长达一个世纪的衰落和破败。列强的入侵所造成的创痛在二十世纪初的中国引发了一场推翻旧有制度的革命。这场革命最终于 1949年产生了由共产党领导的政府。这一事件改变了世界政治格局,中国从此成为了一个有着巨大影响力的国家。

Central to China's long-enduring identity as a unitary country is the province, or sheng ("secretariat"). The provinces are traceable in their current form to the Tang dynasty (AD 618–907). Over the centuries, provinces gained in importance as centres of political and economic authority and increasingly became the focus of regional identification and loyalty. Provincial power reached its peak in the first two decades of the 20th century, but, since the establishment of the People's Republic, that power has been curtailed by a strong central leadership in Beijing. Nonetheless, while the Chinese state has remained unitary in form, the vast size and population of China's provinces—which are comparable

to large and midsize nations—dictate their continuing importance as a level of subnational administration.

中国这个单一制国家有着悠久的历史,"省"在国家中起着举足轻重的作用。中国目前的省份可以追溯至唐代(公元 618 年—907 年)。在一千多年的发展过程中,省作为地方政治和经济中心的地位日益重要,也越来越成为地方身份认同和忠诚感的中心。省的势力在二十世纪头二十年里达到了顶峰,但自人民共和国成立以来,省的势力受到了强势北京中央政府的削弱。可是,中国尽管在形式上仍然是单一制国家,但面积与人口均与中等规模国家甚至大国相当的各省在国家一级政区管理中仍然占据着重要的地位。

# 练习 10: 食品安全

This exercise topic is food safety (食品安全). Food safety is a serious concern, particularly in China. From Sudan red (苏丹红), melamine (三聚氰胺), benzoyl superoxide (过氧化苯甲酰), dirty cooking oil extracted from swill (地沟油) to "one drop making food yummy" ("一滴鲜"), we have unknowingly eaten lots of things that should not be eaten.

Food security (粮食安全) is also of great concern though China has had reliable food supply since more than 30 years ago. Famine and starvation are two frequent topics in China's long history and we should not take food security for granted. Gladly, our government thinks so, too.

I discussed the Chinese translations of food safety and food security and the meanings of safety and security in <u>a blog post</u> in 2009. You will find it helpful and interesting how some English words are translated into Chinese.

CDC: Rocket fuel chemical found in baby formula

疾病控制中心:婴儿配方奶粉中检出火箭燃料成分

ATLANTA - Traces of a chemical used in rocket fuel were found in samples of powdered baby formula, and could exceed what's considered a safe dose for adults if mixed with water also contaminated with the ingredient, a government study has found.

亚特兰大——政府一项研究发现,在几份婴儿配方奶粉样本中检出了火箭燃料中使用的一种 化学物质,如果使用被这种物质污染的水与奶粉混合,则该物质在其中的含量可能会超出成 年人的安全剂量。

The study by scientists at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention looked for the chemical, perchlorate, in different brands of powdered baby formula. It was published last month, but the Environmental Working Group issued a press release Thursday drawing attention to it.

这项由美国疾病预防控制中心的科学家所进行的研究对不同品牌的婴儿配方奶粉中是否含有高氯酸盐进行了检测。这份研究报告已于上月发布,但直到环境工作组周四发布一份新闻稿后才引起注意。

The chemical has turned up in several cities' drinking water supplies. It can occur

naturally, but most perchlorate contamination has been tied to defense and aerospace sites.

高氯酸盐也出现在了多座城市的供水系统中。这一物质存在于自然界当中,但高氯酸盐污染 大都与国防和航空航天工业密切相关。

No tests have ever shown the chemical caused health problems, but scientists have said significant amounts of perchlorate can affect thyroid function. The thyroid helps set the body's metabolism. Thyroid problems can impact fetal and infant brain development.

目前还没有试验表明高氯酸盐造成了健康问题,但是科学家表示,大量摄入高氯酸盐可能影响甲状腺的功能。甲状腺的功能是调节人体的新陈代谢。甲状腺出现问题可能会影响胎儿和婴儿的大脑发育。

However, the extent of the risk is hard to assess. The government requires that formula contain iodine, which counteracts perchlorate's effects. The size of the infant and how much formula they consume are other factors that can influence risk.

但是,这种风险的程度还很难估计。政府部门相关规定要求婴儿配方奶粉中必须含有碘成份,这一成份可以抵消高氯酸盐的影响。婴儿的体重和配方奶粉的摄入量也决定了这一风险的大小程度。

# 练习 11: 上海世博会

In this exercise, we will deal with a new dendrobium breed developed for the Shanghai 2010 Expo.

By now, you should have understood that translation is a learning process, even for people like me, who have been a translator for over 10 years.

The most difficult part of translation in a particular field is how you write, when you translate, like a real expert in that field. For example, how will you describe a hybrid orchid breed like a botanist? You must write in a way that each and every word in your translation counts and is in the right place. Translation is even more difficult if you also aim to advertise a country for an international event. It requires copy-writing skills with which you can please your readers. This exercise piece might serve as a good example. It's about a special plant breed developed by Singapore for the Shanghai 2010 Expo.

We've hosted some high-profile international events in recent years: the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, the Shanghai World Expo and the Guangzhou Asian Games in 2010. It's said that China has finally come of age and become a key player in the world in recent history. Granted. But I think that, in a country whose currency inflates domestically and appreciates internationally, the government should first try to make its citizens live better, healthier and more-rewarding lives.

Dendrobium Singapore Shanghai Symphony (新沪交响曲)

Dendrobium Singapore Shanghai Symphonyis an orchid hybrid exclusively created to

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

commemorate Singapore's participation in the World Expo 2010 Shanghai China. The striking jade and gold-hued hybrid is adorned with delicate parallel veins, symbolizing the beauty of Singapore and Shanghai and the two cities' correspondent transformation into vibrant global destinations. The resilient nature of the hybrid reflects the strong bilateral relations between China and Singapore who will join together at the World Expo 2010 Shanghai China to share our approaches to innovation and sustainable development. It also underlines the Singapore Pavilion's over-arching theme Urban Symphony.

"新沪交响曲"石斛兰是新加坡专门为参 加 2010 年中国上海世界博览会而培育的兰花杂交品种。她有着令人惊艳的翡翠色和金色,叶脉呈平行状,精致而优雅,象征着新沪两座城市之美,还象征着两座城市已经成为充满活力的世界之都。中新两国之间双边关系密切,并将携手亮相 2010 年中国上海世界博览会,分享彼此的创新和可持续发展成果,这一极具生命力的兰花杂交品种无疑是对两国友好关系一种极佳的诠释。"新沪交响曲"石斛兰还突出了新加坡展馆"城市交响曲"这一大主题。

This new hybrid is a robust and vigorous hybrid with leathery, dark green leaves. It bears strong flowering sprays that reach 60 to 65 cm long. Each spay is semi-arching and carries up to 30 flowers. The unusually colored flowers are strongly textured and measure 6.5 cm across. The sepals and petals are greenish yellow with a touch of jade-green in the background.

这一杂交新品种生命力顽强,叶片韧度强,呈深绿色。花枝健壮,长度可达 **60-65** 厘米。 花枝呈半拱形,每个花枝最多可开 **30** 朵花。花朵的颜色独特,纹理清晰,直径 **6.5** 厘米。 萼片和花瓣呈黄绿色,有一抹淡淡的绿玉色。

#### 练习 12: 事故

This exercise's topic is sports. It's a sad news story.

Former Olympic champion Ruby dies in climbing fall

原奥运冠军 Ruby 在登山途中遇难

CHAMONIX, France – Karine Ruby, a former Olympic snowboarding champion who had been training to become a mountain guide, died Friday in a climbing accident on Mont Blanc. She was 31.

法国夏蒙尼——原奥运会单板滑雪冠军 Karine Ruby 周五在白朗峰登山向导训练发生的事故中遇难,享年 31 岁。

Ruby was roped to other climbers when she and some members of the group fell into a deep crack in the glacier on the way down the mountain, Chamonix police official Laurent Sayssac said.

夏蒙尼一位警官 Laurent Sayssac 表示,她和同伴在下山途中跌入冰川中很深的裂缝,当时她通过绳索与其他登山人员连接在一起。

A 38-year-old man from the Paris region died in the fall, and a 27-year-old man was evacuated by helicopter with serious injuries and hospitalized, Sayssac added.

一名来自巴黎地区的 **38** 岁男子也在事故中遇难。还有一名 **27** 岁男子受重伤,由一架直 升飞机营救出来以后送往医院治疗。

French Prime Minister François Fillon called Ruby an "exceptional sportswoman."

法国总理弗朗索瓦•菲永称 Karine Ruby 是一名"非常优秀的运动员"。

"Karine incarnated the emergence of snowboarding in France," Fillon said in a statement.

"The people of France will hold on to the memory of her talent and her joie de vivre."

他在一份声明中表示: "Karine 象征着单板滑雪运动在法国的兴起。法国人民永远不会忘记她过人的天赋和对生活的热爱。"

Ruby won a gold medal in the giant slalom at the 1998 Nagano Olympics and a silver in the parallel giant slalom at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games. She was a six-time world champion with 65 snowboard World Cup victories.

Ruby 在 1998 年长野冬奥会上获得大回转比赛金牌,在 2002 年盐湖城冬奥会上获得平行大回转比赛银牌。她六次获得世界冠军称号,并在世界杯单板滑雪比赛中取得 65 场胜利。

She retired after the 2006 Turin Olympics, where she was eliminated in the quarterfinals of the snowboardcross event. Ruby had since been working toward becoming a mountain guide and was expected to finish her training in the coming weeks.

她在 **2006** 年都灵冬奥会单板障碍争先赛四分之一决赛中遭到淘汰,之后退役。此后,她一直接受登山向导训练,并计划在未来几周内完成训练。

# 练习 13: 美国就业市场

In this highly and in many cases unfairly competitive world, we must have something to trade for what we need and want. This something is work. So for us, unemployment is the worst nightmare if we can find nobody to sponge off ("啃").

However, good translators don't worry about losing their jobs because they are always in short supply on the job market. That's one of the sweet parts of working as a translator. We are also not afraid of becoming *old*. The older we are, the better we can translate!

Now back to business. Let's see what was happening on the U.S. job market when the country was still at the mercy of the financial crisis triggered by subprime loans (poor people borrow more than they can repay).

Four states' unemployment rates above 10%

# 美国四个州的失业率超过了 10%

As unemployment soared in January, four states' jobless rates climbed higher than 10%, according to federal data released Wednesday.

根据美国联邦政府机构所发布的数据,美国一月份失业率飙升,其中有四个州的失业率超过了 10%。

In January, 49 states and the District of Columbia recorded month-over-month unemployment rate increases, the Labor Department reported.

美国劳工部的数据显示,一月份,49个州和哥伦比亚特区的失业率都超过了上一个月。

All 50 states and the District of Columbia had higher rates than the previous year. Nonfarm job totals fell in 42 states, increased in 7 states and the District of Columbia, and were unchanged in Vermont.

美国全部 50 个州和哥伦比亚特区的失业率都超过了去年。42 个州的非农业工作岗位减少,七个州和哥伦比亚特区增加,佛蒙特州没有变化。

Only Louisiana's jobless rate decreased. It fell to 5.1%, 0.4 percentage point lower than the previous month.

只有路易斯安那州的失业率有所下降,降至了 5.1%, 比上个月下降了 0.4 个百分点。

The report also included information for Puerto Rico. The U.S. commonwealth's jobless rate fell 0.5 percentage point from last month, but still stands at a whopping 13%.

报告中还包括了美国自治领波多黎各的统计数字。该自治领的失业率从上个月的水平上下降了 0.5 个 百分点,但仍然高达 13%。

The state-by-state unemployment report for January came after the government reported Friday that employers slashed 651,000 jobs across the nation in February and a revised 655,000 jobs in January.

在一月份月美国各州失业情况报告发布之前,美国政府一份周五发布的报告称,美国雇主二月份减少了65.1万个工作岗位,并将一月份的数字调整为65.5万个。

That brought job losses over the last six months to more than 3.3 million. The nation's unemployment rate in February stood at 8.1%, its highest level in 25 years and up from 7.6% in January.

根据这些统计数字,美国过去半年中一共减少了 330 万个工作岗位。美国二月份的失业率为 8.1%,为 25 年来的最高水平,而一月份为 7.6%。

# 练习 14: 简历、履历

Unlike its traditional Chinese counterparts, an English biography that gives professional information to the public has the most current information coming first and the events in the biography are described in reverse chronological order. This makes sense because its readers are interested in the more current and recent information. Education usually comes last and sometimes information about the family is provided at the end.

Translating biographies is a challenging job because the translators have to understand the industries the people work in and what they have done and are doing. This means that translators need great knowledge of the specific industries (professional translators can come across many in their jobs) and online research ability (e.g. use of search engines) if they want to verify what they think they've already known about the industries or don't have a clue of them at all.

This exercise will show how well you can translate a biography.

Jen-Hsun Huang co-founded NVIDIA Corporation in April 1993 and has served as President, Chief Executive Officer, and a member of the Board of Directors since its inception. Under his leadership, NVIDIA has become the world leader in visual computing technologies and one of the semiconductor industry's largest fabless companies. In 2004, the Fabless Semiconductor Association honored Mr. Huang with the prestigious Dr. Morris Chang Exemplary Leadership Award, which recognizes a leader who has made exceptional contributions to driving the development, innovation, growth, and long-term opportunities of the fabless semiconductor industry. Additionally, Mr. Huang is a recipient of the Daniel J. Epstein Engineering Management Award from the University of Southern California and was named an Alumni Fellow by Oregon State University. Prior to founding NVIDIA, Mr. Huang held engineering, marketing, and general management positions at LSI Logic, and was a microprocessor designer at Advanced Micro Devices. Mr. Huang holds a B.S.E.E. degree from Oregon State University and an M.S.E.E. degree from Stanford University.

1993 年 4 月,黄仁勋作为共同创始人创立了 NVIDIA®(英伟达™)公司。自公司成立以来,一直担任总裁、首席执行官以及董事会董事。在他的领导下,NVIDIA 一跃成为全球视觉计算技术的行业领袖以及半导体行业领先的无晶圆厂企业。2004 年,无晶圆厂半导体协会(Fabless Semiconductor Association)向黄仁勋先生颁发了享有盛誉的"张忠谋博士模范领袖奖"(Dr. Morris Chang Exemplary Leadership Award),以表彰他在推动无晶圆厂半导体行业的发展、创新、成长以及长远机遇等方面所做出的突出贡献。此外,黄仁勋先生曾在南加州大学荣获"爱波斯坦工程管理奖"(Daniel J. Epstein Engineering Management Award),并被俄勒冈州立大学授予杰出校友(Alumni Fellow)称号。在创办 NVIDIA 公司之前,黄仁勋先生曾在巨积公司(LSI Logic)担任工程设计、市场开发以及总体管理等方面的职位,还曾在超微半导体公司(AMD)担任微处理器设计师。黄仁勋先生持有俄勒冈州立大学电气工程学士学位以及斯坦福大学电气工程硕士学位。

# 练习 15: 资产和财富管理企业呼唤新一代领袖

The memory of the financial crisis caused by subprime loans in the United States is still fresh. And the world economy has yet to recover completely from the crisis. However, it's a different story in China. With huge spending in infrastructure and subsidy programs, China was among the first group of countries that had shrugged off the crisis.

I still remember the <u>crazy 2007</u> when everyone seemed to invest in the stock markets. I became a stock market investor (through funds) when the prices were the highest and I unfortunately suffered a loss of hundreds of yuan (negligible if compared to really heavy losses suffered by others at the time) when I finally sold the fund shares to get cash for buying <u>my family's first apartment in 2009</u>.

What happened if managers of "assets and wealth" started to lose money? They would lose their jobs, too. This is the topic of this week's exercise.

Market Turmoil Demands New Leadership at Asset and Wealth Management Firms

市场动荡不安,资产和财富管理企业呼唤新领袖

CEOs Must Now Convey Hope and Change

首席执行官必须点燃希望、启动变革

Russell Reynolds Associates' Annual Report Reflects a Reshaped Industry

罗盛咨询年报折射行业大洗牌

New York, November 17, 2008 — The boards of asset and wealth management firms around the globe have thrown out their old playbooks and have turned to a new generation of leaders to navigate today's disruptive market conditions. Firms in all sectors of the industry are rethinking their position in the marketplace, developing new strategies and products—and amassing the human capital necessary to implement these transformations in the face of the deepest cuts the industry has ever witnessed, according to a new report by global executive search and assessment firm Russell Reynolds Associates.

2008年11月17日,美国纽约——全球高管搜寻和评估机构罗盛咨询公司(Russell Reynolds Associates)的一份新报告称,目前全球各大资产和财富管理公司的董事会纷纷打破惯例,积极寻求新一代领导人来应对眼下颓废不堪的市场境况。资产和财富管理行业内的各家企业无不开始重新思考自己在市场中的位置,制定新战略,开发新产品,同时聚集实施这些变革所需的人力资源,以应对本行业有史以来最严重的损失。

"The financial crisis has put the spotlight on leadership," notes Cornelia L. Kiley, a managing director in Russell Reynolds Associates' Asset and Wealth Management Practice. "Boards are looking for visionary leaders who can re-energize their teams, restore the confidence of their clients and shareholders, and lay the groundwork for future growth."

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

罗盛咨询公司资产和财富管理业务部(Asset and Wealth Management Practice)执行董事 Cornelia L. Kiley 指出:"此次金融危机将领导层推到了聚光灯下,各家公司的董事会正在寻找那些富有远见卓识、能够重振团队活力、重塑客户和股东信心并为企业的未来增长奠定基础的领导者。"

The twelfth annual report, 2008 Recruiting Trends—Asset and Wealth Management, released today, is a qualitative review of hiring trends within both traditional asset and wealth management firms and those focusing on alternative investments, including hedge funds, real estate, infrastructure and private equity, in the Americas, Europe and Asia/Pacific.

罗盛咨询公司今天发布的第十二期年报《2008年资产和财富管理行业招聘趋势》是一项定性研究,针对美洲、欧洲和亚太地区的传统资产和财富管理企业,以及那些主要从事对冲基金、房地产、基础设施、私募股权等其他投资的新型企业。

# Key findings from the study include:

其主要研究结果如下:

# Unprecedented Change at the Top

史无前例的上层更迭

- CEO turnover reached unprecedented levels predominately driven by one of three factors: the need to restore a battered image, to recover from inappropriate bets on sub prime mortgages or to retool a senior management team's skill set in the face of one of the harshest business climates ever seen. Changes in the C-suite will continue, driven by board unrest and dissatisfaction with underperforming management. In addition, CEOs appointed this year will continue to install their own teams, setting off waves of turnover one and two levels from the top. We've dealt with the topic of CSR, or corporate social responsibility (企业社会责任) in an earlier exercise. I believe that CRS is about companies contributing to local, national, and even global prosperity and welfare in addition to just creating jobs and values for local people and communities. Also, such contribution should not come at the expense of others, e.g. environment and product safety.

目前,首席执行官的流动率达到了空前水平,其主要原因有三:一、恢复企业形象;二、走出次贷危机;三、重组高级管理团队的技能,以应对此次史上最严峻的商业形势。由于董事会的动荡以及对公司管理不善的严重不满,企业最高管理层的更迭还将继续。另外,正所谓"一朝天子一朝臣",今年新任命的首席执行官都会组建自己的团队,从而加剧最高管理层以下的一级和二级管理人员更迭的势头。

# 练习 16: 企业社会责任记者研讨会参会通知

It's widely believed that Chinese students are very good at passing exams. But when it comes to putting into practical use what they have studied for those exams, they are not that good. It's true for English or translators' qualification tests, too. Exams or tests are about "sampling". The results of a test can only show how well a test taker performs in those tested items.

This exercise is an invitation to journalists to join a seminar on CSR.

The Real Story Behind CSR: A Seminar for Journalists

企业社会责任的真实案例:记者研讨会

Please join us for an introduction to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and what it means for Hong Kong-based media.

欢迎您参加这次研讨会!您可以了解企业社会责任(CSR)以及它对于香港媒体所具有的意义。

CSR is one of today's hottest topics, and most companies claim to be good corporate citizens, but how can journalists cut through the claims to report on reality? In a time of product safety scandals, economic crisis, and environmental challenges, what does it take for a corporation to be "good"? We'll seek to answer these questions, while exploring the role of the media as watchdogs for the corporate sector. We'll take a close look at issues such as product safety, climate change, labor problems in the Pearl River Delta, poverty, and corruption through engaging discussion of real-life case studies that highlight both global and Hong Kong-based best practices.

企业社会责任(CSR)是当前最受关注的话题之一,许多公司都声称要成为优秀的企业公民,那么新闻记者该如何透过声明的表象,来报道实际情况呢?面对一次次的产品安全丑闻、经济危机以及层出不穷的环境问题,企业要怎样做才能达到"优秀"的标准呢?我们将围绕这些问题展开讨论,并探讨作为企业监督者的媒体该如何发挥作用。我们还将围绕全球与香港最佳实践,通过讨论真实的案例,来深入分析产品安全、气候变化、珠江三角洲地区劳动力问题以及贫穷和腐败等问题。

#### About the seminar leader:

研讨会主持人介绍:

The seminar will be led by Richard Welford, chairman of CSR Asia, a pioneering social enterprise headquartered in Hong Kong. Professor Welford is one of the founders of CSR Asia, as well as a professor at the University of Hong Kong and a director of ERP Environment, a UK-based publisher. Richard has considerable expertise in international business, environmental management and corporate social responsibility. He has been working with businesses in these areas for 20 years. He has worked for the Samsung Corporation in Korea and carried out research for the UN in South East Asia. He currently advises the Swire Group and Cathay Pacific and has worked as a consultant to the MTR Corporation in Hong Kong.

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

研讨会将由香港领先的社会组织企业社会责任亚洲(CSR Asia)主席理查德•维尔福特主持。维尔福特教授是企业社会责任亚洲的创始人之一,同时还是香港大学教授和英国出版机构 ERP Environment 的董事。理查德在国际商业、环境管理和企业社会责任领域有着丰富的经验。他在这些领域工作了 20 年之久,加盟过多家公司。例如,他曾就职韩国三星公司,并曾为联合国在东南亚开展过相关研究工作。他目前为太古集团和国泰航空提供咨询服务,并担任过香港地铁公司的顾问。

# 练习 17: 美国教育考试服务中心

This exercise is about how the U.S. Educational Testing Service (ETS)'s test systems are said to work.

Every test is designed to reflect the actual capabilities of the test takers. But, it's only a success if it's a revelation of their true practical performance, and a failure if it just shows how well they take the tests *per se* (test for the tests' sake).

The Online Scoring Network is one of the ways that we guarantee quality at ETS. And quality is of utmost concern for us. And so that is what makes ETS tests -- especially the TOEIC Speaking and Writing, Listening and Reading Tests – one of the best tests in the world to measure workplace English globally. The Online Scoring Network is a scoring system that enables ETS to score anonymously, and also to increase rater reliability. The way that it does this is two ways. First, the Online Scoring Network keeps track of every test question that a rater has scored. ETS requires that there are at least six different raters who contribute to the final score of a candidate who takes the Speaking and Writing Tests. So, there are at least six different raters who are contributing to the final score, and that contributes to reliability. Now in some cases there could be seven, eight, nine, ten, maybe even eighteen different raters who are contributing to the score. But, at a minimum to ensure quality for the final test score, ETS requires that a minimum of six raters contribute to the final score. The other reliability measure is that ETS raters are scoring the responses anonymously. That means they don't know any of the information about the test taker, where they're from. And so, this helps with reliability because the rater is truly scoring what is in front of them; that they can really evaluate the task appropriateness of every response that is given on either the speaking or the writing tests.

在线评分网络(Online Scoring Network)是 ETS 为确保考试质量而采取的一个措施。考试质量是我们最为关注的问题。正是因为这一点,ETS 的各类考试产品,尤其是托业口语与写作考试、托业听力与阅读考试已经成为全球顶级职业英语能力测试。在线评分网络这一评分系统可使 ETS 实现匿名评分,并同时提高评分员信度。它通过以下两种方式来实现这一目的。首先,在线评分网络详细记录了每位评分员评判过的每一道试题。ETS 要求至少要由六名不同的评分员来评定每位托业口语与写作考试考生的最终分数。因此,最后的成绩取决于至少六名不同的评分员,这确保了考试成绩的信度。在有些情况下,可能会由七、八、九、十甚至是十八位不同的评分员来评定考生的最终成绩。但是,为了确保最终考试成绩的质量,ETS 要求最少要由六名评分员来确定最终分数。另外一个确保成绩信度的措施是ETS 的评分员进行匿名评分。这意味着他们不知道任何考生的信息,也不知晓他们来自何地。评分员完全根据呈现在他们面前的答题情况来进行评分,他们可以真实地评价考生是否

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

在口语或写作考试中对每一道考题做出了适当的回答,从而保证了成绩的信度。

So, again, the way that ETS is addressing some of the drawbacks, the disadvantages, of the face-to-face interviews is by using the online scoring system. Because no one rater can overly influence a score that a test taker is receiving, this shows the strength of the online scoring network and its ability to evenly distribute raters across the entirety of a candidate's test.

ETS 使用在线评分系统来解决面试的一些缺陷问题。使用在线评分系统时,单个评分员无法对考生的成绩产生过大的影响,这表明该系统十分有效,可以在考生考试的整个过程中均衡地分配评分员。

The first measure that we incorporate to ensure quality is that all raters who score for the Speaking or Writing programs for the TOEIC test meet a minimum qualification. That means that they have some kind of teaching experience, have at least an undergraduate degree and most of them have international teaching experience. Now this minimum qualification isn't enough. In order for them to qualify to score for the Speaking and Writing programs, they must pass a certification test. If they don't pass that certification test, then they are not able to score. Now even after they have passed the certification test, every day a rater is scheduled to score they must pass a daily calibration test. And this test ensures that the rater is able and ready to score for that specific scoring day. So it's not just the entry-level certification test, but we're also making sure that raters are able to score every day they are scheduled to score.

我们为确保质量而采取的第一项措施是所有承担托业口语与写作考试评分任务的评分员必须满足一项最低条件。他们必须具备一定的教学经验,至少拥有学士学位,而且他们中的大多数人都曾有过海外教学经历。现在这一最低条件也已无法满足我们的要求。为取得参加口语与写作考试评分工作的资格,评分员们还必须通过一项认证考试。如果未通过认证考试,则不能参与评分。而现在,即使通过认证考试,每位评分员还必须通过每天的校准测试之后才能参加预先安排的评分工作。这项测试是为了确保评分员有能力,并且已准备好在评分当日进行评分工作。因此,除了安排准入级别的认证考试外,我们还以此来保证评分员在他们每一个既定的工作日里都有能力从事评分工作。

So, there are a lot of interview-based tests out there. But ETS chose to go with computer-based assessment in order to most reliably score hundreds of thousands, and potentially millions, of responses. When we're talking about this many test responses in a system, it's important that the burden of assessing a test taker's performance is evenly distributed as much as is possible across many different raters, and this does feed into the reliability of the test results.

尽管现在有很多种面试形式,但 ETS 还是选择了基于计算机的评测方式,从而以最可靠的方式对成百上千甚至数百万份的答卷进行评分。对于需要处理大量答卷的单一系统来说,应该将评测每位考生表现的任务尽可能均衡地分配给多位评分员,这样做的确可以保证考试成绩的信度,这一点十分重要。

# 练习 18: 投资理财

At Soderberg & Partners, we know that your personal finances are one of the most important building blocks for realizing your life dreams.

世德贝投资咨询有限公司深深知道,个人理财是您实现人生梦想最重要的一大基石。

But we also know that it is not the only thing you have on your mind, and that your time is limited. That's why we offer advice and services that are designed to make it easy for you to plan your investments and follow their performance, while you also keep updated about any new investment products available on the market.

但是,我们也知道,您的时间非常宝贵,要考虑的也不只是理财这一件事情。而这正是我们 向您提供理财咨询服务的原因。我们让您更轻松地规划投资,了解各种投资的业绩,同时还 让您及时了解市场上最新出现的投资产品。

We have a strong track record and our Swedish parent company provides market-leading analysis and advice. We are now combining our experience with in-depth knowledge of the Chinese market to offer our Chinese clients the best possible advice.

我们的以往业绩非常完美。我们的瑞典母公司提供最先进的分析和咨询服务。现在,我们把丰富的经验与对中国市场的深入了解结合起来,向中国的客户提供最好的咨询服务。

We are independent financial planning advisors. We do not have any investment products of our own. For you, that means our advice is honest and unbiased, taking your best interest into account.

我们是独立的理财顾问。我们没有任何自己的投资产品。对您来说,这意味着我们的咨询诚实可靠、不带偏见,并为您的最大利益考虑。

On the following pages you can read more about how we approach the task of helping you realize your life dreams.

在您实现人生梦想的道路上,我们可以祝您一臂之力。对此,我们将在下文中进行详细介绍。

### We look forward to helping you!

我们期望能为您服务!

# 练习 19: 瑞典斯科讷省和马尔默市

Region Skåne and the City of Malmö welcome you to take part in our activites at the Expo 2010. In this second edition of our Update, we give you news about Malmö receiving World Habitat Award 2010, the Swedish nano technology company Sol Voltaics working towards the most efficient solar cells and Copenhagen Malmö Port which is investing USD 125 billion in the port of the future.

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

斯科讷省和马尔默市欢迎您参加我们在上海世博会上组织的活动。这是我们第二版的"最新动态"。您可以从中了解有关以下内容的新闻:马尔默获得"2010 年世界人居奖";瑞典纳米技术公司 Sol Voltaics 致力于生产效率最高的太阳能电池;哥本哈根-马尔默港投入 1.25 亿美元打造明日之港。

You will also find further details on our programme in the Swedish Pavilion on October 21-27 at Expo 2010 Shanghai.

您还可以在 10 月 21-27 日之间前往上海世博会瑞典国家馆了解更多详细信息。

Malmö receives prestigious UN-award for Ekostaden Augustenborg

马尔默凭借 Ekostaden Augustenborg 项目获得联合国人居大奖

Malmö has been awarded the prestigious World Habitat Award 2010 for the work with making Augustenborg a more ecological, economic and socially sustainable residential area. The award is presented every year during World Habitat Day on October 4, which is being held in Shanghai this year.

马尔默凭借将 Augustenborg 打造成一个更具生态、经济和社会可持续性的住宅区而被联合国人居署授予"2010 年世界人居奖"。该奖项于每年的 10 月 4 日世界人居日颁发,今年的颁奖仪式在上海举行。

Nano company provides more efficient solar cells

纳米技术公司生产效率更高的太阳能电池

The nano technology company Sol Voltaics from Lund in Skane, has a new strategy to reach its goal of producing the most efficient solar cells.

为了生产出效率最高的太阳能电池,位于斯科訥省隆德市的纳米技术公司 Sol Voltaics 制定了全新的战略。

Copenhagen Malmö Port – an expanding gateway to the Baltic Region

哥本哈根-马尔默港——发展壮大的波罗的海门户

The Baltic Region comprises nine countries with 100 million consumers. Right at the heart of this region, Copenhagen Malmö Port (CMP) is investing USD 125 million in the port of the future. CMP is set to expand with customers old and new and is already welcoming more growth-oriented companies to one of northern Europe's most interesting markets.

波罗的海地区有九个国家,人口一亿。哥本哈根-马尔默港就位于该地区的中心,它为港口的未来建设投入了 1.25 亿美元。哥本哈根-马尔默港及其新老消费者的数目都将实现进一步增长,目前已经吸引了更多的成长型公司进驻这个北欧最具活力的一个市场。

Meet us at the Expo

相会世博

Take part in our activities in the Swedish Pavilion 21-27 October. The programme is now set.

敬请参加我们于 10 月 21-27 日期间在瑞典国家馆举办的活动。项目已经准备就绪。

"Shanghai adopts innovations system of Skane? Skane's world famous innovation system is known to make successful companies out of research at universities."

"上海采用斯科訥的创新体系?斯科訥的创新体系世界闻名,以通过大学研究培育成功企业而著称。"

Malmö's exhibition among the top three in UBPA

马尔默跻身"城市最佳实践展区"三强

Malmö's exhibition has been named one of the three most interesting exhibitions in the Urban Best Practice Area by the Expo-organisation.

马尔默在"城市最佳实践展区"的展览被世博会的组织机构评为该展区最富于趣味的三大展览之一。

# 练习 20: 开业演讲

Members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,

尊敬的媒体朋友们、女士们、先生们、各位嘉宾:

A very warm welcome to you all!

欢迎大家的到来!

It is a pleasure to address such a distinguished group of guests here for the launch of the new model.

我很高兴看到各位嘉宾齐聚一堂,共同见证新车型的发布。

This new model offers an enhanced design and some ground-breaking new technologies, many of which are not available even as options in the other model lines. In addition, just 30 units will ever be manufactured, meaning owning one will be the ultimate expression of individuality.

这款全新车型采用了更加卓越的设计和突破性的新技术,这些技术即便是在其它车型的选配装置中也不常见。此外,这款车型只生产 **30** 辆,拥有一辆这样的跑车将极度彰显个性。

So what makes this sportscar so special? Firstly to the drive - the 3.8-litre Boxer engine can reach a top speed of 300 km/h, with acceleration from 0 to 100 km/h in just 4.3 seconds. With a sharper engine and enhanced agility achieved via stiffer damping, the

# driving experience is more exciting and more race-car like in the very finest sense.

那么,是什么让这款跑车如此与众不同呢? 首先,3.8 升水平对置发动机可以实现 300 千米的最高时速,百千米加速度仅为 4.3 秒。由于更加强劲的发动机和杰出的减震系统进一步提升了灵活性,驾驶这款跑车能够带来更加激动人心的体验,细节极具赛车风采。

Now to the impression this sportscar creates. Exclusivity is firstly revealed in the bold choice of colours: White, Black and Guards Red. Sporting features such as high-quality race car decals further emphasize its close ties to the racetrack. With the aerodynamic package, enhanced external spoiler and front apron design greatly improves driving dynamics.

下面讲一下这款跑车给人留下的特殊印象。鲜艳大胆的颜色:白色、黑色和卫红,首先昭示了这款车型的独家性。高品质赛车贴标等跑车特性进一步彰显了它的赛车风格。空气动力组件,增强后的外部扰流板和前裙板设计极大地提高了驾驶动力学。

Carbon fibre and Alcantara dominate in the interior, particularly noticeable in the sports bucket-seats that provide improved comfort and support, and highlight the sensation of driving a true sports car. Within this stylish interior, drivers and passengers alike will understand the meaning of the motto "Born on the Racetrack".

内饰选用碳纤维和 Alcantara 面料,运动型桶型座椅格外引人注目,提高了乘坐舒适程度和支撑度,凸显了纯正跑车的驾驶感觉。这种个性十足的内饰让驾驶员和乘客理解这款跑车"源于赛道"的意义。

We sincerely welcome you to take a close look at the new model displayed here, and discover each and every feature for yourselves. I promise that you will not be disappointed. Available exclusively in the China market, this is yet another example of how the owners can depend on receiving only the best from the dealership.

我们真诚地欢迎各位走上前来,近距离观察在此展出的全新车型,感受每一个细节。我保证你不会失望。这款车型仅在中国市场销售,这再次保证了车主从经销商处得到的是最好的跑车。

### Thank you for joining us.

谢谢各位的参与。

### 练习 21: 世界顶级游戏玩家汇集洛杉矶

World's Best Gamers Converge in Los Angeles for the World Cyber Games 2010 Grand Final, The World's Largest Video Gaming Competition and Festival

世界顶级游戏玩家汇集洛杉矶,争霸 WCG 2010 世界总决赛——世界最大规模的视频游戏 竞赛及文化节

Celebrating WCG's 10th anniversary in entertainment capital, Los Angeles

世界娱乐之都——洛杉矶迎来 WCG 十周年纪念

- 450 Players from 60 countries to compete for the World Champion Title 来自 60 个国家的 450 名游戏玩家角逐世界冠军头衔
- WCG donates 310 Samsung SyncMaster computer monitors to California public schools to encourage interest in technology

WCG 向洛杉矶的公立学校捐赠 310 台三星 SyncMaster 电脑显示器,以激发学生学习科学技术的兴趣

Los Angeles, CA September 30, 2010 — World Cyber Games (WCG) kicked-off a four-day competitive gaming competition today at the Los Angeles Convention Center, celebrating 10 years of uniting the best computer and videogame players from around the world. The WCG 2010 Grand Final brings 450 of the best ranked gamers from 60 countries to the Entertainment Capital of the World to vie for more than \$250,000 in cash, prizes and the honor of being named the global champion in a variety of different games.

加利福尼亚州洛杉矶,2010年9月30日——世界电子竞技大赛(WCG)于今天在洛杉矶会展中心启动了为期四天的竞技性游戏比赛,以此庆祝这一汇集世界顶级计算机及视频游戏玩家的赛事创办10周年。共有来自60个国家的450名顶级游戏玩家聚集世界娱乐之都,参加WCG2010世界总决赛,角逐总额25万美元的奖金、奖品以及各类游戏全球总冠军头衔。

In addition to cheering on players, spectators will have the opportunity to try out WCG sponsor's cutting edge products including Samsung SyncMaster's 'eyefinity' (MD230), Galaxy S, and also Microsoft's Kinect for Xbox 360. At the WCG 2010 Grand Final Opening Ceremony spectators can enjoy the LA based dance-troop the Groovaloos in action, and during the event meet a 13 year-old "Guitar Hero" champion and watch the live taping of the finale of "WCG Ultimate Gamer," airing now on Syfy in the United States.

除了可以为游戏玩家们摇旗呐喊,观众还有机会体验 WCG 赞助商提供的尖端产品,其中包括三星 SyncMaster 的 Eyefinity 显示器(MD230)、Galaxy S 以及微软 Xbox 360 专用的 Kinect 体感外设。观众可以在 WCG 2010 世界总决赛的开幕式上欣赏到洛杉矶本土舞团 Groovaloos 的精彩演出。此外,还有机会在比赛期间见到 13 岁的"吉他英雄"冠军,现场观看《WCG 终极玩家》第二季大结局的录制。该节目目前正在美国的 Syfy 频道播出。

"2010 marks ten years of World Cyber Games, in that time we have brought together more than ten million people from 90 nations to celebrate the achievements and triumphs of nearly 6,000 players," said WCG CEO and President Hyoung Seok Kim. "World Cyber Games is home to a global community of passionate gamers and their fans, for an annual four day festival of gaming that offers fun, excitement and thrilling competition on an International level – as well as a sneak peak at the future of gaming technology."

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

WCG 首席执行官兼总裁 Hyoung Seok Kim 表示,"WCG 已经创办 10 年了。期间,我们吸引了来自 90 个国家的一千多万名观众,一起见证近六千名游戏玩家所取得的战果和胜利。对于世界各地那些充满激情的游戏玩家以及他们各自的拥趸而言,WCG 无疑是他们的圣地。每年为期四天的游戏盛宴让他们乐在其中、激情四射,还有紧张刺激的国际级大赛。此外,它还能让大家率先了解游戏技术在未来的发展趋势。"

# Gaming With an Educational Purpose

# 寓教于乐

As part of the WCG 2010 Grand Final kick off, WCG will donate \$125,000 worth of Samsung SyncMaster computer monitors to the Los Angeles County Education Foundation to enhance classrooms and after-school programs, and encourage the use and development of technology throughout the state.

随着 WCG 2010 世界总决赛的启动,WCG 将向洛杉矶县教育基金会捐赠价值 12.5 万美元的三星 SyncMaster 电脑显示器,以丰富学生的课堂及课外活动,并鼓励整个加利福尼亚州的技术使用和发展。

"Games and technology are a great way to engage at-risk kids," said Madeline Hall, director of the Los Angeles County Education Foundation. "Having access to the best tools in our classrooms and after school programs will help disadvantaged students experience the opportunities available for them in the broader world, and give them something to strive for in their education."

洛杉矶县教育基金会主任 Madeline Hall 表示,"游戏和技术是吸引风险儿童好办法。让那些弱势学生在课堂和课外活动中接触到世界上最棒的工具,可以帮助他们体验更广阔的世界所能提供的机遇,从而激发他们努力学习的热情。"

### Going Green

#### 践行环保

Samsung, the official sponsor of World Cyber Games, will also help make this the 'greenest Grand Final ever,' by working with Carbonfund.org to ensure the event is carbon neutral by purchasing carbon offsets that cover everything from the electricity used at the tournament to the airline emissions of the players traveling from all over the world. Carbondfund.org is expected to present Samsung with the first Corporate Climate Leadership Award on Sunday, October 3, 2010. The award recognizes Samsung's support of the Reclaiming America's Heartland project. In addition, Samsung will also be accepting old electronic product donations outside the Los Angeles Convention Center. The Samsung Recycling Direct program gives consumers a number of smart ways to help make the world a better, cleaner place. Samsung partners directly with respected take-back and recycling companies that do not incinerate, send to solid waste landfill, or export toxic waste to developing countries.

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

作为 WCG 的官方赞助商,三星还将支持主办方将本届大赛办成最环保的世界总决赛。它将同 Carbonfund.org 合作,通过购买碳补偿使得本次活动能够实现碳中和。补偿范围涵盖了所有能量消耗,从比赛用电到将比赛选手从世界各地运抵洛杉矶的飞机所排放的碳。 Carbondfund.org 将于 2010 年 10 月 3 日向三星颁发第一届"公司气候领导力大奖",这是对三星为支持"改造美国腹地"项目所做努力的认可。此外,三星还将在洛杉矶会展中心外面接受老旧电子产品的捐赠。三星的"直接回收"项目可以让消费者通过多种方便的方式让我们的世界变得更加美好、更加清洁。三星还同一些声誉良好的回收和再生公司直接建立了合作伙伴关系。这些公司不焚化、填埋有毒废弃物或将其输出到发展中国家。

#### Meet the WCG Ultimate Gamers

与《WCG 终极玩家》有个约会

The season finale of "WCG Ultimate Gamer Season 2," will be taped on location at this year's WCG 2010 Grand Final, will treat audiences to a live, one-on-one competition as this season's finalists compete to be named the "Best All-Around Gamer," win \$100,000 cash, and the 'Ultimate Samsung Electronics Package.' The show takes a dozen top-notch video game players, drops them into an L.A. loft where they live together and compete to be the next Ultimate Gamer. Filming of the season finale will take place on Friday, October 1st at 7:00PM PT and is open to the public attending the WCG 2010 Grand Final.

《WCG 终极玩家》第二季的大结局将在 WCG 2010 世界总决赛的现场录制。本季的决赛选手正在角逐"最佳全能玩家"头衔、10 万美元的现金大奖以及"三星电子产品终极大礼包",届时电视观众将欣赏到现场的一对一对决。该节目挑选了 12 名顶尖视频游戏玩家,让他们集聚在洛杉矶的一个阁楼上。他们将在那里一起生活,并力争成为下一任"终极玩家"。第二季的大结局将于太平洋时间 10 月 1 日(星期五)晚 7 点录制,本次大赛的所有选手和观众都可以亲临拍摄现场。

### **Competition Games**

竞赛

The WCG 2010 Grand Final will feature gamers playing 10 Official Game Titles and three Promotional Game Titles.

在 WCG 2010 世界总决赛上,游戏玩家们将参与十个正式游戏比赛项目和三个表演项目。

For those unable to attend the event in Los Angeles, the competitions will be streamed live on the Internet at http://live.wcg.com, it is expected that tens of thousands of viewers from around the world will tune in to watch the gaming action live over the Internet. Please check http://www.wcg.com/press for updates and the latest information throughout the competition. You can also download the first eSports application on android market.

不能亲临洛杉矶参加本次大赛的朋友可以登录 <u>http://live.wcg.com</u> 观看比赛的现场直播。届时将有来自世界各地的数万名网友通过互联网观看比赛。欲了解比赛的最新资讯,请访问

http://www.wcg.com/press。此外,还可以到 Android Market网站下载首款 eSports 应用程序。

# 练习 22: "建立公司声誉的多边文化方法"

It has always surprised me that multinational corporations, which by definition operate 'overseas', become experts in the politics, regulations and economies of the 'host' country to which they export, but tend to forget the all important element of culture, embracing everything from superficial, if vital issues such as etiquette and protocol, to deeply held attitudes about belief systems. This could not be more true in a country such as India, which is as diverse as anywhere in the world and where I am currently based. China is of course another equally fascinating country where this applies.

有一种现象一直令我感到惊奇:跨国公司,即在海外经营的公司,往往成为所在东道主国家政治、监管和经济方面的专家,但是似乎忽略了最重要的文化因素,从商业礼仪等比较表面却又非常关键的问题到根深蒂固的观念,不一而足。这一点在我目前居住的多元化国家——印度再明显不过。当然,中国在这方面同样如此。

This aspect is all the more important as corporations graduate from being exporters to setting up manufacturing plants with implications for greater scrutiny around employment, taxes and contribution to the society. In this instance it is vital to align corporate culture with local societal culture, not just to obey laws, but to proactively be a good local citizen. How much more important then for companies such as Shell or Unilever, which in some Africa countries are larger than the country's GDP and where they have to play a broader social role. Indeed companies such as IBM, which centralise different global departments such as IT or R&D in a particular this dimension takes on added significance.

公司从出口商品开始发展到建立海外工厂的过程中,对文化的理解发挥着更为重要的作用,同时公司在人员雇佣、税收和社会贡献方面也受到了更为严格的审视。在这种情况下,公司文化与当地的社会文化的融合至关重要,不仅仅要遵纪守法,还要积极成为当地的好公民。那么,壳牌或联合利华这样的企业,其产值比非洲某些国家的国内生产总值还要高,在这些国家就需要承担更多的社会责任。IBM 等公司将不同的全球部门尤其是 IT 或研发部集中管理,这样意义更加深刻。

There has been a fierce debate within the public relations field for many years about the extent to which global strategy, including strategic communications and public affairs should be driven by corporate HQ with the locals left to adapt it as they wish, with insufficient balance between local autonomy and central control of the message.

公司总部应该在多大程度上把控战略沟通和公共事务等全球战略,多大程度上由当地人按照自己的意愿调整这些战略,地方自主性和信息集中控制之间的如何达到平衡,这些问题多年以来在公共关系领域引发了激烈的争论。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

Surely with global interdependence and multiple conversations being conducted virtually among a whole array of stakeholders, local and HQ teams should all input to communications and reputation strategy and, rather than anarchy at the local level, the designated PR agency or PR Department should use its judgement to adapt the message within globally agreed guidelines. Now everything is not just global, but local and global simultaneously as a result of the internet and 24/7 news.

当然,随着各国相互之间依赖性的增强以及与一系列利益相关方的多边对话的进行,地方和总部的团队应该在沟通和声誉战略上进行投入,地方层面不应该乱作一团,指定的公共关系公司或公共关系部门应该根据自己的判断,使信息适合当地情况,并与一致认可的全球通用准则一致。现在,互联网和不间断的新闻报道使一切都不仅限于一时一地,当地即全球,反之亦然。

It is however important that these strategies to maximise reputation in 'host' locations do not just embrace economic, political and market data, but also be sensitive to culture. This requires what diplomats call 'deep listening' and 'putting yourself in the others' shoes'.

然而,很重要的一点是这些旨在赢得地区声誉的战略不仅包括经济、政治和市场数据,它对 文化也应该是敏感的。这就要求,正如外交家所言,"洗耳恭听"和"换位思考"。

On that point I have conducted many etiquette and protocol workshops for example in the Middle-East, where companies and government departments are seeking to do business in China, India, Europe and the U.S.., where the key issue is not merely the usual questions about which Ministers to meet or journalists to be interviewed by, important information as that is, but questions such as gifts, food and drink, greetings, both at a personal and business level depending on the exact context. Many a fatal mistake has been made in the absence of such knowledge. This is particularly important for executives and diplomats from the Arab world wishing to conduct negotiations in completely alien environments, where even speaking the 'lingua franca' business-English can prove to be a mountain to climb with the added complexity of interpreters, simultaneous or sequential. Also just because someone speaks English does not mean they act like the English or wish to. The joke is that England and America are two countries separated by a common language. Even this joke may not be understood when translated into the Chinese language. Jokes, like discussions of health, money, gender and religion can be very sensitive in most cultures. It is better to stick to issues such as the weather and tourism!

在这方面,我组织过很多礼仪研讨班。例如,在中东地区。那里的公司和政府部门在中国、印度、欧洲和美国等地区寻求商业机会。在这些地区,关键问题不仅是会见哪些部长或者接受哪些记者的采访这些普遍的问题,同样重要的还有在根据具体情境而定的礼物、餐饮和问候等等个人和商务层面的问题。由于这种知识的匮乏,出现了很多严重的失误。对于那些非常希望在异国他乡开展合作业务的阿拉伯国家的公司高层或外交家而言,这一点尤其重要,

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

即使使用商务通用语言——英语,同传或交传翻译也会困难重重,犹如面临一座大山。有的人会说英语,但并不表明他们与英国人行为方式相同,也并不意味着他们愿意采取与英国人一样的行为方式。有一个笑话说英美是同一语言分开的两个不同国家。这个笑话翻译成中文后可能无法理解。笑话,正如关于健康、金钱、性别和宗教的讨论一样,在大多数文化中是非常敏感的。最保险的是一直探讨天气和旅游话题!

It is significant that diplomats are always taught protocol and etiquette before being posted to foreign countries and corporate executives should learn that lesson as well. It is astonishing how many corporate executives fail to learn the foreign language, although there are some notable exceptions where executives master Mandarin or Arabic. In India Hindi is less important as English is the language of business everywhere. Indeed, many Indians do not speak each others' languages so have to revert to English to understand and be understood. The Singapore government insists that each diplomat being posted learns the local language, which inevitably means they will take an interest in the local culture as well. Our younger staff are recruited not just for their multi-country experience but for their linguistic skills, a reflection of the commitment to the 'host' country and respect for the culture.

外交官在派往国外之前总是接受礼仪培训,这种培训具有重要意义,公司的高管也应该学习这方面的知识。令人感到吃惊的是,无法学好外语的高管不计其数,只有一些少数高管掌握了普通话或阿拉伯语。在印度,由于英语是全国各地的商务语言,印地语不如英语重要。但是,很多印度人语言不通,只能说英语才能沟通。新加坡政府规定派往国外的外交官必须学习当地的语言,这意味着他们很可能会对当地的文化也产生兴趣。我们的很多年轻员工不仅具备多国工作经验,还具备语言技能,具有这些经验和能力表明他们对东道主国家的认真态度和对当地文化的尊重。

We not only run workshops on the link between reputation and business strategy, but in the stakeholder mapping and messaging analysis consider not just the commercial, economic, regulatory and political aspects, but the cultural too. Indeed although the 'business diplomacy' that we practice emphasises that 'flying under the radar' is not a good strategy, many companies insist to remain low profile-often to their detriment.

我们不仅研究声誉和商业战略之间的关系,而且在关注利益相关方评估和信息分析方面,还 考虑商业、经济、政策、政治以及文化层面的因素。虽然我们所做的"商务外交"工作强调"避 人耳目"并不是个好策略,但是很多公司仍然坚持低调,这样其实对他们自己并不利。

In the 21st century environment, where the new technologies have made corporations and governments much more transparent and accountable with more demanding stakeholders and intensity of issues, we recommend building communities of support with the country's constituent influence groups to ensure relationships for the longer term. With a positive foundation a company is more likely to survive any challenge to its investment, because it has built up sufficient goodwill by responsible behaviour, reputation building and above all relationship management.

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### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

二十一世纪,新技术使企业和政府更加透明,被问责的力度更大,利益相关方的要求也愈加严格,面临的问题也更加重大。我们建议在国家之内确保获得有影响力团体的支持,以保持长期的关系。具有坚实基础的公司更容易克服各种投资的挑战,因为它已经实施了负责任的行动、确立了声誉,最重要是对关系进行了很好的管理,从而建立了足够的商誉。

The era of public diplomacy is truly upon us as we have seen with governments increasingly using PR and communications techniques (including new media) to reach out to key stakeholders in multiple conversations and engaging with them rather than one way mass communication.

公关外交的时代真正到来了,我们已经看到政府越来越多地采用公关和沟通手段(包括新媒体)在多边对话中接触关键利益相关方,并不局限于单向的大众传播。

Public diplomacy may or may not be a good metaphor for public relations, but the skills and tools of diplomats are increasingly being employed by corporations to deconstruct the policy and regulatory issues with which they must deal as well as collaborate with government and civil society organisations solving complex societal issues. These are some of the softer issues that companies must understand, issues that have now become hard in a world of interdependence and scarce resources.

不管把公共关系比喻成公共外交是否恰当,企业越来越多地采用外交官的技巧和手段来解构政策和监管这些他们必须处理的问题,并且与政府和民间社会组织合作解决复杂的社会问题。这些是企业必须明白的"软问题",而在当今相互依存的资源短缺的世界中,这种"软问题"也变得硬了起来。

It is important to define those perceptions and reputation that can frame an organisation, an issue or an individual. This cannot be done by 'spin', rather by factual messages that are authentic and credible. This should be about a company's contribution to the community where it has operations-how much tax, how many employees, which training programs, which social programs and environmental schemes. Above all it is vital to confirm longevity. One of our own U.S clients has been in India 100 years-that helps if the fact is known, but there is no harm in reiteration.

界定这些能够影响对一家组织、一个事件或个人的看法和声誉是非常重要的。这不能靠蒙骗,而是靠真实可信的真实信息。这涉及公司对所在地区的贡献——上缴的税款、雇佣的员工、培训项目、社会项目和环境规划。最重要的是确保长期发展。我们的一家美国客户在印度已有了 100 年的历史,如果大家知道这个事实,那么对公司是非常有利的,而且反复宣传也没有坏处。

Increasingly in India, as in China and especially in other emerging countries, foreign companies are facing consistent demands to prove corporate value to the country and particularly its workers. This especially applies to those companies with labour intensive operations in the country as well as those that depend on local supply chains. They should develop issue management and crisis response strategies, which should account for

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business inputs to the economy and people as their senior management interact with various internal media and government.

在印度、中国以及其它新兴国家,越来越多的外资公司被要求向所在的国家尤其是员工证明公司的价值。这对那些在这些国家中有劳动力密集的业务以及那些依赖当地供应链的公司而言尤为重要。在高级管理层与各种国内媒体和政府打交道的过程中,他们应该建立问题管理和危机处理战略,这些战略应该考虑公司对所在国家和民众所作出的贡献。

Which brings me full circle to the cultural point, which should be an integral part of any research into a company's foray into another country. Whatever is written or conveyed via the media is no substitute for face to face meetings with key opinion formers and decision makers. This requires interpersonal, presentational and networking skills on which we also coach executives visiting or transferring to foreign lands.

这样我就回到了文化命题上来,在对一个公司进入另外一个国家运作的任何研究中,文化是其中的核心部分。通过媒体进行的沟通绝不能替代与关键意见人和决策者面对面的会谈。这要求人际关系、展示才能和人脉能力,我们根据这三点培训到国外出差或派遣到国外的管理人员。

Being reasonable and personable is universal. Networking means trying to introduce another hook for the next encounter as part of building a relationship and above all ensuring the self-interested message translates into a benefit for the country and local community.

通情达理又风度翩翩的人在哪里都会受到欢迎。建立人脉意味着为下一次见面找到理由,这是搭建关系的基础,尤其是确保有利于自己的信息转变成为对所在国家和地区有利的事情。

If it means fitting in a round of golf during a short visit or eating several banquets before getting down to business, so be it. That's the essence of a multi-cultural approach to reputation.

如果这意味着在一次短暂旅行中打一打高尔夫,或者在谈生意之前坐下来吃几顿饭,那么何 乐而不为呢?这就是建立声誉的多边文化方式的精髓所在。

### 练习 23: 网络支付

We choose everything from automobiles to alarm systems based on their safety innovations and their ability to make us feel safe and secure. But the truth is, innovations around how we spend our money are becoming increasingly unsafe. There are so many ways to buy and pay: on our phones, in stores and certainly online. It's easy to lose track of the fact that financial-security breaches are all too common. And it's not just our money at risk - it's our personal information too.

从汽车到警报系统,我们在选择各种产品时不但要看它们在创新方面的表现,还要看它们能否让我们"安然无恙","安枕无忧"。但现实是,花样繁多的新型支付手段越来越不安全了。购物时,我们有多种支付方法可以选择,比如电话支付、店内支付,当然还有网上支付。但财务安全出现问题的情况非常普遍,这一点人们很容易会忽视。支付不仅事关资金安全,也事关个人信息安全。

At our company, we believe that it is YOUR money and nobody else should be able to threaten it or you. We are committed to fiercely protecting your financial security. We believe you deserve an advocate. Someone with the technological skills and know-how to be a step ahead and take care of you if the bad-guys strike.

我们公司的理念是:您是资金的主人,其它人不应对您本人或者资金构成任何威胁。我们致力于保障您的财务安全。我们认为您需要一位保护人。这位保护人具备必须的技术能力和专门技能,能够先发制人,如果有坏人图谋不轨,可以随时为您提供保护。

We live in a world of innovation — so many things are now better, faster and more helpful. Innovation has improved our money too: it's no longer just the question of "cash or credit" — we can choose debit or credit. Pay now or later. Buy online or with our phones; take advantage of a wealth of coupons, store cards, group deals and special promotional codes, not to mention extras like rewards points. But being on top of all these opportunities and options can be overwhelming and time consuming.

我们所生活的世界创新无处不在,它令生活更加美好、更加快捷、更加方便。创新也让我们在支付时更加得心应手。以前,我们可以在现金、信用卡指间选择一种支付方式。现在,我们还可以在借记卡和信用卡之间二选一。还可以当时支付或者事后支付。此外,还可以在网上支付或者用电话支付。另外还有各种优惠券、商家专用信用卡、团购和促销码,当然还有积分等等额外的优惠。但这一切令人眼花缭乱,耗时耗力,管理起来绝非易事。

We bring together all the smart ways to buy and pay so you can feel confident that you haven't missed out on all the possibilities. That's why we are constantly finding new ways to make sure you get the most from your money.

我们汇集了多种高效的购物支付方式,从此您不会错过任何一次"血拼"的好机会,省时省力。 我们不断探寻支付新途径的目标只有一个,那就是让您的资金发挥出最大的作用。

Innovations in money and payment have added complexity to our lives - not subtracted from it. We are inundated with too many accounts to organize, tons of ways to make and receive payments, and a wallet full of credit cards and credit limits to manage.

资金和支付领域的创新并未让我们的生活变得简单。相反,我们的生活因此变得更加复杂。 我们有许许多多的账号,各种各样的资金收付方式,还有塞满钱包的信用卡,信用额度等等, 这一切管理起来十分困难,令我们难以招架。

## 练习 24: 旅游休闲

### Voiceover text:

画外音文本

Our Alaska cruises include the larger ports of Juneau and Anchorage as well as other colorful ports such as Kodiak and Icy Strait Point, situated along a coastline more vast than the rest of the U.S. coastline combined.

我们的阿拉斯加游轮航线包括朱诺和安克雷奇两座大港,还包括多姿多彩的科迪亚克、冰峡湾等港口。这些港口所在的阿拉斯加海岸线占整个美国海岸线长度的一半以上。

Along the way you can create a once in a lifetime adventure all your own.

在游览的过程中,您将经历一次终身难忘的探险之旅。

And then...there are the glaciers.

这里还有著名的冰川。

Depending on your itinerary, you'll either experience the Hubbard Glacier, the twin Sawyer Glaciers of Tracy Arm, or Glacier Bay.

根据游览线路的不同,您可以感受哈巴德冰川、崔西湾的两条沙耶冰川或者冰川湾的壮丽风景。

At 3.3 million acres, Glacier Bay National Park, a world heritage site, is about the size of Connecticut.

冰川湾国家公园已跻身世界遗产名录,面积达 330 万英亩,是康狄涅格州面积的两倍左右。

ABC Cruise Line has been showing guests this spectacular place since before it was declared a national park.

早在成为国家公园之前,冰川湾就已经是 ABC 游轮航线上一颗璀璨的明珠。

Park Rangers board ship to provide fascinating insight and take guests on a journey back in geological time.

公园的管理员会亲自登船,并以其独特的视角向游客讲解国家公园深藏的奥秘,同时带领游

客踏上地质时光的穿越之旅。

Remnants of the "little ice age" from 4000 years ago, these glaciers ebb and flow like slow moving rivers, constantly changing...and providing a thrilling spectacle to ABC Cruise Line guests.

这些冰川是 **4000** 年以前"小冰河纪"留下的时间印记。它们像缓慢流动的河水一样潮起潮落,永不停歇,在 **ABC** 游船的游客眼前展现出了一幅壮观的自然画卷。

7 or 14-day cruises depart from Vancouver, British Columbia, or from Seattle. And you can expand your adventure on a ABC Cruise Line CruiseTour into Denali National Park the Yukon Territory and beyond.

7 日游或者 14 日游从不列颠哥伦比亚省的温哥华或者从西雅图出发。您还可以通过 ABC 游船航线的"游船游"将探险的脚步延伸至德纳里国家公园、育空领地乃至更加遥远的地区。

Whichever experience you choose, THIS IS the Alaska you've been dreaming about.

无论您选择哪一条航线,我们都会圆您的"阿拉斯加之梦"!

There are many CruiseTours to choose from plus countless ways to add to your adventure with optional excursions and tours.

"游船游"为游客准备了丰富的游览线路,此外还有各种远足和旅行观光项目可供选择,让您的探险之旅更加丰富多彩!

No photo or video can paint the whole picture

再漂亮的照片和视频都无法描绘这身临其境的"现场感"

Denali National Park is a fully intact eco system, where bear, moose, sheep and caribou forage in the presence of Mt. McKinley.

德纳里国家公园的生态系统保护完好,麦金利峰的山脚下栖息着灰熊、驼鹿、白大角羊和北 美驯鹿等多种动物。

A tundra wilderness tour will take you deeper into the park for a closer look at the mountain and the wildlife.

荒野苔原之旅将把您带入公园的腹地,可以近距离地欣赏麦金利山和野生动植物。

In the tradition of the great national park lodges, visitors with ABC Cruise Line are treated to a perfect balance of the rustic and the refined. Beautiful spaces, innovative dining, comfortable rooms...and raft departures right out the back door.

在如此壮观的国家公园里,自然少不了舒适的山林小屋,ABC 游船的游客在其中可以体验质朴与精致两种极致生活。风景如画的空间、别具一格的餐饮、舒适如家的客房......还有直接从小屋后门出发的充气船漂流之旅。

### 练习 25: 活到老学到老

Perhaps you are retired, thinking about retiring or aged 50+ with some spare time, if so I hope this brochure will be of interest to you.

这本小册子十分适合已经退休和即将退休的人士,也适合 **50** 岁以上、有一些闲暇时间的人士。

At UK Fun we understand how important it is to make the leap from the past into the future and how challenging it can be starting a new phase in our lives. By working together we can make sure you ease yourself into retirement and help you to fulfil your dreams for a positive future. I am delighted to present Active Living - a guide to activities and events for people 50+ and, I hope you find it useful.

UK Fun 很清楚挥别过去、迎接未来是多么的重要,也非常明白开始新的人生旅程是多么的困难。让我们携起手来,让您轻松过渡到美好的退休生活,帮您实现梦想,让您未来的日子更加多姿多彩!《积极生活》是一本适合 50 岁以上人士的业余活动和公众活动指南。我非常高兴能够向您介绍这本书,希望它对您能有所帮助。

### **Adult Learning**

### 成人学习

It's never too late to learn. Learning can make a real difference to your quality of life at any age — whether you are brushing up on your existing skills or finding out about something completely new.

俗话说,活到老学到老。不管您想提高已有的技能,还是学习全新的知识,学习都能让各年龄段的人士真正地提高生活质量。

UK Fun provides a range of free community based learning opportunities for adults of all ages at community centres, libraries and other facilities across the city. Classes and groups are organised according to local needs at various times throughout the week.

UK Fun 在全市的社区中心、图书馆和其它地点为各年龄段的成年人提供了丰富多彩的社区免费学习课程。我们会根据各地的不同需求在每个星期的不同时段开设学习班和学习小组。

### Here are just some of the things we can offer:

我们提供的部分课程如下:

- Want to update your computer skills? We offer learning opportunities for all abilities from absolute beginners to seasoned surfers. You can also learn to master other new technology like digital cameras.
- 想让自己的计算机技能更上一层楼? 从初出茅庐的零基础"菜鸟"到名震江湖的互联网"大

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虾",各个能力层次的学员都能在我们这里找到合适的学习课程。您还可以学习、掌握数码相机等新技术产品的使用。

### **Events**

## 公众活动

Every year Glasgow is host to a large number of major arts, cultural and sporting events. These range from annual events to one off world championships and there are many ways to get involved. A key part of Glasgow's regeneration has been the drive to host major events. These raise the profile of the city and create an economic impact on local businesses. However, more importantly they offer citizens the chance to experience and get involved with truly world-class events.

格拉斯哥每年都举办很多的大型艺术、文化和体育活动。从每年一次的活动到一次性的世界锦标赛,您可以通过多种方式参与其中。主办大型活动也是格拉斯哥城市重振计划中的一项重大举措。主办大型活动不但可以提升城市形象,还可以为当地的企业带来商机。但更为重要的是,市民会也因此有机会感受并参与到世界级活动中去。

### 练习 26: 2013 年联合国中文翻译应聘测试题

### Part one:

Over the last century, scholars of international relations and international law gradually parted company. This mutual neglect is no longer tenable in a world where law and politics increasingly converge. Legal rules do in fact matter in world politics — even if they are not established or enforced in the same way as domestic law. International legal norms are important because states consent to and respect legal rules. For its part, international law is rooted in politics; legal scholars who forget this basic insight risk becoming irrelevant in the global arena. Not surprisingly, one author looks to the European Union to show how law transformed relations between states as the legal character of European institutions underpinned political integration. The author sees fundamental change under way, leading to a system of multiple and overlapping legal authorities in which individuals simultaneously owe loyalties to ethnic communities, regional organizations, and transnational groups.

在过去的一百年中,国际关系和国际法两个领域的学者逐渐分道扬镳。在当今这个法律与政治日益融合的世界,这种"道不同不相为谋"的做法没有理由再持续下去了。尽管国际法律规范的立法或执法方式不同于国内法,但它在世界政治中的作用十分重要。国际法律规范之所以重要是因为法律规范得到了各个国家的赞同和尊重。国际法律规范本身植根于政治,如果法律学者忘记了这一基本法律理念,就可能脱离世界舞台的实际。欧洲各机构的法律性质就为政治一体化奠定了基础,因此作者以欧盟为例来表明法律给国家之间关系带来的变化就不

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足为奇了。作者看到,正在发生的一些根本性变化逐渐产生了一个多重法律权威相重叠的系统,在这个系统中,个人同时忠诚于种族社区、地区组织以及超国家集团。

### Part two:

As late as the 1980s, finance was an essential but limited element of the U.S. economy. The trade in equities (the stock market) was made up of individual investors, large or small, putting their own money in stocks of companies they believed to have good long-term prospects. Investment capital was also available from the major Wall Street investment banks and their foreign counterparts, which were private partnerships in which the partners' own money was on the line. All of this began to change as larger pools of capital became available for investment and came to be deployed by professional money managers rather the owners of the capital themselves.

直到 20 世纪 80 年代,金融虽然在美国经济中不可或缺,但作用仍然十分有限。股票交易市场(股票市场)由大大小小的个人投资者组成,他们把自有资金投资于自己长期看好的公司发行的股票。大型美国华尔街投资银行和国外投资银行也提供了投资资本。这些银行为私人合伙企业,由合伙人自有资金承担风险。随着可用于投资的资本规模越来越大,同时管理人也由资本所有者本人变为职业理财经理,这一切开始有了变化。

One source of such new capital was pension funds. In the postwar decades, when major American industries emerged from World War II as oligopolies with limited competition and large, expanding markets at home and abroad, their profits and future prospects allowed them to offer employees defined-benefit pension plans, with the risks involved assumed by the companies themselves. From the 1970s on, however, as the U.S. economy became more competitive, corporate profits became more uncertain, and companies attempted to shift the risk by putting their pension funds into the hands of professional money managers, who were expected to generate significant profits. Retirement income for employees now depended not on the profits of their employers but on the fate of their pension funds.

新增资本的一个来源是养老基金。在第二次世界大战结束后的几十年时间里,美国各大行业从战争之中逐渐崛起为寡头,所遇到的竞争极为有限,庞大的国内外市场规模不断扩张。它们所获得的利润以及发展前景使其能够为员工提供固定收益的养老金计划,其中的风险由公司自行承担。不过,从 20 世纪 70 年代开始,美国经济领域的竞争日益激烈,公司盈利难以预测。为了转移风险,公司开始把养老金交由专业的理财经理来打理,希望理财经理能让养老金大幅增值。现在,决定员工退休收入水平的不是公司盈利状况,而是养老基金的命运。

# 第 4 部分: 几乎没有"口音"的英语

## 4.1 发音很重要

我一直都认为,无论英语学得怎么样,也要先把发音搞好。除了能促进英语学习以外,发音好就好比穿上了漂亮得体的衣裳,能增强自己的自信,受到别人的重视。而且中国人学习英语发音,只要方法得当,还是很容易掌握的,何乐而不为呢?

说到汉语,中国各地的方言各有特色,历史悠久,是几百年乃至几千年之间形成的,通行于各自的地区,是当地的"普通话"。国外一些语言学家把汉语各方言划分为不同的"语言",但习惯了中国一切都"大一统"的我们很难接受这种看法,我们只把汉语的各个方言看做同一种语言的不同区域分支。不过,在京沪穗等大城市生活、工作的人都会在公交车、地铁、马路、购物中心甚至办公室等公共场合听到各种汉语方言。有时虽然听不太懂,但大致能知道是哪里的方言,但也有时连一个字都听不懂,不啻为一门外语。这时,我们就会想国外语言学家的看法可能是有几分道理的。从历史的角度来看,幸亏汉语采用的是象形文字,而不是拼音文字,否则汉语早就因为各地发音相差如此之大而分化为不同的语言,而中国也早就像欧洲一样四分五裂了。

说到口头交流,汉语普通话其实是"人造"的,但它不是胡编乱造的结果,而是以北方方言和北京话发音为基础形成的。从广义上来说,普通话也算作一种"方言",但他不是普通的"方言",而是具有通行于全国各地乃至世界各地的汉语标准语。因此,掌握普通话对于人们的学习和工作十分重要,这一点不言自明。

英语也是如此。虽然英国的面积和人口都远远不及美国,但英国各方言之间的差别却远大于美国各方言之间的差别。这是历史使然,是很常见的"神奇"现象。比如,京津两地的方言与周边地区差异很大,而且二者之间的差异远大于"幅员辽阔"的东北方言内部分支之间的差异。在通用发音方面,英语与汉语不同,它没有普通话那样人人都认可的一套标准发音。英语有英式和美式两种发音,而且即使在英国和美国内部也有山头林立的不同方言。英国有举国认可的英国标准音(Received Pronunciation,简称 RP),英国女王、BBC 电台、电视台使用的就是这种发言。美国情况有所不同。虽然英语是美国当仁不让的"事实国语",但美国并没有类似中国《国家通用语言文字法》那样的法律确立英语的国语地位。而且,美国也存在多个方言区,各方言区的人却又并不认自己讲的是"方言"。但这一切不意味着美国就没有实际上存在的"普通话",跟中国人要学普通话一样,美国人和想在美国混得好的外国人也得学美语普通话。中国人熟悉的美国之音电台英语节目中播音员用的那种英语其实就是"美语普通话"(General American),美国的电影电视广播基本都用这种发音。根据 维基百科的说法,这种口音源自美国中西部一个地区,大规模的农业移民把这种口音带到了加利福尼亚,并扩散到太平洋西北地区,乃至全国。

但实际上,连同发音算在内,英语的这些差别要远远小于北京话和沈阳话之间的差别。我认为,作为外国人,中国人在学习英语时不必过分纠结,从英国普通话和美国普通话中选择一种即可;至于用语和词汇,我们只需要了解英美之间的差异,完全可以兼收并蓄。英美两种普通话自然不在话下,如果有兴趣的话,爱尔兰、新西兰、澳大利亚、加拿大乃至南亚讲的英语我们都可以拿来学一学。

我和大多数中国学生一样,在学校跟老师教学的是国际音标,念的是英国标准音。但自从用

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

台湾英语老师扶忠汉《双向式英语》教材和录音带自学英语之后,我就慢慢地改成美国发音了。其中还有个小插曲。《双向式英语》的录音带来我没能从头到尾练下去,因为越听越发现磁带里的人发音非常"奇特",我当时的一本《朗文美语词典》里都没标,于是就不再听了。后来发现,原来磁带的朗读发音是美国的一种方言。之后,我非常勤奋地收听美国之音电台,尤其是每天定时播出的慢速英语节目,一边查《朗文美语词典》一边努力模仿。

## 4.2 适合中国人的英语发音要点

在自学英语的过程中,我还总结出了几个适合中国人的英语发音学习要点,并且 <u>在音频中</u> 进行了讲解,相信对您有所帮助。

首先,英语的**元音有长短之分**(比如 **father** 与 **mother** 之间的差别),而普通话里面所有的元音长度都是一样。这样中国人很容易就把元音读错了。如果把元音读错(原本长的读成短的,原本短的读成长的),发音难听还是小事,严重的会造成误解。

例句: The most interesting point about the village was its religion./He and his wife will be jetting off on a two-week holiday in America.

其次,英语里有一个"咬舌头"的音(比如 leather),普通话里也没有,国人也不容易适应。

例句: Neither father nor mother likes this weather.

第三,有一个音舌头的**位置非常独特**,舌头放得很低(比如 **fast**,**balance**)。这个音发着比较费力,偷懒的话就发不对了。

例句: The party aims to attract votes from the business and professional comunities, which want a faster pace of political reform.

第四,略音。发音时一个常犯的毛病是见到音就发,殊不知有时候舌头是可以偷懒的。这完全不是因为谁制定了神圣的规则,实在是因为如果每个音都发舌头实在太累。

例句: She gulped down a mouthful of coffee./Ask-Bob-to sit-behind-me.

第五,**连音**。普通话里,一个字一个音,很少出现前面的音尾与后面的音头连在一起说的(一个模拟的例子:在我的东北老家,"恩爱"可以开玩笑地念成"恩耐";宋丹丹在小品里面应该是说过"恩恩耐耐",意思是"恩恩爱爱")。可是,英语恰恰就是要连在一块说的。原因无他,嘴巴要省力才行。

例句: Don't leave your shopping on the back seat of your car — it's an open invitation to a thief.

第六, 变音。口语中, 弱读或者快速说话时, 一些音会发生变化。

例句: "What **did-you** do over the weekend?" "I **told-him** the bad story."

# 4.3 名师纠正发音

Andy Krieger 是美国一位纠正英语口音的专家,经常给想在美国娱乐界大展宏图的外国演员讲课,其中就包括大牌影星成龙、李冰冰、刘亦菲。在网上发现了他讲课的一套视频,讲得非常好。如果 <u>跟着他来学</u>,我们一定可以把自己的口音练"没"了。



# 第 5 部分:读书学习

## 5.1 读书

人生的知识、经验和智慧的结晶很多都"藏"在古今中外那些或长或短的话语和书籍里面。只要我们去认真读书,不用亲自去蹉跎岁月,也可以获得这些知识、经验和智慧。可是,这些老话听得多了,看得烦了,不愿再去思考、借鉴,非要自己再从头到尾经历一遍才能"顿悟"。悲哀啊!

在平静的封皮下面,涌动着作者人生、理想、生活和工作智慧的激流。他们自告奋勇,不远百年与千年,漂洋过海,跋山涉水,来到我们身旁,想与我们成为朋友,要与我们促膝而谈。我们难道不应该欣然接受、洗耳恭听吗?"听君一席话胜读十年书",我们就听听他们想说什么吧。

现代人,享受着古时候无法比拟的先进知识、科技和技术。甚至几十年前、几年前也无法与现在相比。但是,先进的知识、科技和技术并一定能为我们带来智慧。现在的人,<u>做蠢事依然前赴后继</u>,依然"<u>好了伤疤忘了疼</u>",依然"不见棺材不掉泪"。书籍是人类经验和智慧结晶,我们可以从中借鉴。书籍不容忽视,更不容轻视。

对于<u>读书</u>和写作之间的关系,古人一语道破天机:"读书破万卷,下笔如有神"! 若想"薄发",必先"厚积"。翻译也是一种写作,只要我们读得够多,就会写得够好!

# 5.2 买书

如果买书不看是罪恶的,那么我已经罪孽深重。就拿最近几个月来说,四月份买了 8 本老舍的书、一本<u>陆谷孙的《英汉大辞典》</u>、一本<u>吴光华的《汉英大辞典》</u>;五月份买了威廉·夏伊勒(William Shirer)的<u>《第三帝国兴亡:纳粹德国史》</u>和罗素的<u>《西方哲学史》</u>。这两个月还算是我的"常规"买书月。六月份网络书店大促销,于是这个月的买书量也"爆发"了。

先是在卓越"满 300 减 100"的优惠活动中大手笔买下爱德华·吉本的<u>《罗马衰亡史》</u>全套<u>六本</u>,然后是丘吉尔的<u>《二战史》</u>。接下来,在一个澳大利亚朋友的强烈推荐下,买了无神论作家克里斯多夫•希金斯(Christopher Hitchens)的<u>《上帝并不伟大》</u>(God is not Great)、<u>《上帝骗局》</u>(God Delusion),还有他的自传<u>《Hitch-22: A Memoir》</u>。后来,一个同事随便在微博里提了一下<u>《朱镕基答记者问》</u>,我就立马订了中<u>英文版</u>各一本。后来发现一本全彩印《西方文明史》特别"便宜",原价 1000 多,优惠后 220 就卖了。

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

很明显,这个月买书的主题是"历史",我从《罗马衰亡史》和《西方哲学史》开始,读了几十页《罗马衰亡史》之后,开始对同一时期的中国史产生了极大的兴趣,于是买来中华书局简体白文普及本《汉书》、《后汉书》和《三国志》,加上之前早就买了的中华书局繁体竖排《史记》,二十四中质量和评价都最高的"头四史"我就都配齐了。所谓"白文普及本"就是只有原文、基本没有什么注释的版本。不过"头四史"中的《三国志》是个例外,陈寿完成原文之后,裴松之又做了注,内容十分丰富,补充了陈寿写作时没有的历史资料,字数甚至比原文还多。二人的作品合二为一流传至今,无法分割。又过了几天,发现司马光花了19年时间写的《资治通鉴》不得不买(据说这本书毛主席看了17遍)。除此之外,每次下订单都"凑单"或者享受免费赠送的畅销书,比如梁实秋的一本小集《雅舍杂文》、《凯撒们的星空下》。

值得一提的就是 Wordsworth Classics 和 Signet Classics 系列实惠的外版书, 算上卓越买的,还有京东"满 200 减 100"外版书优惠,这次一共买了 50 多本,都是各种经典的小说。可笑的是,由于京东网上系统比较弱智,加上我自身失察,这次买重了三本书。老婆知道后"震怒",没收了这三本归她所有。我表示,既然买重了,那我就每本多看几遍。

大概是从买了<u>《鲁迅全集》</u>之后,我就发现书没地方摆了,只好堆在窗台上、桌子上,乃至床上。于是最近老婆提议给我买个书柜。我一直也没想过要给我的书们配上遮阳挡灰、带门的书柜。书柜上个星期已经在家具店订了,下周应该可以送到。"我要有书柜了",这个想法已经让我激动一个星期了。一想这些书即将有舒适的"家"了,我就喜上眉梢。

最近两年买书确实不少,送货的小弟、大哥都已经认识我了。几乎所有的非书虫,知道我买了这么多书之后,都问的几个问题是:买这么多书看得过来吗?买的书都看了吗?有时间看吗?是要开图书馆吗?从图书馆借书看不是更好吗?

首先,爱买书的人跟喜欢攒钱的人心情差不多是一样的,有那么多书虽然不见得一定看,但买来了自己就有了,想看到时就可以看了。就我来说,我买书确实是打算都读完或者至少是要用的,虽然不见得是经常用。在工作之余,我通常是"努力"做到有空就看点书的。当然,由于各种主观、客观原因很多时候无法做到,不然这几年我也不会每年都给自己制定几乎无用的读书计划了(2010 年、2011 年、2012 年)。这些计划无一例外都没有执行完毕,要么是打算读的书没读,要么是读的量不够。

说到读书,我一直有一个想法。在现实生活中,对于自己景仰的大师,无论是古时候的,还是当代的,我都是无缘相见的,更不可能亲耳聆听他们的教诲。实际上,即使是自己的老婆也不可能"随叫随到"地给我思想上的"教诲"或者听我思想上的"罗嗦"。有书就不一样了,比如现在,我随时可以把<u>柏拉图</u>请来给我讲讲他的哲学思想,或者让霍华德·兹恩(Howard Zinn)给我讲讲美国人民的历史,他们绝对有耐心,绝对不会嫌烦。

对于我喜欢、常用的书,我一定是会买来看的,而不会<u>去图书馆借</u>。书对于我来说不仅仅是书,更是家人。我希望它们都是常住的,而不是路过的。顺便地,我也希望它们都是新书,因此我的书里面二手的极少。另外,买书跟到图书馆看书或者借书是不冲突的。随便翻阅一

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

下、了解一下的书,或者查阅不常用的资料,图书馆里要是有,那是再好不过了。还有,图书馆毕竟不是自己家,有远近的问题,也有书全不全的问题。

我确实是想建个家庭图书馆。我的梦想是有一套房子,里面有我的办公桌,此外都是书架或者书柜,上面至少有一万本书。等我老了,走不动了,就在自己的图书馆里跟我的书混。等我死了,就把这些书都给我儿子。

## 5.3 阅读推荐: 余光中的集

译者未必有学者的权威,或是作家的声誉,但其影响未必较小,甚或更大。译者日与伟大的心灵为伍,见贤思齐,当其意会笔到,每能超凡入胜,成为神之巫师,天才之代言人。此乃寂寞之译者独享之特权。

## **——余光中** (照片)

我的拙作<u>《活龙揭秘翻译》</u>发布有半个多月了。除了知道一些来捧场的"亲友团"对此书的一点感想之外,其它大部分读者的感想还无所从所知。

说到读书, 我今天想给大家推荐一套书。

这套书是<u>《余光中集》</u>——就是我在电子书里面推荐的那套。我推荐余光中的书,是因为他是我们翻译领域中的"重镇",是我辈芸芸翻译众生仰视的人物。用他自己的话来说,他的写作划分为"四度空间":诗歌、散文、评论和翻译。说实话,大讲翻译"理论和实务"的人多得很,但像他一样"吃自己的狗粮"、又吃得有声有色的人着实不多。

他说的很多话我都深有体会。举一个例子,我改译员的英译中译稿,好似改这个人的语文作文一般;而改他的中译英译稿,又恰如改他的英文作文一样。这一点他比我早很多就发现了。一个中国人,英文的原文看不出个门道,中文的译文写起来又磕磕绊绊,还想做好翻译,那是做梦。还是趁早重新回炉学好语文和英文课要紧。这个时候,阅读就是个的解决办法。

而对于我这种在某个层次上已经脱离无米下锅的"苦海"(知识、经验不足)、跳出"文字障"轮回(让字面意思牵着鼻子走)的翻译老手来说,不断地学习翻译大家、文学巨匠的经验、感悟他们的感悟、体验他们的体验,"好好学习,天天向上",仍然是十分十分重要的。毛主席不是说"一天不学习,赶不上刘少奇"吗?让他说着了,毛主席就是因为不学习,不但刘少奇没有赶上,邓小平也比他强!

谈到买书,就再说说余光中。有一段时间他的书房就有三个,<u>台湾</u>一个,<u>香港两个</u>。一个书房七八百本那都是算是十分少的。跟他相比,我们还有很大的"发展空间"。所以,买书绝对不能手软。就算了买了不看,放在那里也不会烂。别忘了,书是可以传世的。我现在买书就有一个很好的理由——买来存着,等我儿子长大了看。今年 11 月份我就要当爹了!

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

还等啥, 余光中的书"可以买"。想做好翻译, 买他的书是"必须的":

## 立刻买来! 购买链接: 《余光中集》。

看到上面唯一的那条"客户评论"没有?那就我写的。这套书一共九本,一到三是诗歌,四到六是散文,七八是文艺评论,九是《集外集》。我个人尚未培养出欣赏现代诗的脑细胞,目前只感觉唐宋诗词颇好。不过有一点我得感谢他——在这一点上也许我对不起给我小学和中学的启蒙老师了,可能是忘了他们的教诲了——我从他的书里知道,诗歌、诗歌,是用来朗诵,用来唱的,不是用来默读的。这样想来,我以后读唐诗宋词要是大声朗诵出来,感觉也许会很不一样。不过,我也有点太后知后觉了……

如果看了他的书,又有点感想,欢迎与我交流。

# 5.4 英语翻译工作中能用到的通用类辞书

翻译想学好,工具书是必备的。工具书与其它书籍的一大不同是知识含量密集,每本都是宝库。不用到各种材料里面去费力搜寻,一本好的工具书可以提供"一站式"的服务,方便、快捷。虽然下文列出了不少汉语和英语辞书(主要是英语),但主要还是我已经购置的或者多少了解一点的书。如果读者诸君有更好的辞书,也请一定分享。

### 汉语词典

首先自然是母语词典。做翻译的人,不少误认为自己不需要汉语词典,觉得自己从小就学,该查的都查过了,现在自然用不到了。其实并不是这样,英译汉的时候第一大障碍自然是英语,但第二大障碍就是汉语,很多时候译文不好实际上是自己的汉语有待改进、提高,字典和词典自然是能帮上忙的。

从小学开始用的《新华字典》是必备的,如果只是查字用着很方便。如果要查词,那么最新版的《现代汉语词典》就必不可少了。做文字工作,免不了遇到或者想查点古文,那么《查代汉语词典》也是要备用的,古汉语词典《辞源》也可以考虑一下。在英语里面有不少言简意赅、表现力很丰富(至少是刚开始出现或者对于外国人来说)的习语,但它们的地位——非常不幸,已经堕落成陈词滥调(cliché )了,作者唯恐避之而不及,生怕让人指摘为语言没有想象力,没有创新力。但汉语恰好相反,如果用得恰到好处,不但别人觉得你很厉害,而且自己也觉得省时省力。这样一来,书架上怎么能少了成语词典呢。《汉语成语大全》就不错。说到成语就不能不提充满国人智慧的谚语和极其睿智的民间歇后语,推荐《汉语谚语词典》、《汉语歇后语词典》这两本。接下来就是《辞海》了,它基本算是现代汉语词典的一大终极武器了。

关键词:现代汉语词典、古代汉语词典、新华字典、辞海、辞源、汉语谚语词典、汉语歇后语词典、汉语成语大全

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

## 英语词典

从学英语开始,必不可少的就是一本英汉词典。《<u>牛津高阶英汉双解词典</u>》大名鼎鼎,<u>必备</u>。而内容丰富,涵盖不少文化百科知识的《<u>朗文当代英语大辞典</u>(英英英汉双解)》值得推荐,但这本辞书并非完美无缺,即使你不是专家也能找出它的毛病,比如我早就观察到:

这本词典的英英部分确实不错,但其中部分英汉内容就不敢让人那么恭维了。从这本词典,我能感觉到中国社会里的躁动、急不可耐之风刮到词典编辑里面去了。它的不少英汉翻译译文都经不起仔细推敲,错误也不少见,欧化的汉译更是比比皆是。商务印书馆的招牌也没能拯救得了这本匆匆出版的词典。我之所以还推荐这部词典是因为它很独特:它是加入了一些百科知识的词典,我们在查找词汇的同时也能顺便了解不少背景知识。它可以提高我们学习英语的效率。至于其中的汉译部分,我们完全可以"三七开"。我的一个提醒是,汉语免疫力不佳(对什么是得体、通顺、正确汉语还没有太多概念的人)或者知识不够丰富(这部词典的汉语部分可能会提供不准甚至错误的信息)的人士慎用其中的英译汉部分。

学英语和学翻译的人中不少有一个"毛病",就是不管遇到一个什么汉语或者英文的字、词,总想英语或者汉语"应该怎么翻呢?"这时就需要汉英词典,推荐<u>外研社《汉英词典》</u>。随着学习的进步,这两本词典很快就不够用了,这时可以升级为陆谷孙的《<u>英汉大词典</u>》和吴光华的《汉英大词典》。

在学习的过程中,还会发现一个问题,那就是英语与我们所熟悉的汉语在表达的时候是很灵活的,并非像英汉或者汉英词典列出的那样"字字对应"、"词词对应"(这也就是本段中开头说的"毛病")。这时需要摆脱英汉或者汉英的"翻译"桎梏,需要从"英中互译"的初级学习阶段过渡到"英语思维"、"英语表达"的阶段。因为随着学的英语越来越多,大脑已经可以用已经学到的英语来"思维"、"表达",而无需先"想出"汉语,然后再"翻译"成英语,这时就需要开始用英英词典。刚开始能力不足,肯定要用为学生编写的学生词典,推荐《<u>柯林斯高阶英</u>语学习词典》,其中有双语版的,非常不错。韦氏也有学生词典,也可以考虑。

随着英语能力的进一步提升,这些词典慢慢都变得"小儿科"了。"大人"们都用什么词典呢?英国最受欢迎的自然是牛津词典了,推荐<u>《牛津英语词典》(ODE)</u>。美国受欢迎的词典有《韦氏大学词典》和《美国传统词典》。

《韦氏大辞典》(W3)的编写理念是"描述"(descriptive),即词典只负责描述人们是怎么使用语言的,而对用法对错不予置评。这样一来就有人不高兴了,因为在他们看来词典必须体现出来"什么是对"、"什么是错"。于是有人想收购韦氏词典的出版公司,要把所有的错误都"改正"过来,未果。于是《美国传统词典》问世了,光听"传统"这两个字就知道这部词典编辑出版的用意。但是,语言始终是发展变化的,"描述"和"规定"二者已经无法截然分开。证据之一就是,据说最新版的《美国传统词典》前面是两个人写的,表达的是"描述"和"规定"两种理念,这也许是出版社为了扩大销量不得已为之。但可以想象两边讨好的结果就是两边都有怨言。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

规模更大一些的有:英国的两卷本的《<u>简编牛津英语词典</u>》(Shorter Oxford English Dictionary,简称SOED),在牛津系列的词典里面,这套排行第二,仅次于 20 卷本的《牛津英语词典》;美国的一卷本有《<u>韦氏第三版新国际辞典</u>》(Webster's Third New International Dictionary,简称 W3。

再大的词典就是 20 卷本的巨无霸《<u>牛津英语大词典</u>》(Oxford English Dictionary),这个一般人就别考虑了。实在想要一套的可以考虑电子版。

"掌上型"的词典可以考虑《<u>外研社最新简明英汉词典</u>》、《<u>口袋牛津词典</u>》、三件套《<u>韦氏</u> 日常语言参考书》(含词典韦小红、同义词汇编韦小黄和单词书韦小绿)。

插图词典也可以考虑:《插图牛津词典》(Illustrated Oxford Dictionary)。这本词典的特点是除了是一本"正常"的词典之外,还有很多插图。有时候用文字很难说清楚的东西,用这本词典就很容易就搞明白了。

关键字: Shorter Oxford English Dictionary、Illustrated Oxford Dictionary、Collins COBUILD Advanced Learners' English Dictionary(柯林斯高阶英语学习词典)、朗文当代英语大辞典(英英英汉双解)、外研社最新简明英汉词典、陆谷孙-英汉大词典(第 2 版)、吴光华-汉英大词典(第 3 版)、外研社汉英词典

### 同义词词典/汇编

英语的词汇非常丰富,如何按照某个意思查找所有意思相关的词汇呢?这时同义词词典(Thesaurus)就能帮上忙了。最有名的有两本,一个是Roget's International Thesaurus,另一个是Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus。一般来说,第一个查词更准,但比较麻烦(特有的索引方式);第二个查词方便(索引跟词典一样),但不如第一个效果好。各有千秋。

### 英语用法词典

不光是学英语的外国学生,就连母语是英语的英美人士也有挠头的语言问题。比如 all right 和 alright 哪个对? lighted和lit什么区别? data和datum的单复数是什么?再比如 abandon、desert、forsake有什么区别? conclusive、decisive、determinative、definitive 怎么区分使用? Merriam-Webster English Usage Dictionary 和 Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms 分别有解释。看到了吧,即使英语学习到了这个阶段,仍然是烦恼不断,仍然需要——看词典,这就是本文开头说的"不少人误认为自己不需要汉语词典"的意义所在。但话说回来,我还没有注意到汉语有这种用法词典。

当然,把英语当外语来学的入门级用法读物也有,比如语法与用法二合一的《<u>柯林斯</u> COBUILD 英语使用词典》。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

关键字: Collins COBUILD English Usage、Merriam-Webster English Usage Dictionary、Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms

## 一些专门的辞书

写到了这里,其实我们应该能明白了:<u>英语学习的是没有止境的</u>,<u>书是读不完的</u>,也是<u>买不</u>完的。虽然如此,仍然可以考虑一下这几种辞书。

一个是《<u>英语口语词典</u>》,它根据场合和主题分门别类列出口语表达方式,比如怎么表达"高兴",还比如在"银行"办事时要说什么话。

另外,对于学英语的外国人来说,一大苦恼是并非在英语环境长大,母语人士习以为常的物品和知识词汇对于我们来说是闻所未闻,比如缝纫机的各个部件是怎么称呼的?还比如监狱各个房间和设施是怎么叫的?从垃圾车到警车再到小孩的三轮车都是什么名字?这时图像词典就能帮上大忙了,推荐韦氏公司的《Merriam-Webster's Visual Dictionary》。

名人名言不但是学习的好素材,也是背诵的好材料。推荐 Webster's New Explorer Dictionary of Quotations, 当然还有业内评价最高的《<u>牛津引语词典</u>》和《Bartlett's Familiar Quotations》。

最后自然是少不了《大英百科全书》的。纸版的已经停印,虽然能买到,但价钱很贵,体积很大。跟《牛津大词典》一样,都需要配备专门的书架和书桌。不过,在电子时代,可以考虑不那么贵、几乎不占体积的电子版。桌上型的《企鹅简明百科全书》也可以考虑一下。

关键词: 口语词典、Merriam-Webster's Visual Dictionary、Webster's New Explorer Dictionary of Quotations、Encyclopedia Britannica、Penguin Concise Encyclopedia

# 5.5 好书推荐:《柯林斯高阶英语学习词典》

我今天推荐的书是<u>《柯林斯高阶英语学习词典》</u>。中国人<u>学英语</u>,一道很高的门槛就是单词。如果有一本英语学习词典我们可以当成好书来读,里面讲单词在每个场合下的意思,我们在使用这个单词时的想法、态度和心思,我们就可以在表达自己时自信地使用每个单词。整部词典每一页都有英语单词的"故事和经历",读过之后,我们就会与它成为"人生挚友"。这样的单词朋友,不知道要比"萍水相逢"、硬背下来的单词靠谱多少倍!

我这里只举一个例子来说明这部词典的妙处——

## 浪漫

#### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

何为"浪漫"?恐怕不容易讲得清楚。<u>《柯林斯高阶英语学习词典》</u>用细节让我们认识了什么是浪漫。

首先, 浪漫当然与爱情、婚姻有关。

A romance is a relationship between two people who are in love with each other but who are not married to each other.

"After a whirlwind romance the couple announced their engagement in July."

那什么样的人、什么事情才能称得上是"浪漫"呢? ——

Someone who is romantic or does romantic things says and does things that make their wife, husband, girlfriend, or boyfriend feel special and loved.

"When we're together, all he talks about is business. I wish he were more romantic..."

Romance refers to the actions and feelings of people who are in love, especially behaviour which is very caring or affectionate.

"He still finds time for romance by cooking candlelit dinners for his girlfriend..."

不过,要是什么事情都浪漫,过了头就是"不切实际"了:

If you say that someone has a romantic view or idea of something, you are critical of them because their view of it is unrealistic and they think that thing is better or more exciting than it really is.

"He has a romantic view of rural society.."

这部词典的魅力就在于此:一旦读懂了里面单词的故事,你就会难以忘怀。

这部词典我买了三本,从头到尾看过一遍,现在仍然爱不释手。希望你也<u>与她开始翻译学习之旅上的浪漫故事</u>。

# 5.6 推荐三本书: 《围城》、《全球通史》、《西方文明》

## 《围城》

这本小说我很久之前有过一本,不过借给了朋友。北京太大,后来一直没有再见面,这本书就一直没有回来。钱钟书的小说版《围城》和黄蜀芹导演,陈道明、英达、吕丽萍主演的电视剧版《围城》都堪称经典。好几年前买了一套电视剧 VCD,偶尔就拿出来重温一遍,我

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

还用自己锐利的眼神发现了其中的<u>一些穿帮镜头</u>。这本小说的主题、故事和情节以及所蕴含的"彼""此"之间的人生体验,再有 50 年也不会过时,有这次我入手的版次和印刷次数为证: 1991 年 2 月第二版,2010 年 11 月第 45 次印刷——就是说,我拿到的这本下生产线还不到两个月,比我儿子大不了多少!

### 《全球通史》(A Global History, From Prehistory to the 21st Century)

好几年前我草草看过一本首都图书馆的英文原版历史书,让对世界历史不是十分了解的我颇为感慨——经过在学校那几年的历史教育,我终于可以从<u>另外一个角度来透视世界历史以及中国和世界</u>。新书送到后,我打开一看,原来就是三年以前没有仔细研读的那本书!跟《围城》一样,真本书也是我的老朋友了。老友再访,不亦乐乎!

### 《<u>西方文明史</u>》(A brief history of Western Civilization, the Unfinished Legacy)

这本书的中文名叫《西方文明简史》更好,因为根据作者在前言中所言,它是《西方文明史》(Civilizations in the West)的简版。这次买的三本书,只有这本是新的。在大陆版的中文序言里,人民大学历史学院教授孟广林说,跟有的西方历史书不同,这本《西方文明史》没有把东方文明看作是"化外"或者"非主流",而采用了"一种客观的、联系的和发展的观点来追溯西方文明的历史足迹"。

我计划,看过这三本书之后,整理出一点感悟和心得,在博客上与网友分享。敬请关注。

# 5.7 英语词典和翻译学习

现在市面上的英语词典有几种,包括英汉、英英、英汉双解。汉英也算一种。我个人的经验是,初学翻译时,主要使用英汉词典。原因显而易见:在开始时,我们对英语一无所知或者知之甚少。这时,就需要在用汉语积累的各种知识和经验与英语中的相应知识和经验之间快速地建立起联系。英汉词典就能起到这个作用。

等我们以英语也掌握了不少知识和经验后(大部分是从汉语"转移"过来的),我们就能继续乘风破浪,在用英语描绘的世界里飞翔。当我们想展翅高飞的时候,会发现英汉词典已经远远不够用了。因为,虽然汉英两种语言都很发达,大多数情况下汉语中的一个概念,在英语中也能找到,但因为汉英两种语言使用者看同一问题的角度不一样,生活的政治、经济、历史环境有很大不同,很多概念并非一一对应(例如,汉语中的"政府"不一定与英语中的government 完全对等)。

这时,我们就需要英英词典来为我们揭开未知英语世界里的谜团了。在这个过程中,英汉词典永远是我们的"根据地",在英英词典遇到了难以理解的地方,就可以从根据找到支援。等我们在英语世界里也建立了一块"根据地"之后,在汉语中碰到的问题,也可以从英语那里得到支援。这个时候,我们会发现,并不是有些人想象的那样学好英语必须"忘掉"汉语。其实,

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

汉语不是学好英语的障碍,英语其实也能"反哺"我们的汉语学习(这时阅读汉英词典,有时会有恍然大悟的感慨)。两种语言越学越好,那么我们的翻译水平也会越来越高。

## 5.8 推荐三本词典

前面给大家隆重推荐过《柯林斯高阶英语学习词典》,这里再跟大家推荐几本不错的词典:

## 商务印书馆《朗文当代英语大辞典》(英英、英汉双解)

这本词典的英英部分确实不错,但其中部分英汉内容就不敢让人那么恭维了。从这本词典,我能感觉到中国社会里的躁动、急不可耐之风刮到词典编辑里面去了。它的不少英汉翻译译文都经不起仔细推敲,错误也不少见,欧化的汉译更是比比皆是。商务印书馆的招牌也没能拯救得了这本匆匆出版的词典。我之所以还推荐这部词典是因为它很独特:它是加入了一些百科知识的词典,我们在查找词汇的同时也能顺便了解不少背景知识。它可以提高我们学习英语的效率。至于其中的汉译部分,我们完全可以"三七开"。我的一个提醒是,汉语免疫力不佳(对什么是得体、通顺、正确汉语还没有太多概念的人)或者知识不够丰富(这部词典的汉语部分可能会提供不准甚至错误的信息)的人士慎用其中的英译汉部分。

## 外研社《汉英词典》(北大英文系编)

这本词典非常经典。如果把两类词典编辑态度分别比作旧版和新版电视剧《红楼梦》的制作态度,那么外研社《汉英词典》是用心制作的旧版《红楼梦》,而商务印书馆《朗文当代英语大辞典》英译汉部分就是赶工期制作出来的新版《红楼梦》。与《柯林斯高阶英语学习词典》对比,我们也能看出这本词典也体现出中国语言学习词典编辑大幅度落后于国外英语学习词典编辑的可叹境况。

### **Collins COBUILD English Usage**

相比于汉语学习词典,英语学习词典编辑的先进程度在这本词典里表现得淋漓尽致。与我们常见的词典不同,它着重解释的是单词的"用法"。词典一般只会把单词的意思解释清楚,而不会把每个单词具体怎么用、它与相关词汇之间是什么关系也来解释一遍。这些细节的知识正是中国一般英语学习者 10 年也未必能了解的"秘密"。想走翻译学习捷径的人,这本书不能不仔细研读,它能节省你几年的探索时间。

比如:

**Complete** is usually an adjective. For some of its meanings, you can use words like **more** and **very** in front of it.

Used to mean as great as possible

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

You usually use **complete** to say that something is as great in degree, extent, or amount as possible.

You need a complete change of diet.

They were in complete agreement.

When **complete** has this meaning, you do not use words like **more** or **very** in front of it.

这本词典分三部分,"用法"部分最多,占页数的一半以上,另外还有一些"语法"和"话题"。 其中的"话题"部分类似百科全书的处理方式。比如其中的 Meals 部分,就讲到了一天里吃的 各种饭和相关的词汇怎么说,相关的动词、介词、冠词用法等等。

# 5.9 读书笔记一则:《猪刚鬣:善猪恶拿》

最近几年,网上流行"翻案风",原来的民族英雄现在是某些人笔下阻碍民族团结的罪人。原来的汉奸呢,现在是某些人心目中的促成中华一统的英雄。其实这也难怪,各人看问题的角度不同,得出完全相反的结论也无其可惊奇的。

我觉得,在一定程度上这可能是现实世界中不同阶层人群之间利益冲突的一种反映。现在,中国是多元了;至少利益是多元了。但在我看来,这多元中代表最广大人民利益的声音比较小,跟其庞大的人数不成比例;反倒是那些人数少但力量强、资源多的少数人嗓门比我们大很多。说到底,中国的"话语权",不是归我们老百姓的。

趁着这股子"话语"热潮,我也加入其中。我这次要说的是猪八戒。齐天大圣的师弟、西去取经的唐僧的二徒弟猪八戒谁人不知谁人不晓?他可是保护唐僧去西天取经立下汗"猪"功劳的人物。但是且慢,相对于我这种有事也看看闲书的人来说,读者诸君对这位猪英雄所知可能还不够全面,请听我细细道来。当然,随着我读书活动的继续,关于猪八戒的内容也会慢慢完整起来。今晚我等不及了,故先写下一点儿供朋友们娱乐。

原来,人们对猪八戒的印象可能不算太好,觉得此人偷奸耍滑、做事没有横心,做了和尚还对富贵和美色念念不忘。这完全是大反派的典型!可是后来呢,有人发现他其实还是很可爱的。有人还为此专门做过调查,说现在的女性在选择配偶时,大都会选猪八戒,不会选白净俊俏、追求理想的唐僧,也不会选老实巴交、与世无争的沙僧或者神通广大但瘦小干枯的行者。原因据说是:同其他三个相比,猪八戒更像男人,而且是成功男人。窃以为,这些女同胞可能发现"成功男人"大都像八戒那样有能耐多吃多占,而且并不十分掩饰对富贵和美色的向往。

那吴承恩笔下的猪八戒到底什么样呢?

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

"八戒"这个大名鼎鼎的名号是唐僧后来给他起的,他原来的大名叫"猪刚鬣(音列,含义是猪)"。他原本是玉皇大帝麾下掌管天河大军的天蓬元帅,是统领千军万马的天神和干将。不过因为偶然喝醉了酒不知深浅地戏弄月宫的嫦娥,被不忿的玉皇大帝痛打一顿,踢出天门,滚落到凡间。他着急投胎,没想到忙中出错,投了个猪胎,生成了一头猪的模样。不太为人所知的是,他下凡为妖时,遇到了福陵山云栈洞的卵二姐。二姐看他武艺不错,就招他上门做了倒插门女婿。后来二姐死了,于是八戒就独占山洞为妖,每天吃人过活。

但猪刚鬣做妖怪毕竟不是长久之计,不但为主流社会所不齿,更于和谐社会无益。好在观音菩萨在去东土大唐物色西天取经人的路上遇到了他。我佛慈悲,要救他一救,就给他指明了一条出路,让他护送取经人西去天竺。猪刚鬣对菩萨感激不尽,愿意保护取经人去西天走一遭,于是观音菩萨赐名"猪悟能"。从此,老猪再不吃人,一边努力做他的和尚,一边等取经的人。

等待是难熬的,老猪就来到高老庄上,又与高翠兰做了上门的老公。其实,老猪的老丈人当初招他上门也是看上了能吃苦、肯干活的优良素质,觉得他是个不错的女婿。虽然他的饭量大得有些骇人,但干起活来也不是吃素的,田里田外、屋里屋外,都是把好手,为高老一家挣了不少的家产。但是高老发现老猪长相难看之后,很是不悦,因为他整天要听村里人说他家有个奇丑无比的女婿。这高老要反悔,要退掉老猪。老猪自然不愿意,就把老婆关在一间房子里,成天腾云驾雾,飞砂走石,早出晚归。

这样一来把邻居吓的够呛,亲戚也不敢来往了。高老就找和尚、道士来家里除妖。可惜这些和尚和道士不是"不济"就是"脓包",都摆不平老猪。正发愁时,唐僧和行者二人来到高老庄,知道妖怪"霸占民女"的事情。唐僧毕竟是有文化有见识的人,了解到基本的情况后,在谈到老猪饭量太大时,为未来的二徒弟猪八戒说了一句公道话:"只因他做得,所以吃得。"

悟空后来也从猪刚鬣那里打听这事的原委,回到高老家后也很为他的遭遇愤愤不平:人家猪刚鬣哪里配不上你家翠兰?论出身,他是天神下凡;论态度,到你家做牛做马;论成绩,三年来不知道给你们家挣了多少家资。他饭量是大了点儿,但是他吃的有理,总比光吃饭不干活强百倍吧?在这件事上,无论是吴承恩、唐僧,还是悟空,都觉得高老一家不够仗义。

可是呢,人就是以貌取人,高老就是嫌弃老猪相貌丑陋,也受不了别人说他家有个妖怪女婿这样的话。无奈何,行者悟空受人所托,好人做到底,总要去除了这个妖怪才是了局。而且,这也是他除妖的风格,遇到妖怪岂有不除之理?

后来,这个天神下凡的猪刚鬣、猪悟能加入了西去取经的队伍,并蒙师父所赐,得到了后来 让他名扬天下的大名:猪八戒。在取经路上,虽然他动摇过,也抵挡不住富贵、美色的诱惑, 但还是屡立战功,同师兄、师弟同心同德,把师父送上了西天。在我看来,每个人都有这样 或者那样的缺点。能像八戒这样,立了这么大的功,怎么着也算得个"成功人士"了!

其实在吴承恩的笔下,悟空和八戒对手戏的份量是很大的。比如,悟空斗八戒时,得知他也是受菩萨点化护送取经人的同志之后,八戒便甘愿束手就擒,让悟空反剪着绑了去见师父。

### 实用英语与翻译学习指南

悟空手有些重,揪得八戒耳根生疼。八戒抗议,悟空回答:"轻不成!顾你不得!常言道:'善猪恶拿'。"

噫!好一个"善猪恶拿"!猪,虽然是要被宰的,但是不动粗,想宰它也没那么容易。所以,我们虽然也是要被与我们利益不同的上一阶层屠宰的,但是想屠戮我们,也别让他感觉太容易了吧?嗷嗷大叫几声是必须的。因为,就算我们是再善良的"猪",到了他们的屠宰场,也不会得到善待的,此乃"善猪恶拿"。各位看官请牢记这话头。

# 第 6 部分:资源

在本部分中,我整理了一些学习材料和在线资源,请大家多加利用。有些是在线的免费资源,有些是需要购买的书。

## 6.1 翻译网站、博客

活龙翻译博客	翻译老西	CATTI 考试与新闻英语学习	超浦翻译
西贝博客	法律英语翻译	Alex's Translation Blog	<u>囊</u> 萤同安播唠嗑
在年华的快乐忧伤中成长		Once a Time in SH	<u>同传 Charle</u>
<u>译其心译其意</u>		Rock Steady	

# 6.2 在线翻译/词典

<u>有道</u>	<u>汉典</u>	<b>Dictionary</b>	Quotations Page	<u>一本词典</u>
<u>牛津词典</u>	<u>韦氏词典</u>	Free Dictionary	<u>Urban Dictionary</u>	谷歌翻译

# 6.3 新闻网站

雅虎新闻	<u>CNN</u>	<u>NPR</u>	<u>Forbes</u>	<u>Independent</u>
中国日报	<u>Telegraph</u>	<u>Reuters</u>	Mirror	The Guardian

# 6.4 网络电视台、电台

BBC Radio 4	<u>NPR</u>	<u>BBC</u>	<u>Radio</u>	

# 6.5 中国主题博客

WSJ	New Yorker	Lost Laowai	This is China	Mysterious China
Hidden Harmonies		China Law Blog		

# 6.6 图书

我的书柜:链接。

<u>余光中</u>	红楼梦	<u>哈利·波特</u>	<u>圣经</u>	古文观止译注
唐诗鉴赏词典	四世同堂	西方哲学史	<u>史记</u>	第三帝国兴衰
罗马帝国衰亡史	国富论			

# 6.7 工具书

柯林斯英语词典	陆谷孙英汉	<u>吴光华中英</u>	汉语歇后语词典	<u>简明词典</u>
古代汉语词典	汉语成语大全	生津简编	<u>韦氏大辞典</u>	<u>韦氏用法</u>
<u>韦氏图文词典</u>		生津引语词典	韦氏同义词	<u>辞海</u>
Garner's Modern American Usage		汉语谚语词典	现代汉语词典	薄冰语法
Roget's International Thesaurus		Chicago Manual	柯林斯用法词典	大英百科
朗文当代英语大辞典		<u>企鹅简明百科</u>		