

CONTEMPORARY
COLLEGE ENGLISH

CULTURAL BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS OF THE TEXT STRUCTURE



文化背景 与 语篇结构分析

主编 温伟力

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《现代大学英语》

**CULTURAL BACKGROUND &
ANALYSIS OF THE TEXT STRUCTURE**

文化背景与语篇结构分析

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• 武汉 •

内 容 提 要

本书编写完全与原教材同步,并且按原教材的课次顺序进行编辑,目的就是方便阅读者学习与欣赏。全书共六章,前四章每章十五个单元,后两章每章十二个单元,每单元前都附有自主学习指导。前四章每单元具体内容包括:(1)人文、大事件、历史、地理等文化背景知识,(2)语篇结构分析(每一篇课文 A 的主旨和段落提要);后两章每章具体内容包括:人文、大事件、历史、地理等文化背景知识。

本文仅供英语专业学习者进行阅读参考和自主学习使用。

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前 言

本套丛书是为英语专业学习者编写的自主学习指导丛书。该书提供了与《现代大学英语精读》(1—6册)教材相关的文化背景知识、语篇结构分析、作者和名人生平以及文章写作技巧。全套丛书共分两本:《文化背景与语篇结构分析》、《名人传记与作品赏析》,供英语专业1—4年级学生和水平相当的自学者以及授课教师使用。

《现代大学英语精读》是供大学英语专业学生和具有同等水平自学者使用的英语精读课教材。由于该教材起点高,大部分课文来源于英美原文材料,内容涉及人文、历史、地理、大事件等广泛的文化背景知识,且这些知识又散落在各种文献资料里,不仅查阅起来极其困难,而且理解上也有很大的难度,因此,给学生与教师在自主学习与教学中带来了很大的不便,广大师生迫切需要这方面的参考资料。

我院外语系选用《现代大学英语精读》作为综合英语精品课建设的教材。通过四年的综合英语精品课程建设,我们又以综合英语精品课建设阶段性成果为基础,申报了河南省哲学社会科学规划项目:“应用型英语专业基础阶段教学创新研究”。在开展教学研究与教材建设以及大力开展学生自主学习的过程中,我们发现了在现代大学英语精读教材中存在的部分需要迫切解决的问题。鉴于此,为了帮助学生自主学习和方便教师更好地讲授这套教材,深入了解与教材有关的历史文化背景、名人生平、语篇结构分析与文章写作技巧等相关知识,我们总结了多年的综合英语教学研究成果,参考现代大学英语精读教材的框架、通过广泛查阅英语百科全书以及互联网资源,为使用者们编著了这套自主学习指导丛书。这套丛书是我们多年来教学与科研成果的结晶,也是我们课题研究的主要阶段性成果之一。

本书为《文化背景与语篇结构分析》,是以《现代大学英语精读》(1—6册)课文A为框架,对书中的文化背景知识作了较详细的介绍,同时对文章的语篇结构也做了简要的讲解。

书中所引用的参考文献太多,不能全部标注出来,编者在此对所有原作者表示感谢。

由于缺乏经验,尽管编者做出了很大的努力,书中的错误仍在所难免,恳请使用本书的读者谅解,并给予批评指正。

参加本书编写工作的人员有南阳理工学院温伟力,陈晓霞,王黎生,辛晓琳,刘英爽,王玥晴,田园,雪征,张春红,刘婷婷,滕冰冰。其中温伟力担任本书的主编,负责全书的统稿和定稿工作。

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南阳理工学院外语系
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Chapter I

Unit 1 Half a Day

Naguib Mahfouz

Guide to Self-study

1. Understanding the cultural background knowledge about Cairo
2. Analysis of the text structure
 - A. Reading the text once for the theme
 - B. Reading the text twice for analysis of the text structure and give the outline of paragraphs

1. Cairo

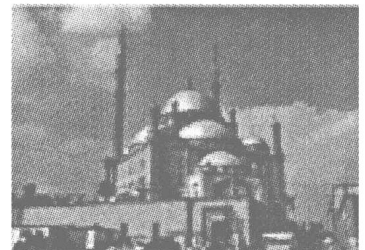


Cairo, Egypt, the Triumphant City, known officially as al-Qāhirah is one of the world's largest urban areas and offers many sites to see. It is the administrative capital of Egypt and, close by, is almost every Egypt Pyramid, such as the Great Pyramids of Giza on the very edge of the city. But there are also ancient temples, tombs, Christian churches, magnificent Muslim monuments, and of course, the Egyptian Antiquities Museum all either within or nearby the city.

Cairo, Egypt is an amazing city, full of life and movement, and it is that way almost 24 hours every day, with the noisy honking of horns, children playing in the streets and merchants selling their wares and services. And here, the Egyptians are most at home in this powerful, modern and ancient city

Cairo, Egypt provides great culture, including art galleries and music halls, such as the Cairo Opera House, as well it should, being one of the largest cities in the world. It also provides some of the grandest accommodations and restaurants in the world, such as the Four Seasons and the Cairo Marriott.

Cairo offers an incredible selection of shopping, leisure and nightlife activities. Shopping ranges from the famous Khan el-Khalili souk (or bazaar), largely unchanged since the 14th century, to modern air-conditioned centers displaying the latest fashions. All the bounty of the East can be here. Particularly good buys are spices, perfumes, gold, silver, carpets, brass and copperware, leatherwork, glass, ceramics and mashrabiya. Try some of



the famous street markets, like Wekala al-Balaq, for fabrics, including Egyptian cotton, the Tentmakers Bazaar for appliqué-work, Mohammed Ali Street for musical instruments and, although you probably won't want to buy, the Camel Market makes a fascinating trip. This is, and has been for over a thousand years, truly a shopper's paradise.

2. Analysis of Text Structure

A. Theme

This text tells us about the narrator's confusion over the speed with which his life seems to have passed, and the many changes that have occurred in his world.

B. Outline of Paragraphs

- 1) Part One (para. 1-7): The author described the boy's misgivings about school. The boy found it hard to be away from home and mom and thought school was a punishment for him.
- 2) Part Two (para. 8-16): How the boy felt about school. He found that life at school was rich and colorful in many ways, although it also required discipline and hard work.
- 3) Part Three (para. 17-20): The boy walked out of the school to find that the outside world had changed beyond measure and that he had grown into an old man.

Unit 2 Going Home

Pete Hamill

Guide to Self-study

1. Understanding the cultural background knowledge about American states and cities
2. Understanding the cultural background of the story
3. Analysis of the text structure
 - A. Reading the text once for the theme
 - B. Reading the text twice for analysis of the text structure and give the outline of paragraphs

1. Background knowledge about American States and Cities

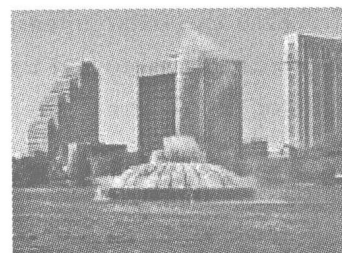
1.1 Florida



Florida—the “Sunshine State” Abbreviation: FL. It was named by the Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León in 1513. He called the region “La Florida”, roughly translated as Land of the Flowers. He probably chose this name because he was impressed by the many colorful flowers. Statehood for Florida came in 1845 (27th state). St. Augustine, founded by the Spanish in 1565, is

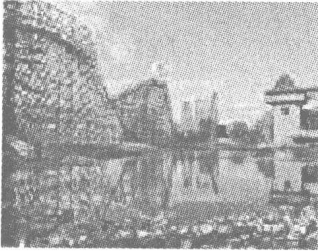
the oldest permanent European settlement in the continental United States. Florida is one of the leading tourist states in the United States. Great stretches of sandy beaches and a warm, sunny climate make Florida a year-round vacationland. People enjoy swimming, fishing and water skiing in the inland and coastal waters. Major attractions include Disney World, Miami Beach, the Everglades National Park and the Florida Keys. Tourists may also visit historic sites that date back to the Spanish explorers.

Flanked by the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, crisscrossed by river and streams and dotted with lakes, Florida is dominated by water. This abundance has not only shaped the landscape but provided a prefect playground for citizens and tourists alike. Florida with 14 million population is the southeast corner of United States just so far south it almost reaches tropics. The Florida peninsula measures about 430 miles from north to south, and the state as a whole covers an area of 58,560 sq. miles—roughly size of England.



The state capital is Tallahassee, a comparative small city in the Panhandle—the narrow strip of land extending west along the shore of the Gulf of Mexico. Florida's principal international gateways are Miami and Orlando.

1.2 New Jersey



New Jersey—the “Garden State” Abbreviation: NJ. It ratified the U. S. Constitution in 1787 becoming the third state to do so, and was the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights in 1789.

New Jersey is an aggressively industrial state, and has been throughout U. S. history. As far back as 1791, when Alexander Hamilton chose the Great Falls of the Passaic River as the site of a model factory town, industry began to shape the state. Then, throughout the 19th century, New Jersey saw transportation feed industry, as canals, railroads, roads, and ports were built. And on into the 20th century, as its highway and transportation systems improved, it has continued to reign as one of the leading industrial states in the country.

The Nicknames

The Garden State: This nickname seems to have originated at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia on Jersey Day, August 24, 1876. Alfred M. Heston states in his 1926 work, *Jersey Waggon Jaunts*, that “The Garden State” was used by Abraham Browning, of Camden. “In his address Mr. Browning compared New Jersey to an immense barrel, filled with good things to eat and open at both ends, with Pennsylvanians grabbing from one end and the New Yorkers from the other. He called New Jersey the Garden State, and the name has clung to it ever since.”

In later years, the explanation has evolved to reference New Jersey truck farms that provide floral and agricultural produce to cities in the area instead of an “immense barrel”. These farms have catered, particularly, to the New York and Philadelphia metropolitan areas. Some support the nickname with stories of the Revolutionary War and the food provided to soldiers by the small farms of New Jersey.

Probably the most intense promotion of this nickname for New Jersey began when the legislature voted to add the legend “Garden State” to New Jersey license plates in 1954, in spite of the Governor’s refusal to sign the bill, in part because “New Jersey is noted for its great strides in manufacturing, mining, commerce, construction, power, transportation, shipping, merchandising, fishing and recreation, as well as in agriculture. I do not believe that the average citizen of New Jersey regards his state as more peculiarly identifiable with gardening for farming than any of its other industries or occupations.”

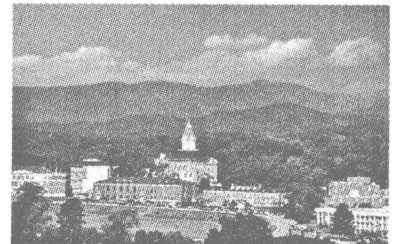
1.3 New York



New York—the “Empire State” Abbreviation: NY. The Dutch were the first settlers in New York. After the English took over in the 1660s, the colony was renamed New York, after the Duke of York. It is one of the original 13 states to join the Union (it entered in 1788). The state includes everything from skyscrapers in Manhattan to rivers, mountains, and lakes in upstate New York. Niagara Falls is one of the chief attractions. New York is the leading center of banking, finance and communication in the United States. Much of the state’s greatness lies in exciting New York City, the largest city in the United States and the fourth largest city in the world; its many theaters, museums, and musical organizations make it one of the cultural centers of the Western Hemisphere.

1.4 Georgia

Georgia—the “Peach State”, “Empire State of the South” Abbreviation: GA. Georgia, founded in 1732, is one of the original 13 states. It was named in honor of England’s King George II. Georgia is the largest state in the east of the Mississippi; the state’s large size and thriving industries have given it one of its nicknames, the Empire State of the South. During the Civil War, the fall of Atlanta was a crucial turning point in the defeat of the South. Today, Atlanta, which became Georgia’s capital in 1868, is a thriving city with major national corporations, and it is considered the economic and cultural center of the Southeast. The natural beauty and famous seaside resorts of Georgia are a major attraction for tourists. Many beautiful monuments and parks, including reminders of important Civil War battles and heroes, dot the Georgia countryside.



1.5 Fort Lauderdale



Fort Lauderdale, known as the “Venice of America” due to its expansive and intricate canal system, is a city in Broward County, Florida, United States. The city’s population is described as metropolitan, where diverse culture is commonplace. According to 2006 U. S. Census Bureau estimates, the city had a population of 185,804. It is the county seat of Broward County. Fort Lauderdale is a principal city of the South Florida metropolitan area, which is home to 5,463,857 people.

Fort Lauderdale is named after a series of forts built by the United States during the Second Seminole War. However, development of the city did not begin until 50 years after the forts

were abandoned at the end of the conflict. Three forts named “Fort Lauderdale” were constructed; the first was at the fork of the New River, the second at Tarpon Bend, in what is now known as the Sailboat Bend neighborhood, and the third near the site of the Bahia Mar Marina. The forts took their name from Major William Lauderdale, who was the commander of the detachment of soldiers who built the first fort. The city is a major tourist destination, with 10.35 million visitors in 2006. The city is a major yachting center, with 42,000 resident yachts and 100 marinas and boatyards. Fort Lauderdale and its suburbs host over 4100 restaurants and 120 nightclubs.

1.6 Jacksonville

Jacksonville is the largest city in the state of Florida and the county seat of Duval County. GR6 Since 1968, Jacksonville has been the largest city in land area in the contiguous United States; this resulted from the consolidation of the city and county government, along with a corresponding expansion of the city limits to include almost the entire county. As of the 2006 census estimate, the city proper had an estimated population of 794,555 with a metropolitan population of more than 1.3 million. Jacksonville is the third most populated city on the East Coast, after New York City and Philadelphia. It is the central city of the Jacksonville Metropolitan Statistical Area, the fourth largest metropolitan area in the state.



About 25 miles south of the Georgia border, Jacksonville is in the First Coast region of northeast Florida and is centered on the banks of the St. Johns River. The settlement that became Jacksonville was founded in 1791 as Cowford, because of its location at a narrow point in the river across which cattle were once driven. The city was renamed in 1822 for Andrew Jackson, the first military governor of the Florida Territory and eventual seventh President of the United States.

2. Analysis of Text Structure

A. Theme

This story tells us about the enduring love between husband and wife in spite of everything. The original title of the story is “The Yellow Ribbon”. The narrator objectively describes what happens on the bus, and he never enters the mind of the main character Vingo.

B. Outline of Paragraphs

- 1) Part One (para. 1-4): The introduction in which the setting is made clear (time; spring; place; a bus from NY to Florida; characters; Vingo protagonist, minor characters; 6 young people, 3 boys and 3 girls).
- 2) Part Two (para. 5-9): Where Vingo was going, why and how the young people got interested in what was going to happen.
- 3) Part Three (para. 10-12): Conclusion: Vingo was forgiven and welcome home.

Unit 3 Message of the Land

Pira Sudham

Guide to Self-study

1. Understanding the cultural background knowledge about Thailand
2. Learning the meaning of God the Creator
3. Analysis of the text structure
 - A. Reading the text once for the theme
 - B. Reading the text twice for analysis of the text structure and give the outline of paragraphs

1. Thailand



Thailand is the geographical heart of South-East Asia. The infamous golden triangle, located at the nation's northernmost point, is where Thailand's borders meet those of both Laos and Myanmar (Burma). The border with Myanmar continues to the west and then south as far as the Malay Peninsula, much of which is occupied by Thailand. On the east, the border with

Laos meanders southeast along the Mekong River until it reaches Cambodia, which is due to east of Bangkok, the Thai Capital. In the south is the Gulf of Thailand. Roughly the size of France (200,000 sq. miles), Thailand is composed of four main regions. The northern mountainous region contains numerous ruins and temples, the ancient city of Chiang Mai, and Thailand's highest peak, Doi Inthanon. This region is also home to the hill tribes of Thailand, distinct ethnic groups which settled in the area thousands of years ago after migrating from as far away as Tibet and central China. The north-east of Thailand occupies the semi-arid Korat plateau, the most desolate and least-visited part of the country. An interesting blend of Thai, Lao, and Khmer influences characterise the culture of the Korat. Central Thailand, which consists of the fertile plains surrounding the Chao Phraya River, is the country's most populous region and its rice basket. Thailand's alluring and congested capital city of Bangkok is located along the banks of the Chao Phraya. The southern region of Thailand, which stretches for hundreds of miles along the Malay Peninsula, abounds with stunning beaches and scores of tropical islands.



2. God the Creator

“Creation” means: to make from nothing, to call into existence, that is, to form a being from nothing. Biblical language gives us a glimpse of this significance in the opening words of the Book of Genesis: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” The word “created” is a translation of the Hebrew *Bara*, which describes an action of extraordinary power whose subject is God alone. Reflection after the exile resulted in a better understanding of the significance of the initial divine intervention. The Second Book of Maccabees finally presents it as a production “not out of things that existed”. The Fathers of the Church and theologians further clarified the meaning of the divine action by speaking of creation “from nothing”.

In the act of creation, God is the exclusive and direct principle of the new being, to the exclusion of any pre-existing matter.

As Creator, God is in a certain sense “outside” of created being and what is created is “outside” of God. At the same time the creature fully and completely owes to God its own existence (its being what it is), because the creature has its origin fully and completely from the power of God.

Through this creative power (omnipotence) God is in the creature and the creature is in him. However, this divine immanence in no way diminishes God’s transcendence in regard to everything to which he gives existence.

3. Analysis of Text Structure

A. Theme

The text tells us about the deep regret of the old people over the loss of traditional values and ways of life.

B. Outline of Paragraphs

- 1) Part One (para. 1-3): She briefly tells us about each member of her family and how all their children left home.
- 2) Part Two (para. 4-7): Give the changes that she finds she can’t adjust to.
- 3) Part Three (para. 8-11): What the farmer thinks are the roots of all evils. He also tells us what joys he finds in life and in farming.