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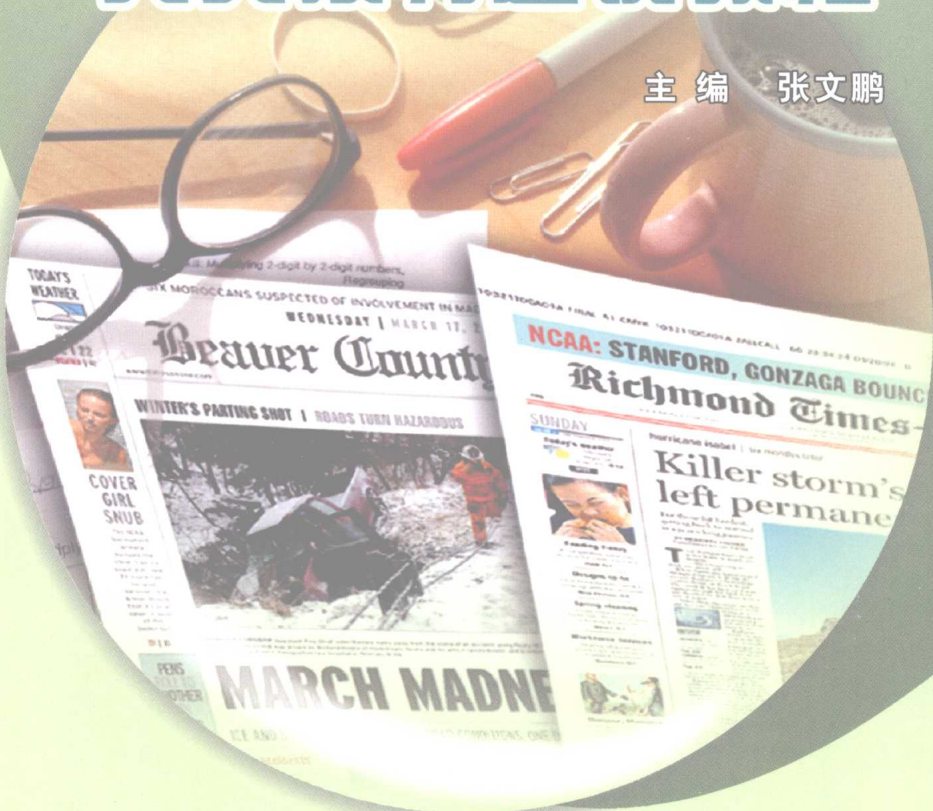
总主编 石坚
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语言技能类

Selected Readings from British and American Press

英美报刊选读教程

主编 张文鹏



重庆大学出版社

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内 容 提 要

本书以《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》为指导,严格按照选修课的课时要求和学生水平的实际需要,强调培养学生的语言技能。本书分为 Society, Economics, Fashion, Science & Technology, Sports, Entertainment, Psychology, Figures 八个单元,每个单元包括课文简介、课文(包括难点注释)、课后练习、背景资料及报刊语言特色介绍。本文选材精炼,练习设计实用多样,适合修读完大学英语四级并开设选修课的学生使用。

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总 序

我国的大学英语教学起步于 20 世纪 80 年代,经过 20 多年的发展,大学英语在教学水平、课程设置、教学方法、教学环境、师资队伍等各个方面都有了长足的进步和发展。但随着我国加入 WTO 和国民经济的快速发展,大学英语教学暴露出与时代要求不相称的一面。为适应现代社会对人才培养的实际需求,推动和指导大学英语教学改革,教育部于 2003 年颁布了《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》(以下简称《要求》),并于 2007 年结合对人才能力培养的新要求再次做了修订和调整,作为全国各高校组织非英语专业本科生英语教学的主要依据。

《要求》将大学阶段的英语教学分为一般要求、较高要求和更高要求三个层次,强调要贯彻分类指导、因材施教的原则,使英语教学朝着个性化的方向发展,要“将综合英语类、语言技能类、语言应用类、语言文化类和专业英语类等必修课程和选修课程有机结合,形成一个完整的大学英语课程体系,以确保不同层次的学生在英语应用能力方面得到充分的训练和提高”。这样,大力发展大学英语选修课就成了大学英语教学改革的重要课题。

大学英语选修课的开设不仅是《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》精神的体现,也是《教育部财政部关于实施高等学校本科教学质量与教学改革工程的意见》(以下简称《意见》)的内在要求,《意见》将“学生的实践能力和创新精神显著增强”作为教学改革的重要目标之一,而大学英语教学要在这方面有所作为的话,必须注重培养学生的跨文化交际能力、文化素养和在全球化、信息化的背景下获取知识的能力,这显然是传统的大学英语教学和课程设置所不能胜任的。

近年来,全国许多高校纷纷进行了开设大学英语选修课的尝试,并取得了可喜的成绩。但是由于指导思想不明晰、教师知识结构单一和配套改革滞后等原因,在大学英语选修课的开设中出现了“因人设庙”,开课随意性强,开课种类单一,各门课程难易不均,课程测试不规范,学生对各门课程的兴趣差异过大等问题。大学英语选修课的开设迫切需要某种程度的规范与引导,需要更为科学地设置选修课程,确实达到《要求》和《意见》中提出的目标。

针对以上问题,我们认为,一套由成熟理念指引的、体系科学的、建立在选修课开设的成功实践基础之上的系列教材能够起到这种规范和引导作用。因此,重庆大

学出版社组织来自全国各地的、在选修课开设方面走在前列的高校的专家和教师,在多次交流与反复论证的基础上,组织编写了这套《大学英语选修课系列教材》。该套教材具有以下明显的特点:

第一,教材体系科学、系统。系列教材以《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》为指导,覆盖语言技能类、语言应用类、语言文化类和专业英语类等四个板块,既注重语言基础知识的积累,也充分考虑对学生文化素质的培养,确保不同层次的学生在英语应用能力方面得到充分的训练和提高。

第二,坚持“实用、够用”的原则。在体例安排和内容选择上严格按照选修课的课时要求和学生水平的实际需要,力求精练,避免长篇累牍,在语言难度上体现了与英语专业同类教材的差别。

第三,注重知识与技能相结合,语言与文化相结合。在深入浅出地讲授知识的同时,结合课程内容尽可能多地为学生提供说与写的练习,在雕琢学生语言的同时,尽可能培养学生的跨文化交际能力和批判性思维能力。

第四,强调学生综合能力的培养。考虑到学生在选修课阶段可能不再修综合英语类的课程,各教材在主要训练与课程相关能力的基础上,适当补充了其他能力的训练内容。

第五,吸纳并总结近年来相关高校选修课开设的经验和成果。该套教材的参编者来自全国多所高校,多数教材是由开设该门课程最成功的、最受学生欢迎的学校和教师撰写,教材既吸纳了相关讲义的优点,又根据专家意见,按照学科要求和普遍情况进行了改编,在保证教材科学性的前提下,最大程度地体现了大学英语学生的选修取向。

选修课的开设是大学英语教学改革的重要发展方向,但是在改革中诞生的事物也必然不断地在改革中被重新定义,因此我们这套大学英语选修课教材的体系也将是动态的和开放的,不断会有新的教材被纳入,以反映大学英语教学改革在这方面最新的成功尝试。相信随着教学改革不断走向深入,我们的教材体系也将日臻完善。

总主编
2008年元月

前 言

本书适合修读完大学英语四级开设选修课的学生使用。本书针对大学英语六级和研究生学位英语考试,控制词汇量及难度。材料选自美英主流媒体,均是具有很强的思辨性和启发性的文章,选文时还考虑到非英语专业学生的阅读能力和选修课时的限制等因素,针对性、可读性更强。

本书分为两部分:纸质书籍和光盘。纸质部分选用美英主流媒体报道的重大国际事件或富有特色的经典性文章,光盘部分为时效性更强的拓展材料,如与所选新闻语篇报道相关的音频和视频材料,旨在加深学生对所选篇章的理解,丰富学生对新闻语篇所报道事件的体验。

全书分为八个单元:Society, Economics, Fashion, Science & Technology, Sports, Entertainment, Psychology, Figures。每单元包括三篇报刊文章。

每单元包括:1)课文简介;2)课文(包括难点注释);3)课后练习(阅读理解、报刊英语词汇学习、新闻写作、口语活动等);4)背景资料;5)报刊语言特色介绍。练习设计注重实用,旨在培养学生对新闻语篇的把握能力,提高阅读理解和写作能力。通过设计新颖的口语活动,如辩论、访谈、模拟新闻发布会等方式启发学生针对语篇所报道的事件发表独立的见解,增强学生的思维与口头交际能力。

编 者

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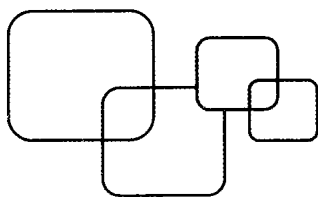
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Key to the Exercises

Unit 1 Society

Lesson 1

In Britain, Brown's Take on Organ Donation Boosts New Credo

By Mark Rice-Oxley

Lesson Tips

英国首相提出修改器官捐赠法,引发了一场关于自由主义家长制的争论。自由主义家长制,这个看似矛盾的政治主张在其支持者眼中是政府为公民利益着想,在不伤害公民个人自由选择权的前提下对公民的决定的善意干预和影响。支持者认为自由主义家长制可以让政府在不侵犯个人自由的同时使公民利益得到最大化,这些利益涉及公民健康、福利、环保等社会生活各领域。政府相对个人而言是否更能站得高看得远?公民是否能信任政府的干预和影响?公民该不该接受政府强制的爱?这些是自由主义家长制反对者们的疑问。自由主义家长制是利是弊、是好是坏,不是草草就可得出定论的,这场论战会是一场持久战。

Text

<p>address 处理,应对 shortfall 短缺 proponent 支持者 traction 吸引力</p> <p>libertarian paternalism (又称 soft paternalism) 自由主义家长制</p>	<p>When British Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced last weekend that every Briton should be enrolled in an organ donor register to help address a shortfall, it delivered a boost not just for advocates of transplant operations but for proponents of a new political philosophy gaining traction in the US and Europe.</p> <p>Libertarian paternalism sounds like an oxymoron — and an almost unpronounceable one at that. But in a world where individuals may be too busy or bewildered to work out where their best interests lie, a nudge from the state can help, say its proponents.</p>
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<p>oxymoron 矛盾修饰法 at that 而且 nudge (为引起注意的) 轻推 credo 信条</p>	<p>Not only could it boost the number of organs available for transplant, they argue, it could help smokers quit and obese people eat more healthily. It could protect gamblers from themselves, help limit carbon emissions, and boost national savings rates.</p>
<p>safeguard 保护 default option 默认选项</p>	<p>It is an economic credo that appeals to political leaders who see government as a force for good that wants to protect people from their own worst instincts, while safeguarding their liberty at the same time. The idea, objected to by proponents of strong individual rights, is that the state “frames” citizens’ choices so that the default option is the one generally considered most beneficial.</p>
<p>discrepancy (事实和宣称之间的)不符合或不一致</p>	<p>Take the organ donor situation. Hundreds die in Britain every year waiting for an operation because of a shortage of donors. Though polls show that 90 percent of the population supports the idea of organ donation, less than 25 percent have consented to participating.</p>
<p>get round to (较重要的事处理完后)处理某事</p>	<p>Experts blame the discrepancy on the fact that people have to formally enroll in such a program.</p>
<p>opt out 决定不参加, 决定退出</p>	<p>“The problem,” says Noel Davies of the UK Transplant authority, “is that people lead busy lives and just don’t get round to joining the register.”</p>
<p>win-win 双赢</p>	<p>Brown said he wants to change this. Everyone should automatically be enrolled, but with the right to opt out. A similar system operates in Spain. Donor rates there are 250 percent higher than in the United Kingdom.</p>
	<p>Or consider retirement savings. Company pension schemes are generally a win-win. They come with tax breaks and contributions from employers. It is usually in the employee’s interest to sign up. But enrollment is normally an option — one many people don’t get around to taking.</p>
	<p>Research has shown that enrollment rates soar if the “default” is to enroll people and give them the right to opt out. US presidential candidate Barack Obama has declared he will enact such a change to workplace pensions if elected president.</p>
	<p>When it comes to things considered bad for citizens, such as smoking, overeating, and gambling, libertarian paternalists see all kinds of options — many of them controversial.</p>
	<p>Julian LeGrand, a former British government adviser and London</p>

<p>opt in 决定参加</p>	<p>School of Economics professor, asks, for example, whether as many people would smoke if they had to “opt in” as smokers; if they had to apply for a license at the start of every year, fill in forms, and be issued a pass without which one couldn’t buy cigarettes. This changes the default position, he says. Smokers still have a choice. But the default is not to smoke, and opting in requires time and effort.</p> <p>On gambling, two US states have deployed a similar technique, by encouraging problem gamblers to sign up to voluntary schemes that forbid them from entering casinos. More than 10,000 have signed up in Missouri alone.</p> <p>As for food, two of the earliest proponents of libertarian paternalism, the Chicago-based economists Cass Sunstein and Richard Thaler, argued that consumer decisions could be influenced by the position of food in a hypothetical cafeteria. Make the fruit more prominent than the ice cream, they said, and people will eat better.</p>
<p>tick 打勾 (以示选择)</p>	<p>Other experts in different fields see potential for changing behavior for the “better” by altering the default. Take carbon offsetting. Currently it’s an option: you take a flight, and if you’re feeling green or concerned about climate change, you might tick the box to pay a little extra to offset the greenhouse gases emitted by the plane. But if the default was buying the offset, and you had to tick the box to opt out, uptake would be far greater, argues Simon Retallack, a London-based environmental expert. “Research says the public are much more likely to go along with offsetting if it’s assumed they will offset but can opt out if they don’t want to,” he says.</p> <p>Yet those concerned about individual freedom see problems with this kind of paternalism.</p> <p>Norman Lamb, a Liberal Democrat in British Parliament, says people should be left to make judgments themselves, and worries that if people are signed up for things unawares “then that undermines their freedom in a way that would be unacceptable.”</p> <p>AC Grayling, a philosophy professor at London’s Birkbeck college, says that the general principle that the state must protect the liberty of the individual is at risk. “The thought that there is one impossible conception of a good life which the state knows and wants to impose is inimical to that great principle,” he argues.</p>
<p>inimical 有害的;不利的</p>	

Prof. Robert Sugden, an economist from the University of East Anglia in England, worries that the idea “presupposes that the state has a better view than individuals” and says the era when people happily trusted government officials to know what is best for them is over.

“I think it’s an idea whose time has passed,” he says. “What are the restrictions that people will genuinely choose for themselves, where they really want government to intervene to protect them? My view is that there are many fewer of these than libertarian paternalists think.”

The Christian Science Monitor, 17 January, 2008

Exercises

1. Decide, according to the article, whether the following statements are true or false.

- ___ 1) Proponents of libertarian paternalism claim that the state can help individuals find where their best interests lie.
- ___ 2) In Brown’s new organ donation program, everyone will be automatically enrolled and has to stay in this program forever.
- ___ 3) In libertarian paternalism, “default option” is the one automatically selected by the state for its citizens and is regarded beneficial by libertarian paternalism proponents because it serves the interest of the citizens.
- ___ 4) Some experts believe that if the default position for flight passengers is that they are automatically in carbon emission offsetting with the right to opt out, more passenger will get involved the offset.
- ___ 5) When Barack Obama was running for the US presidency, enrollment of pension schemes was not a “default option” for company employees.
- ___ 6) In AC Grayling’s opinion, libertarian paternalism is against the state’s general principal of protecting individual liberty by imposing what the state believes to a good life.
- ___ 7) Though organ donation is a “default option” in Spain, it has lower donor rates than in the United Kingdom.
- ___ 8) Changes in default position may decide people’s smoking habit.

2. Questions for further discussion.

- 1) If organ donation becomes a default option in the UK, do you think many people will choose to opt out? Why?
- 2) What is an oxymoron? In your opinion, why is it said that libertarian paternalism sounds like an oxymoron?
- 3) Libertarian paternalism is sometimes called soft paternalism. Do you know what is hard paternalism and how is it different from soft paternalism?
- 4) Can you find some examples either for or against the claim that default position will have some impact on people's behavioral patterns?

Background Information

英首相拟修改器官捐赠法

按照目前英国法律,英国公民只有填写器官捐赠卡或获家属同意,死后的器官才可用作移植用途。英国首相戈登·布朗同意提出修改法例,如果英国公民生前没有填写明确的反对证明,将视为同意死后器官用作捐赠移植,医院可以直接从尸体移植器官拯救病人。

布朗说英国移植器官的短缺是“一个我们能够而且必须解决的可避免的人间悲剧”。英国目前每年有超过一千名病人,由于未能等到器官移植而离世,布朗称这种情况为一个“可避免的人间悲剧”。他指出目前在英国有超过 8 000 人在等待着器官移植,这个人数以每年 8% 的速度在增长,但是每年只有 3 000 人等到了器官移植。布朗希望在政府做最后的决定前就器官捐赠这一十分敏感的话题展开国民的大讨论,并以西班牙为例,指出“推定同意”制度(presumed consent)在西班牙的实施大大增加了可移植器官的数量。在西班牙,每 100 万人中有 35 人的器官捐赠给医院。在英国,每 100 万人中有 13 人的器官捐赠给医院,而在美国每 100 万人中有 25 人的器官捐赠给医院。

布朗表示,“推定同意”这种制度有可能消除英国器官捐赠移植所带来的益处与目前器官捐赠制度的局限性之间存在的巨大差距。目前也在器官捐赠名册上的布朗首相表示希望这个制度可以在今年推出。

英国健康大臣本·布拉德肖认为新建议有助于挽救数以千计的生命,减少医疗成本。他说:“一想到英国目前每年有超过 1 000 名病人,由于未能等到器官移植而离世,而我们的器官捐赠水平却很低,我们所能做的正确事情就是挽救那些人的生