印英语语辞典

DICTIONARY OF CHINESE & ENGLISH PROVERBS

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爱丽丝亚•雷

李幽奇

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广西师范大学出版社

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陈序

接到星平兄的书稿,吓了一大跳,掂掂斤两,足有一麻袋那么多,心想,这么大的"巨蓍",可真是一项重大的工程。

说到大工程,一点也不为过。星平兄为写此书,参考了中外书籍数百册,访谈数百人次,前后费时十余年,真可谓"慢走强如站,慢工出细活"。

本书涵盖之广,搜罗之丰,也是古今罕见,举凡一般俗语 (Common Sayings)、古谚(Old Sayings)、箴言(Moral Maxims)、俚语(Slangs)乃至譬世语(Aphorisms)、讽喻语(Allegories),无不应有尽有,不仅对学习英文的人是一份宝贵的辞库,对研究中国方言(Dialects)和口语(Colloguialism)的人,也是难得的参考资料。研究谚语的书籍,中外皆有,但以中英对照方式,而有系统处理者,却不多见,主要的困难在于中英文语言结构各异,同时文化的差距也很大,如果勉强对比拼凑,常有不伦不类之虞。而星平兄能突破文字上的障碍,纯以语义与功能立场比照,愈显其功力之深。本书读来,时而令人会心莞尔,时而令人拍案叫绝,饭后睡前偶尔读之,确能使人消痰化气,心旷神怡。

我从事英语教学三十余年,深恨中文读得太少,英文学得不够,常有力不从心之感。记得梁实秋老师生前曾说:"中文学不好的人,英文也好不到哪里去。"他的意思并非指学习英文就必须先学中文,而是说我们中国人学英文,如能把本国语文基础打好,才能融会贯通,达到登峰造极的境界。想想几位前辈大师,如林语堂等,

无不先有深厚的国学基础,而后能学贯中西。梁先生的话确有道 理。

星平兄担任公职,平时工作繁忙,尚有余服从事英文研究著述,令我万分敬佩,所谓"看花容易绣花难"(引书中语),他写此书纯为兴趣,看他举重若轻,信手拈来,足见其造诣之深。相信他所投入的心血不致白费,本书定能给万千读者带来莫大的助益。

陈 永 昭 谨 识 于文大西洋文学研究所 1990年12月

许 序

使用语言文字作为意思表达、沟通和思考的工具,乃是万物之灵的人类的独特能力。在人类使用的语言文字中,其中有一部分属于流传久远的谚语隽辞,更是代表人类智慧的不朽结晶。往往就是简简单单的几个字或一句话,却道出了人世间无尽的悲欢离合与沧海桑田。其朴直者,明心见性,无限禅机;其隽永者,如松风山月,涤尽俗尘;有属道德规范者,如暮鼓晨钟,发人深省;也有几女私情,呢喃软语,柔情蜜意。我们往往从一个民族或社会所流传的谚语,可以感受到他们的生活面貌和风土人情。

尽管谚语以最具乡土气息的方式反映一国文化,但是由于人类在其最深层或最原始的爱恶和感情上,仍然存在有互通声息之处,使得不同文化所成长的谚语,也不乏有灵犀相通的例子,一旦捕捉,令人不胜惊喜和感叹。但是,要能做到这一点,我们必须对于这不同社会或语文,都能达到相当深入的了解和体会。

而目前呈现在读者面前的,正是这样的一部巨著。蔡星平教授以他深厚的文学素养、广博的人文知识以及良好的中英文造诣,将流传于我国各地的俗谚以及蕴藏于文籍中的古谚广为搜集,并细载其出处,自《左传》、《史记》以至于《拍案惊奇》、《齐东野语》;自《水浒传》、《金瓶梅词话》以至于《菜根谭》与《论语》,多达 977 则。除将此等中国谚语与其相当的英文谚语比较排列外,并列举例句,寻求相类谚语,使得本书除供民俗、文学等方面研究之助外,更可使阅读本书增加无限情趣。

蔡教授之术业有其专攻,平时工作亦极繁忙,但能以兴趣所在,孜孜不倦于中英谚语之比较研究,令人感佩。尤其细阅本书,对于其广征博引,体例完整,使读者受惠良多,更属一大贡献。个人有幸与蔡教授共同任教于台大管理学院,现乐见佳作问世,特级数语,既属庆贺,亦为推介,想蔡教授不以为忤也。

许士军 敬识 1990年1月1日 于台大管理学院

PREFACE

In these days of pocket calculators, pocket radios, and pocket dictionaries, we can say that a nation's proverbs are its pocket wisdom. Proverbs condense the wisdom of experience from many important areas of life into a short, vivid form that can be carried in one's memory, ready for use when needed. Thus proverbs become an important part of the everyday language of a people, a quick means of applying centuries of wisdom to ordinary present-day situations. Therefore, if one wishes to develop a truly broad facility in the use of a language, one must learn its proverbs.

In addition to developing language skill, a study of proverbs will also help one to understand how the people of a particular culture think and view the world, Not only will one find ideas that are different from those of one's own culture, but even more fascinatingly, one can discover many areas where people in very different cultures have had similar experiences and hold similar perspectives. Sometimes these ideas that are held in common are expressed in different ways that reflect the particular genius of each culture.

Professor Tsai's research has provided for us a book which compares the proverbs of Chinese and English by placing together those of similar meanings, along with illustrative examples. A careful study of this book is sure to bring the skills, enjoyment, and in-

crease of understanding described above. Thus, it should be of interest not only to students of the Chinese and English languages but also to everyone who would like to learn more about how people in another culture think. I feel that such a study of proverbs will reveal to us not the minds of strangers but the hearts of brothers.

Alicia D. Lloyd Taipei, November 1990

INTRODUCTION

This book presents a collection of proverbs from all over the English-speaking world. The material collected here is gathered not just from standard British and American forms, but also from less widespread, but often more vivid or flavorful, local dialect forms. It differs from other such collections, however, in that it provides, for each proverb, corresponding proverbs and sayings from all over the Chinese-speaking world — and again, with many colorful dialect variants.

The inclusion of sample sentences for the English proverbs, showing the various ways these can be used, makes this a valuable tool for students of English-especially since the sample sentences are carefully explained in Chinese. At the same time, the student of Chinese who is familiar with English will be able to learn a great deal from these explanations and from the juxtapositions of Chinese and English sayings. Both types of students will benefit from the indexes, both Chinese and English, to the main text-and also from the cross-references between the proverbs themselves, which allows one to look for the one most closely corresponding to the shade of meaning one is trying to express.

Not only students of language, but also students of cultural style will find food for thought in this collection-and translators,

too, will be able to refer to it at times when some seemingly standard phrase is being deployed in some unfamiliar ways, or perhaps when stuck for the best way to render a particular turn of phrase appropriately.

It is, of course, not possible to present every possible variant on every possible proverb that has ever existed, not would it be desirable: that bulk of available material is much too large, for one thing. For another, such a collection would hardly be useful: there would be so many out-of-date and otherwise obscure and little-used sayings that it would be quite unwieldy for anyone simply trying to, say, improve his command of English, or find a Chinese equivalent for some English phrases.

This collection aims at being practical, at being useful, rather than at burying the reader under a great pile of linguistic and literary fossils. It is not, of course, strictly limited to the most frequently used sayings-the collection is somewhat broader than strictly necessary precisely to help with the occasional odd variant, and to include some piquant alternatives to possibly over-used expressions. But the great aim is to be useful, not decorative.

Of course, in any work of this sort a certain number of errors must creep in, no matter how careful the editing and proof-reading. We hope that our readers will inform us of any problems they may have and give us their suggestions for improving our work.

Although this book is intended to serve very definite practical functions, it also has a larger purpose; to help increase communication and understanding between the Chinese-speaking and English-speaking worlds, not just in terms of daily communication, but also in terms of thought and culture, in the hope that an increase in

communication can lead to an increase in the harmony and cooperation that the world so much needs, and that will ultimately be to the benefit of all.

Professor Ts'ai has been working at assembling, editing and compiling this collection for some six years, whenever he has had sufficient spare time. He offers it to his readers with the sincere hope that they will be able to get not only benefit but also enjoyment from using it.

Richard Brzustowicz, Jr., M. A. Instructor, national Chengchi University December 1990

自 序

谚语为人类生活经验累积之精华以简短语言表达之。各种族 生活经验必多相似,故各国谚语亦多相类似乃至相同者。

目前世界应用最广之语言莫过于中英文。笔者数年前开始搜集中英谚语之相类同者,予以排列研究,愈益发现中英谚语相类同者何其多,故特编辑成册,增列相对中英谚,增写例句译意明确切贴,使读者一目了然,确为研究中英谚语的一本好书。

英谚多属古今之分,少有地域之别,而中谚除古今之分外,各省区更有其不同之表达方式,故中谚数目倍于英谚,内容丰富、诙谐、讽刺、劝世、激励兼而有之,本书尽量将各省之谚语并列以便比较。

本书参考书籍多达二百余种,编写工作时断时续,致延续多年,承蒙协助之友人甚多,如提供宝贵意见者,有台大朱炎教授、中山大学余光中教授;提供宝贵资料者,有台大张素敏小姐、同仁陈祥登、陈鸿瀛、简上仁、苏顺益先生;协助例句中译者,有政大谢美莎小姐、同仁廖碧兰、叶如茵、陈玲小姐及谢耀墩、蔡春标先生。至于提供英文方面宝贵修订意见者有文化大学西洋文学研究所所长陈永昭教授,外国友人台大教授 Sister Mariette,技术学院教授 Dr. Alicia Lloyd,政大教授 Mrs. Carol Draper,讲师 Mr. Richard Brzustowicz, Jr. (M. A.)及 Mr. Matthew Evan Slatkin,并蒙其中四位作全书总校订,二位赐序,最后并蒙台大管理学院院长许士军教授赐序,诸位之协助均使本人铭感五中,在此本书出版前夕特敬表万分谢意。

本书虽经多次校对,讹误难免,尚望海内外读者发现赐教,俾 再版时修正。各省区读者如有相关优良谚语亦请不吝赐教,以便增 列。

> 禁星平 于台湾大学管理学院 1991年1月



穷人无本,工夫是钱。(俗谚) 有工,就有夫。(台湾) 有工夫就有头路。(台湾)

Ability is a poor man's wealth.

〔原文直译:才能是一个穷人的财富。喻指有才干的人只要肯努力上进必有成就。笔者特以真人实事为例句以鼓舞年轻人初踏入人浮于事之社会,不怕自己赤手空拳,只要诚信而勤奋努力,必有所成。〕

Example:

- (1) Wang Yuan Kin, a poor boy fifty years ago, started from scratch and founded his Forosa Plastics Group, the only private Chinese company to be listed in the world top 50 big chemical companies. Ability is a poor man's wealth.
- (2) Chang Yung Far, the founder of Evergreen Marine Corporation, started on a shoestring and built his Eastern shipping empire through talent and hard work. His company even became the largest container transportation corporation by volume in the whole world. Ability is a poor man's wealth.
- (3) Lo Kun Nan grew up in a poor family, but built up the world famous "Kennex", tennis racket and the relation group by his endeavor and foresight. Ability is a poor man's wealth.

- 例句:(1)王永庆,五十年前一个穷苦的小孩,白手起家建立其台湾 塑胶关系企业,是个唯一被列入全世界五十大化学公司 名单的中国私人公司。所谓穷人无本,工夫是钱。
 - (2)张荣发,长荣海运公司之创办人,白手起家,凭其才干与 勤奋建立其东方海运王国。其公司之货柜运输量甚至已 达全世界第一位。所谓穷人无本,工夫是钱。
 - (3)罗光男,出身于穷苦家庭,但由于其努力与远见而创立了世界名牌"肯尼士"网球拍及其关系企业。所谓穷人无本,工夫县钱。

生离如死别。(古谚) 世上万般愁苦事,无如生别与死离。(华北) 宁隔千里远哪! 莫隔一层板哪!(陕西) 愿隔千里远,不隔一块板。(俗谚) 宁隔千里远,不隔一层板。(山东)

Absence from those/one we love is worse than death.

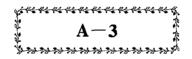
〔原文直译:与所爱之人生离其悲苦甚于死别。中西方对生离与死别感受有所不同,我国人认为死别之痛苦甚于生离,如上中谚第三至五句。而西谚则相反,何者为真,惟有当事人亲历者知之。但笔者认为生离之苦尚有已时,而死别之痛无有了期,故应以我国人之感受较合情理。〕

Parting is such sweet sorrow.

〔原文直译:别离是如此严重的愁苦事。含义同上。〕

Example:

- (1) Absence from one we love is certainly worse than death for Willa. She's been so depressed since her husband went abroad to study that she has lost 30 pounds.
- (2) He had a very good job overseas, but he came back to his hometown to live with his family. Absence from those we love is worse than death.
- 例句:(1)对伊娜而言,生离其悲苦甚于死别。自从她丈夫出国留学以来,愁苦伤悲得瘦了三十镑。
 - (2)他在海外有很好的工作,但是他仍返回故乡与家人生活 在一起。因为生离如死别。



天有不测风云,人有旦夕祸福。(俗谚) 天有时刻阴晴,人有当时祸福。(山东) 天有不测风云,人有暂时祸福。(清平山堂话本) 天要变,一时间。(台湾)

Accidents will happen. (简式)

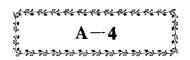
Accidents will happen in the best-regulated families.

〔原文直译:即使最有规律之家庭也有意外发生。喻指祸害随时随 地均可发生,无人能预料。〕

Misfortunes also come at night.

[原文直译:晚上祸患也来临。意祸患之来不拘时间。含义同上。] Example:

- (1) Just when business was good, there was a fire in the ware-house. Misfortunes also come at night.
- (2) Dick spent all last night at the lab, finishing up his dissertation. After typing the last page, he went home to sleepand when he came back today he found the rats had gotten out of their cages and torn it all up. Accidents will happen, I suppose.
- (3) Just because you've gotten the vice-presidency so early, don't think you can get careless. Misfortunes also come at night, you know.
- 例句:(1)正当营业兴盛时,想不到仓库里发生了火灾。真是天有不 测风云,人有暂时祸福。
 - (2)昨晚狄克整夜泡在实验室里,完成了他的学位论文。他打完最后一页后回家睡觉,今天回去发现鼠辈逃出笼子把他的论文通通撕破。真是天有不测风云,人有旦夕祸福。
 - (3)正因为你这么快登上副总裁之位,不要以为你就可以安 枕无忧。你要知道天要变,一时间。



坐而谈不如起而行。(俗谚) 言不顾行,行不顾言。(古谚——孟子·尽心下) 言者多不顾行,谈者多不真知。(俗谚) 不卖油,光敲梆。(俗谚) 只晓得谈狗,不晓得打狗。(俗谚)