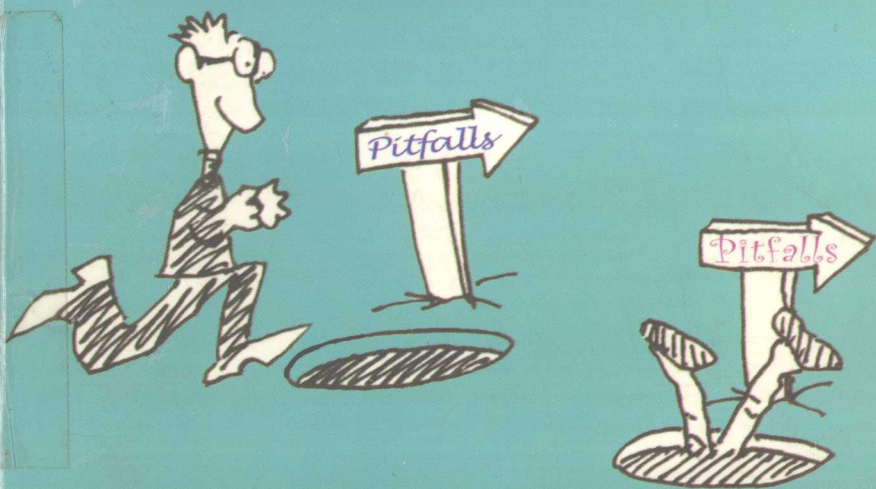


英语陷阱

——你的英语又错了!!!

A Study of
English Pitfalls

卢思源 著



人民教育出版社

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序

本书搜集了 132 个令人感到困惑的英语句式,这些语句的实际涵义与其字面意义大都大相径庭,因而极易为一般英语学习者所误解或误用。例如,有人把 *Are you a good sailor?* 译作:“你是个好海员吗?”把 *What a shame!* 译为:“真可耻!”将 *He ate his words at last!* 译作:“他终于食言了!”其实,这些都是错译。正确的译法第一句应该是:“你会晕船吗?”;第二句是:“真可惜!”;第三句是:“他终于收回前言,并认错道歉!”如用英语阐述,这三个句子相当于:“*Aren't you liable to be seasick?*”, “*What a pity!*”和 “*Finally he took his words back and said in a humble way that he was wrong.*”

笔者在详尽解说每个题例的淆惑之处后,指出应如何正确理解和翻译这些文句,然后给各题例附上类例数句,帮助读者举一反三,触类旁通,从而提高理解英语的能力。

应当在此指出,我国的大中学生在理解和翻译这些常见和常用的英语句式和词语时,常会犯下一些令人费解的错误,究其原因,他们在学习英语时,对这些句式和语句囫圇吞枣,不求甚解,只看到语言的外壳结构和表层意义,没有去揣摩这些特殊句型和词语的深层意念和实际涵义,故在日后应用时会犯“张冠李戴”的毛病,写出或译出各种令人不知所云的文句。

本书拟融合各类典型错误于一体,对错误现象及其根源详加分析,并从翻译学(参阅句型 2, 9, 40, 59, 131……)、语法学(参阅句型 16, 19, 23, 106, 119……)、词汇学(参阅句型 5, 6, 25, 85……)、修辞学(参阅句型 83, 110, 112……)、逻辑学(参阅句型 38, 79, 89……)、语音学(参阅句型 120, 121……)、特殊句式



(参阅句型 4, 64, 68, 72, 76, 84, 89……)、特殊表现法(参阅句型 12, 62, 102, 106……)、标准英语和地方方言的区别(参阅句型 24, 86……)等不同的角度提供大量有关的正误例证及有用的语用知识,使读者在今后学习英语时对此类句式倍加注意,以免重犯类似的错误,并帮助他们在原有的英语理解、翻译和应用水平上更上一层楼。

本书在探讨某些句式或词语时,顺便指出海内外出版的某些英汉大词典的类似错误译例,以引起读者要倍加注意;有时候,在论述某些有争论的现象时,引用国外比较知名的论著和学者的观点,以之佐证和增强可信度。

本书的大部分是笔者在香港工作期间撰写的,为此,书中出现了不少香港的地名和用语,但它们并不会影响大陆读者的理解和学习。

笔者结合中国人学习英语的特点,针对一般大中学生最容易误解和误用的句式编成此书。此书除了可供大中学生作参考读物之外,亦可供具有一定英语水平的读者作为自修读物。

卢思源

于上海和平花苑

2004 年 8 月 22 日



自我小测验

读者可以利用本书,给自己的英语水平作一个小测验:本书 132 个句子中,如果读者自译有八成正确,那你的英语水平可以算是不错了。如果只有六成正确,那只能说勉强及格。如果对的不足一半,那就需要认真学习一下,特别是要仔细把本书好好看看,以免掉到“陷阱”中去。

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130. Work and play are both necessary to our health; *this* gives us rest, and *that* gives us energy. 287
131. What the heart thinks, the tongue speaks. 289
132. What is learned in *the cradle* lasts to *the grave*. 292

~~~~~  
 He is a bicycle doctor.  
 ~~~~~

他是自行车修理工。

此句不能译作：“他是个骑自行车的医生”，因句中的 *doctor* 是委婉语 (*euphemism*)，是对某种职业的美称，故不作“医生”解，而是表示 *repairman* 的涵义。委婉语起源于远古，维多利亚女王时代中期为其鼎盛时期，在现代英语中，其出现频率依然颇高，因为人们通过委婉语，可以用温顺悦耳的词语去谈论或叙述一些原来令人不快或听来逆耳之事物。为此，他们用 *domestic help*, *day help* 或 *live-in help* 代替 *maid* 或 *servant* (佣人)；以 *custodian* 或 *superintendent* 替代 *doorkeeper*, *caretaker* 或 *janitor* (看门人或管理人)；用 *She has a tile loose.* 或 *She has a cylinder missing.* 去代替 *She is crazy.* 或 *She is not right in the head.* (神经失常)。

委婉语多如恒河沙数，不胜枚举，在此略举数例，以见一斑：

	原 称	委婉语
无线电修理工	radio electrician	radio doctor
理发师	barber	cosmotologist
妓女	whore	working girl / street girl
家庭妇女	housewife	household executive
收垃圾工人	garbage collector	sanitary engineer
老年	old age	second childhood
老人	old people	senior citizens
假牙	false teeth	dentures



小解

piss

urinate / number one

最后请看几个委婉语类例：

Nowadays many **weight-watchers** would like to go to the gym.

如今有不少肥胖的人喜欢到健身房去锻炼。

That luster has taken a fancy to **Middle Eastern dancing**.

那个好色之徒现在开始喜欢看肚皮舞。

Social diseases are on the increase in Hong Kong.

香港的性病在不断增多。

They are **the culturally deprived**.

他们是没有学识的人。

A library of teaching materials for preventing teenage suicides will open for **educators** in Hong Kong this year.

今年香港将为教师开设一家图书馆以提供防止青少年自杀的教学资料。

值得注意的是，委婉语虽然是“古已有之，于今为烈”，但决不能用得过多过滥。使用时要考虑场合和对象，如用得不得体，反而会使你“欲礼而不达”，甚至令人不知所云，一头雾水。

君若不信，请看下例：

Mrs. Smith's husband died a few days ago. Her neighbor Mrs. Brown happened to be somewhere else and knew nothing about her husband's death. When she came home, Mrs. Smith had a talk with her;

Mrs. Smith: I felt so lonely all these days!

Mrs. Brown: Since then, why don't you stay with your husband?

Mrs. Smith: He's gone.

Mrs. Brown: Gone? Then why didn't you go with him?



~~~~~  
*He is a good sailor.*

他不会晕船。  
 ~~~~~

此句不能译作：“他是一个好水手”。如要表达此义，应该说：
He is a skilled seaman.

He is a good sailor. 的真正涵义是：**He is not liable to seasickness.** 或 **He is seldom seasick in rough weather.** 因此，a good sailor 的内涵是：“不会晕船”。

20 世纪 40 年代出版的一本《英汉四用辞典》把 **He is a good sailor.** 译作：“他是好水手”是不妥当的，因为它没有把这个句子的真正涵义表达出来。

下面是关于会晕船和不会晕船的两段对话：

What kind of sailor are you?

I'm a bad sailor. (或 **I'm not much of a sailor.**)

你晕不晕船？

我会晕船的。

Are you a good sailor?

Yes, I'm a good sailor.

你会晕船吗？

我不会晕船。

从上面的例句可看出，a bad sailor 是 a good sailor 的相对语，因此，它也不能照字面译作：“一个坏水手”，而应译为：“会晕船”



或“容易晕船”。请再看下面几个例句：

Lao Li is **a bad teacher**. (或 Lao Li is **not much of a teacher**.)

老李不善于教书。

Xiao Wang is **a good learner**.

小王善于学习。

John is **a good thief**.

约翰的偷窃本领很高明。

从上述例句可以看到,good 和 bad 是表示“能力的大小”和“动作的特征”,是用来指“航海”“教书”“学习”“偷窃”的动作特征,而不是对人的道德品质而言,因此,a good thief 的内涵是 someone who thieves well; a good learner 的内涵是 someone who learns well. 其余可以类推。

英语有句名谚:**A bad workman always blames his tools**. (自己笨,怪刀钝)句中的 bad 也不是指 workman 的品德不好,而是“笨手笨脚”的涵义。a bad workman 是“能工巧匠”的反语,可译作:“技艺差的工匠”。同理,a bad driver 是“驾驶技术拙劣的司机”;a bad nurse 是“不称职的护士”。在其他的场合里,“bad”还可能译为:“不胜任的”“令人不满意的”“差劲的”。总之,bad 和 good 的译法必须根据具体的场合和搭配词才能选定。




~~~~~  
 He is the *Chinese* Ambassador.  
 ~~~~~

他是中国派驻其他国家的大使。

此句不能译作：“他是(其他国家)派驻中国的大使”。如要表达此意,应该说:

He is the China Ambassador.

或: He is the Ambassador to China.

我们要注意的,在某些名词前,China 和 Chinese 的涵义并不相同,不可以一律译作:“中国的”。

请看类例:

Li Zhengdao is a *Chinese*-born American scientist.

李政道是一个美籍华裔科学家。

(比较) Li Zhengdao is a China-born American scientist.

李政道是一个在中国出生的美国科学家。

She is a well-known *Chinese* correspondent.

她是一个著名的中国通讯记者。(中国人,有可能驻在其他国家。)

(比较) She is a well-known China correspondent.

她是一个驻在中国的著名的通讯记者。(可能是中国人,也可能是外国人。)

This is a *Chinese* edition.

这是中文版本。

