

**A STEPPING STONE TO  
TRANSLATION**

**英 語 翻 譯 基 礎**

By T. C. Duncan Chow (周庭楨)

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*Author of "A Textbook of Progressive Grammatical  
Conversation", "Fundamental Charts on English  
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## FOREWORD

By means of translation one's thought may be expressed into another language, either spoken or written. It is a practical art in which one must be well trained so as to reproduce or interpret the exact ideas of his own words or those of a foreigner different from the mother tongue.

If we want to write a good composition, we have to be able to make a variety of sentences correct in grammatical construction and coincident with the English usage together with a logical and united thought. When a student fails to form sentences correctly and coherently, it means that he is unable to write a good composition. There are two obvious reasons why a student cannot express his ideas in correct English. First, the grammar he studies does not draw his interest or attention, due to the perplexing terms and complicated definitions either beyond his comprehension or beyond his mental power to command. Second, he has not acquired a sufficient vocabulary of new words and idiomatic phrases to help him in his translation or composition. With a view to remedying such defects this book is intended to meet the requirements of the Chinese students who wish to master the art of translation especially from Chinese to English. The various formulas as well as alternative ways of translating a sentence are fully explained in Chinese and

illustrated with abundant examples. They may prove a great help in imitation and reproduction, in case the reader earnestly studies the model sentences given in the book and faithfully works out the exercises appended to each lesson.

It is hoped that this book will be found as a suitable textbook in the intermediate classes and also a useful aid to self-study for students out of school.

An appendix of this book entitled "Answers to Translation Exercises" is simultaneously prepared. It is intended to be used for reference or comparison in writing only after, not before, each given exercise is done by the reader. The author wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to his friend Mr. Chang Peilin, editor of *The English Monthly* for his kind recommendation of its publication, his aid in careful reading of the proof sheets, and making some necessary changes for correction.

T. C. DUNCAN CHOW,

Shanghai,  
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## 編 者 的 話

有許多中學生雖然讀了多年英文，唸了幾本文法書，可是他們寫出來的東西，或辭不達意，或杜造中國式洋涇浜英語，錯誤百出，不成個樣子。這實在是英語教育上一件很痛心的事。牠的原因雖然有許多，但是教師不令學生對於造句作文多加練習，而僅令學生把單字拼音，文法規則等作機械式的記憶，以致學生對於英文之學習毫不感覺興趣，結果似懂非懂，隨讀隨忘，實在是一個重要原因。

此書之編，乃在使讀者把過去所吸收的文法知識獲得實用。

編者以爲我們要把自己的意念用英語表出，無非是一種翻譯功夫。所以要英文寫得好，須先從翻譯着手，欲從事翻譯，須先從譯句做起。譯句通，則全篇亦通。因爲我們寫一篇文章，必先有許多有系統而合理的意思，有了意思，把每一個意思造成各式各樣的文句，然後集合而聯貫起來，這纔成爲一篇文章。

編者因感到中文英譯之重要，特參考多種書籍教本，將文法中普通實用之語式，編成五十五課。每課首立範句，再摘出各種簡易之公式，以便記憶。其次爲註釋，把單字與語句之運用，文句之構造，都擇要提示。再次則爲實用之參考句，凡範句中未詳盡之譯法，復在參考句中詳加補充，使讀者熟悉每一語句都有種種可能的譯法，而養成其在閱讀時注意各種語式與成語之習慣。最後更設以翻譯習題，使讀者多多模擬仿造，以收覆習之效。編者深信，讀者如能細心地讀畢此書，並將習題逐一做出，則對於作文與中文英譯必有很大的幫助。

本書另附習題答案，附於書末，以便學者對照參考。

周庭楨 三十五年十二月

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# A STEPPING STONE TO TRANSLATION

## 英語翻譯基礎

### Sentence Type 1

(I) 我擬(想)出洋求學。

1) I *intend* (*wish, desire, expect*) to study abroad.

2) I *have the intention* (*the desire, OR a mind*) to study in a foreign country (OR in the western country).

【公式】 (a) *intend, wish, desire, expect* + 無限式(infinitive).

(b) *have the intention, the desire, a mind* + 無限式.

【研究】 *intend* = 意欲, 企圖; *wish* = 心想, 願望; *expect* = 期望; *desire* = 欲, 願望。以上四字表示“擬, 心想”等意, 字義類同, 均可通用。“求學”亦可譯作 *to pursue studies*, 如上句改作 *I wish to pursue studies in a foreign country* 亦可。

以上 (1) (2) 兩種句式皆係單句 (simple sentence).

(II) 我急欲謀一位置。

1) I am very *anxious* to seek for (OR find) a job.

2) I am *on the lookout* for a position.

【註】 *anxious* (adj.) = *eager*, 表示“急欲, 切望, 渴想”等意。  
*to be on the lookout for* (成語) = *to be looking for*, 作“正在尋覓”解。

(III) 富人渴想做官。

1) The rich man *eagerly wishes* to be an official.

2) The rich man is very *anxious* to enter the public service.

3) The rich man *longs for* becoming an official.

4) The rich man *has an ambition of* being an official.

【註】 to wish eagerly; to be very anxious; to long for; to have the ambition of 係成語，作“渴想”解；注意後面所跟之片語 (phrase)，其式不同，文法結構各異。

#### (IV) 我決意勤學。

1) I *am determined* to study hard.

2) I *determine* (OR *decide*) to study hard.

3) I *make up my mind* to study hard.

【註】 決意=to determine; to be determined; to decide; to make up one's mind,

### EXERCISE 1

Translate each of the following sentences into English in two or three ways:—

(1) 今日余欲往南市<sup>1</sup>開北<sup>2</sup>一遊。<sup>3</sup>

(2) 我擬入<sup>4</sup>夜校<sup>5</sup>補習英文。<sup>6</sup>

(3) 他因失業，<sup>7</sup>急欲謀一位置。

(4) 我渴想見你。

(5) 他們決意到內地<sup>8</sup>去工作。

<sup>1</sup>南市=Nantao. <sup>2</sup>開北=Chapei. <sup>3</sup>一遊=to visit; to pay a visit.

<sup>4</sup>入=to enter; to attend. <sup>5</sup>夜校=a night school; an evening school.

<sup>6</sup>補習英文=to supplement my study of English; for a supplementary study of English. <sup>7</sup>失業=jobless. <sup>8</sup>內地=the interior; the inland.

\* \* \*

### Sentence Type 2

(I) 中國南方人民較北方人民爲聰慧，然不如北方人民耐勞。

1) The people in South China are wiser than those in the North, but *the former* are not so industrious as *the latter*.

2) In China the Southerners are cleverer than the Northerners, but *those* are not so hard-working as *these*.

【公式】 (a) *the former* . . . *the latter* = 前者……後者(指單複數均可)。

(b) *those* . . . *these* = 前者……後者(指複數)。

【研究】 句(1)之 *the former* 指“南方人”，*the latter* 指“北方人”，此處 *the former* . . . *the latter* 謂之“相關代名詞”(correlative pronoun)；尚有 *the first* . . . *the second* 一例。

Japan is smaller than China, but *the first* has been modernized and *the second* is still conservative.

句(2)之 *those* 指“北方人”，*these* 指“南方人”。其少數爲 *that* . . . *this* 或 *this* . . . *that*，惟用 *this* 字係指第二名詞，*that* 係指第一名詞，例如：

Food and clothing are the necessities of life; *that* is to nourish and *this*, to protect one's body.

Labor and recreation are necessary to health; *this* gives us rest and *that*, energy.

(II) 文字之種類凡二：一爲語體文，一爲記錄文。

1) Languages are of two kinds; *one* is spoken and *the other*, written.

2) There are two kinds of languages; *one* is spoken and *the other*, written.

【公式】 (a) *one* . . . *the other* = 一則……一則。此外尚有 *the one* . . . *the other* 指“前者……後者”，祇代表單數名詞；*some* . . . *some* = 有些人(或物)……有些人(或物)，指複數；*some* . . . *others* = 有些人(或物)……有些人(或物)，指複數。例：

Poverty and wealth are the greatest temptation; *the one* will cause a man to become mean (base) and *the other*, proud.

*Some* are good and *some* bad.

*Some* say one thing and *others* another.

## EXERCISE 2

Translate the following into English in two ways:—

(1) 猛獸<sup>1</sup>之終爲人所克服<sup>2</sup>者,以獸無智識<sup>3</sup>而人有智識也。

(2) 書桌上有二書:一爲日記,<sup>4</sup>一爲字典。<sup>5</sup>

(3) 工作和睡眠並重,前者使人血脈流通,<sup>6</sup>後者使身心有正常休息。<sup>7</sup>

(4) 有些人想他是對,有些人想他是錯。

---

<sup>1</sup> 猛獸=furious (OR fierce) animal. <sup>2</sup> 克服=to be dominated. <sup>3</sup> 智識=intelligence; knowledge. <sup>4</sup> 日記=diary. <sup>5</sup> 字典=dictionary, <sup>6</sup> 血脈流通=a good circulation of blood. <sup>7</sup> 使身心有正常休息=to enable the body and mind have a usual (OR normal) rest.

\* \* \*

## Sentence Type 3

(I) 我能助人,則人亦必助我。

1) Men will help me if I *can* help them.

2) One will be sure to help me in case I am *able to* help him.

3) One will certainly help me provided that I am *capable of helping* him.

【公式】(a) “能”字用 *can* + 動詞原形。

(b) “能”字用 *to be able* + 無限式。

(c) “能”字用 *to be capable of* + 動名詞 (*gerund*)。

【研究】現在式 *can*, 過去式 *could*, 用於各種人稱並無變化。  
*able* 是形容詞, 隨動詞 *to be* 之變化而有現在, 過去, 未來三式。如:

現在式: I, we, you, they, he, she, it, a boy, the boys *can* do.

過去式: I, we, you, they, he, she, it, a boy, the boys *could* do.

*can* 無將來式之用法, 另用 *able* 表之:

現在式: I *am able to* do.

You, we, they, the boys *are able to* do.

He, she, it, a boy *is able to* do.

過去式: I, he, she, it, a boy, *was able to* do.

We, you, they, the boys *were able to* do.

將來式: I, we *shall be able to* do.

You, they, he, she, it, a boy, the boys *will be able to* do.

句式 (c) *capable* 作“有能力”解, 亦係形容詞, 後面常跟 *of* 加動名詞, 用法與 (b) 例同。

【註】此句意思就是說“假使我能助人, 人亦能助我。”

注意“假使, 倘然”之三種譯法。

### FURTHER EXAMPLES

(I) 倘你要的, 我可將此貨送到你家中。

1) I *can* send the goods to your home, if you wish (or desire).

2) I *can* deliver the articles to your house, if you want.

注意在此種語氣 *can* 字當“可”字用, 例如“汝可任意購物”可譯作:

You *can* purchase anything that you want.

You *can* get whatever you want.

You *can* buy what you want.

(II) 我不能允准你的要求。

b) I *can't* (*cannot*) grant (OR: comply with) your request.

【註】會話用 *can't*, 寫作用 *cannot*.

2) I am not *in a position to* consent to your request.

3) I *cannot* (*can't*) permit what you have asked me.

4) I *cannot* (*can't*) permit to let you have what you ask.

【註】“to be in a position + 無限式”爲“能”字另一譯法。permit 作“許可”解，例如“我許可他把我的文件登在他的雜誌內”可譯作 I *permit* him to publish my article in his magazine. 又，名詞 permission 可與 give, ask 連用，作“許可”解，如“我已允彼使用我的自來水筆”譯作 I have *given* him *permission* to use my fountain pen; “你可否允准把你的那本書借給我？”譯作 May I *ask* your *permission* to lend me that book of yours? (請命於人的都用 may, 不用 can).

### (III) 你能達到你所期望之事乎？

1) *Can* you attain what you aimed at?

2) *Can* you arrive at what you have looked for?

3) Are you *able* to accomplish anything of your aim?

4) Are you *able* to reach what you expected?

5) Is it *possible* for you to gain (OR attain) your object?

6) Is it *possible* for you to fulfill what you expect?

7) Is it *possible* for you to get the object you aimed at?

【註】possible 作“可能”解，惟前面不可用代表人身之名詞，祇能用 it 一字。impossible (不可能) 一字之用法亦然。若將來三句改爲 are you possible 起頭則不通，例如說：Are you possible to gain your object? 文法似乎不錯，但違反英文習慣使用法 (English usage)，故認爲不通。中國學生宜切忌之。

此句之“期望”二字即“目的”之意。注意上例譯“達到”和“目的”種種變化。(3)(5)兩句爲單句,其餘皆係複句(complex sentence)。

## EXERCISE 3

Translate the following into English in two ways:—

- (1) 我很抱歉,<sup>1</sup>我不能允汝所請。
- (2) 我不能明瞭<sup>2</sup>你所說的意思。
- (3) 他能告訴你一件很有興趣的消息。
- (4) 我做這事是不可能的。<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>抱歉=sorry. <sup>2</sup>明瞭=understand; make out. <sup>3</sup>不可能=impossible; not in a position.

\* \* \*

## Sentence Type 4

(I) 請你爲我寫一封介紹信(或荐書)。

- 1)  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{Please} \\ \textit{Kindly} \\ \textit{Pray} \end{array} \right\}$  write a letter of introduction (OR recommendation) for me.

2) Will you *please* (OR *kindly*) write a letter of introduction (OR recommendation) for me?

3) *Would* you write a letter of introduction (OR recommendation) for me?

4) You *will please* write a letter of introduction (OR recommendation) for me.

【公式】(a) kindly; please; pray + 動詞原形。

(b)  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{will you please} \\ \textit{will you kindly} \end{array} \right\}$  + 動詞原形。

(c) will you + 動詞原形。

(d) would you please + 動詞原形。

【研究】 句式 (a) pray 一字英人有時用之。此例是祈使句 (imperative mood) 中之肯定式請求句 (request)。you 一字常省去。“請你”二字切不可譯 please you。

句式 (b) 是祈使句中之訊問式請求句，用法較上句婉轉。

句式 (c) would you? 作“你願否？”解，用於表示更客氣之態度，徵求同意或允諾者。

句式 (d) 卽“請你”二字之最直率說法，含有“你必許可”之意。

【註】 letter of introduction = 介紹朋友之信；letter of recommendation = 介紹生意之荐書。

## FURTHER EXAMPLES

### (I) 請你借給我一些錢。

1) 用句式 (a) 譯之：

*Please lend me some money.*

2) 用句式 (b) 譯之：

*Will you kindly (OR please) lend me some money?*

3) 用 “Will you be so kind as + 無限式” 譯之：

*Will you be so kind as to lend me some money?*

4) 用 “Will you have the kindness (OR goodness) + 無限式” 譯之：

*Will you have the kindness (OR goodness) to lend me some money?*

5) 用 “Would you be kind (OR good) enough + 無限式” 譯之：

*Would you be kind (OR good) enough to lend me some money?*

【註】 後用三公式不僅於會話時用之，在信札中亦習見此種語句，須熟記而仿效之。



英文中另有 borrow 一字，意爲“借入”，與 lend 意爲“借出”不同，例如“他向我借錢”應譯爲 He borrowed money from me, “我借錢給他”則應譯爲 I lent him some money (lent = lend 的過去式)。lend 後面用 to 字；borrow 後面用 from 字。

(II) 請你等我一歇。

- 1) Please wait for me just a minute (moment).
- b. Kindly wait for me just a little while.
- 2) Pray wait for me just a little moment.
- d. Will you please (kindly) wait a minute?
- 3) Will you kindly await me a short while?

【註】 wait 一字後面常用 for + 代名詞；用 await 一字，則 for 一字須省去。“一歇”即“片刻”之意，本句亦可譯作 Please wait a minute, 將 for me 略去，更爲簡捷。

(III) 請你代我向貴眷請安。

- 1) Please present my compliments to your family.
- 2) Please present my respects to your family.
- 3) Remember me (kindly) to your family.
- 4) Give my (kind) regards (or kind wishes) to your family.
- 5) Kindly send my regards (or best wishes) to your family.
- 6) Give my kindest remembrance to your family.

【註】 按西方習慣，“請安”或“問候”普通譯爲 compliments；而 regards 和 respects 表示懷念之好意或尊敬。該三字都用複式，或加形容詞 kind, best 於其上；有時亦用 kind (or best) wishes 表之。(3)(4)(6) 三句雖略去 please 一字，但翻譯時仍含此意，故“請你”或“代我”二字譯句時往往可省去。present 讀如 [pri'zent]。句(3)中之 remember me to 是“請代問安或問候”之普通習語，