普通高等教育"十一五"国家级规划教材

第二版

美英报刊阅读教程

（中级精选本）

Reading Course In American & British News Publications (Intermediate Level)

主编 端木义万



北京大学出版社
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主　编　端木义万

副主编　郑志恒

编著者　端木义万　郑志恒　胡雪英　陈惠芬　李媛媛　郁晓婧
黄　琳　俞　睿　朱　琳　王　丹　刘斯宁　黄雅娟
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编　委　丁　山　王子信　王少琳　王亚民　王传经　王　波
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端木义万

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电子邮箱：fd@pup.pku.edu.cn

内容提要

本书首版于2005年,是特别为大学英语专业中级水平学生和其他具有同等水平读者编著的外报外刊教材。多年来经全国许多高校的使用，深受广大师生的好评。根据国际形势的变化,此次修订该书的作者将已过时的内容删除,补充了新的内容。书中课文是从英美近期17种主要新闻刊物精选文章40篇,以专题为线,共分10个单元。所选文章质量上乘、内容典型、语言丰富、趣味浓厚、时效较长。教材编写突出能力培养。每课设有七个栏目：I. 课文生词;II. 知识介绍;III. 难点注释;IV. 语言简说;V. 内容分析;VI. 问题思考;VII. 话题讨论。

“知识介绍”栏目提供与课文相关的社会文化背景;“语言简说”栏目结合文章介绍现代报刊英语特色。增设这两大栏目的意图是架设两座桥梁,帮助读者步入阅读外报外刊的自如境界。“内容分析”项目提供课文内容和语言的多项选择练习,目的在于帮助学生深入、综合理解课文。出于提高学生思辨能力,增加口语交际实践考虑,本书专设了适宜用作课堂讨论的话题。

本书配有教学参考手册,提供“内容分析”和“问题思考”两项练习答案,文章的层次分析和补充教学资料。

主编主要著作介绍

本书主编端木义万系南京国际关系学院英语资深教授,博士生导师,全国优秀教师,享受政府特殊津贴专家,从事外报外刊教学与研究 43 年,其主要著作如下:

一、教材系列

*《美英报刊阅读教程》(南京大学出版社,1994,迄今已 20 次印刷)

《美英报刊阅读教程(第二版)》(南京大学出版社,2007,已 5 次印刷)

*《美英报刊阅读教程(高级本)》(北京大学出版社,2001,已 14 次印刷)

《美英报刊阅读教程(高级本)教师参考书》(北京大学出版社,2001,已 3 次印刷)

《美英报刊阅读教程(高级本)(精选版)》(北京大学出版社,2009)

《新编美英报刊阅读教程(中级本)》(中国社会科学出版社,2000,已 8 次印刷)

*《美英报刊阅读教程(中级本)(精选版)》(北京大学出版社,2005,已 8 次印刷)

*《美英报刊阅读教程(中级本)(精选版)教师参考书》(北京大学出版社,2005,已 2 次印刷)

《大学英语外报外刊阅读教程》(北京大学出版社,2003,已 13 次印刷)

《大学英语外报外刊阅读教程教师参考书》(北京大学出版社,2003)

《新编美英报刊阅读教程(普及本)》(世界图书出版公司,2005,已 4 次印刷)

《美英报刊阅读教程(普及精选本)》(南京大学出版社,2008,已 3 次印刷)

《21 世纪报大学英语报刊阅读教程》(世界图书出版公司,2005,已 3 次印刷)

(以上标有 * 的书曾列为国家级教学成果二等奖主干教材)

二、专著系列

《传媒英语研究》(中国社会科学出版社,2000)

《美国传媒文化》(北京大学出版社,2003,已 2 次印刷)

《高校英语报刊教学论丛》(北京大学出版社,2000)

《高校英语报刊教学论丛(第二版)》(北京大学出版社,2006)

《美国社会文化透视》(南京大学出版社,1999)

三、学术论文 51 篇

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前　言

《美英报刊阅读教程(中级本)(精选版)》承蒙广大读者厚爱,自 2005 年出版以来,已连续印刷了 8 次。2007 年,这本书被列入“普通高等教育‘十一五’国家级规划教材”。近两年来,我们根据形势发展的需要,对原教材做了较大范围的修订。第二版共收入 40 篇文章,其中 16 篇是新选文章。此外,我们对保留课文所配的“知识介绍”和“语言简说”项目的内容进行了更新。

英语报刊具有贴近时代、贴近大众、贴近现实、贴近生活的特点。作为英语教学资料,报刊具有以下四点显著优势:内容新颖、语言现代、资料丰富、词语实用。

伴随我国与国际交流的迅猛增加,英语报刊课程的重要性日趋突出,越来越多的高校为英语专业和非英语专业学生开设了这门课程。

教育部对英语报刊教学给予高度重视。教学大纲中的四、六、八级阅读项目都明确将阅读英美报刊水平作为评定阅读能力的标准。

为了适应形势的需求,自 20 世纪 90 年代初以来我们先后编著出版了针对大学不同层次的学生水平,构成完整的系列英语报刊教材(详情请见“主编主要著作介绍”)。这套教材的共同之处在于突出学生的能力培养。

选材所坚持的标准是:专题为线布局,题材面域广泛,文章内容典型,语言质量上乘,知识含量丰富,使用时效较长。

为了加强英语报刊阅读能力的培养,本教材中除保留一般英语报刊教材所设的“课文生词”、“难点注释”和“问题思考”项目外,还增设了“知识介绍”、“语言简说”、“内容分析”和“话题讨论”四个项目。

“知识介绍”项目根据课文内容简明系统地提供了文章相关专题的内容,旨在拓宽读者社会文化和科技等方面的知识面域。“语言简说”项目结合课文语言,简要介绍了报刊英语和现代英语的常见语言现象,意在帮助读者熟悉外报外刊语言的规律和特点。这两个项目有助学生构建和丰富外报外刊语言和文化的认知结构,引导他们步入轻松自如地阅读英语报刊的理想境界。“内容分析”项目提供与课文内容和语言有关的多项选择练习,目的在于帮助学生深入、综合理解课文。“话题讨论”项目提供与课文内容相关并有一定深度的讨论题,意图是培养学生的思辨能力,增加口头交际实践的机会。

当前,各个高校英语教师工作负荷很重,为了减轻授课老师的备课负担,本书配有教学参考书和多媒体课件,提供“内容分析”和“问题思考”两项练习的答案与课文篇章层次的分析。

本书凝结着许多人的深情厚谊和汗水心血。高校英语报刊教学界的许多同仁和我的博士生、硕士生们为此书献计献策,我的夫人郭荣娣同志为我创造理想的工作环境,全力保障我的教学和科研。尤为值得一提的是,本书在文化点的注释方面得到了美国朋友James R. Jackson, Elaine S. Jackson 和 Karen O'Neill 的热情帮助。在此,谨向为此书做出贡献的所有人士致以诚挚、深切的谢意。

还有一点需要说明:教材中有的文章个别地方用词值得商榷,主编不揣鄙陋提出修改拙见。为表示对原文作者的尊重,主编保留原文用词,而在所认为有问题的用词之后的括号内标出修改意见,以供老师和读者们鉴别选择。

由于对本书锤炼仍显不足,书中定有不少疏漏和错误,竭诚欢迎并殷切期望高校英语教师和广大读者提出宝贵意见。

主编 端木义万

2009年 9 月 1 日

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Lesson 1

Good News about Racial Progress

The remaining divisions in American society should not blind us to a half-century of dramatic change

By Abigail and Stephan Thernstrom

In the Perrywood community of Upper Marlboro, Md.[1], near Washington, D.C., homes cost between $160,000 and $400,000. The lawns are green and the amenities appealing[2]—including a basketball court.

Low-income teen-agers from Washington started coming there. The teens were black, and they were not welcomed. The homeowners' association hired off-duty police as security[3], and they would ask the ballplayers whether they "belonged" in the area. The association's newsletter noted the "eyesore" at the basketball court.[4]

But the story has a surprising twist: many of the homeowners were black too.[5] "We started having problems with the young men, and unfortunately they are our people," one resident told a reporter from the *Washington Post*. "But what can you do?"

The homeowners didn't care about the race of the basketball players. They were outsiders—intruders. As another resident remarked, "People who don't live here might not care about things the way we do. Seeing all the new houses going up, someone might be tempted."

It's a telling story[6]. Lots of Americans think that almost all blacks live in inner cities. Not true. Today many blacks own homes in suburban neighborhoods—not just around Washington, but outside Atlanta, Denver and other cities as well.

That's not the only common misconception Americans have about race. For some of the misinformation, the media are to blame. A reporter in *The Wall Street Journal*, for instance, writes that the economic gap between whites and blacks has widened. He offers no evidence. The picture drawn of racial relations is even bleaker. In one poll, for instance, 85 percent of blacks, but only 34 percent of whites, agreed with the verdict in the O.J. Simpson murder trial.[7] That racially divided response made headline news.[8] Blacks and whites, media accounts[9] would have us believe, are still separate and hostile. Division is a constant theme, racism another.

To be sure, racism has not disappeared, and race relations could—and probably will—improve. But the serious inequality that remains is less a function of racism than of the racial gap in levels of educational attainment, single parenthood and crime.[10] The bad news has been exaggerated, and the good news neglected. Consider these three trends:

A black middle class has arrived. Andrew Young recalls the day he was mistaken for a valet at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel[11] in New York City. It was an infuriating case of mistaken identity for a

man who was then U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

But it wasn't so long ago that most blacks *were* servants—or their equivalent**(s)**. On the eve of World War II, a trivial five percent of black men were engaged in white-collar work of any kind, and six out of ten African-American women were employed as domestics.

In 1940 there were only 1,000 practicing African-American lawyers[12]; by 1995 there were over 32,000, about four percent of all attorneys.

Today almost three-quarters of African-American families have incomes above the government poverty line. Many are in the middle class, according to one useful index—earning double the government poverty level[13]; in 1995 this was $30,910 for a two-parent family with two children and $40,728 for a two-parent family with four children. Only one black family in 100 enjoyed a middle-class income in 1940; by 1995 it was 49 in 100. And more than 40 percent of black households also own their homes. That's a huge change.

The typical white family still earns a lot more than the black family because it is more likely to collect two paychecks. But if we look only at married couples—much of the middle class—the white-black income gap shrinks to 13 percent. Much of that gap can be explained by the smaller percentage of blacks with college degrees, which boost wages, and the greater concentration of blacks in the South, where wages tend to be lower.

Blacks are moving to the suburbs. Following the urban riots of the mid-1960s, the presidential Kerner Commission[14] concluded that the nation's future was menaced by "accelerating segregation"—black central cities and whites outside the core. That segregation might well blow the country apart, it said.

It's true that whites have continued to leave inner cities for the suburbs, but so, too, have blacks. The number of black suburban dwellers in the last generation has almost tripled to 10.6 million. In 1970 metropolitan Atlanta, for example, 27 percent of blacks lived in the suburbs with 85 percent of whites. By 1990, 64 percent of blacks and 94 percent of whites resided there.

This is not phony integration, with blacks moving from one all-black neighborhood into another. Most of the movement has brought African-Americans into neighborhoods much less black[15] than those they left behind, thus increasing integration. By 1994 six in ten whites reported that they lived in neighborhoods with blacks.

Residential patterns do remain closely connected to race. However, neighborhoods have become more racially mixed, and residential segregation has been decreasing.

Bigotry has declined. Before World War II, Gunnar Myrdal[16] roamed the South researching *An American Dilemma*, the now-classic book that documented[17] the chasm between the nation's ideals and its racial practices. In one small Southern city, he kept asking whites how he could find "Mr. Jim Smith," an African-American who was principal of a black high school. No one seemed to know who he was. After he finally found Smith, Myrdal was told that he should have just asked for "Jim." That's how great was white aversion to dignifying African-Americans with "Mr." Or "Mrs."

Bigotry was not just a Southern problem. A national survey in the 1940s asked whether "Ne-

groes should have as good a chance as white people to get any kind of job." A majority of whites said that "white people should have the first chance at any kind of job."

Such a question would not even be asked today. Except for a lunatic fringe[18], no whites would sign on to such a notion.[19]

In 1964 less than one in five whites reported having a black friend. By 1989 more than two out of three did. And more than eight of ten African-Americans had a white friend.

What about the last taboo?[20] In 1963 ten percent of whites approved of black-white dating; by 1994 it was 65 percent. Interracial marriages? Four percent of whites said it was okay in 1958; by 1994 the figure had climbed more than elevenfold, to 45 percent. These surveys measure opinion, but behavior has also changed. In 1963 less than one percent of marriages by African-Americans were racially mixed. By 1993, 12 percent were.

Today black Americans can climb the ladder to the top.[21] Ann M. Fudge is already there; she's in charge of manufacturing, promotion and sales at the $2.7-billion Maxwell House Coffee and Post Cereals divisions of Kraft Foods.[22] So are Kenneth Chenault, president and chief operating officer at American Express[23], and Richard D. Parsons, president of Time Warner, Inc.[24] After the 1988 Democratic Convention[25], the Rev. Jesse Jackson[26] talked about his chances of making it to the White House. "I may not get there," he said "But it is possible for our children to get there now."

Even that seems too pessimistic. Consider how things have improved since Colin and Alma Powell[27] packed their belongings into a Volkswagen[28] and left Fort Devens, Mass., for Fort Bragg, N. C. "I remember passing Woodbridge, Va.," General Powell wrote in his autobiography, "and not finding even a gas-station bathroom that we were allowed to use." That was in 1962. In 1996 reliable polls suggest he could have been elected President.

Progress over the last half-century has been dramatic. As Coretta Scott King wrote not long ago, the ideals for which her husband Martin Luther King Jr. died, have become "deeply embedded in the very fabric of America[29]."

From *Reader's Digest*, March, 1998

I. New Words

amenity	[ə'mi:niti]	*n.*	生活福利设施;便利设施
attainment	[ə'teinmənt]	*n.*	成就;造诣
aversion	[ə'və:ʃən]	*n.*	a strong dislike
bigotry	['bigətri]	*n.*	偏见;偏执
chasm	['kæzəm]	*n.*	a very big difference
domestic	[də'mestik]	*n.*	a household servant
embed	[im'bed]	*v.*	to fix firmly
fabric	['fæbrik]	*n.*	a complex underlying structure

infuriating	[in'fjuərieitiŋ]	*a.*	very annoying
interracial	[ˌintə'reiʃəl]	*a.*	人种间的, 人种混合的
misconception	['miskən'sepʃən]	*n.*	misunderstanding
paycheck	['peitʃek]	*n.*	salary or wages
phony	['fəuni]	*a.*	*informal* false or not real
segregation	[ˌsegri'ɡeiʃən]	*n.*	种族隔离
valet	['vælit]	*n.*	男仆

II. Background Information

种族关系

美国是个多民族国家(multiracial country),种族成分极为复杂。美国的多种族现象是由白人殖民、征服土著、输入黑奴和自愿移民综合形成的。印第安人是美国大陆原来的主人。白人殖民者反宾为主,用武力和欺骗的方式从他们手中夺取大片土地,把他们逼入不毛之地。1846 年到 1848 年,美国对墨西哥发动侵略战争,兼并(annexed)其一半以上领土。原先住有的 8 万墨西哥人大多成为美国公民。17、18 世纪为了缓解南方农业劳动力的严重短缺,从非洲购入黑奴,到 1780 年美国奴隶劳动力增至 53 万。随着国内工商业发展,东部、西部引进了大量外来移民充当劳工。1965 年美国取消了根据种族歧视实行了多年的移民限制,增加了非欧洲白人的名额,亚洲、拉美移民人数急剧增加。上述因素造成了现今美国的多血裔种族现象。

根据 2008 年 5 月的数据,美国人口总数为 301,600,000,其中白人占 65%,西班牙裔人占 15%,非洲裔人占 13.4%,亚裔人占 5%,印第安人与阿拉斯加土著人占 1.5%。

在很长时期,美国少数种族遭受白人种族主义者的歧视和压迫。黑人起先被用作奴隶。1865 年南北战争胜利后,虽然黑人在法律上获得解放,但依然遭到不公待遇,甚至鞭打和杀害。印第安人遭遇白人殖民者多次大屠杀,幸存者被驱入贫瘠的"保留地"(reservations)。亚裔人受到排斥,充当苦力(coolies)。西班牙裔人被用作廉价劳力。

经过长时期的不屈不挠的斗争,少数种族逐步赢得了自由和权利。20 世纪 60 年代的民权运动(the Civil Rights Movement)以来,他们的政治和经济地位有了明显的提高,不少人攀升到中层和上层阶级,有的担任州长、市长和大法官。在 111 届 541 名国会议员中,非洲裔人有 42 名,西班牙裔人有 28 名,亚裔人有 8 名。最为引人注目的是,非洲裔参议员奥巴马在 2008 年总统竞选中获得全胜,入主白宫。

然而,这一切并非意味着美国种族歧视全然消失。据最近调查,美国有 40%的非洲裔人聚居在高度隔离的 29 个大都市的某些区域。非洲裔人中有 67%在申请工作时,65%在租房时,50%在餐馆就餐时,43%在申请高校过程中遭遇歧视。司法部门对非洲裔人量刑往往过重。虽然他们占美国人口比例为 13.4%,其中只有 13%偶尔吸毒,但吸毒入狱人中他们所占的比例却高达 74%。据统计,18—34 岁男性非洲裔群体中有 1/9 被关在监狱。

事实说明,美国种族歧视仍然存在,只是表现的形式更加隐蔽罢了。

III. Notes to the Text

1. Md.—Maryland
2. the amenities appealing—生活设施舒适
3. hired off-duty police as security—雇用不当班警察作保安(The homeowners' association hired off-duty police as security personnel.)
4. The association's newsletter noted the"eyesore" at the basketball court. —协会通讯提到(社区)篮球场地上的"丑物"。(① newsletter—a small sheet of printed news sent regularly to a particular group of people;② eyesore—here referring to those black teen-ager basketball players from other areas)
5. But the story has a surprising twist: many of the homeowners were blacks too. —但此事让人奇怪的是,社区的很多住户本身也是黑人。(twist—an unexpected change or development)
6. a telling story—a very convincing example
7. the verdict in the O.J. Simpson murder trial—辛普森杀妻案的判决(辛普森为美国前著名黑人橄榄球运动员,1994 年因其白人妻子及其男友之死被控涉嫌谋杀,1995 年被无罪释放,但 1997 年民事诉讼中陪审团认为其对谋杀负有法律责任并判罚损害赔偿金数百万元。)
8. made headline news—to hit the headlines 成为显要新闻
9. media accounts—media reports
10. But the serious inequality that remains is less a function of racism than of the racial gap in levels of educational attainment, single parenthood and crime. —这种遗留下来的严重的不平等,与其说种族主义,还不如说是在教育程度、单亲和犯罪层面的种族差距所造成的结果。[a function (of)—a quality of fact which depends on and varies with another]
11. the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel—沃尔多夫旅馆
12. practicing lawyers—挂牌律师
13. poverty level —贫困水平(1996 年美国联邦政府规定的贫困线:四口之家年收入为 15,600 美元。据统计,全国低于此贫困线的家庭共有 3,930 万,占人口总数的 15.1%。)
14. presidential Kerner Commission—a commission headed by Kerner and established by the Congress for researching and reporting on the issue of urban violence resulting from segregation especially after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King in 1968
15. neighborhoods much less black—neighborhoods in which there live more non-black people
16. Gunnar Myrdal—贡纳·默达尔(1898—1987,瑞典经济学家,社会学家,下文的 *An American Dilemma* 即为其所著的《美国难题:黑人问题与现代民主》)
17. document—*v.* to prove or record with documents
18. lunatic fringe—the people with the strongest or most unreasonable ideas or beliefs in a political or social group
19. ..., no whites would sign on to such a notion.—..., no whites would accept such an idea.
20. What about the last taboo?—The last taboo refers to interracial marriage that was once forbidden.

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