

# ENGLISH IDIOMS

*a cultural fascination*

# 英语口语禅

人生舞台

李润辉 著

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海天出版社

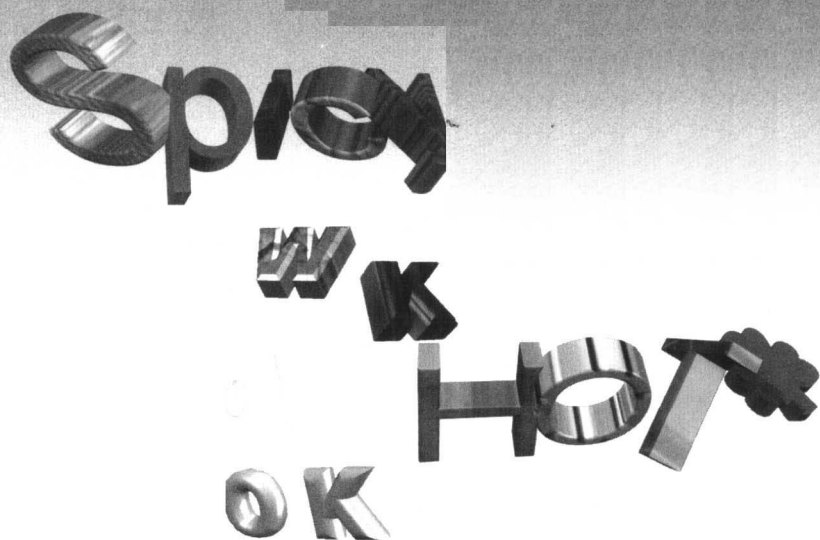


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## About the author...

Francis Lee came to Australia from Hong Kong in the nineteen sixties when he was sixteen years old.

After graduating from University of Sydney with honours in civil engineering, Francis proceeded to complete a Masters degree in structural engineering at the University of New South Wales, winning the Senior Prize in Civil Engineering. While working as an engineer he also completed courses in architectural science and environmental law and became an accredited translator and interpreter.

In 1983, Francis was offered a casual journalist/broadcaster position with Special Broadcasting Service (SBS). SBS is a federally funded statutory corporation, broadcasting nationally in radio and television. He later became the head of the Cantonese Chinese group in Sydney, while still maintaining a full - time engineering job. As his broadcasting commitments grew he was confronted with a major career decision. In 1993 he followed his heart and assumed a full - time position with SBS, resigning as Environmental Engineer with the Public Works Department of New South Wales.

His diverse cultural, professional and academic background has clearly contributed to the depth with which he views a variety of issues, as demonstrated in his writing.

## 作者简介

李润辉于六十年代从香港负笈澳洲,当时年仅十六岁。在悉尼大学取得土木工程荣誉学士之后,李润辉继续于新南威尔斯大学取得硕士,并荣获土木工程系高等奖;后来在工务局出任工程师期间更修完建筑科学及环保法律等课程,复考获中英文翻译及传译资格。

一九八三年,李润辉进入澳洲政府唯一全国性多元文化电视及电台网络 SBS,兼职播音。不久更晋升为中文粤语部组长,向全澳广播;一九九三年他辞去工务局环保工程师的职务,现正全身心投入广播事业中。

李润辉的广泛文化、职业及学历背景,使他对身处的社会及事物观察更为深入透彻,这一点,相信读者在他的作品中不难见到。

# FOREWORD

## ——On life's Stage——

Some years ago I had a recurring nightmare. I dreamt that I was walking along a deserted corridor, with closed doors on either side. It gave me an uncomfortable and eerie feeling. One night in my dream I decided that instead of fearing the closed doors, I would open them and find out what lay behind them.

Without going into details, what I saw beyond those doors was not as bad as I had feared. The closed doors ceased to be a threat and my adventurous spirit was aroused. In my excitement I continued to open the other doors and walked through them to explore the unknown world.

It later dawned on me that the adventure in my dreams was akin to what a little child would do in real life, that is, to challenge the closed doors and to explore the unknown. I also realised that in the process of growing up I had lost that child – like curiosity, and life became dull and at times, intimidating.

When we wake up in the morning, is it not like opening a door to the day? We should really be curious about what experiences await us. Would we encounter something new, see an old friend, or meet new ones? Would there be funny moments, or sad, tender, or frustrating moments? However the day may turn out, there would be moments that are precious and worth remembering. Some may even bear a message. Life is like a stage, and each of us, within the limits of our own sight and reach, stands right in the middle of it. If we treasure our experiences life would be more exciting!

I cannot remember if the time I embarked on the new venture in my dreams was when I decided to take a change in career path from engineering to broadcasting. To be honest, it was the result of good fortune that I was able to make that change, and I have found the change very fulfilling.

Broadcasting with Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) has provided me with an opportunity to utilise my bilingual and dual cultural background. One of my broadcast initiatives was to introduce a program on the use of the English idioms which I had come across during my thirty years in Australia. I wanted to do such a program because to me, idioms are both fascinating and challenging. Fascinating, because a wealth of meaning can be compacted into a few words. Challenging, because they are not generally the subject of a formal course of study. Yet they form such an important part of any language or culture.

As I wrote and presented my stories on air I soon discovered what other interests English idioms have to offer. Many of them are associated with an historical event or legend. Some have their roots in other cultures. Some others have ideas which are expressed in a similar, or an entirely different idiom in the Chinese language. Also, there are those that convey a deep moral message.

Moreover, I found that as long as I maintain a curiosity about life, certain idioms can be very thought-provoking. I can relate them to some aspects of my personal experience or imagination in my stories.

In this book I present these stories to you. Perhaps they would remind you of some of your thoughts and memories.

*Francis Lee*

# 作者序言

## —人生舞台—

若干年前,曾经有一个时期我经常做着这样的梦:我梦见自己行走在一条走廊上,两边是关闭的门,那种孤寂和恐惧的心情,很是难受。有一晚,我在梦里对自己说:与其畏惧关闭着的门,何不鼓起勇气打开它,看看门里是一些什么东西呢?

我发现门里的景象并不可怕。好奇心使我继续打开其他的门,有时更通过门去到远些的地方,探讨梦里的世界。

后来我终于明白,我在梦里的探索心情其实就像一个小孩子一样,对新鲜和未知的事物感到兴奋;我又想到,在成长的过程里,环境可以麻木了我们与生俱来的好奇心,以致有时生命失去了光泽,甚至对未来事物产生畏惧。

每天早上,在起床的时候,我们不是正在打开那天的的大门吗?有没有对门里逐渐显露的景象感到兴奋呢?我们每个人都是站在人生舞台的中央,而且还扮演着主角。日间的事,也许是好笑的、动人的、失望的、或是激忿的,无论怎样,总会有着值得留在记忆里的片刻,有些事更可能是带着一个生命里的讯息。如果我们珍惜舞台上的光景,生命便更有趣味了!



我不记得以上梦里的突破是否发生在我由工程生涯转投入广播生涯的时候了。广播行业也许是我当时打开的一扇门吧！播音工作给予我更多满足感，因为我觉得可以借着我的双文化和双语言背景做一些有作用的事。在我主持的节目里，我开设了一个《英语口头禅》讲座，这是我在澳洲三十年的一点心得。我觉得口头禅很巧妙，而且具有挑战性。巧妙，是因为口头禅可以用简短的字句表达出多方面的意思；挑战性，是因为它不能从普通课本上学到，而口头禅实在是在任何语言中都是很重要的部分。

在我开始了这个播音讲座之后，我更领悟到，很多英语口头禅有着很浓厚的文化和历史背景，有些更是起源于非英语文化中，而一些口头禅就带有很深远的哲理。

我把这些口头禅融入了我生命中的一些经历和幻想里，再把它们搬回舞台上，希望能与听众和读者们分享心灵上的一点点共鸣。

李润辉



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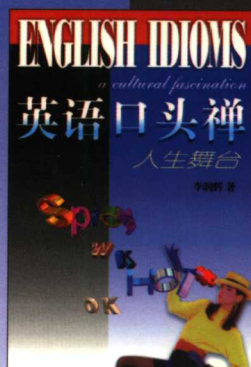
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