英语名言丛书

浪漫

英语名言

NOVE QUOTES A ○ 編著



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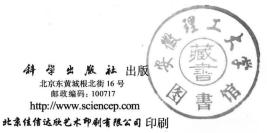
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PREFACE 前言

引语(quotation, quote),我们更习惯叫做语录。语录即言论的摘录,广为人知者就成了名言。我国的英语学习者中,读过莎翁《哈姆雷特》剧本的人不会很多,可是有几个不熟悉那句 "To be, or not to be – that is the question."?雪莱的《西风颂》未必有多少人背得下来,但说到"如果冬天来到,春天还会远吗",即使在中国,这句译文也称得上脍炙人口。

倘若说前人的著述浩如烟海,对其中文句的摘引就是海滩拾贝。把古今智者哲人的思想成果比作深邃的夜空,他们精辟的话语就是熠熠繁星。现在呈现在读者面前的这套名言丛书,就是为方便集中阅读而编译的。其来源均为英文语料,且不乏时文。编译的追求,一是强调新颖,犹如遴选别致的贝壳;二是着重精深,犹如搜寻最明亮的星星。

中国人用于学习外语,尤其是英语上的时间之多,可谓不计代价。然而对于学习方法的讲究,恐怕就远远不够了。皓首穷经仍未能融会贯通者,比比皆是。这事要算大题目,非此处所能尽言。我们想要提出的只是:名言警句作为思想文化的精华,实属登堂入室之捷径,值得所有英语学习者重视。

尽管大量阅读是学好外语的不二法门,可是在现代生活的快节奏下,我们能够用于泛读的时间毕竟有限。于是加强精读,便成了顺理成章的选择。为学习者提供一套精读材料,正是丛书编译者的初衷。有心人研读书中的文字,不难从中获取语法、语用等多方面的启发。

例如,"No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible. (伏尔泰: 雪崩中没有一片雪花觉得自己有责任)",就体现了ever在否定句中与动词并用,作"任何时候"解的词义。

再如, "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. (阿克顿:权力易于腐败,绝对的权力绝对腐败)",则显示了tend后接不定式的固定搭配。

况且,学外语绝不仅为语言学习,实质上是在了解另一种文化。就此而言,书中蕴涵深厚的文字,更是俯拾即是:

Man is only a reed, the weakest thing in nature; but he is a thinking reed. (Bloise Poscol) 人不过是一株芦苇,在自然界里属于最弱小的东西,但他是一株思想着的芦苇。(帕斯卡)

Two things awe me most, the starry sky above me and the moral law within me. (Immonuel Kont) 有两样东西最令我敬畏,即头上的星空和心中的道德律。(康德)

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it. (Voltoire) 我不同意你说的话,但我愿意誓死捍卫你说这话的权利。(伏尔泰)

I have sown dragon's teeth and harvested fleas. (Heinrich Heine) 我播下的是龙种,收获的却是跳蚤。(海涅)

Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country. (John F. Kennedy) 不要问祖国能为你做什么,要问你能为祖国做什么。(肯尼迪)

One is not born a woman: one becomes one. (Simone de Beauvoir) 女人不是天生的: 她是形成的。(波伏瓦)

A man can be destroyed but not defeated. (Ernest Hemingway) 男子汉可以被摧毁,但无法被击败。(海明威)

这样的例子,可以毫不费力地列举下去。它们早已超越语言的藩篱,深入世人的心中。

贾植芳先生指出过:中西文化背景不同,价值观念亦有别。前者富于个人主体意识和理性批判精神,后者更注重伦理教化意义及实用价值。因而,我国被尊为格言的一些文字,常具训诫、教诲和规劝意味;西方类似文字则无代圣贤立言之意,而更多地属于生活经验之谈,或包含哲理的智慧火花,乃至个人猝然间的奇思异想。

我们在编选过程中认识到,贾先生的见解,确属精到。如今收入丛书的文字,虽不能说字字珠玑,也往往如先生所云,是"启人心智,拓人思路,开人眼界,发人深省,或给人以会心的微笑的精神养料,生活观念的参照系"。读者在翻阅中,倘能或掩卷沉思,或拈花一笑,有所启迪,得到陶冶,将使我们倍感欣慰。

早在春秋时期,孔子就说过: "不学《诗》,无以言。"引用《诗经》作为外交辞令,是当时诸侯国使节习用的方式。古今中外,类似做法不绝如缕。就连尼克松1972年访华时,都特意在祝酒词中吟诵毛泽东词作中的"一万年太久,只争

朝夕",来表达急于推动两国关系发展的心情。2011年5月中美举行战略与经济对话,美国国务卿克林顿在开幕式上,自称热衷于搜集中国成语和谚语。她除了重提"同舟共济",还运用"逢山开道,遇水架桥"来比拟双方的合作。晚宴上,她又以邓小平用过的中国俗语"摸着石头过河"描述这种协作。无独有偶,她的同事、财政部长盖特纳致开幕词时,也用汉语念出"有福同享,有难同当",更在晚宴上以"有朋自远方来,不亦乐乎"欢迎客人,赢得了个满堂彩。在国际交往中,此类轶事屡见不鲜,始终是一道有趣的风景。引语的实用性,由此可见一斑。本丛书中的许多文字,足可供读者用作思考、讲话或写作的素材。

译事之难,众所周知,实例不胜枚举。单说开头提到的哈姆雷特那句台词,似乎至今也未见到译得公认妥帖的。再如毛泽东语录"枪杆子里面出政权",英译时也必定使专家们大费周章,因为枪杆子一词的神韵,实在难以传达。现在的译文是从英文习惯,写成"Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun. (枪管子里面……)"。真是不无遗憾。

至于这套丛书,由于以双语对照方式编排,留给译者的发挥空间有限。我们所做的小小尝试,是在直译的前提下,部分译文倾向"格言化",即注重句式的对比性和内在的节奏感。明眼人当可看穿。塞万提斯调侃道:读一篇译作犹如从背面看一幅挂毯。我们学识有限,遂译尽管字斟句酌,无奈时感力不从心。不信不达之处,只好恭请读者海涵。

语录这种形式,似乎不登大雅之堂,难免七宝楼台拆开不成片段之讥。其实未必如此。因为引语常属"立片言而居要,乃一篇之警策",是诗眼,是精粹。而且,日常纷扰忙碌之际,名言集这样的读物,更适合在难得的一时闲暇中浏览。例如《围城》中那两段著名的引语,将婚姻比作鸟笼与围城的,人们大都查不着出处,而在本丛书"浪漫英语"分册中便可读到,分别是蒙田和奎塔德的妙论。

美国医生霍姆斯说:生活最美好的感觉,是欣赏美好的文字,期待在语言的流动中领略那诗意的倏然一闪。美国学者诺顿也说:不管从事什么职业,也不管事务多么繁冗,每天务必保证至少花几分钟读点诗歌,以使精神生活保持清新。

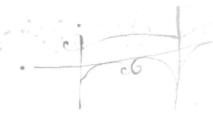
我们期望这几本小书得到读者的青睐。



ONTENTS 目录

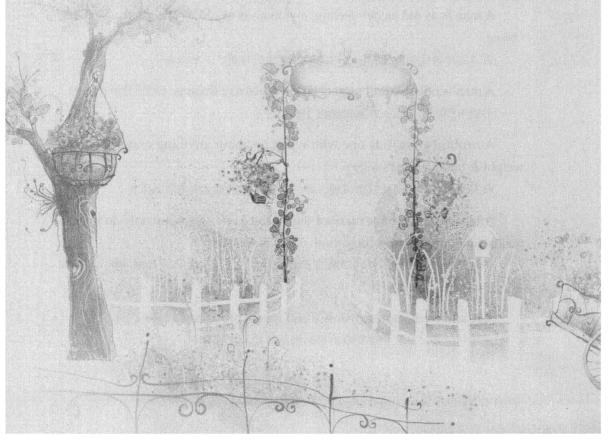
Age 年龄 ······ 1
Beauty 美貌 13
Couple 夫妻 ····· 25
Family 家庭 29
Humor 幽默 ····· 33
Husband 丈夫 ····· 59
Jealousy 忌妒 ····· 63
Kiss 吻 67
Love 爱情 ····· 71
Lover 恋爱······ 125
Man 男人 ······ 141
Man & Woman 男女 ······151
Marriage 婚姻 ······161
Passion 激情 187
Philosophic Thoughts 哲理 ······193
Poetic Thought 诗意 ·······213
Sex 性
Unclassified 杂感·······237

Wife 妻子 ······ 24	15
Witticism 妙语 ······25	51
Woman 女人······ 28	33
Youth 青春 ······ 20	99





Age 年龄



A good marriage is like an incredible retirement fund. You put everything you have into it during your productive life, and over the years it turns from silver to gold to platinum. (John Dewey)

美满的婚姻就像一笔丰厚得难以置信的退休金。你在盛年将全部财富投入其中,经年累月,它便从白银变成黄金,又变成白金。(杜威)

A man finds himself seven years older the day after his marriage. (Francis Bacon)

结婚次日, 男人发现自己长了七岁。(培根)

A man has reached middle age when the girl he winks at thinks he has something in his eye. (Franklin P. Jones)

在一个男人向姑娘挤眼而姑娘以为他眼睛迷了的时候,这个男人就到了中年。 (琼斯)

A man is as old as he's feeling; a woman is as old as she looks. (Mortimer Collins)

男人的年龄凭他的感觉,女人的年龄看她的外貌。(柯林斯)

A man is not old until regrets take the place of dreams. (John Borrymore) 不到悔恨取代梦想,人就没老。(巴里穆尔)

A truthful woman is one who won't lie about anything except her age, weight & her husband's salary. (Anon.)

诚实的女人不会就任何事说谎,她的年龄、体重及丈夫的收入除外。(佚名)

After forty, men have married their habits, and wives are only an item in the list, and not the most important. (George Meredith)

年过四十,男人就跟种种习惯结了缘。老婆不过是这张单子上的一项,并且算不上最重要的。(梅瑞狄斯)

Age and wedlock we all desire and repent of. (Thomas Fuller) 成年与结婚,是我们都想要也都后悔的事情。(富勒)



Age becomes reality when you hear someone refer to that attractive young woman standing next to the woman in the green dress, and you find that you're the one in the green dress. (Lois Wyse)

听人提到绿衣女人身旁的漂亮女郎又意识到自己就是绿衣女人时,年龄便成了 现实。(怀斯)

Age does not make us childish, as some say; it finds us true children. (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)

年岁并不像有人说的那样使我们变得孩子气,而是它发现我们是真正的孩童。 (歌德)

Age does not protect you from love. But love, to some extent, protects you from age. (Jeanne Moreau)

老年挡不住爱情,倒是爱情多少抵挡着老年。(莫罗)

Age is a matter of feeling, not of years. (George William Curtis) 年龄是个感觉问题,不是岁月问题。(柯蒂斯)

Age is bothersome only when you stop to coddle it. (Mourice Chevolier) 只有在你不再珍惜它的时候,年龄才成为累赘。(谢瓦利埃)

All of my past life that has not faded into mist has passed through the filter, not of my mind, but of my affection. (Iris Origo)

我一生中尚未淡忘的全部往事都经过了一道过滤,不是理智的而是感情的过滤。(奥里戈)

An old man in love is like a flower in winter. (Portuguese proverb) 恋爱的老年人犹如冬天的花。(葡萄牙谚语)

Any views are unimportant, if they are held about women by a man past forty. (Ben Heckt)

年逾四十的男人对女人所持的任何见解,均属无关紧要。(赫克特)



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As a general thing, people marry most happily with their own kind. The trouble lies in the fact that people usually marry at an age when they do not really know what their own kind is. (Robertson Dovies)

一般而言,相同类型的人结婚是最美满的。问题在于这一事实,即人们结婚的时候,往往处于并不真正了解自己类型的年龄。(戴维斯)

As I approve of a youth that has something of the old man in him, so I am no less pleased with an old man that has something of the youth. (Marcus Tullius Cicero)

我赞赏具有老人风度的青年,同样喜欢带有青年气息的老人。(西塞罗)

As long as a woman can look ten years younger than her own daughter, she is perfectly satisfied. (Oscar Wilde)

女人只要显得比自己的女儿年轻十岁,她就会心满意足。(王尔德)

At the age of forty, men that love love rootedly. If the love is plucked from them, the life goes with it. (George Meredith)

四十岁的时候,男人的爱情坚定不移。如果将爱情从他们身上抽走,生命会随之而去。(梅瑞狄斯)

Better be an old man's darling than become a young man's slave. (Jame Robinson Planché)

与其当年轻男子的奴隶,不如做老年男人的爱妻。(普兰切)

By the time men learn how to behave themselves, they are too old to do anything else. (Anon.)

到学会守规矩的时候, 男人也老得干不了别的了。(佚名)

Don't worry about avoiding temptation... As you grow older, it will avoid you. (Winston Churchill)

别为逃避诱惑操心……随着你变老,它会逃避你的。(丘吉尔)

Few women admit their age. Few men act theirs. (Anon.) 女人很少承认她们的年龄。男人很少按他们的年龄行事。(佚名)



For real true love we believe the best age is from forty-five to seventy; up to that, men are generally given to mere flirting. (Anthony Trollope)

就真正的爱而言,我们相信最佳年龄在四十五至七十之间。在这之前,人们通 常沉溺于纯粹的调情。(特罗洛普)

Forty is the old age of youth, fifty is the youth of old age. (Victor Hugo) 四十是青年的老年,五十是老年的青年。(雨果)

From forty to fifty a man is at heart a stoic or a satyr. (Arthur Wing Pinero) 四十至五十岁的男人本质上不是禁欲者就是色情狂。(平內罗)

Hardly any woman reaches the age of 30 without having been asked to marry, at least twice—once by her father; once by her mother. (Anon.)

几乎没有哪个女子年届三十而未曾得到结婚的建议,至少两次—— 一次来自 父亲,一次来自母亲。(佚名)

I have heard some people say they should like to be a girl, and a handsome girl too, from thirteen to two-and-twenty, and after that age again to become a man. (Jean de La Bruyère)

我听过有的人说,他们愿意自己从十三岁到二十二岁是姑娘,还要是漂亮姑娘;过了这个年龄再重新做男人。(拉布吕耶尔)

I like convents, but I wish they wouldn't admit any women under the age of fifty. (Napoleon Bonaparte)

我欣赏女修道院,唯希望院方不接收任何年龄未届五十之女子。(拿破仑)

If a woman tells you she's twenty and looks sixteen, she's twelve. If she tells you she's twenty-six and looks twenty-six, she's damn near forty. (Chris Rock)

如果一个看起来十六岁的女子告诉你她二十,她就是十二。如果她看起来 二十六而告诉你她二十六,她准是快四十了。(洛克)

If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day so I never have to live without you. (A. A. Milne)

你要是活上一百年,我就想活一百年减一天,以免生活中没有你。(米尔恩)



In a dream you are never eighty. (Anne Sexton)

在梦中你永远不是八十岁。(塞克斯顿)

It is truth but well known, that rashness attends youth, as prudence does old age. (Marcus Tullius Cicero)

轻率伴随年轻时代犹如谨慎伴随老年,这是人所共知的真理。(西塞罗)

Love is like the measles, all the worse when it comes late in life. (Douglas Jerrold)

恋爱如麻疹, 迟到的爱情就越发糟糕。(杰罗尔德)

Love is the word used to label the sexual excitement of the young, the habituation of the middle-aged, and the mutual dependence of the old. (John Ciordi)

爱情这个字眼所标志的,是青年人的干柴烈火、中年人的双栖成习和老年人的 相互扶持。(查尔迪)

Love, with very young people, is a heartless business. We drink at that age from thirst, or to get drunk; it is only later in life that we occupy ourselves with the individuality of our wine. (ISOK Dinesen)

就少男少女而言, 恋爱是件不甚用心的事情。我们在那个年龄由于口渴而饮酒, 或者酩酊大醉, 只是到了成年才只喝对个人口味的酒。(迪內森)

Love: the veils of purple and gold that youth drapes over the nudity of life. (Johann Wolfgan von Goethe)

爱情:青年遮蔽赤裸人生的华贵帘幕。(歌德)

Most people say that as you get old, you have to give up things. I think you get old because you give up things. (Theodore Francis Green)

大多数人说人老了就不得不放弃一些事情。我认为人老了是由于放弃了一些 事情。(格林)

Most women are not so young as they are painted. (Mox Beerbohm) 大多数女人没有上妆后那么年轻。(比尔博姆)



My notion of a wife at forty is that a man should be able to change her, like a bank note, for two twenties. (Douglas Jerrold)

对于年届四十的妻子,我的看法是,像钞票一样,男人应当能够用她换两个 二十的回来。(杰罗尔德)

No man can have a reasonable opinion of women until he has long lost interest in hair restorers. (Austin O'Malley)

在对生发药久已失去兴趣之前,没有哪个男人能够对女人持有合理的见解。 (奥马利)

Nobody loves lives like old man. (Sophocles)

没有谁像老年人那样热爱生活。(索福克勒斯)

Nothing about an adolescent makes him so obnoxious as middle age. (Franklin P. Jones)

年轻人所厌恶之事, 莫过于中年。(琼斯)

Old, that's an affront no woman can well bear. (Miguel de Cervantes)

年老, 那是任何女人都无法泰然处之的侮辱。(塞万提斯)

One of the best parts of growing older? You can flirt all you like since you've become harmless. (Liz Smith)

变老的最大好处之一?由于失去伤害力,你可以随意与任何人调笑。(史密斯)

One should never trust a woman who tells one her real age. A woman who would tell one that, would tell one anything. (Oscor Wilde)

绝不可信任告诉人真实年龄的女人。告诉人真实年龄的女人,什么都会告诉人。(王尔德)

Perfect love sometimes does not come till the first grandchild. (Welsh proverb)

完美的爱情有时得跟长孙一同降临。(威尔士谚语)



Sensible men prefer evening to morning, night to day, and mature women to young girls. (B. Louttarde)

Skiing is wonderful exercise for women, and you know why? Because it makes them look so much younger. After a day outdoors on skis, a woman of 40 looks just like a man of 30. (Herb Shriner)

Teenage children are totally intolerant of midlife parents for having much the same romantic fantasies they have. (Gail Sheehy)

少年人完全无法容忍的是,人到中年的父母也怀有与他们的几乎相同的浪漫幻想。(希伊)

The atrocious crime of being a young man... I shall neither attempt to palliate nor deny. (William Pitt)

身为年轻人的深重罪孽……我既不想试图掩饰也不想否认。(皮特)

The disappointment of manhood succeeds to the delusion of youth: let us hope that the heritage of old age is not despair. (Benjamin Disraeli)

继青年时期的幻想而来的是成年的失望。但愿老年所继承的不是绝望。(迪斯累里)

The four stages of man are infancy, childhood, adolescence and obsolescence. (Art Linkletter)

人生的四个阶段为:幼儿期、儿童期、青春期和淘汰期。(林克莱特)

The longest five years in a woman's life are between 29 and 30. (lon Ho ψ) 女人一生中最长的五年处于二十九至三十岁之间。(海)



The older theory was, marry an older man because they're more mature. But the new theory is men don't mature. Marry a younger one. (Rito Rudner)

比较老派的理论是,嫁给年纪大些的男人,因为他们更成熟。不过新近的理论 是男人不会成熟。嫁个年轻些的吧。(拉德纳)

The power of love itself weakens and gradually becomes lost with age, like all the other energies of man. (Anotole)

爱情本身的力量随着年龄减弱并渐渐消失,就像人的其他能力一样。(阿纳 托尔)

The secret of remaining young in spite of old age and white hairs is to preserve our enthusiasm. (Henri Frédéric Amiel)

即便年老头白而仍保持青春的秘诀,是留住我们的热情。(阿米尔)

The true way to render age vigorous is to prolong the youth of the mind. (Mortimer Collins)

使老年保持活力的可靠方法是延长心灵的青春。(柯林斯)

There will always be romance in the world so long as there are young hearts in it. (Anon.)

世间只要有年轻的心就总会有浪漫的故事。(佚名)

Thirty-five is a very attractive age, London society is full of women of the very highest birth who have, of their own free choice, remained thirty-five for years. (Oscor Wilde)

三十五岁是个非常诱人的年龄,伦敦社交界就充斥着贵妇名媛,她们自作主张 地多年三十五岁而不变。(王尔德)

Time and tide wait for no man, but time always stands still for a woman of thirty. (Robert Frost)

岁月不待人,不过时光常常为三十岁的女人停留。(弗罗斯特)

Time waits for no man, but it always stands still for a woman of 40. (Anon.) 时光不等人,不过它总是为年届四十的女人驻足。(佚名)

