

英语写作系列丛书  
**ENGLISH WRITING**

# 英语回译作文法

蔡基刚 王薇 编著

复旦大学出版社

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## 内 容 提 要

本书为大学英语写作教程系列丛书之一。本系列丛书中已经出版的《英语十句作文法》、《英语五段作文法》和《英语段落作文法》深受广大读者的青睐。本书与前几本书的不同点在于:它着力于从语言上(前几本书主要从结构、技巧上)提高学生的写作水平。全书模仿四、六级考试的翻译题命题法——以原版书刊上摘录文章的段落为主要材料,然后挖去部分句子、从句或短语,要求学生根据所给的汉语译文翻译去完成英语原文句子。通过这种回译法以提高学生的语言表达能力,使学生的英语语言表达更地道、更规范、更生动。

本书的适应对象是各类设有英语作文项目考试的考生,尤其是大学英语四、六级考试的应试者。当然包括所有致力于提高自己英语语言综合运用能力的读者。

## 前 言

近几年来中国学生的英语听说读能力都有不同程度的提高,唯有写作能力总是止步不前。例如四、六级考试中的写作成绩,按15分为满分计算,十几年来一直在7分左右徘徊。我国考生参加雅思考试,写作项目的得分,在全球参加该考试的国家里倒数第一。中国外语界的学者和教师都在寻找办法,提高学生的写作能力,但是大多数写作法都是建立在自由写作(*free writing*)的基础之上。自由写作理论起源于西方,作为母语写作的练习方式可能行之有效,但是运用到外语写作上,效果就不那么理想了。其中的一个主要问题就是在应试的大背景下,学生普遍采取回避策略,即对于没有掌握或没有把握的语言表达不敢用。这样就会产生两种情况:第一,词汇贫乏重复,句子结构简单,诸如 *More and more people who become more and more rich can buy more and more TV sets* 的句子到处可见。第二,母语负面迁移,中国式表达,如类似 *College life makes me feel happy* 充塞作文。这些句子从语法上来看,都没有错,但是从语言的丰富性,表达的地道性来说,都存在问题。因此即使他们掌握了议论文各种结构,能够写出较长的作文,但是他们的语言始终停留在中小学的水平上。这可以从绝大多数四、六级考试的作文中得到证明:一篇120来词的文章,总共只使用了30—40个不同的词,而且都是高频词,简单句,口语化的语言。

要学生从这种模式中转出来,规定他们一定要用某些低频词或某些比较复杂的句型来写作,他们就力不从心了。2006年

12 月的新四级考试中有一个写作项目,要求考生根据提供的汉语,完成英语句子,例如:

1. Specialists in intercultural studies say that it is not easy to \_\_\_\_\_ . (适应不同文化中的生活)

答案:adapt oneself to different cultures

2. Since my childhood I have found that \_\_\_\_\_. (没有什么比读书对我更有吸引力)

答案:nothing is more attractive to me than reading

3. The victim \_\_\_\_\_ (本来有机会活下来) if he had been taken to hospital in time.

答案:would have survived

4. Some psychologists claim that people \_\_\_\_\_. (出门在外时可能会感到孤独)

答案:might feel lonely when they travel outside

5. The nation's population continues to rise \_\_\_\_\_. (以每年 1 200 万人的速度)

答案:at a speed of 12 million per year

根据统计,在所参加的 450 万左右的考生中,竟然有 190 万得了零分。这个项目满分是 5 分,但整个平均分只有 0.5 分。说明我们的学生根本无法使用这样的词或结构。根据托福、雅思和四、六级考试的写作评分标准,一篇高分作文,不仅有结构和连贯的要求,还有词汇丰富,句型变化等语言表达要求。

一般的作文教科书把重点放在结构等写作技巧上,但我们认为中国学生最缺的是语言表达。写作技巧是知识性的,比较容易学会,而语言表达是能力性的,需要花更多的工夫。为此,我们考虑如何从学生语言表达能力上来提高他们的英语写作水平。

本书就是基于这样一种理念而编写的。我们选择了 50 篇语言表达上佳的议论文短文,挖去若干短语和结构,要求读者根据提供的对应的汉语和关键词,写出这些短语和结构。这些短

语和结构有三个特点:(1)语言地道,大多是固定的搭配和短语;(2)与对应的汉语表达有较大的差别;(3)在议论文写作中使用频率较高。这种写作练习实际上是回译的一种形式,即挑选一些好的句子,翻译成汉语,然后要求学生把汉语译回英语(大学英语四、六级考试中的翻译题就是按此原则命题的)。我们希望通过这样的练习,帮助读者熟练掌握这些短语和结构的用法,从而提高语言表达力。这是一个新的理念,这样的编写鲜有人尝试。

编者  
2008年5月

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## 1. Extreme Permissiveness

### 【回译】

Modern psychologists believe that children should enjoy full respect and their happiness is all important. They have succeeded (1.1) 动摇了家长对传统的抚育方法的信心 (undermine). The fact that parents are too permissive with their children today (1.2) 肯定是弊多利少 (harm, good). From early childhood, (1.3) 孩子就是一家之主 (charge), and (1.4) 父母的生活都围绕孩子的需要 (regulate). When the little dears develop into teenages, (1.5) 他们在家主宰一切 (control). Parental laxity over the years makes adolescent rebellion against parents all the more violent. If the young people are going to have a party, for instance, (1.6) 他们就叫父母离开家 (leave). For (1.7) 父母在场只会败坏他们的兴致 (spoil). What else can the poor parents do but obey? (1.8) 虽然大多数孩子没有受过分溺爱的不良影响 (survive) which is the normal condition in the modern household, a great many do not, There is a big increase in juvenile delinquency in our age. (1.9) 心理学家对此应负起较大责任 (answer for). (1.10) 或许这样的观点有点道理 (truth) that children who have never suffered frustration and setback will fail to make a success of life. (adapted from Alexander. L. G., *For And Against* 成都科技大学出版社, 1990)

## 【答案】

Modern psychologists believe that children should enjoy full respect and their happiness is all important. They have succeeded (1. 1) in undermining parents' confidence in their traditional way of bringing up children. The fact that parents are too permissive with their children today (1. 2) is surely doing more harm than good. From early childhood, (1. 3) the kids are in charge, and (1. 4) parents' lives are regulated according to the needs of their offspring. When the little dears develop into teenages, (1. 5) they take complete control at home. Parental laxity over the years makes adolescent rebellion against parents all the more violent. If the young people are going to have a party, for instance, (1. 6) parents are asked to leave the house. For (1. 7) their presence merely spoils the fun. What else can the poor parents do but obey? (1. 8) Though most of children survive the harmful influence of extreme permissiveness which is the normal condition in the modern household, a great many do not. There is a big increase in juvenile delinquency in our age. (1. 9) The psychologists have much to answer for it. (1. 10) Perhaps there's some truth in the idea that children who have never suffered frustration and setback will fail to make a success of life.

## 【解释】

1. 1. undermine 和 weaken 都有“削弱、动摇”意思,主要搭配是 undermine (weaken) confidence, authority, belief 等。  
例如:

Individualism has undermined our traditional beliefs. 强调  
“个人主义动摇了我们传统的信念。”

Parental authority has been greatly weakened in the past

years. 在过去的岁月中, 家长的权威大大削弱了。

1. 2. do sb. harm/good, 见 Appendix.

1. 3. 这里要求用“be in charge”短语。例如:

Who's in charge here? 这里谁做主(负责)?

He will be in charge of the shop when the manager is away.  
经理不在时, 他负责这个店。

1. 4. regulate 和 life 搭配是“调整、安排”的意思。

另外, 在英语写作中, 特别要注意用词变化。文中几次提到“孩子”, 除了用 children, 还可以用 kids, offspring, dears 替换。

1. 5. 用 control everything 不如 take complete control。英语中有用抽象名词的倾向。比较下面用法。

We now know our space — We now have a good knowledge of our space.

We can positively contribute to society. — We can make a positive contribution to society.

1. 6. 这里用 leave the house 比单用 leave 好, 结构比较平衡。

1. 7. 这里“父母”不要重复, 英语中注意用代词替代, 一般不用名词重复。

spoil 是“搞坏、糟蹋”的意思, 例如:

Our holidays were spoiled by bad weather. 坏天气把我们的假期搞得非常扫兴。

The bad news has spoilt my day. 那个坏消息破坏了我一天的情绪。

1. 8. “没有受到……影响”可用 be immune to 短语, 例如:

Can our children be immune to such constantly repeated violence? 难道我们的孩子不会受不断播出的暴力节目的影响?

但这里要求用 survive, 例如:

The reputation of the government has survived the economic

slow-down. 政府的声誉并没有因为经济衰退而受到影响。  
His suggestion has survived the public criticism. 他的建议并没有受到社会批评的影响。

- 1.9. 这里可用 to have a responsibility for it. 但用 to answer for 更贴切, 例如:

We cannot answer for the consequences. 我对后果不承担责任。

- 1.10. 这是一个搭配。例如:

It is said that good thinkers are born. Though there is an element of truth in this, the idea is actually false. 有人说思想家是天生的, 这话有点道理, 但实际上是错的。

## 2. Fashion and Women

### 【回译】

Over the years, (2.1) 大多数男人能成功抵制所有的企图 (resist) to make them change their style of dress. (2.2) 女人就不能说同样能做到这一点了 (the same). If women are mercilessly exploited year after year, (2.3) 那只能怪他们自己了 (blame). Because they shudder (2.4) 一想到自己在公共场合被看到穿着这样的衣服 (thought) that are out of fashion, they are annually blackmailed by the designers. Clothes which have been worn only a few times have to be discarded because of the dictates of fashion. Changing fashion (2.5) 无非是纯粹制造浪费 (nothing) Many women squander vast sums of money each year to replace clothes that have hardly been worn. Women who can't afford to discard clothing in this way, waste hours of their time altering the dresses they have. No one can claim that (2.6) 时装产业给社会带来了怎样真正重要的贡献 (contribute). Fashion designers (2.7) 很少关心一些重要的因素 (concern) like warmth and comfort. They are only interested in outward appearance and (2.8) 他们就是乘机利用了这一点 (take advantage) that women will put up with any amount of discomfort, (2.9) 只要看起来漂亮就可以了 (providing). (2.10) 没有人不会发笑 at the sight of a woman shivering in a flimsy dress on a wintry day. (adapted from Alexander. L. G. , *For And Against* 成都科技大学出版社, 1990)

## 【答案】

Over the years, (2.1) the great majority of men have successfully resisted all attempts to make them change their style of dress. (2.2) The same cannot be said for women. If women are mercilessly exploited year after year, (2.3) they have only themselves to blame. Because they shudder (2.4) at the thought of being seen in public in clothes that are out of fashion, they are annually blackmailed by the designers. Clothes which have been worn only a few times have to be discarded because of the dictates of fashion. Changing fashion (2.5) are nothing more than the deliberate creation of waste. Many women squander vast sums of money each year to replace clothes that have hardly been worn. Women who can't afford to discard clothing in this way, waste hours of their time altering the dresses they have. No one can claim that (2.6) the fashion industry contributes anything really important to society. Fashion designers (2.7) are rarely concerned with vital things like warmth and comfort. They are only interested in outward appearance and (2.8) they take advantage of the fact that women will put up with any amount of discomfort, (2.9) providing they look right. (2.10) There can hardly be a man who hasn't smiled at the sight of a woman shivering in a flimsy dress on a wintry day.

## 【解释】

- 2.1. 在书面语体里,不要都用 most 表达“大多数”的意义,还可以有下面几种表达:

a great/vast/overwhelming majority of, a considerable proportion of, a sizable percentage of

英语中不可数的概念也有许多种书面表达法,如文中 vast



sums of money, 还有:

a surprising amount of interest/knowledge/studies, a vast store of knowledge, resist an attempt/ an idea/ a plan/temptation 表示“抵制、阻止”例如:

There are good reasons to resist the legalization of euthanasia. 有充足的理由抵制安乐死的合法化。

- 2.2. 同样的表达有: the same can be said for, the same is true of, the same applies to. 例如:

The same is true of music listening. 听音乐同样如此。

Of course this does not apply to those women who are sufficiently well-to-do. 当然这不适用于那些家境富有的妇人们。

- 2.3. “责怪”的英语表达是 be to blame. 例如:

I suggest that the students themselves are partly to blame. 我认为该责怪的部分是学生自己。

If the decision is wrong, the man has nobody to blame but himself. 如果决定错了, 他只能怪自己。

- 2.4. 注意被动语态, 和后面定语从句的结构上相符: “身着……衣服” in clothes that ...

“一想到”的英语表达: at the thought of, 类似的表达还有 at the sight of 一看到, at the sound of 一听到, at the mention of 一提到

再如本文的最后一句:

He smiled at the sight of a woman shivering in a flimsy dress on a wintry day. 他一看到女人在寒冷的冬天穿着单薄的衣服冻得发抖就会发笑。

- 2.5. “无非, 不过是”的表达, 英语中有 nothing more/less than, 见 Appendix。

- 2.6. contribute 见 Appendix。

- 2.7. 英语当中“关心”, 可以用 be interested in, be concerned