英语好学系列·3.

中翻英开跑

GETTING STARTED IN TRANSLATION

简单编辑部 编著

附译句练习解答



中翻英开跑 Getting Started in Translation

简单编辑部 编著

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本书所根据的底本系周庭桢编著的《英语翻译基础》(A Stepping Stone to Translation),是 30 年代上海开明书局脍炙人口的英语丛书之一。原书在编排、组织上,确实下了一番功夫。半个多世纪来,对海峡两岸学英语的读者也有一定的贡献。我自己在初进大学外文系时也曾听师长推荐,买来研读。以笔者当年的英语水平,除几处较明显的语法错误外,对原著中文英译的优劣,恐怕也难以置喙。

十多年前偶然重拾旧籍,翻阅几页,发现许多句子英语不够地道,于是顺手修改,并向原出版社建议修订改版。然而原出版社并无意于此。因此兴起一个念头:将例句彻底修改,但维持原著架构,脱胎而不换骨。为什么呢?原著的优点在于结构取材,但英语方面却未臻完善,此外中文用语也太过文言。譬如:"动辄得咎"原译"would make critical mistakes; would incur critical mistakes",就很奇怪,我们改为"would be blamed for everything he did"。再如,"我决意勤学",原译"I make up my mind to study hard",我们改为"我决心用功读书":"I have made up my mind to study hard"。又如,"请你为我写一封介绍信",原译"You will please write a letter of introduction for me",这样的句子颇为别扭,不符合英语习惯。我们把它改为"Would you please (kindly) write a testimonial for me?"或"Please write a reference letter for me"。

我自己在学英文的过程中常听到一种说法:早期出版的英语书是多么了不起,是现在的英语学习书所不及的;早期的英文学者英文造诣有多深,现在年轻一辈难以望其项背。不过多年来的经验却让我了解到事实恐怕并非如此。刚好相反,30年代至80年代中国人自己撰写的英语学习丛书,里面的例句除非引用自英美名家作品,如果是自己造的,多多少少都有中式英语的问题,以上所举的几个例子及附录的几页样张可以让我们更深刻地体会这个事实。因此,我们可以从中得到一点启示:中国人学英语,无论下了多少功夫,在作文造句方面应该谦虚一点,不能自己高兴怎么写就怎么写。尤其要拿来发表的,更应该请母语人士先过目润饰,才不致贻笑大方。

近年来海峡两岸出版界出了不少英语学习书。一般而言,水准比三五十年前当然是有进步,然而在编辑撰写过程中,仍然少有母语人士参与,因此书中出现的英语是否正确、地道是值得重视的问题。其实,许多中式或亚洲式英语如:"What is the color of this?"(应该说:"What color is this?"), "open ceremony"(正确的说法是: "opening ceremony") 都是中国、日本编教科书、参考书的人凭着自己的语法观念创造出来的。以讹传讹,大家以为是地道的英语,其实以英语为母语的人根本不这么讲。

我们坚持每一本英语学习书都至少要经过一位以上的外籍编辑仔细审核修订才付印。多年来,我们从中学习汲取了许多宝贵的经验,更确信没有经过这样的把关,品质是没有保障的。

本书首先是由 James St. André 负责修改全部英语句子,再经 Robert Ross、Lynn Sauve 及苏正隆等讨论、推敲、润饰。其间参与编辑的 有徐幼馨、刘中,最后由王建文编辑整理。这虽然是一本薄薄的小书,却 花了许多年的时间和心力才完成。因为我们知道,创造一个错误的英语说法有多容易,而一旦广为流传后,花九牛二虎之力也不一定能纠正过来。譬如把 flyer/brochure 称为 DM,把 living room 称为"起居室",已经难以根除。因此,从事英语学习书籍的出版,如果不是抱着兢兢业业的态度,只是灾梨祸枣,误人子弟而已!

简单编辑部 苏正隆 2002年9月15日

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1 wish; intend 想;要

句 型 A

我想出国留学。

- 1. I intend (wish, desire, expect) to study abroad.
- 2. I have the intention (the desire, a mind) to study in a foreign country (in a western country).

句式

- a) intend, wish, desire, expect + 动词不定式 (infinitive)
- b) have the intention, the desire, a mind + 动词不定式



intend = 意欲,企图;wish = 心想,愿望;expect = 期望;desire = 欲,愿望。以上四词词义类同,可通用。如上句改作 I wish to pursue studies in a foreign country 亦可。以上 1、2 两种句式都是简单句 (simple sentence)。

句型B

我急欲谋职。

- 1. I am very anxious to find a job.
- 2. I am on the lookout for a position.

注▶ anxious (adj.) = eager, 表示"急欲,切望,渴想"等意。to be on the lookout for (成语) = to be looking for,作"正在寻觅"解。

句型 C

那富人渴望(很想)当官。

- 1. The rich man is eager to be an official.
- 2. The rich man is very anxious to enter public service.
- 3. The rich man longs for an official position.
- 4. The rich man has an ambition to be an official.
- 注》 to be very anxious to、to long for、to have an ambition to 都是"渴望"的意思;注意以上各动词短语后面所跟的短语,句式不同,语法结构各异。

句型 D

我决心用功读书。

- 1. I am determined to study hard.
- 2. I have determined to study hard.
- 3. I have made up my mind (have decided) to study hard.

翻译练习

- 1. 今天我想去台北^①阳明山^②一游^③。
- 2. 我打算[®]上[®]电脑班[®]。
- 3. 他因失业①,急欲谋职。
- 4. 我渴望见你。
- 5. 他们决意到新西兰®去工作。

提示》 ①台北=Taibei ②阳明山=Yangmingshan ③一游=to visit; to pay a visit ④打算=to plan to ⑤上=to attend; to take ⑥电脑班=a computer school; a computer class ⑦失业=jobless ⑧新西兰=New Zealand

the former...the latter 前者……后者

句型A

有些人认为美国南方人民比北方人民聪慧,但不如北 方人民耐劳。

- Some people think that people in the southern US are wiser than those in the North, but the former are not so industrious as the latter.
- In the US, some people think Southerners are cleverer than the Northerners, but the first are not so hard-working as the second.

句式

- a) the former... the latter = 前者……后者
- b) the first... the second = 前者……后者



句 1 中 the former 指"南方人", the latter 指"北方人", 此处 the former...the latter 称为 "相关代词"(correlative pronoun); 此外还有 the first... the second 一例。

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

句 2 中 the first 指"南方人", the second 指"北方人"。

语言有两种类型:一种为口语、一种为书面语。

- 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.

one...the other = 一为……一为。此外还有 the one...the other 指"前者……后者",只代表单数名词; some... some = 有些人(或物)······有些人(或物),指复数; some... others ysberro= 有些人(或物)······有些人(或物),指复数。例如:

Poverty and wealth are the greatest temptations; began in scause a man to become mean (base) and the other, proud. Some are good and some bad.

Some say one thing and others another.

- 1. 猛兽^①终为人所克服^②的原因在于兽无智力^③而人有。
- 2. 书桌上有两本书:一为日记^④,一为字典^⑤。 (8
- 3. 运动和睡眠同等重要,前者使人血脉畅通[®],后者使身心有 正常休息。①
- 4. 有些人认为他对,有些人认为他错。

提示》 ① 猛兽 = ferocious (fierce) animal ② 为 ······ 所 克服 = to be dominated by ③智力 = intelligence ④日记 = diary ⑤字典 = dictionary ⑥ 血脉畅通 = good blood circulation ⑦ 使身心有 正常休息 = to enable the body and mind to get regular (periodic) rest

3

be able to; can; possible 能:可以:可能

句型A

我能助人,则人也会助我。

- 1. I am glad to help people in need if I can. In the
 - 2. Now I am able to help people in need; someday someone might / may help me.
- 3. As long as I am capable of helping people in need, I will. Someday someone might / may help me.



- a) "能"字用 can 国际法一、并本两套主泉社 .5
- 自己是更多品b) "能"字用 be able to + 动词原形 關係協致 是
 - c) "能"字用 be capable of + 动名词 (gerund)

解析

od of management and state of the could 用于各种人称并无变化。able 要字 Garage 是形容词,随动词 to be 之变化而有现在。过去、将来三种种 could produce the could be could be considered by the cou

过去时: I, we, you, they, he, she, it, a boy, the boys can do. 过去时: I, we, you, they, he, she, it, a boy, the boys could do.

can 无将来时之用法,另用 able 表示:

现在时: I am able to do.

You, we, they, the boys <u>are able to</u> do. He, she, it, a boy <u>is able to</u> do.

过去时: I, he, she, it, a boy was able to do.

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

将来时: I, we will 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,是形容词,后面常跟 of 加动名词; capable 前面要加 be 动词,时态的变化方式与句式 b) 相同。

注》 此句意思就是说,"假使我能助人,人也会助我。" 注意"假使、倘若、如果"的三种译法。

如果你需要,我可以将此货送到你家中。

- I can send the goods to your home, if you wish (desire).
- 2) I can deliver the articles to your house, if you want.

注意在此种语气中 can 当"可以"用,例如"你可以任意买你要的(东西)"可译作: Man of boy not seld account all (d

You can purchase anything (that) you want.

The by You can get whatever you want. not eldisson it sl (7

You can buy what you want.

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例句I