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# Our Roses Grow in China

by Amalia Hinsdell

When I sat with my daughter, Dru, and watched Richard Nixon's televised climb of the Great Wall of China,<sup>1</sup> my heart stirred with the possibility of fulfilling a dream of my late husband, Oliver Hinsdell.

He had been a B-29 pilot<sup>2</sup> in World War II. During the winter of 1944, while on his first bombing mission over<sup>3</sup> Japanese-held Manchuria,<sup>4</sup> his plane had been raked with flak.<sup>5</sup> One engine caught fire and spewed black smoke. The noise from the runaway engine was horrendous, crew members shouted confusedly to one another through the flames and terror. Four men panicked, bailed out,<sup>6</sup> and were lost. As the plane rapidly lost altitude over the Bohai (Pohai) Gulf, Oliver and the remaining six crewmen held on until<sup>7</sup> land was sighted, then parachuted onto the beach. They were safe, but were 600 miles behind enemy lines.

Oliver and the crew had landed near the village of Shanhaiguan,<sup>8</sup> where the Great Wall of China begins its serpentine journey westward.<sup>9</sup> My husband knew little of Chinese politics, but had been advised by his commanding officer to "head for the hills and look for Communist Guerrillas<sup>10</sup> if you get into trouble,"<sup>11</sup> since Mao Tsetung and his army were fighting the Japanese in the northern part of China. Heeding the officer's advice, the men struck off toward the hills,<sup>12</sup> wandering through marshes until they encountered a peasant. Fortunately, he was an ally from the village of Shanhaiguan, which was a pocket of Chinese resistance.<sup>13</sup> The nervous fliers were escorted to the home of the mayor,

1. When I sat with ... China: 当我和女儿德露坐在一起观看电视转播理查德·尼克松登上中国长城时。 2. a B-29 pilot = a Bomber-29 pilot. 3. while on his first bombing mission over ...: 首次执行轰炸……的使命时。 4. Manchuria [mæn'tʃuəriə]: 满洲(指当时中国的东北三省)。 5. his plane...flak: 他的飞机被高射炮火击中了。 6. bailed out: (从飞机上)跳伞。 7. held on until...: 坚持到……为止。 8. Shanhaiguan: 山海关, 是长城的起点。 9. begins its serpentine journey westward: 蜿蜒西去。 10. head for ... Communist Guerrillas: 进山去找共产党的游击队。 11. get into trouble: 处境为难; 陷入困境。 12. struck off toward the hills: 向山里进发。 13. a pocket of Chinese resistance: (孤立的)一小块中国抗战区。

and news of their rescue was radioed to Yan'an (Yenan), headquarters of Mao's army. Yan'an radioed back: "We will save these men. It will take a year but we will get them out alive."

So the American fliers began a 1,500-mile trek<sup>14</sup> from Shanhaiguan to Yan'an, a journey comparable to climbing up and down the Rocky Mountains, the same distance as from New York City to St. Louis,<sup>15</sup> in the dead of winter.

Both peasants and soldiers walked with Oliver and the crew. Sometimes only a single guide led the men from hamlet to hamlet,<sup>16</sup> along the mountainous route, through Japanese blockades and patrols. Once their guide was a 12-year-old boy. At other times, members of the guerrilla forces escorted them, as did a thousand Eighth Route Army soldiers, who marched with them for miles on one occasion.

The route was circuitous, the terrain steep and rugged, the winter raw and bitter.<sup>17</sup> Although food was scarce, the Chinese shared what they had and gave the Americans clothes and shelter. After the war, Oliver told me many stories about the warm relationship that existed between soldiers and peasants. Previously, soldiers looted, destroyed crops, razed houses, raped women, and abused peasants. But the Communist soldiers held to an ethic of respect for the peasants. As they marched, they sang songs like "The Three Main Rules of Discipline and Eight Points of Attention," which admonished: "Don't take a single needle or thread," "Don't damage people's corps." This respect won the favor of<sup>18</sup> the peasants and was a decisive factor in winning the civil war against Chiang Kai-shek's armies following the World War II armistice.

Despite the difficulties they encountered, Oliver and his fellow pilots walked the 1,500 miles in six months. In a Yan'an cave house, Mao Tsetung gave a dinner in honor of<sup>19</sup> the rescued Americans, where they ate and drank toasts to the victory of the Allies.

Until his death six years ago, Oliver dreamed of returning to China to thank the Chinese for all they did for him. When it became pos-

14. a 1,500-mile trek: 一千五百英里的艰苦跋涉。 15. the same distance ... St. Louis: 这距离如同纽约城到圣·路易斯。 16. hamlet: 小村庄(尤指没有教堂的小村子)。 17. The route was ... bitter: 在这句子中 the terrain and the winter 这两个词后省掉系动词,使语句显得洗练。 18. won the favor of ...: 博得……好感。 19. in honor of ...: 招待……。

sible for Americans to go to China, my daughter and I applied for visas to visit, to thank the Chinese on his behalf, and to retrace, in part,<sup>20</sup> the path of his dramatic rescue. After a year of waiting, the invitation came: "I have the pleasure to inform you that the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries would like to invite you and your daughter to visit China this year."

To symbolize our gratitude to the Chinese people, we chose two bare-root bushes of the Peace Rose to take with us as a living gift. The Peace Rose had been developed during World War II by a Frenchman. Fearing that the flower he was so painstakingly perfecting would be destroyed by advancing German troops, he sent bushes to several different countries for protection. In each country, it was given a different name. After the war, the rose won international prizes for its beauty, and was then uniformly named the Peace Rose.

Two of the rosebushes, wrapped and dormant in a long box, went to China with Dru and me. On the way,<sup>21</sup> I struggled on and off planes, awkwardly clutching the bulky parcel. At each hotel, I managed to refrigerate the roses, hoping they would survive the long journey to Peking.

In Peking, we were to present the roses at a dinner hosted by Chen Maiyuan, who had given a simple dinner for Oliver years ago in a cave house.<sup>22</sup> This year the gourmet meal (comprised entirely of duck specialties)<sup>23</sup> was held in a world-famous restaurant. Chen Maiyuan, although ill and in pain, came to be with us, and we appreciated the great effort he made to do so. It was as rare an event for him to meet Americans as it was for us to be in China.<sup>24</sup>

After the meal I took out an album of wartime Chinese photographs, sketches of China which Oliver had made, and two letters which he had received in China. Included was the note Mr. Chen had written a quarter of a century ago inviting my husband to dinner. Chen Maiyuan saw his handwriting and his signature on that scrap of paper, a mere scrap because paper was so scarce during the war. He was impressed that it had been saved all that time and brought all the way

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20. in part: 在某种程度上。 21. On the way: 一路上。 22. a cave house: 窑洞。 23. duck specialties: 全鸭席。 24. It was as rare ... China: 他能见到美国朋友是一件不寻常的事,如同我们难得来中国一样。 as 在句中作比较而言。

from America. He kept pointing to his name and grinning as<sup>25</sup> we excitedly talked.

We brought out the box containing the roses, pulled away the tape, and opened it. They were living! The bushes had sprouted little green shoots. Pale to be sure, but healthy. We were later told that they were taken to Chairman Mao as an expression of our gratitude to the people of China.

In Shanhaiguan, our host, Fang Daoye, had talked to several people who remembered watching my husband's mammoth plane fall and seeing the smoke from the crash. He told us several stories about the fliers' experiences. "One of your men fired at us. But we understood," our host quoted one villager. I thought again how apt a symbol the Peace Rose was.

Once again, the Chinese people had shared with this American family. They shared their food and their homes, and showed us their industries, their productive land, and their healthy, confident children. Best of all, they gave us their friendship. At the dinners in our honor, many toasts were made: "May the friendship between America and China grow and blossom like the Peace Roses!"

I have fulfilled my husband's dream of returning to China to thank the people who saved his life. I have my own dream now. I hope the bridge to China will never again be closed. Perhaps I will be able to return for another spring in China, to see the roses blooming.

(Excerpted from *NEW CHINA*, Summer 1977)

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25. He kept pointing ... grinning as ...: 当我们兴奋地交谈时,他不时指着自己的名字,裂嘴笑。

(李慧民 选注)

## JOKES

Teacher: "How many i's do you use to spell Mississippi?"

Student: "None. I do it blindfolded."

\*

\*

\*

Waiter: "Don't you like our coffee?"

Customer: "No, it tastes like mud."

Waiter "Well, it was ground this morning."



# 诗歌和语感

杨周翰

学习英语要读点文学作品,这似乎已经得到公认了。文学反映社会生活,人与人之间的关系,各种类型的人物和他们的性格、情感、心理、思想,他们的生活环境,生活中各种活动和生活中各种细节,以至大自然各种现象,内容可以说包罗万象。文学的表达方式方法也是丰富多采的,各个作家又有不同的风格,争妍竞丽。读点文学作品对我们提高语言感非常必要。语言感越深透细致,理解也就越完整深入,运用也才能更准确精到。

培养语言感的一个好方法(如果不是最好的方法)就是读诗。诗歌的语言一般涵义丰富,表达精炼,往往一字多义,而且同前后左右相互呼应、相互制约、相互发挥,使一首诗成为一个复杂的有机整体。诗人用词往往有意引起读者的联想,激发读者的情感。一首好诗经得起反复推敲咀嚼,有时还必须反复推敲咀嚼。其实所谓语言感也并不神秘,那就是除了表面意义之外,要能分辨出语言的贴切性、方向性,也就是有无弦外之音,我们应作出什么反应等等。诗歌的语言由于以上种种原因,所以是培养语言感的一条很好的途径。我们应当由浅入深、由短及长,选出一部好的诗选,供学习英语者使用。

读一首诗当然首先要查一查作者是谁,他的思想倾向如何。诗歌的内容是通过一定的形式表达出来的,诗歌格律是形式的一个组成部分,所以格律要知道,不过格律终究有些机械性,比较容易解决,初学者不必把注意力都集中在此,还是多注意语言。

下面我选了一首语言比较容易的诗:

Virtue

George Herbert

Sweet day, so cool, so calm, so bright,

The bridal of the earth and sky:

The dew shall weep thy fall tonight;

For thou must die.

Sweet rose, whose hue angry and brave

Bids the rash gazer wipe his eye:

Thy root is ever in its grave,

And thou must die.

Sweet spring, full of sweet days and roses,  
A box where sweets compacted lie;  
My music shows ye have your closes,  
And all must die.

Only a sweet and virtuous soul,  
Like season'd timber, never gives;  
But though the whole world turn to coal,  
Then chiefly lives.

这首诗在一般的英诗选里是照例要收的。作者 George Herbert (1593—1633) 生活在文艺复兴末期、资产阶级革命前夕, 出身贵族家庭, 在剑桥大学毕业后, 担任了该大学类乎典礼官 (Public orator) 的职务达八年之久, 最后决定放弃仕宦之途, 当了牧师, 三年后去世。

这首诗写的是尘世一切都要灭亡, 只有善良的灵魂是不朽的这样一个思想。字里行间也流露出矛盾心理。前三节的内容否定现世生活, 当然是消极的, 最后一节还有一定的积极意义。我们对此诗的内容心中有数了, 再看它们语言工夫, 就可以客观些。

首先有几个词需要解释一下。Thou=你(非尊称); thy=你的; ye=你们; angry, 鲜红; brave, 艳丽; 第十行中的 sweets 指的是各种香料; closes 指音乐的结束; coal=灰烬, 按基督教的说法, 世界末日一切焚毁; virtue, virtuous, 意义是善良、正直、坚强。

Herbert 的诗的特点是语言十分简单, 结构紧凑巧妙, 思想感情很“深”。

最明白易晓的是结构。前三节是陪衬, 最后一节是主旨。前三节, 每节头两行同后两行思想是对立的; 第一节 day 同第二节的 rose 都是独立的, 而到了第三节却成了 spring 的组成部分, 所以在内容上前三节是逐步在进展。可见诗人在构思时是有所布置的。

再看诗人用词。用词非常简单, 单音词比例很大, 但含义丰富。有时一词多义, 例如一个 sweet 就用来形容四种不同的东西, 我们如果试把这个词翻译出来, 就会发现它有四种不同的意思, 还不说它又被当作名词使用。在选词上也很下工夫, 例如 angry, 《牛津大字典》有一条释义就是引这行诗作为例句, 解释成: having the colour of an angry face, red, 可见其感情色彩之浓厚。又如 gives, 给我们勾画出一副粗壮的梁木被慢慢压弯的图象。

在这首诗里, 诗人主要用强烈的对照和反复的重复来表达自己的心情。第一节 bridal 同下面暗示的 funeral 相对照; 第二节鲜红夺目的玫瑰, “使走马观花的人也不得不刮目相看”, 这样一个生机勃勃的形象同令人窒息的坟



墓又形成对比。第四节 *seasoned timber* 又同脆弱的玫瑰形成最后的对照。前三节里的 *sweet* 同最后一节的 *sweet*, 字面相同, 但前三节的 *sweet* 是“假”, 最后一节的 *sweet* 是“真”。诗人使用对比还有一个特点, 就是对比非常突然, 白昼突然到黑夜, 生突然到死。在思路比较曲折的第四节, 也表现出突然的对比。力负万钧的大木虽然坚强不屈, 但(诗人说)这不过是个比喻, 它还是要消灭的, 只有正直灵魂才不朽云云。从大木到灰烬, 对比十分强烈、突然。诗里 *must die* 重复三次, 每次放在最后一行, 斩钉截铁, 从这里可以听到诗人对放弃现世生活的惋惜和矛盾。如果用散文来表达, 就不可能这样精炼有力。

诗歌涵义丰富还在文字所引起的联想和音乐性。这首诗, 长音占绝大多数, 第一行八个字都是长音, 长音给整首诗带来一种沉重之感, 而不是轻快之感。这首诗用的都是日常生活中的形象, 但仍然能引起丰富的联想。例如婚礼使人联想到欢乐、生机; 露水既是自然界的现象, 也是眼泪; *a box where sweets compacted lie* 使人联想到世俗的豪华生活; *timber* 很自然地使人感到有用、坚实、挺直不屈、高大。不过联想决不是胡思乱想, 而是取决于一定的文化传统。同一事物在东西方文化或文学传统中给人的联想就不总是一样的。此外, 一首诗作为一个整体, 有它的格局, 联想也要受到这格局的限制, 例如 *my music*, 诗人把自己的诗比作一首乐曲, 我们最多把它引伸为“圣乐”——宗教音乐, 而决不会联想到什么轻歌曼舞之类吧。

这首诗虽然只有短短十六行, 却是一出完整的“戏”, 戏中有四个人物: 诗人、晴日、玫瑰花、春天, 诗人是主角。他先向其他三个角色说话, 最后是独白。戏剧性还表现在 *Bids the rash gazer wipe his eye* 这行诗里: 一个匆忙鲁莽过路的观花人突然见到一朵艳丽的玫瑰, 骤然驻足, 将信将疑, 拭目细看的情景, 跃然纸上。诗人用这样一个富有戏剧性的细节, 用极简单的语言, 来烘托出玫瑰花的绚丽, 由此而更进一步反衬出死亡的结局, 语言工夫确有独到之处。

总之, 一首好诗, 我们多看几遍, 就不难体会到诗歌以其丰富的形象、选词、联想、暗示、对比、烘托、音律、结构, 在有限的篇幅内, 以其独特的方式, 表达了“深刻”的思想感情内容。我们多读些文学作品, 尤其诗歌, 就不难逐渐提高我们的语言感。当然, 语言感的培养还牵涉到丰富的文化、文学、语言方面的知识, 这样读一首诗才能触类旁通。初学者在适当的指导下或求助于较好的注解, 是可以从诗歌中获益的。要细心读。积少成多, 由浅而深, 自然会培养出语言感来。

# Five Humorous Stories\*

## Christmas Cards<sup>1</sup>

It was two weeks before Christmas, and Mrs Smith<sup>2</sup> was very busy. She bought a lot of Christmas cards to send to her friends and to her husband's friends, and put them on the table in the living-room.<sup>3</sup> Then, when her husband came home from work, she said to him, "Here are the Christmas cards for our friends, and here are some stamps, a pen and our book of addresses.<sup>4</sup> Will you please write the cards while I am cooking the dinner?"

Mr Smith did not say anything, but walked out of the living-room and went to his study.<sup>5</sup> Mrs Smith was very angry with him,<sup>6</sup> but did not say anything either.

Then a minute later he came back with a box full of Christmas cards. All of them had addresses and stamps on them.

"These are from last year," he said, "I forgot to post them."

## "Enjoy Your Vegetables!"

Mrs Brown had a small garden<sup>7</sup> behind her house, and in the spring she planted some vegetables in it. She looked after them very carefully, and when the summer came,<sup>8</sup> they looked very nice.

One evening Mrs Brown looked at her vegetables and said, "Tomorrow I am going to pick<sup>9</sup> them, and then we can eat them."

But early the next morning, her son ran into the kitchen and shouted, "Mother, Mother! Come quickly! Our neighbour's ducks are in the garden and they are eating our vegetables!"

---

\*这几个幽默故事均选自 L. A. Hill 编的 Intermediate Comprehension Pieces 一书,文字较容易,内容有趣,题目是注释者另拟的。

1. Christmas ['krisməs] cards: 祝贺圣诞节的卡片。贺年片用英文说是 New Year card. 2. Mrs Smith ['misiz 'smiθ]: 史密斯太太(夫人)。 3. living-room: 起居室。 4. book of addresses: 通讯录。 5. study: 书房。 6. was angry with him: 生他的气。 7. garden: 菜园,花园。 8. when the summer came: 夏天来到的时候。季节前面的定冠词在这种情况下可以省去。 9. pick: 收获,采摘(花卉、水果、蔬菜)。

Mrs Brown ran out, but it was too late! All the vegetables were finished!<sup>10</sup> Mrs Brown cried, and her neighbour was very sorry, but that was the end of the vegetables.

Then a few days before Christmas, the neighbour brought Mrs Brown a parcel.<sup>11</sup> In it was a beautiful, fat duck, and on it was a piece of paper with the words, "Enjoy your vegetables!"

### A Strange Telephone Call

Mrs Jones's<sup>12</sup> telephone number was 3464, and the number of the cinema in her town was 3463, so people often made a mistake and telephoned her when they wanted the cinema.<sup>13</sup>

One evening the telephone bell rang and Mrs Jones answered it. A tired man said, "At what time does your last film begin?"

"I am sorry," said Mrs Jones, "but you have the wrong number.<sup>14</sup> This is not the cinema."

"Oh, it began twenty minutes ago?" said the man. "I am sorry about that. Goodbye!"

Mrs Jones was very surprised. So she told her husband. He laughed and said, "The man's wife wanted to go to the cinema, but he was feeling tired, so he telephoned the cinema. His wife heard him, but she didn't hear you. Now they will stay at home this evening, and the husband will be happy!"

### "You Will Find Our Letter to You in It"

When you have a post-office box,<sup>15</sup> the postman does not bring letters to you, but you go to the post-office and get your letters and parcels from your box. The box is locked, and you have the key, so the letters are quite safe.

One day, the headmaster<sup>16</sup> of a school wrote to the post-office and asked for a post-office box for his school. He soon got an answer.

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10. All the vegetables were finished: 园子里的菜全都完了。 11. parcel ['pa:sl]: 包裹, 一包东西。 12. Mrs Jones's ['misiz 'dʒəʊnziz]: 琼斯夫人的。 13. when they wanted the cinema: 当他们给电影院打电话的时候。 14. have the wrong number: (电话)号码错了; 拨错了(电话)号码。 15. post-office box: 邮政信箱。常简写作 PO (p.o.) box。 16. headmaster: (中小学)校长。

It said, "We will give you a post-box in one month."<sup>17</sup>

Three months later, the headmaster wrote to the post-office again and said, "Why haven't we got a post-office box yet?"

This was the answer from the post-office:

"Dear Sir,

We gave you a post-office box two months ago and wrote to you then to tell you. Here is the key to your box.<sup>18</sup> You will find our letter to you in it."

### "Why Not Stop Her?"

The ladies'<sup>19</sup> club<sup>20</sup> always had a meeting every Friday afternoon and someone came to talk to them about important things. After that, they had tea and asked questions.

One Friday, a gentleman<sup>21</sup> came and talked to the club about food. "There is not enough food in the world for everybody," he said. "More than half the people in the world are hungry. And when they get more food, they have more babies, so they never stop being hungry. Somewhere in the world, a woman is having a baby every minute, day and night. What are we

going to do about it?"<sup>22</sup> He waited for a few seconds before he continued, but before he began to speak again, one of the ladies said, "Well, why don't we find that woman and stop her?"<sup>23</sup>



17. in one month: 一个月之后。这种情况下不能说 after one month. 18. key to your box: 你的信箱的钥匙。 19. lady: 女士; 夫人。 20. club: 俱乐部。 21. gentleman: 先生; 绅士。 22. What are we going to do about it? 对此我们该怎么办呢? 23. Well, why don't we find that woman and stop her? 欸, 那为什么不把那个妇女找出来制止她呢? 讲演人说的 a woman 是泛指, 但这位女士认为是特指, 故事的幽默就在于此。 (龙文林 选注)

## 时态比较：现在一般时和过去一般时

### 二 水

现在一般时和过去一般时，一般说来，区别较大，不易混淆。但也有一些情况需要比较。譬如：

1. { Did you wish to see me? (a)  
    { Do you wish to see me? (b)

此例 (a) 句与 (b) 句意思相同，可是语气却不一样。(a) 句用过去一般时，表示婉转客气，彬彬有礼。英语里用过去时态表示婉转客气的情况很多，如 What did you want? 就要比 What do you want? 客气得多。(b) 句也可以说，但没有 (a) 句那样礼貌。

2. { My grandfather was a model worker. (a)  
    { My grandfather is a model worker. (b)

例中 (a) 句用的是过去一般时，表示“我的祖父”生前是一个模范工作者，现已死去。(b) 句则说明“我的祖父”还健在人间。英语里，谈到死去的人要用过去时态，但也有例外。请看下面一例。

3. { Shakespeare was the author of *Hamlet*. (a)  
    { Shakespeare is the author of *Hamlet*. (b)

例中 (a) 句用过去一般时，说明作者莎士比亚其人其作品《王子复仇记》皆属过去，和我们现在可以说已无直接关系。(b) 句用现在一般时，则表示《王子复仇记》这个剧本现今仍在被人们传诵或演出，而作者虽已死去三百多年，则因其作品之不朽而不朽了。

4. { What brought you here? (a)  
    { What brings you here? (b)

这两句的意思完全一样，但 (a) 句暗含一个过去某一时刻，(b) 句则强调现在的结果。(b) 句用 brings，实际上相当于现在完成时 has brought，只是前者强调结果，后者不仅说明结果，而且有从过去过渡到现在的含义。(参见《英语学习》1978 年第 2 期第 34 页) 现在一般时相当于现在完成时的情况并不罕见。下面又是一例。

5. { I came to apologize. (a)  
    { I come to apologize. (b)

这两句的意思也是一样。(a) 句有“当我决定向你道歉的时候我就来了”

的含义, (b) 句只强调“我已到此”的结果。如说 I have come to apologize, 则不但表示结果, 而且具有“过渡”的含义在内了。

6. { That's all I had to say. (a)  
    { That's all I have to say. (b)

这两句话都常为人们所说。(a) 句的意思是“刚才我心里要说的话, 就是这些, 我都说了。”(b) 句则表示我刚才讲的那些话现在仍在我的心里。

7. { How did you like the film? (a)  
    { How do you like the film? (b)

例中 (a) 句用过去一般时, 表示电影已看完, 问对方喜欢不喜欢刚才看过的那个电影。(b) 句用现在一般时, 则表示说话人在看电影的过程中, 或在泛泛而谈这个电影时, 问对方的。

8. { It was so nice to see you. (a)  
    { It is so nice to see you. (b)

例中 (a) 句用于已见过面谈过话之后行将离别之际; (b) 句则用在刚见面的时候。

9. { Have you found how wide the window was? (a)  
    { Have you found how wide the window is? (b)

例中 (a) 句用 was, 其含义是: 我问的是当你量窗户的时候(过去某一时刻), 窗户有多宽? (b) 句用 is, 其含义是: 那个窗户现在的宽度没有变, 仍是过去所量的那个宽度, 那么请你告诉我, 那个窗户现在有多宽?

10. { He always was that way. (a)  
      { He always is that way. (b)

例中 (a) 句强调他不但现在如此, 而且过去一贯如此。(b) 句只是说: 他总是那样。

11. { I never liked him. (a)  
      { I never like him. (b)

例中 (a) 句的意思是: 我从来就不喜欢他。请注意在这个句子里, liked 似乎要比 have liked 自然通顺得多。(b) 句用现在一般时, 意思是: 我绝不喜欢他。

12. { Ah, ha! I think I know that voice. (a)  
      { Ah, ha! I thought I knew that voice. (b)

例中 (a) 句用现在一般时, 含义是: “我知道这是谁的声音”, 但说话时, 客人(即说话人所指的那个人)尚在门外, 没有进屋。(b) 句用过去一般时, 表示客人已经进屋和说话人见面了。

上面一些例子, 只是比较常见的一小部分, 很不全面。尚望读者自己继续探讨。

## 谈谈 “be + all + noun” 句型

李 华 矩

在英语里,我们有时会见到这样的句子: During his speech, I was all attention. (他在讲话时,我十分留心。) My small brother is all legs. (我的弟弟长得又高又瘦。)

这是一种 “be+all+noun” 类型的句子,它有两个特点。1. 句子常用于口语中,一般不太长,但却能起到一种强调的作用,并使语言生动、形象。2. 虽是 “be” 句型,句子有时表示状态,有时还可以表示动作。

句中名词可以是抽象名词,也可以是复数名词。下面分两小类来谈。

a. be+all+abstract noun 这一类型的句子多取材于人们生活中有关喜、怒、哀、乐的事;“all” 意为“很”,“非常”和“充满……的”。如: She is all kindness. (=She is very kind. 她很和蔼。) The old man was all anxiety. (=The old man was full of anxiety. 那位老人焦急万分。)

其他例子: Comrade Wang is all courtesy. (王同志很有礼貌。) I was all eagerness to see you. (当时我急切想见到你。) He was all talk and no deed. (他只说不做。) James is all life and gladness. (詹姆斯生气勃勃、充满欢乐。) The patient is all skin and bone. (病人骨瘦如柴。)

b. be+all+plural noun 这一类型的句子常借用人体上某一器官或与之有关的动作。人体上可供借用的器官有限,因而这类例子比 a 类要少得多;all 的基本意思是“所有的”,“全部的”。如: The students are all ears (=The students are listening attentively) to his talk. (学生全神贯注地听他的报告。) She was all smiles (=She was very happy) when she came in. (她进来时满脸笑容。)

其他例子: He tried to fix the bicycle, but he was all thumbs. (他试着修自行车,可是他的手脚很笨。) At the magic show the children were all eyes. (小孩子目不转睛地观看魔术表演。) She was all tears. (她泪汪汪的。)

以上各例中,主语都是指人。此外,主语还可以指物。例如: It's all moonshine. (这全是空想。) His talk was all rot. (他的谈话全是胡扯。) That is all Greek to me. (那我可一窍不通。) The courtyard was all noise and bustle. (院子里吵吵闹闹,乱哄哄的。)



## The Three Wishes

Once upon a time,<sup>1</sup> there lived a woodman and his wife. They were very poor, and they lived in a cottage on the edge of a forest.<sup>2</sup> Every day, the woodman would set out early<sup>3</sup> in the morning to chop down trees.

As the woodman was travelling through the forest one day, he saw a fine old oak tree. "That will make plenty of planks," he thought, as<sup>4</sup> he felt the blade of his axe<sup>5</sup> to make sure it was sharp. He was about to strike the tree with the axe, when he heard someone crying out:<sup>6</sup> "Please don't hurt this tree."

The woodman looked around him and saw a tiny fairy. "If you do not hurt this tree," she said, "I will grant you and your wife three wishes."<sup>7</sup>

"I won't hurt the tree," said the woodman kindly. Then the fairy vanished!

That evening, the woodman walked slowly home. He was feeling very hungry and could not wait for his supper.

"Is my supper ready?" the woodman asked his wife.

"Not for at least two hours,"<sup>8</sup> replied his wife. So the woodman sat in a chair by the fire.

"I wish I had<sup>9</sup> a big black sausage to eat right now," he said out loud. And suddenly, a delicious sausage appeared on the table before him! "Why has that black sausage suddenly appeared?" the woodman's wife asked.

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\*这是英国的童话故事,流传很广,语言简单,值得初学英语者一读。

1. Once upon a time: 从前,很久以前。这是英语故事(尤其是童话)常用的开头。有时仅用 once, 也作“从前”解。 2. on the edge of a forest: 在森林边上。  
3. the woodman would set out early: 樵夫总是很早就出发了。这里 would 不是过去将来式,而是表示过去的习惯性行为。 4. as...: as 后引出时间状语从句,表示“当...时候”或“一边...”。 5. the blade of his axe: 他的斧刃。 6. He was ...when he heard someone crying out: 他正要用斧子砍树,忽然听见有人大叫。这里 when 不作“当...时候”解,而是表示“忽然”的意思。 7. I will grant you and your wife three wishes: 我将满足你和你的妻子三个愿望。grant 原意为“同意”,“准予”,这里作“满足”解。 8. not for at least two hours: (晚饭)至少两小时以后才能做好。 9. I wish I had: 但愿我有。语法上,这句用了虚拟语气,从句的动词必须是一般过去时(如 had)。

So the woodman told his wife the story about the fairy. But his wife was very angry. "You have wasted the first of our wishes," she said crossly.<sup>10</sup> "I wish that sausage were on your nose!"<sup>11</sup>

And with that, the sausage jumped up and stuck fast on the woodman's nose.<sup>12</sup> His wife could not pull it off and nor could he, so the



only thing to do was to wish it on the table again, which the woodman did.<sup>13</sup>

What a waste of three wishes! The only thing the woodman had was a good supper of black sausage.

10. crossly: 生气地; 怒冲冲地。 11. I wish that sausage were on your nose: 但愿那条香肠长在你的鼻子上。参看注释第9条。另请注意: be 在从句中的一切人称和数一律用 were, 又如: If I were you, I should go and see him at once. (假如我是你的话, 我会马上去看他。) 12. stuck fast on the woodman's nose: 牢牢地粘在樵夫的鼻子上。注意: 这里 fast 是“牢牢地”, “紧紧地”, 不是“很快地”。 13. which the woodman did: 樵夫也的确这样做了。这里 which 作关系代词用, 引导一个非限制性定语从句, 代替上文 “the only thing to do was to wish it on the table again.” (易草木 注释)

启事 本刊2、3期合刊, 于2月下旬出版。

更正 本刊79年12期封底左上角漫画的说明末了一个词应为 noodles。