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前言

我国学生在学习英语的过程中,较为难以逾越的困难就是写作能力的培养。其原因主要有二:第一,大部分学生自中小学以来,其英语书写作业普遍是填空、改错或是与自身英语水平不相符的英汉互译练习。这种导向基本上限制了写作在英语学习过程中的"语感"催化作用。第二,母语对英语学习的制约。大部分学生在动笔前都有一种错觉或顾虑,即认为一定要把自己的汉语思维毫无障碍地转换为非常流利的英语,这种认为两种语言可以对等转换的错误想法无疑阻碍了学生英语写作水平的提高。

由于这些不太合适的导向与不正确的认知,许多学生很少真正动笔用英语写 e-mail 或记日记,更不用说写文章了。特别是非英语专业的学生,他们在英语写作中常常面临下笔难、句句错的困境。在大学英语四、六级考试中,写作部分可称为第一大难题。目前高校大学英语教学普遍以精读教材为主,大学英语需要有专门的写作教材,既注重平日循序渐进的基础训练,也应注重培养学生四、六级的写作技巧,同时还要兼顾实践,提高学生应用文写作的能力。

面对高校非英语专业学生写作能力亟待提高的需要,我们集多位资深教师之力,历两年时间之久,编写了这本《大学英语写作教程》。本书精选十个主题,包括从简单的字词写作延伸至复合句与段落的写作,教授学生如何用英语描述人物、时间、空间等要素,还有一些常用英语应用文的写作指导,有些章节还会辅以针对大学英语四、六级考试的作文训练。书中的写作素材与例文富有浓郁的时代特征、且实用性强,每章均附有自测练习,供学生课后使用。

本书第一章由郭苏、刘懿编写,第二章由王斯妮编写,第三章由刘懿编写,第四章由杨阳编写,第五章由王斯妮编写,第六章和第七章由何宇靖、汤富华编写,第八章、第九章和第十章由蒲云玲、张仰奋编写,张仰奋、蒲云玲负责校对全书。

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第一章 词语联想

语考试中的作文是考查学生综合能力的一种题型,包括测试词汇、语法、句子结构、篇章结构以及逻辑思维等方面能力。在大学英语四、六级考试中,很多学生面对写作题目不知写什么,觉得无话可谈,或有话但不知怎样用英语表达,结果浪费了宝贵的时间,最后只得草草拼凑几句。这样写出来的作文显得思维混乱,条理不清,得分率也很低。

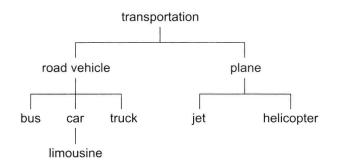
当我们在较短时间里构思一篇文章时,一般脑海中首先出现的不是一个整体的文章,而是一些词语,或几个不连续的句子。当然,这些都是与写作主题有关的。这时我们先不妨把所能想到的与主题有关的词汇和句子罗列起来,然后根据这些素材再组成一篇文章。这种写作思想也可以把它称为词语联想法,它是指在尽量短的时间内要求学生写下瞬间想到的与考题相关的单词,并根据每个关键词联想一到两个句子,以作为文章的基础,所用时间一般不超过五分钟。但是如何做到联想词语呢?

首先我们需要了解词语之间的几种基本关系。

- 1. 同义词关系(Synonymy)。同义词表示一对意思相近、指向相似的词语,例如:lady(女士)/ woman(妇女)、faucet(水龙头)/ tap(水龙头)、promote(促进)/ facilitate(促进)、trade(贸易)/ business(生意)等。尽管这些同义词之间有使用语境、语言色彩、不同方言等差异的存在,它们仍处于同一语域(register)中,指代的事物或行为相近。在写作中利用同义词进行联想,可以打开我们的思路,并且在文章中使用变换的同义词还可以避免行文的单调与无味。
- **2. 反义词关系(Antonym)**。顾名思义,反义词为两个意思相反的词语。比如有 up(上)/down(下)、beautiful(美丽的)/ugly(丑陋的)、

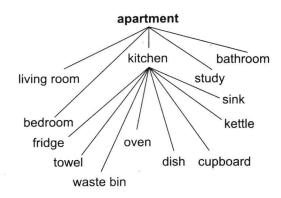
increase (增加) / decrease (降低)、import (进口) / export (出口)、语言学中把反义词又分成了好几种,我们这里不作详细讨论。同样地,在构思中联想反义词也可以扩充思路,并且在进行比较、对比时使用一对反义词能够使文章更加充实与生动。

3. 上下义关系(Hyponymy)。属于上下义关系的词语存在于总体称谓与具体事物(或动作)的关系中。如下图:



此例展示了四层上下义关系,即 transportation(交通工具)是 road vehicle(陆上交通工具)与 plane(飞机)的上义词;road vehicle 与 plane 是 transportation 的下义词。也就是说,transportation 是一个总体概念,而 road vehicle 与 plane 是它的具体表现。同理,我们看出 road vehicle 与 bus (公共汽车)、car (小轿车)及 truck (卡车)有上下义关系,plane 与 jet (喷射式飞机)和 helicopter(直升飞机)有上下义关系。同样地,我们在写作中可以频繁地使用上下义联想。谈到 fruit (水果),我们可以联想到 apple (苹果)、pear (梨)、banana(香蕉)、plum(李子)、coconut(椰子),甚至 durian(榴莲)。看见 book(书),我们可以说出 novel(小说)、prose(散文)、text book(教科书),也可以想到 romance(爱情小说)、suspense(悬疑小说)、science fiction(科幻小说)等等。这样,我们就有东西可写,举例详实,极大地丰富了文章的内涵。

4. 整体与部分关系(Meronymy)。这也是一种包含关系,但它是一种 把整体肢解、分成不同部分的关系。如下图:



apartment (公寓、家)是由 living room (起居室、客厅)、bedroom (卧室)、kitchen (厨房)、study (书房)和 bathroom (盥洗室)构成,它们一起形成了一个整体与部分关系。同样地,在 kitchen 里摆放的 fridge (电冰箱)、waste bin (垃圾桶)、cupboard (橱柜)等也是它的构成部分,由此联想出一系列的词汇。又比如说,当谈到一个公司的 staff (全体职工)时,我们就要提及它的 president (总裁)、manager (经理)、secretary (秘书)、worker (工人)等人员,这就显示了一种整体与部分的关系。在写作中,最忌讳的就是泛泛而谈,我们可以把题目范围缩小,着眼于其中一个部分,这样写起来目的性明确、可信度高。

除了以上根据词语关系进行联想外,我们还可以根据一个中心词性质、构成、原因和走向进行等联想。例如给出中心词 environment,我们可以想到其词语变形: environmental(环境的),environmentalist(环境保护者);相关地点: surrounding(周边),factory(工厂),London(伦敦)、Copenhagen(哥本哈根);外部环境: atmosphere(大气)、climate(气候)、weather(天气);造成的影响: plastic bag(塑料袋)、pollution(污染)、acid rain(酸雨)、smog(烟雾)、resource shortage(资源短缺)、global warming(温室效应);以及可以采取的措施: protect the environment(保护环境)、carry out new policy(执行新政策)、Kyoto Protocol(《京都议定书》)、recycled paper(再生纸);最后还可以联想到它的象征: green(绿色)等等。

同时,我们可以跳出禁锢,不必局限在同一个范畴内。例如,当讲到 advertisement (广告)时,我们既可以讨论具体的广告,孰好孰坏,也可

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以转到 the effect of advertisements (广告的影响),包括 aesthetics (审美)、economics (经济)及 consumer behavior (消费者行为)等范畴。还可以从advertisement (广告)跳到 consumer psychology (消费者心理),再拓展至psychology (心理学)的话题,这可能就包括 conformist mentality (从众)、oedipus complex (恋母情结)、collective unconscious (集体无意识)等概念了。

最后,利用不同词性的词汇产生不同的搭配,也是属于词语联想中的一种。例如给出词语 wear,我们可以用什么词与之搭配呢?首先是衣物一类,包括: skirt (短裙), a pair of shoes (鞋子), a pair of trousers (裤子), hat (帽子)等;也包括化妆品,例如 eye-liner (眼线)、mascara (睫毛膏)、perfume (香水)等;还可以与头发、胡须搭配: ponytails (马尾辫)、bob (短发)、goatee (山羊胡子)、mustache (八字须)等;如果想得再远一点,我们还可以接上表情一类的词:表示人的脸容呈现出、流露出的一种状态。

事实上,在写作词语联想的实践中,我们无法只使用某一种方法,经 常是几种方法同时使用,最大限度地丰富我们的作文。下面我们来看几个 例子。

例 1

2008 年 6 月英语四级考试作文题: Recreational Activities 书写提纲:

- 1. 娱乐活动多种多样;
- 2. 娱乐可能使人们受益,也可能有危害性;
- 3. 作为大学生, 我的看法。

分析

说到娱乐活动,我们脑海里会立刻出现有关它的单词。第一段便可以将可以想到的娱乐活动罗列出来。比如: singing(唱歌), dancing(跳舞), sports(运动), jogging(慢跑), hiking(远足), surfing the Internet(上网)。第二段要求写出娱乐的好处和害处。我们不可能马上分出两个方面的主次,只有先迅速写下几个零碎的想法,然后再进行逻辑编排和取舍。如: health(健康), relax(放松), lack of control(无法控制), indulge(沉迷)。由 health 我们可以联想到句子 Sports can keep people healthy.由

relax 我们可以联想到 Some of the activities, such as hiking, jogging, can help people relax physically, while some others, such as surfing the Internet, can help people relax mentally. 由 indulge 联想到句子 Some people may not resist some temptations from those activities such as surfing the Internet, and indulge themselves in those activities. 第三段是结论。基于前一段的推断发表自己的观点:我们应该利用娱乐活动来放松自己,但是要注意不能沉迷其中,浪费时间。我们先把这些词句写下来,接下来只需按照提纲顺序对各个发展点进行充实,使之成为完整的句和段,便可以形成作文初稿。然后在修改润色时,再作一些调整与增删。

参考样文:

Recreational Activities

In the era of information and technology, there are all kinds of recreational activities. Some people think those recreational activities are great and necessary, because they can help people relax from the hard work and study. Some of the activities, such as hiking, jogging, can help people relax physically, while some others, such as surfing the Internet, can help people relax mentally.

However, some people think that so many kinds of recreational activities may have a bad effect on our lives. <u>Some people may not resist some temptations from those activities</u>, and indulge themselves in those activities. At last they are lured away from their study or their work.

In my opinion, we should pay more attention to the advantages of various recreational activities and make the most of them. Meanwhile, we should learn how to use those activities positively, and make them a helpful tool for our development.

例 2

再举一例。比如在只给了一个关键词 language(语言)时,我们可以 写出很多不同角度的文章。

首先我们最容易联想到 language learning(语言学习)和 language learner(语言学习者),下面的参考样文由此展开,谈到了 How to Be a Good Language Learner(如何学好语言 / 如何成为一个有效的语言学习者)。

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那么一旦涉及语言的学习问题,就有很多相关术语: second language (第 二语言), foreign language (外语); 学习的内容: words (词), idioms (谚 语), grammar (语法), listening (听力), reading (阅读) 以及 speaking/ talking (口语)。所以我们可以写出句子: They make their own lists of words and idioms, and notes about the grammar. They spend as much time as possible in second language activities outside class—listening to radio, reading books and magazines, and talking with native speakers. 同时还有学习的方式: in class (课内), outside the class (课外), by doing activities (进行活动), seek/ search chances to speak the foreign language (抓住每个说外语的机会)。成功 学习者的特质包括 not afraid of making mistakes(不怕犯错误)和 easygoing (随和),所以可以写出 Good language learners are not afraid of making mistakes. 和 Generally speaking, the open, outgoing and friendly people are more likely to be good language learners. 所以整合起来,文章第一段总体提出"如 何学好语言"这个问题;第二段介绍语言的学习要涉及词句、听、说、 读、写等方面;由此,在第三段总结有效的学习者的特征——随和、不 害怕犯错误。整篇文章读起来结构清晰、直扣主题。

参考样文:

How to Be a Good Language Learner

Successful language learners are those who use a <u>second language freely and efficiently</u>. Now more and more people are interested in this topic—"How to be a good language learner?" Some people can learn quite successfully in <u>formal school environments</u>, while others can learn better if they place themselves in a situation in which they must communicate in their second language.

Good language learners are curious about the new language and they are actively searching for opportunities to <u>use</u> it. They make their own lists of <u>words</u> and <u>idioms</u>, and <u>notes</u> about the <u>grammar</u>. They <u>spend as much time as possible</u> in second language <u>activities</u> outside class—<u>listening</u> to radio, <u>reading</u> books and magazines, and <u>talking</u> with native speakers.

Good language learners are not afraid of making mistakes. They actively

seek information on the <u>correctness and appropriateness</u> of their second language. They talk more and make more mistakes from which they learn more. Generally speaking, the <u>open, outgoing and friendly</u> people are more likely to be good language learners.

例 3

除了普通的语言学习外,我们还可以跳出思想的禁锢,联想到其他一些非常规的语言,例如 Sign Language (手语)。由于大多数人对手语不太了解,所以必须首先介绍手语的背景,包括它的性质: signed languages (标识语),a speech of the hand (手的语言),gestural code (手势码);对象: deaf people (聋人);接着可以发出疑问:到底手语与普通语言 (natural languages)有什么区别?我们想到了ASL (美国手语),提出它到底是一种genuine language (真正的语言)还是一种pidgin language (洋泾浜语言);最后我们追本溯源,谈到 movement of hands, the modulation of space (它是手上的动作,空间上的变化),归根结底还是 brain stuff (大脑的产物)。

参考样文:

Sign Language

Sign has become a scientific hot button. Only in the past 20 years have specialists in language study realized that signed languages are unique—a speech of the hand. They offer a new way to probe how the brain generates and understands language, and throw new light on an old scientific controversy: whether language, complete with grammar, is something that we are born with, or whether it is a learned behavior. The current interest in sign language has roots in the pioneering work of one rebel teacher at Gallaudet University in Washington, D. C., the world's only liberal arts university for deaf people.

When Bill Stokoe went to Gallaudet to teach English, the school enrolled him in a course in signing. But Stokoe noticed something odd: among themselves, students signed differently from his classroom teacher.

Stokoe had been taught a sort of <u>gestural code</u>, each movement of the hands <u>representing</u> a word in English. At the time, <u>American Sign Language</u> (ASL) was

thought to be no more than a form of <u>pidgin English</u>. But Stokoe believed the "<u>hand talk</u>" his students used looked richer. He wondered: Might deaf people actually have a <u>genuine language</u>? And could that language be unlike any other on Earth? It was 1955, when even deaf people dismissed their signing as "substandard". Stokoe's idea was academic heresy.

It is 37 years later. Stokoe—now devoting his time to writing and editing books and journals and to producing video materials on ASL and the <u>deaf</u> <u>culture</u>—is having lunch at a cafe near the Gallaudet campus and explaining how he started a revolution. For decades educators fought his idea that signed languages are <u>natural languages</u> like <u>English</u>, <u>French and Japanese</u>. They assumed language must be <u>based on speech</u>, the <u>modulation of sound</u>. But sign language is based on the <u>movement of hands</u>, the <u>modulation of space</u>. "What I said," Stokoe explains, "is that language is not mouth stuff—it's brain stuff."

例 4

最后,我们可以跳出语言的框架,把语言当作文化的一种表达形式,讨论它的存亡问题,即 language deaths。关于语言消亡,首先可以联想:extinct (消失),die out/off (灭绝),no longer spoken (不再使用);其次是原因: contact (语言接触),minority tongues (劣势语言),dominant cultures (强势文化),switch (语言转移);语言的保留: preserve (保护),retain the culture (保留文化),languages diversity (语言多样化);最后还有语言内部的一些词汇: grammar (语法),singular and plural forms (单复数)等。一篇好的文章需要有充分的例子支撑,下面以 Damin 的范文为例,引用学者的研究,为"升级版"的文章,建议欣赏。

参考样文:

Language Deaths "Bad for Us All"

Languages around the world are <u>dying off</u> at a tremendous <u>rate</u>. <u>Linguists</u> estimate that between 20 per cent and 50 per cent of the 6000 languages now spoken are no longer being taught to children, and will become <u>extinct</u> in the next century. According to linguists at the AAAS, the loss of language is bad not only for linguists but for all humanity.

Languages are dying as improved transport and telecommunications bring different peoples into closer <u>contact</u>, and speakers of <u>minority tongues</u> abandon them for the languages of more <u>dominant cultures</u>. Sometimes the <u>switch</u> is voluntary, but often it is forced. Earlier this century, for example, American Indian schoolchildren were punished for speaking their <u>native tongue</u>.

The most basic reason why <u>linguistic diversity</u> should be <u>preserved</u> is that language helps people to <u>retain</u> their culture. But speakers <u>cited</u> several other good reasons too. "As linguists we need linguistic diversity," said Kenneth Hale of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "We wouldn't even know what questions to ask with only one language."

Linguists are especially interested in the rules of grammar that seem common to all language, because they provide important clues to how the mind works. As an example, Hale pointed to the distinction between singular and plural forms, such as "cat" and "cats". Trying to figure out the deeper rule that allows this distinction, a linguist who knew only English might come up with two possible explanations.

四级考试的作文除了发表观点的议论文之外,也有一些应用性的文章。在写作这种应用文时,我们也可以使用词语联想法。请看下面的例子。

例 5

2007 年 6 月英语四级考试作文: Welcome to Our Club 书写提纲:

- 1. 表达你的欢迎;
- 2. 对你们俱乐部作一个简要介绍。

分析

看到标题和主要内容介绍,首先就会想到各种社团的各种活动。就英语社团来举个例子,简单地罗列一下:英语俱乐部——练习口语(English speaking),英语话剧比赛(drama),欣赏英语电影(movie),然后就要考虑参加该社团能给我们带来什么好处,这也是各位参加者期望了解的:学英语(learn English),交朋友(friends),提高自我(improve ourselves)。

参考样文:

Welcome to English Club! It could serve as a platform to show your outstanding abilities and help you develop a range of great skills.

You can be involved in a variety of activities including <u>staging musical</u> <u>dramas</u>, <u>holding group discussions and watching Oscar-winning movies</u>. These extra-curricular activities could offer you ample opportunities. First, your active participation is helpful to <u>strengthening the sense of responsibility and managing interpersonal relations</u>. Second, various activities organized by us could <u>raise your level of proficiency in English</u>. A good command of English empowers you to enjoy decided competitive edge over your peers.

You can file a written application to our staff office or email us via bonoo@ diandian.net. The deadline for entries is Sept. 25th. Come on, join us now!

本章结语

其实一篇英语作文的字数只要求在 120—150 字之间,如果有足够的词汇和句子作为基础,稍做逻辑上的调整,一篇文章就能够清晰地展现出来。在继续做整体上的调整和写作时,学生也就不会觉得言之无物了。当然,"词语联想"并不是凭空就能冒出来的,它需要平时大量的单词背诵和英语阅读的积累。学生们若能有效运用"词语联想"的写作方法,在大学英语四、六级考试时就不难写出一篇符合要求的文章了。

自测练习

根据以下作文要求,列出与主题相关的词汇,列出一些常用短语和句型。最后将以上两项所列的内容重新组合,写出一篇符合要求的作文。

- 1. What Electives to Choose
- (1) 各大学开设了各种各样的选修课
- (2) 学生因为各种原因选择了不同的选修课
- (3) 以你自己为例……

- 2. Free Admission to Museums
- (1) 越来越多的博物馆免费对外开放的目的是什么
- (2) 也会带来一些问题
- (3) 你的看法
- 3. Limiting the Use of Disposable Plastic Bags
- (1) 一次性塑料袋曾被广泛使用
- (2) 造成的问题
- (3) 限制使用的意义

第二章 联句写作

一章我们介绍了词语联想写作法,本章将介绍怎样写出漂亮、地道的英文句子。

大学英语写作应做到丰富多变,这不但体现在词汇的运用和表达上,还要体现在句型上。一篇作文中,如果所有的句子都是同样的结构,相同的长度,比如仅仅拘泥于主谓宾句型的简单句,那么文章就会显得很呆板、单调。好文章应该长短句混合使用,力求句子结构多样化,长短句错落有致,如此,才是耐看、耐读的文章,引起读者的兴趣。

然而, 英语初学者常常倾向于写一系列的短句或简单句, 例如:

The West Lake is one of the scenic places in China. It looks its best in springtime. Many foreign tourists are attracted by it.

这样的句子读起来单调、乏味,且显得松垮无力,我们可以将它改写成一个长句,使其变得紧凑:

The West Lake, one of the scenic places in China, looks its best in springtime. Many foreign tourists are attracted by it.

但如何写出规范、地道的长句,常常是困扰学生的一个难题。学生有 写长句的动机,可写出的长句往往又错误百出,不符合英语语言的表达, 效果适得其反。

那么,如何写好长句呢? 美国迈阿密大学曾对 300 名新生进行过一次写作实验,让一半学生按传统方法学习写作,而让另一半学生通过新的方法(即 Sentence combining 联句)学习写作。经过 15 周的训练,专家小组鉴定,运用新方法学习写作的学生比经传统训练的学生强,总体写作水平高于后者。