Domon Stulking America

大学英语本

袁行榘 主编



一个笼罩美国的



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大学英语 **时文读本**

A Demon Stalking America 一个笼罩美国的魔影

(英汉对照・附注释)

袁行集 主编





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出版者的话

《大学英语·时文读本》(英汉对照·附注释)是供学习英语的 大学生课外阅读而编写的,所收内容全部选自美英等国的报刊,题 材广泛,可读性强。文章所述只能代表其作者个人的立场、观点。我 们出此书是为了向学生提供阅读的素材,既不意味对其真实性的 证实,也不意味对其立场、观点的同意与否。为了便于同学们阅读 理解,本套读本采用英汉对照形式,书的左侧(双数页)为文章的原 文,书的右侧(单数页)为文章的汉语译文。另外,编者还对每篇文章的难点和需要说明之处做了必要的注释。

袁老师是北京师范大学英语系教授,从教多年,有丰富的教学 实践经验。读本中的文章是从浩如烟海的美英等国报刊中精选出来,而绝非随手拈来的急就章。因此是大学生课外阅读不可多得的 最佳读本。

1999年10月

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1. Titanic in the World

The great ship sank with a slight gulp¹, witnesses² say. It was early morning, April 15, 1912, 700 miles east of Halifax, Canada. RMS Titanic, on her maiden³ voyage from Southampton,' England, to New York City, had sideswiped⁴ an iceberg⁵ 2 ½ hours earlier, popping rivets⁶ and buckling² the hull's⁶ iron plates deep below the waterline. ⁶ Furiously, ¹⁰ the sea rushed in, flooding one watertight¹¹ compartment¹² after another of the ship's supposedly¹³ unsinkable hull until the bow¹⁴ was submerged and the tail stood upright against the black sky. At 2,20 the ship slid below the surface completely.

So much for 15 the physics. But what captured the public's attention was that night's human tragedy 16. Titanic set sail carrying some 2200 people — millionaires, immigrants, 13 honeymoon 17 couples and an eight-man band that played to the bitter end — and lifeboats 18 for just over half of them. In the end 712 were rescued; 18 the rest drowned or froze in the water. It was the biggest ship in history, filled with celebrities 20 of that time. It would be like if you took a jumbo jet 21 filled with half the stars in Hollywood 22 and crashed it into the Washington Monument.

Long before "Titanic" the movie, the enduring appeal of Titanic the story had already been proved by books, plays, exhibitions, documentaries²³ and other films. Even so, who could have gauged the world's appetite for more? Until the last several months, fascination²⁴ with accounts of the ship had been

1. 电影《泰坦尼克》在世界各地

目击泰坦尼克号沉没的人说,大船轻声地呜咽着沉了下去。事件发生在1912年4月15日凌晨,加拿大哈利法克斯以东700英里的地方。英国邮船泰坦尼克号正在进行从英格兰的南安普敦到纽约市的处女航,在沉没前的两个半小时,它从侧面撞上了一座冰山,铆钉砰砰地断裂,吃水线下面的船身铁板弯曲变形。海水迅猛地冲进船体,淹没了这艘据称是不沉之船的一个又一个防水客舱,直到船首沉没,船尾竖直地伸向黑色的天空。在凌晨2:20,大船完全消失在水面之下。

关于船的情况就是这样。而引起公众注意的是那个夜晚的人间悲剧,泰坦尼克号载着大约 2,200 人出发,其中有百万富翁、移民、13 对度蜜月的大妇、一个一直演奏到悲剧最后一刻的 8 人乐队,以及仅够一半多点的人使用的救生艇。最后、712 人获救,其余的人被淹死或冻死在水中。那是一艘历史上最大的船,满载着当时的名人。在当时发生的这个事件就好像现在有一架半数乘客是好莱坞明星的大型喷气式客机撤上了华盛顿纪念碑一样。

早在这部《泰坦尼克》电影之前,泰坦尼克故事的不衰的吸引力就已经被图书、戏剧、展览、记录片和其他的一些电影所证明。即便如此,谁能估计到世人还渴求更多的东西呢? 直到前几个月,对该船传闻的兴趣还主要限于美国

- 1. gulp n. 哽咽声
- 2. witness n. 目击者,见证人
- 3. maiden a. 首次的,处女的
- 4. sideswipe ut. 擦边撞击
- 5. iceberg n. 冰山
- 6. tivet n. 铆钉
- 7. buckle vt. 使弯曲
- 8. hull n. 船身
- 9. waterline n. 船的吃水线
- 10. furiously ad. 猛烈地
- 11. watertight a. 防水的
- 12. compartment n. 防水客舱

- 13. supposedly ad. 根据推测
- 14. bow n. 船头
- 15. so much for 关于…就谈这么多
- 16. tragedy n. 悲剧
- 17. honeymoon n. 蜜月
- 18. lifeboat n. 救生艇
- 19. tescue vt. 救助
- 20. celebrity n. 名人
- 21. jumbo jet 巨型喷气式客机
- 22. Hollywood 好莱坞,美国电影界
- 23. cocumentary n. 记录片,记实影片
- 24. fascination n. 魅力,迷恋

largely limited to the United States and Europe. Yet the movie was able to captivate²⁵ audiences even in countries where the sinking of the unsinkable was never part of popular lore. ²⁶ And for them the movie became the story.

So what was it about James Cameron's blockbuster²⁷ which has become the first film to gross²⁸ more than \$1 billion worldwide, apparently surpassing²⁹ even "Gone With the Wind³⁰", adjustments for inflation³¹ notwithstanding³².

Certainly, this could not have happened without Hollywood's money, screencraft⁴⁸, special effects, publicity machine and, most important, distribution³⁴ network. The movie was the most expensive ever made. It was initially set to cost \$110 million. But it was dogged³⁵ by huge cost overruns,³⁶ delays, and 90-hour work weeks for the 800-member crew. The film took an epic³⁷ 160 days to film. Mr. Cameron demanded a 90 percent scale, 5-story replica³⁸ of the liner.³⁹ Fox built a 40-acre production complex in Rosarito Beach, Mexico.

The movie struck virtually every market, big and small, with such force that it became impossible not to know of its existence, not to have seen the screen ship go under.

A quick tour d'horizon⁴⁰ of why the film has drawn such a strong reaction around the world provides other — more emotional, less commercial — reasons; "Titanic" tells a story that is perceived to be true; it is a tragic⁴¹ love story of operatic dimension⁴² because the denouement⁴³ is known; it demonstrates the terrifying⁴⁴ and mystical⁴⁵ power of nature, and it has in Leonardo DiCaprio a fated working-class hero with whom teenage girls fall in love. In other words, it is a fine old tear-jerker⁴⁶ and everyone likes a good sob.

和欧洲。而现在,甚至在那些从未流传过不沉之船沉没传说的国家,这部电影也使那里的人们着迷了。不过对他们来说,这个电影变成了一个故事。

那么詹姆斯·卡梅隆的这部首次总收入超过 10 亿美元的轰动之作究竟是怎样的一部电影呢?即使考虑到物价上涨因素,这部电影甚至也明显地超过了《飘》的票房收入。

肯定地说,如果没有好莱坞的钱、电影技术、特技效果、宣传机器,以及最重要的发行网,这样的轰动效果是不可能发生的。这部电影是有史以来花钱最多的电影。原计划花费1.1亿美元。但是它一直受到巨大的超支、时间的延误、800人的剧组每周要工作90小时等问题的困扰。这部电影拍摄长达160天。卡梅隆先生要求建造了一艘相当于原船大小90%的、5层的大船复制品。福克斯公司还在墨西哥的罗萨里托海滨建立了一个40英亩(约240亩)的制作中心。

该电影几乎冲击了大大小小的每一个市场,它具有如此巨大的力量使得 人们不会不知道有这样一部电影,不能不去看这艘银幕上大船的下沉。

对于为什么这部影片会引起如此强烈反应的一个广泛调查还提供了另外的原因,也就是更多的感情方面的而非商业方面的原因,《秦坦尼克》讲述了一个被认为是真实的故事;是一个结局已知的戏剧性的爱情悲剧;它显示了大自然的惊人的和神秘的力量,以及有一个使十几岁的女孩子爱慕的,注定要遇难的亡人阶级主人公莱昂纳多。迪卡普里奥。换句话说,它是一个古老的催入泪下的故事,而且人人都喜欢为悲剧主人公一酒同情之泪。

- 25. captive vt. 使…着迷
- 26. lore n. 知识,传说
- 27. blockbuster n. 耗费巨资拍摄的 电影,轰动之作
- 28. gross vt. 总收入
- 29. surpass vt. 超过
- 30. Gone With the Wind《飘》,反映 美国南北战争的电影,获多项奥 斯卡奖
- 31. inflation n. 通货膨胀
- 32. notwithstanding prep. 尽管
- 33. screencraft n. 电影技术
- 34. distribution n. 椎鳍

- 35. dog vi. 纠缠,困扰
- 36. overrun n. 超出的费用
- 37. epic a. 极大规模的
- 38. replica n. 仿制品
- 39. liner n、大客轮
- 40. tour d'horizon 广泛调查
- 41. tragic a. 悲惨的
- 42. dimension n. 特性
- 43. denouement n. 结局
- 44. terrifying a. 惊人的,可怕的
- 45. mystical a. 神秘的
- 46. tear-jerker n. 使人落泪的电影 或戏剧

5

Still, different countries have viewed the phenomenon of "Titanic" in their own ways.

The French dwelled on⁴⁷ the hidden political message of the movie (better food in first class, better dancing in third). The critics and intellectuals who serve as guardians⁴⁸ of French cultural correctness are usually quick to dump on⁴⁹ Hollywood blockbusters, yet even they endorsed⁵⁰ "Titanic" because, for them, the movie is more than simple entertainment. "The subject of the film is not—this is obvious—the sinking of a famous ship, but the suicide in the middle of the Atlantic of a society divided in classes," explained Serge July, the editor of Liberation, the Left Bank daily. In the same newspaper, Didier Peron, a critic, reassured⁵¹ readers, "'Titanic' is a politically committed⁵² film."

Clearly the movie's global success gave French thinkers ample⁵³ food for reflection. Bruno Mattei, a philosophy professor, saw the ship's fate as a metaphor⁵⁴ for an unjust world that may even have spotted its "iceberg" but is nonetheless⁵⁵ unable to avert⁵⁶ catastrophe. ⁵⁷

The British public, which generally shares American tastes in films, has flocked to "Titanic" along with the rest of the world — the film earned more than \$60 million here in its first six weeks. But critically, the reaction has been all over the map. Some critics applauded its depiction of the class tensions that so inform the British view of the world.

Others saw the film as a terrifying commentary⁶⁰ on the American tendency to Purchase⁶¹ success with obscene⁶² amounts of money. And in a culture that prides itself on producing independent low-budget films outside the stranglehold⁶³ of the

但是,不同的国家也在用他们自己的方式看待《泰坦尼克》现象。

法国人强调这部电影中隐藏的政治信息(一等舱的食物精美,而三等舱的舞蹈更好)。以捍卫法国文化为已任的评论家和知识分子通常会很快地表现出对好莱坞大片的蔑视,但即使这些人也称赞《泰坦尼克》,因为对他们来说,这部电影不单纯是娱乐片。左岸区日报《解放》的编辑塞尔目·朱莉说:"显然,这部电影的主题不是一艘著名轮船的沉没,而是分裂成阶级的社会在大西洋中部的自杀。"在同一个报纸上评论家迪迪埃·佩龙极力使读者相信"《泰坦尼克》是一部政治观点鲜明的电影。"

显然,该电影在全球的成功为法国的思想家提供了进行思考的充分材料。哲学教授布鲁诺·马太把这艘船的命运看做是对一个不公正的世界的隐喻,即使人们已经发现了危及社会的"冰山",但仍然不能避开灾难。

英国公众通常在电影上与美国人具有相同的口味,他们和世界上其他地方的人一样蜂拥着去看《泰坦尼克》。在这里(伦敦),这部电影在放映的头 6个星期就挣了 0.6 亿美元。但是,评论性的反应在全国各地都存在。有些评论家称赞电影中关于紧张的阶级关系的描写,认为这种阶级关系是如此恰当地反映了英国人的世界观。

另一些人把这部电影看做是美国人喜欢花费大量金钱以获取成功的惊 人写照。而在一个以不受好莱坞体系的束缚而生产不要政府资助的低预算电

- 47. dwell on 强调
- 48. guardian n. 守卫者,保护者
- 49. dump on 蔑视
- 50. endorse vt. 赞同,支持
- 51. reassure vt. 再三保证,使相信
- 52. committed a. 根据一定观点 写的
- 53. ample a, 充分的
- 54. metaphor n. 隐喻

- 55. nonetheless ad. 仍然
- 56. avert vt. 逃避
- 57. catastrophe n. 大灾难
- 58. applaud vt. 称赞
- 59. depiction n. 描写
- 60. commentary n. 写照,注释
- 61. purchase vt. 获得
- 62. obscene a. 可憎的
- 63. stranglehold n. 東缚,控制

Hollywood system, "Titanic" has again and again been portrayed as a wholly unwelcome portent of the future of the American film industry. "James Cameron may think he is king of the world, but he could turn out to be a monarch of a new kind of hell, presiding over what could be the worst time in Hollywood history," Michael Freedland wrote in the Guardian.

People all over the world have wept at the end of "Titanic". But in Russia, apparently, the grief⁶⁸ has been particularly noticeable. Many needed a couple of days to recover from the tragedy. The general emotional distress among viewers prompted the daily newspaper Moskovsky Komsomlets to announce a contest for essays proposing a happy ending. Not, of course, for the ship itself, but for Jack and Rose, whose fictional⁶⁹ love died so young. "Dry your tears, madam⁷⁰," read the contest announcement, which called on readers to write a less tearful, one-page finale⁷¹ by this Thursday. "Reach for your pencil, sir. This is the movies."

People in Japan praise perseverance⁷² of the characters in the face of extreme adversity. The mother singing a lullaby⁷³ to her children as the water swirled⁷⁴ up around them, the elderly couple hugging⁷⁵ each other on their bed as they faced certain death, the musicians playing on the deck as the boat went down—those scenes could have bee tailor-made⁷⁶ for Japanese audiences.

Some have drawn more down-to-earth⁷⁷ conclusions from the movie's success, like how to make even more money from it. Swiss and American entrepreneurs have registered a new company here as the White Star Line⁷⁸— the name of the owners of the original, doomed⁷⁹ vessel— and are seeking investors to

影而自豪的文化中,《泰坦尼克》再三地被描写成一个不祥之兆,预示着美国电影 L业的未来将全然不受欢迎。迈克尔·弗里兰在《卫报》上写道;"詹姆斯·卡梅隆可能以为他是世界之王,但结果可能只是一种新的地狱的君主,统治着大概是好莱坞历史上最糟时期的东西。"

全世界的人都在为《泰坦尼克》的结尾而流泪。而在俄国,这种悲伤特别明显。许多人需要好几天才能从悲剧中恢复过来。观众的这种悲痛促使《莫斯科共青团员报》公布了一项竞赛,要求参赛者尝试创作一个愉快的结尾。当然,不是对船本身,而是对杰克和罗兹,他们的虚构的爱情结束得太早了。竞赛公告号召读者在这个星期四以前写出一个一页长的不太令人伤心的结尾。公告写道:"女士们,擦干你的眼泪。先生们拿起笔来。这是电影。"

在日本,人们赞扬电影中的角色在极大的灾祸面前表现出的坚忍不拔精神。当海水在他们周围打着旋上升时,母亲给孩子唱摇篮曲;老夫妇面对死亡彼此拥抱着躺在床上;音乐家们在船下沉时仍在甲板上演奏 —— 这些情景简直就像是专为日本观众设计的。

有些人还从这部电影的成功中得出一些更实际的结论,如怎样用它赚取 更多的钱。瑞上和美国的企业家已经在这里(波恩)注册了一个名为'白星运输公司'的新公司。白星公司是原来那艘遭厄运的船的所有者。他们正在寻求

- 64. portray vt. 描写
- 65. portent n. 预兆
- 66. monarch n. 君主
- 67. preside vt. 管理,统辖
- 68, grief n. 悲痛
- 69. fictional a. 虚构的
- 70. madam n. 女主
- 71. finale n. 结图
- 72. perseverance n. 坚持不懈

- 73. lullaby n. 揺籃曲
- 74. swirl vi. 打旋,旋动
- 75. hug vi. 拥抱
- 76. tailor-made a. 特制的
- 77. down-to-earth a. 务实的
- 78. line n. 运输公司
- 79. doom vt. 命定,使…的失败成为 必然

build a technologically updated⁸⁰ replica to sail from Britain to New York exactly 90 years after the tragedy, in the year 2002. "There will be enough lifeboats," said a company official in Germany, "And, of course, it won't sink." 投资者以便建造一艘拥有最新技术的泰坦尼克号的复制品,并计划在 2002 年,即在悲剧发生整 90 年后由英国驶往纽约。公司的一个官员说:"船上将有足够的救生艇。而且,这条船当然是不会沉没的。"

80. update vt. 使现代化