CE AND TECHNOLOGY LEARNING

毛荣贵

ENGLISH OF

《科技英语学习》丛书

每天多"活"一小时

——英汉对照 50 篇短文

毛荣贵 主编

上海交通大学出版社



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刘祖慰教授(1978~1985年任上海交通大学科技外语系系主任)

Accuracy is the answer to technical translation. Technical translators must not only be academics — they must all have day-to-day experience in engineering, research, and product development; particularly in modern hi-tech industries. In other words, they must all be able to "talk shop" in everything they translate or interpret. And that is why they are most sought after in China.

杨惠中教授(1985~1990年任上海交通大学科技外语系系主任) 继往开来,把《科技英语学习》办得更好; 任重道远,为全国的英语爱好者辛勤耕耘。

张彦斌教授(1990~1995 年任上海交通大学科技外语系系主任) 丰富英语学习园地, 架起通向未来桥梁。

郑树棠教授(1995~ 年任上海交通大学外国语学院院长)

以F·Bacon 的名言,赠《科技英语学习》广大读者:

Reading makes a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man.

前言

光阴如驰,《科技英语学习》已经20岁了。

由上海交通大学外国语学院(前身为科技英语系)和上海交通大学出版社携手编辑出版的《科技英语学习》(月刊)是少数几家驰名全国的英语学习刊物之一。

《科技英语学习》发表过许多精品短文。这些文章经得起时间的考验,现在读来仍新意拂面,兴味盎然。它们仍然具有不菲的学术价值,难得的导学作用以及很强的可读性。

创刊 20 周年之际,我们决定从过去 20 年《科技英语学习》(总 212 期)所发表的文章中再作分类精选。汇编出版一套《科技英语学习》丛书。这套丛书包括:

- 1.《英语语法热点透视》
- 2.《英语词汇热点透视》
- 3.《走出翻译误区》
- 4.《翻译技巧 111 讲》
- 5.《克隆:福耶?祸耶?》——英汉对照 50 篇短文
- 6.《每天多"活"一小时》——英汉对照 50 篇短文

80 年代的中后期,国内的英语学习刊物曾经发表了一大批研究和探讨英语语法和英语词汇的文章,《科技英语学习》也不例外。各地的作者以其敏锐的语感,广博的积累以及独特的视角对许多英语语法/词汇书籍没有或很少论及的某些特殊语言现象作了研析。可以毫不夸张地说,学习英语,不读一读此类文章是一种缺憾。

《英语语法热点透视》和《英语词汇热点透视》。两书所以在书名中使用"热点"二字,是因为在我们看来,两书中谈论到的许多问

题,过去,今天,以及将来一段相当长的时间内,都是认真的英语学习者所不应该回避也不能回避的问题。

《科技英语学习》有一个开设了 20 年的名牌专栏:"译文商権"。这个栏目在 1996 年本刊改版前称"英译汉实例分析"。这是一个深受广大读者、作者、甚至"被商権者"欢迎的栏目。各地的许多专家学者为本栏积极撰文,各抒己见,百家争鸣。"译文商権"栏目为《科技英语学习》增添了勃勃的学术生机。

其实,翻译中出现这样那样的误译并不值得大惊小怪,即使误译出现在名人笔下。日本的一个翻译家曾经打过一个不俗的比方:

"翻译作品中肯定有误译存在,这如同空气中含着氧气一样。"

我们学习翻译,学习英语,假如只有正面的"吸收",而没有反面的"提醒",这种学习是意义不完整的学习,是一种"缺乏免疫力"的学习。

《走出翻译误区》(主要收集了发表于《科技英语学习》的文章) 一书,集译界误译之大成,汇百余学者之心血!识别误译,灵性闪烁;条分缕析,鞭辟人里。读者心领神会之时,正在英语语感萌发之日。

与《走出翻译误区》"珠联璧合"的是《翻译技巧111讲》。

20 年来, 跋涉前行在漫漫译途上的各地学人, 逢山开路, 遇水搭桥! 冥思苦想, 豁然开朗, 见云开雾散; 千思百虑, 水到渠成, 幸始有一得。他们借《科技英语学习》之一隅, 切磋翻译技巧, 交流翻译心得, 话说翻译甘苦。他们的文章成为本刊一个不可多得的亮点。今天, 我们从近 200 篇的文章中萃选了 111 篇, 汇编成《翻译技巧111 讲》。

读《翻译技巧 111 讲》(主要收集了发表于《科技英语学习》的 文章),令人油然而生"前人栽树,后人乘凉"之感,"他山之石,可以 攻玉"之叹。

《科技英语学习》始终未敢忘记"科技"二字。20 年来,她的"对照读物"一栏发表了 200 多篇可圈可点的美文。原文取自美英等国

数十种期刊,上至天文地理,下至生活科学;既有科技珍闻,又有自然探秘;从动物世界到医学天地。可谓美文层出,佳作叠现!

"对照读物"栏目,不仅成了及时传播西方日新月异的科学技术的一扇窗户,而且成了广大读者学习英语,研学翻译的一位良师益友。

发表在"对照读物"一栏的文章本来就属"百里挑一"的精品。 这次我们又作认真筛选,从中选拔百篇,汇编成书,并取名为:《克隆:福耶?祸耶?》和《每天多"活"一小时》

《克隆:福耶?祸耶?》《每天多"活"一小时》在手,可静观科技风云之变幻,可平添日常生活之情趣,可细品英汉表达之迥异,可锤炼英语阅读能力。

《科技英语学习》20岁了,她从一个呱呱坠地的婴儿成长为一名朝气蓬勃的青年。

伟大的 21 世纪正在含笑向我们走来。《科技英语学习》深感肩负责任的重大,我们决心继往开来,用我们辛勤的汗水浇灌《科技英语学习》,让她绽开更加娇艳的花朵,结出更加丰硕的果实。

《科技英语学习》自 1996 年改版以来,做了几件广受读者欢迎的实事。我们举办了全国的英语写作有奖竞赛;征集全国大学生英语作文稿件,并编辑出版了《中国大学生英语作文评改》一书;在纪念本刊第 200 期问世时,随刊印发了"读者意见调查表",并对数百封来信作了认真总结;今天,在纪念本刊创刊 20 周年之际,我们又编辑出版了《科技英语学习丛书》第一辑。本刊今后还要举办其他形式的竞赛,还要出版第二辑、第三辑《科技英语学习丛书》。

在纪念《科技英语学习》诞生 20 周年之际,我们要向全国的读者和作者表示由衷的感谢,没有你们的倾力支持,《科技英语学习》将成为无本之木,无源之水!

我们还要向上海交通大学出版社表示真诚的感谢,向上海交通大学外国语学院(前科技外语系)的各任领导,以及前任《科技英语学习》主编表示由衷的感谢,他们都为本刊倾注过大量心血。没

有他们的关心和支持,《科技英语学习》也就不会有今天的面貌。他们应邀为本刊欣然题词,寄语本刊,寄语全国各地的读者。

宗玉同学为统一全书的体例和终校做了大量细致的工作。没有她的努力,本套丛书也难以以现在的面目与广大读者见面。

毛荣贵 1998 年冬 于上海交大东川花苑

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第 I 章 生活科学

Worldly Wise

"Quit while you're ahead." That's tried-and-true advice. But did you know it goes all the way back to Baltasar Gracián, a Jesuit scholar who lived in 17th-century Spain? As military chaplain and confessor to the mighty, Gracián observed men in positions of power and concluded that, with intelligence and a rein on one's emotions, almost anyone could master a situation and be successful. So he set down 300 maxims to instruct his contemporaries in the art of achieving. Recently retranslated and a best-seller, they are as appropriate today as they were three centuries ago. Here are some of the best:

Keep matters in suspense. Being too obvious is neither useful nor tasteful. By not declaring yourself immediately, you keep people guessing. Cautious silence is where prudence takes refuge. Once declared, resolutions lie open to criticism. If they turn out badly, you will be twice unfortunate.

Know your best quality. Foster your most outstanding gift and nurture the rest. All people could achieve eminence in something if only they knew what they excelled at.

Never exaggerate. Superlatives offend the truth and cast doubt on your judgment. The prudent show restraint, and would rather fall short than long. To overvalue something is a form of lying. It can ruin your reputation for good taste and wisdom.

Adapt to those around you. Don't put more effort into things than they require. Don't show off every day, or you'll stop surprising people. There must always be some novelty left over. The person who displays a little more of it each day keeps up expectations, and no one ever discovers the limits of his talent.

Associate with those you can learn from. Make your friends your teachers, and blend the usefulness of learning with the pleasure of conversation. Enjoy the company of people of understanding. What you say will be rewarded with applause, what you hear, with learning.

醒世箴言

"要急流勇退",这是久经验证的忠告,但是你知道吗,这句话最早出自17世纪西班牙的一位耶稣会会士格拉西安·伊·莫拉莱斯之口。作为一名随军牧师和听权贵们忏悔的神父,格拉西安见过很多有权势的人。他得出结论:如果具有智慧且能控制自己的情绪,几乎每个人都能掌握局面并获得成功。于是他写下了300条格言,指导他的同时代人去掌握成功的艺术。最近这些格言重译出版,成为畅销书。今天它仍适合时宜,犹如三个世纪以前一样。部分精华介绍如下:

不要忙于表态,表态要含蓄。过于明显,既无裨益,又乏风趣。不立刻表态,就会使他人不断猜测。谨慎的沉默能帮助你深思熟虑。一旦表了态,你的意见就有可能招致批评。如果结果证明这些决定不当,你就会倍遭不幸。

要认识自己最好的素质。发扬你最突出的天赋,培植其余的才能。一切人只要真正了解自己的特长,就能在某个方面取得卓越的成就。

切勿言过其实。过分夸张会违背事实,使人对你的判断产生怀疑。审慎者采取严谨态度,宁可评价不足,也不言之过甚。评价过高是一种撒谎,会毁坏你趣味高尚和聪慧明智的声誉。

要适应你周围的人。你做事付出的努力不要超过他们的要求。不 要每天都炫耀自己,否则你就再也不能使人们对你感到惊奇。永远要 留有一手新的东西。一个人如果每天显示出一些新的本领,他就能保 持人们对他的期待,人们就永远摸不清他才能的限度。

与对你有教益的人交往。要以友为师,把学习上受益与交谈的乐趣融为一体。与情投意合的人在一起要引以为乐。你所说的话将使你得到赞赏,你所听到的话将使你获得知识。

Don't be tiresome. Brevity is pleasant and flattering, and it gets more done. Good things, if brief: twice good. Badness, if short, isn't so bad. Well said is quickly said.

Plan for bad fortune while your fortune is good. In the summer it is wise to provide for winter, and it is easier to do so. Favors are less expensive, and friendships abound. Keep a following of friends and grateful people, someday you will value what now seems unimportant.

Don't talk about yourself. You must either praise yourself, which is vanity, or criticize yourself, which is meekness. You show a lack of good judgment and become a nuisance to others.

The wise do sooner what fools do later. There is only one good way to see the light: as soon as possible. Otherwise, you do out of necessity what you might have done with pleasure. The wise size up immediately what has to be done, sooner or later, and do it with pleasure, enhancing their reputation.

Never complain. Complaints will always discredit you. Rather than compassion, they provoke insolence and encourage others to behave like those we complain about. It is better to praise others, so as to win still more favors of them.

Don't be made of glass. Some people break very easily, revealing how fragile they are. They fill up with resentment and fill others with annoyance. More sensitive than the pupils of the eyes, they are full of themselves, and slaves to their own taste.

Don't live in a hurry. If you know how to organize things, you will know how to enjoy them. Many want to devour in a day what they could hardly digest in a lifetime. Show moderation, so that things known won't be badly known. Be quick to act, slow to enjoy.

Follow through on your victories. Some people do everything to begin and nothing to end. Fickle characters, they start but don't persist. This shows either inconstancy or having rashly attempted the impossible. What is worth doing is worth finishing. If it isn't worth finishing, why begin at all? The wise don't merely stalk their prey, they make the kill.

Quit while you are ahead. All the best gamblers do. A fine retreat

不要令人厌倦。简洁令人愉快,讨人欢喜,而且有事半功倍之效。 好事如果办得简洁,则加倍地好。丑事如果为时很短,则不至于那么 丑。说得干脆利落就是说得好。

要居安而思危。在夏天就为冬天做准备,这是聪明的做法,而且也比较容易去做。做好事是不太费力的,却能增进友谊。要保持一批朋友和感激你的人。有朝一日你会珍视今天看来是无关紧要的事情。

不要谈论自己。否则,一定是要么赞扬自己,这是自负,要么批评自己,这是自卑。你显得缺乏判断力,成为别人讨厌的人。

智者做事捷足先登,愚者落在人后。领悟事物只有一个好方法, 那就是越快越好。否则你本来可以高高兴兴去做的事却变成出于无 奈而不得不为之。智者能立即估计出迟早必须要做的事,而且是心情 愉快地去做,从而提高了自己的声望。

切勿抱怨。抱怨永远会使你信誉扫地。抱怨得不到同情,相反只会激起别人的傲慢无礼,并助长其他人做出与我们所抱怨的人相似的行为。与其如此不如称赞别人,以便赢得他们更多的好感。

不要像玻璃那样脆弱。有些人精神上容易崩溃,这表明他们多么脆弱。他们总是怨天尤人,也使别人无比厌烦。他们比眼睛的瞳孔还要敏感,他们心中唯有自己,他们是自己的情趣的奴隶。

不要急于求成。如果你懂得如何筹划工作,你就会知道如何享受工作的乐趣。很多人想把一辈子几乎都消化不了的东西在一天之内吞下去。做事要适度,这样人所共知的事情就不至于变得声名狼藉。行事要迅速,享受成果要迟缓。

要坚持到底,直至胜利。有人做事总是有始无终。他们朝秦暮楚,做事有头无尾,不能坚持到底。这表明不是他们反复无常,就是草率地去做办不到的事。值得去做的事就值得做完。如果不值得做完,那又何必去做呢?智者不仅追踪猎物,还要把它们杀死。

要急流勇退。最精明的赌徒都是这样做的。巧妙的退却和漂亮的

matters as much as a stylish attack. Lady Luck grows tired when she has to carry someone on her back for a long time. Be careful the way you end things, and devote more attention to a successful exit than a favorable entrance. What matters isn't being applauded when you arrive, but being missed when you leave.

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