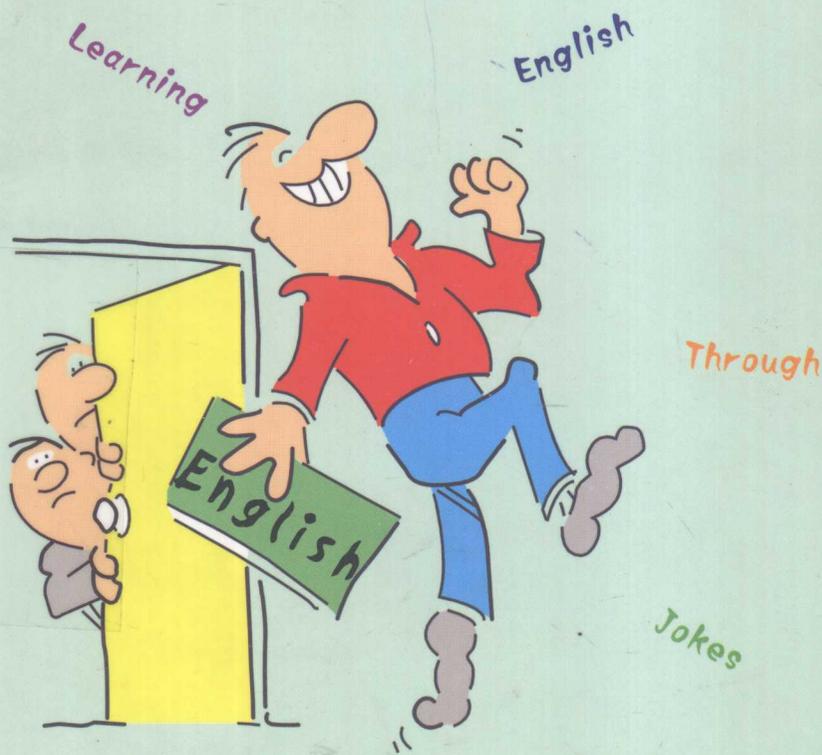


# 开开心心学英语

张 璘 赵银德 编著



新世界出版社

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*Learning English Through Jokes*

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作 者:张 璘 赵银德  
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# 前 言



生活离不开欢声笑语，也就离不开幽默笑话。幽默笑话虽然不是引起人们开怀大笑的惟一原因，却可以给沉闷的生活带来几分生气，让紧锁的愁眉舒展开来，使阴云密布的脸上露出笑容。然而并非所有的幽默笑话都能被欣赏，也并非所有的幽默笑话都能带来欢笑。

幽默笑话和一个民族的语言文化有着千丝万缕的联系，受其制约，违反该民族的习俗的不合时宜的幽默和笑话不仅不能让人快乐，反而会让人痛苦难堪。也正是由于语言文化的制约，我们往往难以欣赏另一语言中的幽默和笑话，因此我们在看电视听广播时往往觉得奇怪，外国人怎么老是说些莫名其妙的话，老是做些莫名其妙的事，老是莫名其妙地哈哈大笑。本来指望活跃气氛的玩笑或幽默在实际对外交往中却成了交际障碍，令交际双方都很尴尬。

所以，听得懂看明白幽默笑话就显得十分重要。幽默笑话作为英语语言的一部分，任何人如果不能正确理解，就不能说真正掌握了英语。为了使广大读者能够正确理解，编者从搜集到的大量英语幽默笑话中精心挑选出一部分进行注释和翻译，希望能对广大读者有所帮助。

## 二

大体而言，英语幽默可分为两类：情景幽默和文字幽默。所谓的情景幽默是指特定情景下，有违常情常理的行为、答案、结果等。例如：

有个人到医院去进行检查。医院的人把他打昏，当他醒过来后，一名医生正在给他检查，也就是扒开眼皮啦，用小锤敲打看看反射情况啦之类的。

医生说：“啊，我很高兴你醒过来了。我恐怕坏消息都有。”

病人说：“别瞒我，大夫。告诉我是什么坏消息。”

医生说：“比我们预想的要糟。我们得给你的左腿进行截肢。”

病人然后问：“那么好消息又是什么呢？”

医生回答：“隔壁病床的病人想买你的拖鞋。”

情景幽默一般比较易懂。虽然各文化之间存在着差异，但是我们都生活在同一个地球上，我们的生活、我们的思想必然有相通之处。正是这些相通之处才使得我们能够理解其他语言文化，明白其他语言文化的幽默。也正是这些相通之处使我们明白：上述幽默中的病人所期待的“好消息”绝非“把拖鞋卖给隔壁病床的病人”。

文字幽默是指利用多义词、同音词等的幽默。例如：

A scientist finds evidence of an actual dinosaur, alive and living in the rainforests of South America. He campaigns several universities and succeeds in getting a grant to launch an expedition.

Several weeks pass and the expedition party stumble upon a 3 foot tall pigmy standing near a 300 foot long dead dinosaur.

The scientist approaches the pigmy and exclaims, "Dear Lord! Did you kill this dinosaur?"

"Yep!" replied the pigmy.

"But, it's so big and you're so small!"

"Yep!" replied the pigmy.

"How on earth did you kill it?" inquired the scientist.

"With my club," replied the pigmy.

"How big is your club?" demanded the scientist.

The pigmy replied, "Well, there are about a hundred of us!"

(一名科学家发现确凿证据，证明南美的热带雨林里有一只活的恐龙。他到好几所大学去活动，成功地搞到资助，组织了一次远征。

几个星期后，远征队遇到了一个三英尺高的小矮人，站在一只 300 英尺长的死恐龙旁边。

科学家走近小矮人，惊叫起来：“天啊！这只恐龙是你杀死的吗？”

“没错！”小矮人回答。

“可是他那么大，你却那么小呀！”

“没错！”小矮人回答。

“你到底是怎么把它杀死的呢？”科学家询问。

“借助帮，”小矮人回答。

“多大的棒？”科学家刨根问底。

小矮人回答：“嗯，大约一百号人的帮。”）

在上述幽默中，club 一词共出现两次，但是意思却不同，结果科学家和小矮人各说各的，从而形成了幽默之所在。

### 三

幽默的翻译向来是比较难的，其难点就体现在“功能对等”上。幽默的目的就是给人带来欢乐，如果译文不能逗笑，那就可以说是失败的，也就失去了翻译的意义，译文也因此失去了存在的理由。然而由于文化的差异，译文读者往往缺少原作者的背景知识，从而不容易欣赏幽默的译文。以“写错了的信”为例，如果不了解在西方人的概念中，地狱整日燃烧着熊熊烈火，就很难理解为什么神父的太太一看到“安全抵达，不过这儿的确热得不得了”顿时就晕过去的原因了。

一般说来，“情景幽默”较易翻译。“情景幽默”依赖于故事的前后矛盾，依赖于出乎意料的结局、回答、解释等，通常语言障碍不大。因此，翻译时只要达意，幽默就能被明白。遇到文化障碍时，只需要适当进行注释，就可以克服。

“文字幽默”通常很难翻译，有时甚至无法翻译。“文字幽默”往往玩弄文字游戏，利用文字的双关或语义的含混，所以

除非巧合，通常难以面面俱到，获得令人满意的翻译。例如在下面的例子中，双关语 ring（戒指，打电话）就很难翻译。如果翻译成“戒指”，下一句“号码是多少？”就显得很突兀。虽然可以采用注释的方式，但是总是隔着一层，仿佛吃东西时，明明觉得不好吃，别人却偏偏告诉你“真好吃”。例如：

After their engagement, Joan asked her fiancé, Tom:

“Will you give me a ring, darling?”

“Sure, what’s the number?”

在本书所有幽默的翻译过程中，译者尽量不借助注释就把原文的幽默之处表达出来，如在第二个例子中，借助于“棒”和“帮”的谐音来翻译双关语 club。有时为了体现原文的歧义，译者甚至不惜牺牲译文的流畅性和正确性。以“he doesn’t look so good”为例，它既可以理解为“它的眼神不好”，也可以理解为“它看上去没那么好”。为了兼顾这两个意思，译者只好把这句话译成了“它看的不那么好”，半通不通。总之，在这类幽默的翻译过程中，除非万不得已，译者尽量不使用加注的方式。

张璘 赵银德

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