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作

详析

周少南 秦傲松

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再 版 前 言

短文写作曾经是全国大学英语四级统考卷上唯一的一道主观题,其权重(weighting)只占总分的15%。但多年的测试实践证明,该题是提高全卷合格率和优秀率的一个难以冲破的瓶颈。从全国范围来看,一直到1994年,该题的平均分始终在6分上下浮动,远未达到权重所要求的合格线9分,可谓寸步难移。为了冲出这一瓶颈,全国大学英语四、六级考试委员会决定从1997年起实行“作文最低分”的计分办法,即把此前历年四级统考作文的平均分6分定为最低分,规定作文零分者全卷判零分,作文低于6分者其全卷得分应扣去与最低分的差额分,这样势必造成一种压力。与此同时,该考试委员会还决定增加主观题题型,从而改变主、客观题的比重。这两项举措的实施,提高了全卷的信度和效度,也使作文分冲出6分的平均线。当然在此期间全国中学英语水平的提高也功不可没。

应该说,短文写作是检验考生英语水平特别是运用能力的重要尺度。其他题型(指题型改革前)检测的主要是考生的识别性掌握能力,作文检测的主要是复呈性掌握能力。前者基本属于 passive skill;后者则属于 active skill,且猜测成分少,没有含水分之嫌。一般地说,作文分高,客观题的得分就不会低,例外较少。当然,从主、客观题的相关性来看,客观题得分高者主观题也理应得高分。但在实际上,主观题与客观题的临界合格分并不紧密相关,也就是说,全卷或客观题只达到或略超过合格线的考生,其作文得分就不能保证相应达到或超过权重所要求的合格线,例外者也不

多。造成这种局面的一个原因是,多年来多项选择题已成为学生(包括中小学生)测试“菜单”上的一道“主菜”,其副作用不可低估。

根据以上所述,提高短文写作水平依然任重道远。本书按照大学英语四级考试大纲的要求,从单句到短文的写作均有涵盖,短文的各种题型也有顾及。短文所举实例多为原作,虽有一定示范作用,但不便考生模仿。考虑到一般写作指导书所提供的范文大多不出自学生手笔,本书尽可能采集一些学生习作加以评点,这些习作的思路与运笔可能更贴近考生的实际,因而有更现实的参考意义和类比价值。

本书第一章由秦傲松执笔,第二、三章由周少南执笔,第四章由两人共同完成。

本书在修订时也注意更正一些错误,但难免挂一漏万,千祈读者和同行不吝指正。

编 者

1999. 11.

前

言

这是一本大学英语写作指导书。根据大学英语教学大纲的规定,写作教学始发于造句,落脚于三段式短文写作。本书正是从造句入手,再联句成段,最后联段成章。从目前学生在四级短文写作部分所出的问题来看,最普遍的还是造句不过关。汉英在短文的结构、体裁、写作技巧方面同多于异。故本书把造句作为成文的基础来抓。如同积木一般,段落不外乎是主题句和扩展句(包括支撑句和结尾句)按一定要求的组合,再将主题句扩展为引导段,将支撑句和结尾句分别扩展为正题段和结尾段,便成为一篇短文,其中每一段都是主题句和扩展句的结合。因此,从培养短文写作能力来说,造句是关键,造句能力强是学生四级写作得分高的基本条件。以句子为单位来计算,本书所收例子和练习共纳 2 000 句左右。

本书第一章属于大学英语一、二级的写作要求,虽然其中大部分例句的词汇没有超出大学英语一、二级的水平,但考虑到学生的接受能力,例句均加译文。第二、三章属于大学英语三、四级的写作要求,其中所收的段落和短文的难度一般低于同级精读教材,学生看懂问题不大。故这两章不加汉译,以减少全书篇幅和减轻学生负担。

编者对段落和短文的选材有过斟酌:是直接取材于原文,还是按四级的要求编写一些可供学生直接模仿甚至照搬的材料?这两者各有利弊。思虑再三,还是取前者,以避免为写作而写作的毛病。这样选出来的例子语言地道,可读性好,虽不一定可以直接照搬于

答卷之中,也不一定符合四级统考所规定的词数,但它们的示范价值是无可争议的。

虽然本书所收大部分段落和短文实例非学生笔下所能驾驭,但本书根据四级写作中出现的问题而总结出来的许多写作要旨对于考生来说是不无裨益的。

本书第一章由秦傲松执笔,第二、三章由周少南执笔。由于编者水平所限,书中不妥之处一定不少,请专家、同行和各方读者批评指正。

编 者

1994. 7.

造句(Sentence Making) ●

遣词造句是写作的基本功,必须予以充分重视。由于这个基本功不扎实而在大学英语四级考试的写作部分丢分的例子是不胜枚举的。本书以造句开篇正是为了帮助学生练好这个基本功。

在掌握了词法知识和一定量的词汇及其用法的基础上,要造好句子还必须注意:句子的完整性,主谓语的一致,时态的一致,句子的统一性,代词的指代,修饰成分的位置……本章将分十个单元逐一讨论这些问题。

第一单元 句子的完整性 (Sentence Completeness)

句子是由单词按语法规律组成的语言单位。一个完整的句子通常必须具备两个基本条件:1. 表示一个完整的意思;2. 包含主语和谓语两个主要成分。*

不完整句缺少主语或谓语部分,因而不能表达完整的意思。在日常对话和其他特定场合中,句子的某个成分常常被省略,这是因为对话双方都明了所省略的部分,所以能准确无误地交流思想。省略句与不完整句尽管有时可能在形式上一样,但分属不同的概念。本单元所讨论的是在正式写作中不完整句错误的类型及其纠正的方法。

1. 误将短语作句子使用。例如:

On the top of the main building that stands near the front gate.

在正门附近的主楼顶上。(介词短语)

Either because of laziness or because of stupidity.

不是因为懒惰就是因为愚笨。(介词短语)

Women and small children in the store.

店里的妇女和儿童。(名词短语)

His ambition was to graduate at the head of his class. And to win a state scholarship.

他的雄心壮志是毕业时在班上名列榜首,并且获得国家奖学金。(不定式短语)

The volume grew lower and lower. Finally becoming so slight as to be inaudible.

音量越来越低。最后低得听不见了。(分词短语)

2. 误将同位语作句子使用。例如:

I want you to meet Miss Li. The smartest and prettiest girl in our school.

我想让你认识李小姐。我们学校最聪明、最漂亮的姑娘。

Some of the expenses were increasing. Overhead, for example, and the cost of raw materials.

有些费用增加了。例如,管理费和原料成本费。

3. 误将状语从句作独立句子使用。例如:

If there is a ball game on television. Dad does not like us to watch our programs.

要是电视里有球赛。爸爸不让看我们爱看的节目。(条件状语从句)

My sister often gets nervous. When she has to take a test.

我妹妹常常紧张。当她要参加考试时。(时间状语从句)

Last Saturday evening I went to see the American movie

with them. Although I didn't like it much.

上周六晚,我和他们一起去看了那部美国电影。虽然我不怎么喜欢它。(让步状语从句)

4. 误将定语从句作独立句子使用。例如:

They are my former classmates. Who are invited by me to dinner with us.

他们是我以前的同班同学。是我邀请来一起吃晚饭的。

I would never forget the day. When my mother sent me to the village school.

我永远不会忘记那一天。母亲送我上乡村小学的时候。

5. 误将现在分词作谓语使用。例如:

The quantity of our products increasing steadily.

我们的产量在稳步增长。

Thousands upon thousands of people sitting in the bleachers watching the ball game.

成千上万的人坐在看台上观看球赛。

纠正不完整句错误并不困难,只要分析英语句子的结构和基本句型,上述错误很容易避免。应掌握的基本原则是:

短语不能作句子使用,它只能在完整句中担任一个成分;从句不能独立成句,应附属于主句;分词只能作谓语的一部分,不能代替整个谓语。

对于上述第一个类型的不完整句,要根据原文意思加以增补或改变结构,使短语成为完整句子的某个成分。

它们可分别改写为:

On the top of the main building that stands near the front gate, you can get a beautiful bird's-eye view of the campus.

在正门附近的主楼顶上,能鸟瞰校园的美丽景色。(介词短语作地点状语)

He failed in physics either because of laziness or because of stupidity.

他的物理不及格,不是因为懒惰就是因为愚笨。(介词短语作原因状语)

There are a large number of women and small children in the store.

店里有许多妇女和儿童。(名词短语作主语)

His ambition was to graduate at the head of his class and to win a state scholarship.

他的雄心壮志是毕业时在班上名列榜首并且获得国家奖学金。(不定式短语作并列表语。未增补成分,仅改变结构。)

The volume grew lower and lower, finally becoming so slight as to be inaudible.

音量越来越低,最后低得听不见了。(现在分词短语作结果状语。未增补成分,仅改变结构。)

通常,对于第二、三、四个类型的不完整句只需改变某个标点符号和大写字母就可改成完整的句子。例如:

Some of the expenses were increasing, overhead, for example, and the cost of raw materials. (名词在句中作同位语)

My sister often gets nervous when she has to take a test. (从句在句中作时间状语)

They are my former classmates who are invited by me to dinner with us. (从句在句中作定语)

第五个类型的不完整句中谓语部分缺少助动词,应根据主语的人称和数以及时态选补适当形式的助动词。上述第5点中两例可改为:

The quantity of our products is increasing steadily.

主语为单数第三人称,故选补助动词 is.

Thousands upon thousands of people were sitting in the

bleachers watching the ball game.

句中主语为复数第三人称,表示过去进行时,故用 were.

纠正不完整句错误的方法并不是唯一的,上面最后一句还可改为:

Thousands upon thousands of people sitting in the bleachers watched the ball game.

(现在分词短语 sitting... 在句中作定语)

Thousands upon thousands of people sat in the bleachers and watched the ball game.

(sat 和 watched 在句中作并列谓语)

* 祈使句一般不出现主语,但仍算完整句。例如:

Stop talking! 别说话了!

Don't worry. Everything will be in order.

别担心,一切都会正常起来的。

Let me try. 让我试试。

Exercise 1

Identify and revise the sentence fragments in the following.
Mark any correct sentence C.

指出并修正下面的不完整句;正确者标上 C.

1. If we can only have ham for Easter.
2. His trade having no particular demand at that time.
3. I insisted to invite Mr Zhang. A man who is always good fun in a group.
4. We have just bought a new house. With a play-room in the basement.
5. Especially when the mercury unexpectedly hit 40°C.
6. To pass the time on the train, they played games based on

radio and television commercials.

7. Their new show containing no memorable tunes and a weak plot even for a musical.
8. As they strolled through the gardens in Athens.
9. It was the night that the armistice was signed. November 11, 1918.
10. He eventually came home. Some time around the last of the year.
11. He called home to tell his family where he had been. And to ask permission to remain at a friend's home all night.
12. Her living room had been done in bright, bold colors. Dominated by orange and green.
13. It was a rewarding experience to take a course from Professor Landis. A man of wide learning and extraordinary vitality.
14. An orthopedic doctor having studied the reasons for ski accidents.
15. He was delighted with his discovery of an excellent restaurant. One which had escaped the attention of the experts who determine these things.
16. Because Lincoln is so universally admired today, it is hard for us to realize that very vicious things were said of him in his own time.
17. My neighbor is building a new garage. Containing ample room for a workshop.
18. This is the latest type of men's shoes. Fashioned somewhat after a style that first appeared more than thirty years ago.
19. The new manager instituted several new procedures. Many of which are impractical.

20. The staff decided to take a break. It being mid-afternoon.
21. We reorganized the department. Distributing the work load more evenly.
22. We have one major goal this month. To increase the strength of the alloy without reducing its flexibility.
23. The board approved the project. After much discussion.
24. Some of our customers prefer to pay at the time of purchase. While others find installment payments preferable.
25. Sometimes following the tracks of animals through the woods.
26. Hoping to meet you again in camp next summer.
27. The boys, with their skates in hand, ran along the edge of the pond.
28. One boy, newly arrived from Finland, dressed in American style, a vivid account of his trip to this country and his impression of our school.
29. The holidays full of fun even though the families felt the pinch of hunger and poverty.
30. A list of English words borrowed from other languages: piano, kimono, tomato, and algebra.

Exercise 2

In the passage below, identify fragments (a) which do not have subjects, (b) those which do not have predicates, and (c) those which have neither subjects nor predicates. Revise the passage so that all fragments necessary to the composition become parts of sentences.

在下面的短文中,指出:(a) 没有主语的不完整句;(b) 没有谓语的不完整句;(c) 既没有主语又没有谓语的不完整句。修改短文,使所有对该短文必不可少的不完整句都成为句子的成分。

1) Aunt Agnes, who was one of the gentlest women I have ever known, although that was not the reason she was my favorite aunt. 2) She being quite a nuisance to her husband at times, Uncle Joe, who was kind enough but did not believe in carrying things too far. 3) Just one of those things. 4) Uncle Joe being a very good shot, and there being a turkey shoot that year at the factory where Uncle Joe worked, where, in fact, he was the oldest workman in point of service. 5) Down by the levee, just north of the railroad tracks. 6) Uncle Joe brought home a turkey, a fine big gobbler, and chained up in the back yard to get fat for Thanksgiving. 7) Aunt Agnes, who had the notion that turkeys ate only wild rice, and that got very expensive, considering what wild rice costs. 8) She doted on that turkey. 9) Got it to eat out of her hand, and would stand by the half hour looking at it. 10) Called it pet names, Little Turkey-urkey, and the like. 11) And occasionally, as though she were joking—and especially when Uncle Joe had just eaten a big dinner and was feeling good—as though she did not really mean that they should not eat Little Turkey-urkey, but that was what she suggested. 12) Nonsense. 13) Uncle Joe said.

14) Then it was the day before Thanksgiving, and Uncle Joe brought home a hand axe from the shop in the factory. 15) Aunt Agnes, meeting him at the door, telling him he must not kill the turkey, and she would not cook it if he did, and she would gag on it if she tried to take a bite. 16) Please, she begged, could they not buy a turkey? And buy one they did. 17)

Aunt Agnes all this time very grateful to Uncle Joe for being so understanding, and promising that they would keep the turkey just a little while. 18) Before Christmas, trade it for another turkey, and then she would not mind the turkey they traded for being killed.

19) Then the day after Thanksgiving, and Aunt Agnes feeding Little Turkey-urkey, thinking surely he looked sad, sad enough to die. 20) She was sure he was getting thinner. 21) Thinner every day. 22) Obviously being lonesome, and why would he not be lonesome without any woman turkey? 23) Accordingly, the next day, which was of course Saturday. 24) Uncle Joe had to drive out to a turkey farm and buy a turkey hen. 25) Christmas came and passed. 26) Then New Year's. 27) And Turkey-urkey and his hen sitting peaceful in Aunt Agnes' back, yard, getting fatter and fatter. 28) Eating wild rice at two dollars a pound. 29) In those days wild rice being two dollars a pound. 30) Never did eat those turkeys and both drowned in a flood the next spring.

第二单元 主语和谓语动词的一致

(Agreement of Subject and Verb)

一个好的句子就像一个和睦相处的家庭，它的所有成员都是协调统一的。句子的谓语动词在人称和数上必须和主语一致，这是英语句法最基本的规则之一。但违背这一规则的错误在许多学生的作文中仍屡见不鲜。现列举二例：

例 1. My father, as well as my mother, are planning to visit our school.

我父亲，还有我母亲，正在计划参观我们学校。

are 应改为 is. 错误的原因是将 my mother 看作并列主语，实际上句子的主语只是 my father.

例 2. Milk and eggs are my favorite breakfast.

牛奶加鸡蛋是我最喜爱的早餐。

are 应改为 is. 这里 and 有 with 的含义，连接两个名词构成一个统一体。

怎样才能使句子的主语和谓语动词取得一致呢？兹将可供遵循的主要规则概括为以下八个方面。

一、并列主语和谓语动词的一致

通常，由 and 或 both...and 连接两个或两个以上的并列主语时，谓语动词要用复数形式。例如：

Adela and Harry ride the trolley to school and walk home every day.

爱得拉和哈利每天乘电车上学，步行回家。

Both hard work and plain living are the fine qualities of the working people.