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英语谚语 用法入门

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原著者序言

本书的特色 单纯收集英语谚语的书，已经很多。能举出具体用例说明该谚语在英、美人日常生活中究竟如何运用的书，尚不多见。本书的特色就在于此。

谚语有的原封不动被人们直接引用，有的已融合在人们日常生活中，并已达到令人乍看无从辨认它的本来面目的程度。总之，不了解该项谚语就无法正确理解英文的深邃含义。

我们与其说“Don't miss your chance.”(别错过良机)这类平庸的话，不如干脆说“Strike the iron while it is hot.”(趁热打铁)，这样会给人以极其深刻的印象。这在写作或会话中是不能缺少的。

谚语是民族性和地方风土人情的产物。通过了解谚语可以初步直接理解英国和美国的文化。谚语又能更深刻地表达人的思想感情。有人读了 Beauty is but skin deep. (美人只是一层皮)这句谚语，终于从失恋的严重打击下得到解脱。由此看来，谚语已成了人生的指南，会给人以智慧和勇气。

本书的结构 本书内容包括最常用的谚语和水平略高些的谚语。这类谚语都将按照常用语形式一一加以分类。

有的谚语是简单的比喻，如：A watched pot never boils. (欲速则不达)。有的谚语简直成了开门见山式的格言，如：Honesty is the best policy. (诚实才是上策)。

书中首先举出谚语的译法，其次提示整个词语的概念全面加以解释。另外还附具与谚语有关的事项

并与日本的或中国的格言俚谚适当地作了比较。

书中例句均系摘自现实的作品，用以表明该项谚语的活用法。

当然，任何一项格言俚谚都有它的典故出处，但限于篇幅，本书不一一列举。

“译文”载在每则例句下面，必要时还附有词语注释。

本书的利用法 本书有助于通过阅读含有本谚语的现实作品，加深对原文意义的正确理解。由于理解了谚语在该段文章中怎样被恰当地加以引用，就可使读者在写作或会话时提高这方面的运用技巧。更重要的是希望读者能进一步将这些精辟的格言俚谚所内涵的真理活用到现实生活中来。

例句中的各段短文限于篇幅，有些部分已经过改写，但仍力求明确表达原来上下文的前后涵义。定稿后曾请上智大学 Charles Roberts 教授校阅一遍，谨此致谢。

岩田一男

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