

英语修辞及惯用法

张文庭 熊建国 编著

English Rhetoric and Usage

This book treats of both rhetoric and usage. Rhetoric is the art of using language effectively. It is concerned with punctuation, diction, figures of speech, the principles of good writing and usage. In our discussion of rhetoric, emphasis is laid on figures of speech, since they play such an important and interesting role both in literature and in our daily speech. The book is divided into nine chapters. The first chapter offers some essential points of diction. The ninth chapter discusses imagery and tone. The second to the eighth chapters deal with figures of speech. Now let's take up the question of figures of speech.

 湖南师范大学出版社

英语修辞及惯用法

English Rhetoric and Usage

张文庭 熊建国 编著

湖南师范大学出版社

【湘】新登字 011 号

英语修辞及惯用法

张文庭 熊建国 编著

责任编辑：雷立美 徐新平

湖南师范大学出版社出版发行

(长沙市岳麓山)

湖南省新华书店经销 核工业中南 230 研究所印刷厂印刷

850×1168 32 开 6 印张 151 千字

1996 年 4 月第 1 版 1996 年 4 月第 1 次印刷

印数：1—3200 册

ISBN7-81031-490-4/H·030

定价：6.50 元

本书如有印装质量问题，请直接与生产厂家联系调换

前 言

修辞是一种语言的表达修饰,惯用法是一种语言的表达习惯,它们都是学习一种语言应该掌握的特殊性的知识,是一般的语法规则无法包括与替代的。

英语修辞及惯用法涉及的内容很广,本书集中讨论了英语的所有主要修辞格,对修辞格的分类和定义力求详尽,自成一体。本书也讨论了一些常用的惯用法。例如一些常用的动词、介词、副词、连词及某些句型的惯用法等。

英语修辞和惯用法是紧密联系、相互补充的。我们把两者结合起来讨论是一种尝试。在书中,我们用大量典型的语言实例来解释英语修辞及其惯用法,以便能更好地帮助读者了解英语、欣赏英语和掌握英语。因此,实用性很强是本书的特点之一。

本书的另一特点是语言素材覆盖面宽,信息量大,题材广泛。从时间来看,本书大量典型例句引自从英国第一首长诗《贝奥武甫》(*Beowulf*)到英美近现代文学的许多经典名著。从体裁来看,本书语言素材来源包括诗歌、散文、戏剧、报刊、广告、故事等。此外,还选用了许多典故、警句、箴言、谚语、谜语、双关语等。

为了给自学者提供方便,本书对较难的例句附有译文、简明注释或部分单词的词义。

总之,我们力求通过这些典型的语言材料和对它们的分析,将英语修辞及其惯用法中的趣味性、实用性和科学性结合起来,寓学术讨论于趣谈之中,以增加读者的英语知识和提高读者的语言运用能力与文学欣赏水平。

本书可作为大专院校英语专业修辞学教材或英语专业师生的教学参考书,也是广大英语爱好者和英语自学者无师自通的必读课本。

本书的出版得到了湖南师范大学出版基金和湖南师范大学外国语学院资助及湖南师范大学出版社的大力支持,谨此致谢。

编者

1996年1月

CONTENTS (目录)

Introduction	(1)
---------------------------	-----

Chapter 1 Diction 措词	(5)
-----------------------------------	-----

1. Diction and Vocabulary 措词和词汇	(5)
---------------------------------------	-----

2. Concrete Words and Abstract Words 具体名词和抽象名词	(6)
--	-----

3. Synonyms 同义词	(7)
-----------------------	-----

4. Standard English and Informal English 标准英语和非正式英语	(8)
---	-----

5. Slang 俚语	(9)
-------------------	-----

6. Trite Expressions 陈腐表达	(10)
---------------------------------	------

7. Jargon 行话	(11)
--------------------	------

8. Correct Idioms and Collocations 准确习语和搭配	(12)
--	------

9. Chinglish 中国式英语	(13)
--------------------------	------

10. Improprieties 用词不当	(13)
------------------------------	------

11. Wordiness 用词罗嗦	(14)
--------------------------	------

Chapter 2 Figures of Similarity 相似修辞格	(17)
--	------

Section One Simile 明喻 and Analogy 类比	(17)
--	------

Section Two Metaphor 暗喻	(25)
-------------------------------	------

Section Three	Reification 具体修辞法	(39)
Section Four	Allegory 讽喻, Fable 动物寓言 and Parable 伦理寓言	(43)
Section Five	Allusion 引喻	(49)

Chapter 3 Figures of Association 关联修辞格

.....	(54)
Section One Metonymy 转喻	(54)
Section Two Synecdoche 提喻	(68)

Chapter 4 Figures of Imagination 想象修辞格

	(71)
Section One	Personification 拟人法	(71)
Section Two	Apostrophe 顿呼	(81)
Section Three	Transferred Epithet 移位修饰语	(82)
Section Four	Hyperbole 夸张	(85)

Chapter 5 Figures of Sound 声音修辞格

Section One	Onomatopoeia 拟声法	(94)
Section Two	Pun 双关语	(97)
Section Three	Alliteration 头韵	(105)
Section Four	Rhyme 韵, Assonance 尾韵 and Consonance 辅韵, Half(of Approximate) Rhyme 半韵	(107)

Chapter 6 Figures of Contrast 对照修辞格

.....	(113)
Section One Irony 反语法	(113)
Section Two Antithesis 对照	(116)
Section Three Paradox 隽语	(117)
Section Four Oxymoron 矛盾修辞法	(120)

Section Five	Rhetorical Question 修辞疑问句	(123)
Section Six	Zeugma 轭式搭配法	(125)

Chapter 7 Figures of Emphasis 强调修辞法

	(131)
Section One	Exclamation 感叹	(131)
Section Two	Epigram 警句	(133)
Section Three	Repetition 重复	(137)
Section Four	Parallelism 对句法	(151)
Section Five	Climax 渐增	(152)

Chapter 8 Figures of Softening 柔和修辞格

	(153)
Section One	Anticlimax (Bathos) 突降	(153)
Section Two	Understatement 克制低调陈述	(156)
Section Three	Litotes 间接肯定法	(158)
Section Four	Euphemism 委婉修辞法	(164)
Section Five	Circumlocution 迂回修辞法	(172)

Chapter 9 Imagery and Tone 意象和语气

Section One	Imagery 意象	(175)
Section Two	Tone 语气	(177)

INTRODUCTION

This book treats of both rhetoric and usage. Rhetoric is the art of using language effectively. It is concerned with punctuation, diction, figures of speech, the principles of good writing and usage. In our discussion of rhetoric, emphasis is laid on figures of speech, since they play such an important and interesting role both in literature and in our daily speech. The book is divided into nine chapters. The first chapter offers some essential points of diction. The ninth chapter discusses imagery and tone (意象和语气). The second to the eighth chapters deal with figures of speech. Now let's take up the question of figures of speech.

I . What are figures of speech?

Figures of speech are rhetorical devices of deviations from the ordinary or literal way of expression, with a view to producing greater impressiveness and effect. (修辞格是偏离一般或本义表达的一种修辞手段, 目的在于取得最佳的表达效果。) It is the art of using language effectively. Compare the following pairs of sentences in A and B.

A: Figurative (转义)

1. Each purple peak, each flinty spire (尖端),

Was bathed in floods of living fire.

每个紫色山峰, 每个岩石尖端, 都沐浴在熊熊火焰的洪流之中。

2. Life is a walking shadow. (or: Life is a brief candle.)

B: Literal (本义)

1. The evening sun shone on the tops of high mountains and rocks.
2. Life is short and meaningless.

II . The main functions of figures of speech:

1. Figures of speech Excite the imagination and afford us imaginative pleasure. Just as in Example A 1 “floods of living fire” makes our imagination take flight to a zenith(巅峰), forming a contrast to the “evening sun”, which only gives us prosaic (没有诗味的) information without stirring up even a ripple (涟漪) in our imagination.
2. Figures of speech are a way of bringing additional imagery into speech to concretize (具体化) the abstract, of making poetry more sensuous (给人以美的享受). Such concrete things as floods, fire, candle, shadow will bring forth vivid pictures in our mind and enable us to enjoy great sensuous (感官方面的) pleasure.
3. Figures of speech are a way of adding emotional intensity to otherwise merely informative statements and they are a way of conveying attitudes along with information. “walking shadow”, “brief candle” in Example A 2 are emotion-charged expressions, making us feel intensely the emptiness and transiency (稍纵即逝) of life.
4. Figures of speech are a means of concentration, of speaking volumes in a few words. For instance, “... Out, out(熄灭了), brief candle/Life is a walking shadow, ... ” is said by Macbeth (莎士比亚悲剧名和该剧的主人公) when he hears

of Lady Macbeth's tragic death. He uses the metaphors to suggest that life is just an empty dream and that this walking shadow is ever walking in the shadow of death. "walking" also connotes(暗示) the hustle and bustle (来去匆忙) of our daily life, yet it is "much ado about nothing(无事烦恼)". "brief candle" has even richer connotations. Before a candle is lit and after it is put out there is darkness, just as a man comes into the world from darkness and goes back into darkness when he dies. A brief candle will burn itself out in the twinkling of an eye. In the same way, life is so short that when one is already tottering(蹒跚) towards the grave, one feels as if he were born only yesterday! A puff of wind will blow out a brief candle. There is many a puff of wind to blow out our short life, such as a stroke (中风), a heart attack, a fire, a flood, a traffic accident, a plane crash, a shipwreck, oh, too many, not to mention murders and suicides. See, how much these four short words "Out, out, brief candle" suggest when one wants to express the idea that life is short.

5. Figures of speech are a very important part of rhetorical analysis. There are numerous figures of speech in literature and also in everyday speech. They are especially concerned with poetry, as the remarkable elements of poetry are rich imagination, subtle (微妙的) suggestiveness, intense emotion, conciseness and concentration. As imagery(意象) and tone (语气), which are closely linked with figures of speech, are very important for our correct understanding of speech, especially of a poem, we should pay special attention to them when we take up the interpretation and analysis of a piece of

literary work.

In the treatment of figures of speech, emphasis is laid on usage, especially the usage of commonly used verbs, prepositions, adverbs and conjunctions which appear in figures of speech or in related usage. Going into such topics will render the study of rhetoric much more interesting and fruitful.

It is the writers' hope and belief that this book, instead of a hard nut to crack (难敲开的松果, 棘手的问题) will offer lots of good cheer (佳肴) and some delicacies (珍馐美味) for the reader to taste, to swallow, to chew and digest.

Compilers 1996.1.

CHAPTER 1 DICTION 措词

1. Diction and Vocabulary 措词和词汇

Diction in rhetoric study is concerned with the choice of appropriate words in speaking or writing. Accurate, effective expression obviously requires the right words, the words which will represent — not nearly, not approximately, but exactly — what we want to say. Jonathan Swift once described good style as *proper words in proper places*. Therefore, good diction is the foundation of good English.

To choose the right words requires a large active vocabulary. We cannot choose the right words if we do not have many words. So we must be well-stocked with words, for the bigger the repertory (贮藏) of words we possess, the larger the scope we can choose from.

But to build up a large vocabulary is not easy. It takes many years for a student to read widely and wisely. While reading a well-written book, he should pay attention to the writer's choice of words. When in doubt about the meaning and the use of a word, or about the distinction between related words, he should never hesitate to find guidance and information in dictionaries, which are handy and efficient to improve his diction.

However, a large vocabulary alone is not enough. We must

learn some techniques for drawing from that vocabulary and some guidelines for choosing one word instead of another in a particular context. The study of word choice or diction is therefore essential in our English study. and perhaps it would not be much exaggeration to say that *the life of any piece of writing lies in its diction*.

Before we can choose and use words properly, we must study the following aspects of words.

2. Concrete Words and Abstract Words 具体名词和抽象名词

Words may be divided into two groups —— concrete words and abstract words. A concrete word is one whose referent(语词所指的对象) can be touched or seen: “book”, “cloud”, “car”, “chalk”. An abstract word is one whose referent is an idea, something which cannot be touched or seen: “peace”, “need”, “love”, “freedom”.

For clearness in description, we must choose the concrete word with the most specific referent. Concrete words vary in definiteness. For example, the word “vehicle”, while its referent is something which can be seen and touched, is not at all specific. You probably do not have a clear mental picture of a vehicle. The word “bus” is more specific; the word “double-decker” is still more specific. In your writing; whenever you are considering several different words to express a particular meaning, you should select the most specific one.

Abstract words, which usually refer to general ideas, must always be used with care. A great many misunderstandings are caused by abstract words which have not been carefully defined. Unless two persons agree on the meaning(referent) of an abstract word, communication between them may break down. An abstract word may

have many referents. So we must make clear the referent of an abstract word by definition or example.

The word "freedom", for example, has only a very vague referent until you define it. To a prisoner behind bars, freedom means getting out of jail. To Mr. Wang, who resents the neighbors' criticism of his noisy family, freedom means the right of his family to make as much noise as they wish. Franklin D. Roosevelt defined the freedoms in which America believes as freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. Each of these definitions provides a more specific referent for the word freedom, and each, in turn, could be more narrowly defined.

Sometimes an example will help to clarify the meaning of an abstract word. In the following passage the meaning of "quality" in the context "a man of quality" is made clear by an example:

Mansfield was a man of quality. Although he never pushed himself forward or tried to assert his superiority, you could tell by his bearing, his quiet sense of humor, and his manner of speaking that he was a superior person.

3. Synonyms 同义词

Synonyms are words which are similar, but rarely identical, in meaning. A careful writer selects the word which has the exact referent that he has in mind. For example, the words "disciple", "partisan (党羽)", and "satellite" are synonyms in that each refers to a person who is a follower of a leader. Yet each has its own meaning somewhat different from the others. "Follower", the most general in meaning, may be used in place of any of the other three, but for the writer who has a specific kind of follower in mind, it lacks exact-

ness. A writer who has in mind a follower of a professor or a religious leader, for instance, would probably use the word "disciple". If he wishes to refer to blindly devoted follower of a political or military leader, he might prefer the word "partisan". To refer to the kind of followers who continually and obsequiously (谄媚的, 奉承的) circulate about a powerful leader, perhaps in hope of favors, he could use the word "satellites". Do not be satisfied with the first synonym that occurs to you. For clearness, we must choose the synonym that expresses our meaning exactly.

4. Standard English and Informal English

标准英语和非正式英语

Use standard English except on special occasions, consult your dictionary on usage, and make your style appropriate to your subject.

Standard English is the generally accepted language in English-speaking countries. It is the language of educated persons. Though it varies in usage and in pronunciation from one country or region to another (indicated by labels such as U. S. or British, in dictionaries), it is the standard English language which is taught in schools and colleges.

Nonstandard English consists of usages, spellings and pronunciations not usually found in the speech or writing of educated persons.

There are two kinds of standard English, formal and informal. Informal English is good English. We use it in all our conversation and in most of our writing. Within the general category of informal English, however, there are degrees of informality. Expressions typ-

ical of the most extreme degree of informality are never 'bad' English, but they are sometimes inappropriate English, because it is light in tone and sometimes very close to slang. Informal English should be extremely carefully limited in serious compositions.

Informal or colloquial language (terms used almost interchangeably) is appropriate in certain situations though not in college dissertations. Colloquialism does not mean dialect. Dialect is a way of speaking used in a part of a country or by a class of people.

The best sources of information are dictionaries, which record current and past usage. They tell who uses what. Consult your dictionary for definitions of the labels it employs, for example, Slang, Dialect, Vulgar, Literary, Poetic, Informal, Obsolete, etc.

5. Slang 俚语

Slang is a nonstandard variety of language which, according to the American Heritage Dictionary, consists "typically of arbitrary (任意的) and often ephemeral (短暂的) coinages and figures of speech characterized by spontaneity and raciness."

Too often slang is a popular rubber stamp(老一套人云亦云的话) which only approximates exact thought. The expression "He's a jerk" would not communicate much. What does this precisely mean — except that he is in some vague way unattractive?

Slang in students' papers is usually out of place. Slang expressions are particularly inappropriate in a context that is otherwise dignified.

A slang word which is vivid and useful sometimes becomes standard. For instance, "skyscraper", "bus" and "nice" were once slang, but later came into standard usage.