

英语注释文选

北京外国语学院英语系编



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《英语注释文选》小组编

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编 者 说 明

为了满足广大读者学习英语的需要，我们编了《英语注释文选》，由北京出版社分辑出版。《文选》以具有中级英语水平的读者为主要对象，内容以选用英美等国出版的现代书刊中的文章为主。每篇文章均有较详细的注释。读者对我们的编选工作有什么批评和建议，欢迎及时告诉我们。

北京外国语学院英语系

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Concern for a Geologist (Excerpts)

by Li Lin¹

EARLY in the First Five-Year Plan period (1953—57), Chairman Mao asked my father about China's petroleum prospects. At that time, the imperialists had placed an oil embargo on China. Father did not believe the theory that China was poor in oil. Together with the workers and technicians of the Ministry of Geology, he had started a large-scale exploratory survey for oil². Basing his ideas on the geological structures of China and applying the theory and methods of geomechanics³, he pointed out that there should be abundant oil reserves and good prospects for exploiting them in a Neocathaysian subsidence zone⁴.

Under the guidance of Chairman Mao and the Party, a campaign to find oil was organized throughout the country. Oil workers finally located a vast field in the northeast and named it Taching — Great Celebration. The first oil flowed in 1959. Geomechanics had proved its value in locating the field, an achievement Chairman Mao spoke highly of⁵.

One day during a meeting of the Third National People's Congress in 1964, an attendant found Father among the

deputies in the Great Hall of the People and told him to go to the Peking Room. Father had no idea why⁶. He entered the room and found Chairman Mao there by himself. Father was of course delighted to see him, but thought the attendant had made a mistake and said, "I'm sorry, Chairman, I've come to the wrong room." Chairman Mao shook my father's hand. "No, you're in the right room," he said. "I'm looking for you. Well, I hear you do *tai ji chuan* exercises very well." "Oh. My health is not so good," said Father, "so I've learned a bit." After sitting down, Chairman Mao said no more about *tai ji chuan*; he talked about nothing but oil⁷. Father realized that he had humorously used *tai ji chuan* as a metaphor and was praising Father and his comrades for the discovery of oil by applying the theory of geomechanics.

Chairman Mao always stressed the development of China's science and technology and the training of scientific workers. He showed great concern for the older scientists who were now working hard for socialist construction. On February 6, 1964, he invited my father, the astronomer Chu Ko-chen (Coching Chu)⁸ and the physicist Chien Hsueh-sen⁹ to his home and for nearly four hours discussed major scientific problems with them.

Father told me that Chairman Mao knew a lot about the development of many sciences past and present, in China and abroad¹⁰. He had a thorough and detailed knowledge of glaciers¹¹ and climatology¹². He hoped, he told them,

that the scientists of the old generation would make every effort to catch up with and overtake advanced world levels in science and technology.

On New Year's Day 1965, Mother and I waited far into the night until Father came home. He had gone to a meeting at Huai Ren Hall, where the central people's government was located. After the meeting, Chairman Mao had invited Father to go with him to see a Honan folk opera, *Valley Facing the Sun*. It was about a school graduate who goes to settle down in the countryside to become one of the working people. Chairman Mao asked Father to sit next to him and chatted with him about the opera and then about petroleum. "Both the Ministry of Geology and the Ministry of Petroleum have done a good job in locating oil," he said.

After the performance Chairman Mao asked my father to go up on the stage with him and they had their picture taken with the opera singers. The message¹³ was clear, Father told us. "He uses every opportunity to point out to us scientists that we should link theory with practice and serve the workers and peasants wholeheartedly."

On May 19, 1969 Chairman Mao received 10,000 members of study groups from various parts of the country and members of the Party Central Committee then in Peking. Spotting my father in the crowd Chairman Mao came over and shook hands with him. After the others had gone Chairman Mao talked with Father for more than an hour about astronomy, geology, the origin of the celestial bodies¹⁴

and other questions of science. Speaking of the origin of the solar system¹⁵, “I don’t think much of Schmidt’s theory¹⁶. I think there’s something in Kant and Laplace.”¹⁷ He wanted to read books Father had written. “I don’t know much English,” he said, “so you’d better find me something in Chinese.”

When he got home Father told me, “Busy as he is, the Chairman wants to read my books¹⁸. There are plenty of them but they’re all big volumes with too much detail and a lot of them are in foreign languages.” To save Chairman Mao time, Father decided to compile something on major questions in geology and some other sciences, using pictures and charts and not much text. Though he wasn’t in very good health, he worked on this day and night and in 1970 finished a digest of materials entitled *Excerpts from Astronomy Geology and Paleontology*¹⁹ and sent it to Chairman Mao.

Father often told me that whether we’re studying foreign or Chinese books, ancient or modern material, we should follow Chairman Mao’s teachings — do away with the unnecessary things and keep the essential, never gulp everything down uncritically but have a strict scientific attitude and an earnest critical spirit. It was Mao Tsetung Thought that guided Father in obtaining good results in geological research.

【注释】

1. Li Lin: 李林, 我国著名地质学家李四光同志的女儿。在伟大领袖毛主席逝世一周年之际, 她写了“对一位地质学家的亲切关怀”一文, 回忆毛主

席多次接见李四光同志的情景，记述了毛主席对我国自然科学研究的关心和对科研人员的鼓励。本文系一九七七年十二月 *China Reconstructs* 所载 *Concern for a Geologist* 的节录，文字上稍有变动。

2. a large-scale exploratory survey for oil: 大规模石油普查。
3. Basing his ideas on the geological structures of China and applying the theory and methods of geomechanics: 根据中国地质的结构，运用地质力学的理论与方法…。这里 basing... 和 applying 都是现在分词短语，在句中作状语，修饰谓语 pointed out。注意：should 此处表示对事物作出基本肯定的估计。例如：The figure should be correct. (这个数字肯定是对的。)
4. a Neocathaysian subsidence zone: 新华夏构造地带。
5. an achievement Chairman Mao spoke highly of: 这一成就毛主席给予高度的评价。an achievement 是前面整个句子的同位语。英语里这种用法很多，例如：He is working very hard despite his ill-health, a fact which demonstrates his high level of political consciousness. 这里 a fact 是总结前面句子，也可以说是它的同位语。
6. Father had no idea why: 父亲不知道为什么叫他去。这是一个省略句，完整的句子应是 Father had no idea why he was told to go to the Peking Room. have no idea = do not know
7. he talked about nothing but oil: 他只谈石油。这里 but 是介词，意思是：除了……，等于 except, 例如：For several days, he could eat nothing but porridge. (有好几天，除了稀粥，他什么也不能吃。)
8. the astronomer Chu Ko-chen (Coching Chu): 天文学家 竺可桢。注意定冠词 the 的用法。
9. the physicist Chien Hsueh-sen: 物理学家 钱学森。
10. the development of many sciences past and present, in China and abroad: 古今中外许多科学部门的发展。past, present, in China, abroad 等词和短语都修饰 development (of sciences)。science 的复数形式表示科学的不同学科或部门。
11. glaciers ['glæsɪəz]: 冰川。
12. climatology [ˌklaɪmə'tɒlədʒi]: 气候学。

13. message; 在这里作启示讲。
14. the origin of the celestial body; 天体的起源。
15. the origin of the solar system; 太阳系的起源。
16. I don't think much of Schmidt's theory; 我认为施密特的理论不怎么样。think much of... 的意思是: 认为……不错。奥尤·施密特(1891—1956)是苏联地球物理学家。他认为行星主要是由气体尘埃云粒子凝聚形成的。他认为太阳在银河系里运动的过程中, 以及在同气体尘埃云相遇的过程中可能俘获一些粒子, 并使这些粒子围绕太阳旋转, 逐渐凝聚形成行星。
17. I think there's something in Kant and Laplace; 我认为康德和拉普拉斯的理论有些道理。伊曼努尔·康德(1724—1804)是著名的德国哲学家, 他认为星云通过自己运动的规律从最初的混乱状态发展到有秩序的天体, 这一规律即: 由于引力而凝聚; 由于斥力而旋转。P·S·拉普拉斯(1749—1827)是法国天文学家、数学家、物理学家。他所提出的关于天体的假说与康德创立的太阳系起源的假说相似。他运用力学的原理, 说明太阳系是从一个气体物发展而来的。他对康德的假说内容作了新的补充。
18. Busy as he is, the Chairman wants to read my books; 虽然毛主席那么忙, 但他还要读我写的书。busy as he is 是状语从句, 与 though he is busy 的意思相同。形容词(或付词)放在连词 as 的前面加强了语气。这一句型用于书面体较多。在这一句型中, as 也可由 though 代替, 如: Difficult though the job was, he managed to do it well. (虽然工作很困难, 但他还是设法很好地完成了。)
19. a digest of materials entitled *Excerpts from Astronomy, Geology and Paleontology*; (天文、地质、古生物)(资料摘要)。

王立礼注释

Four Years in a Shed¹

(*Excerpts*)

by Eve Curie²

THE statement about the discovery of radium aroused great interest among the physicists. But the qualities of the new metal upset many of their firm beliefs. They wanted to see, touch and weigh the metal before they would accept its existence³.

So now to satisfy the unbelievers and themselves, Marie and Pierre had to work for several years.

Their aim was to obtain pure radium and polonium⁴ but this could only be done by treating large quantities of pitchblende⁵, and this would cost money. They little knew⁶ at this time that the radioactive substance which they were hunting for did not count for more than a millionth part of pitchblende ore⁷.

How were they to get pitchblende? They found out that the ore was treated at certain mines in Bohemia to obtain salts used in the making of glass, but traces of polonium and radium were still left in the ore. What remained of the ore was held to be of little value⁸. Pierre wrote to Bohemia to ask about the price.

It was decided not to waste time asking for money but to pay for the ore and its transport from their savings.

Then they looked round for a place to work in and to store the huge mass of pitchblende which they hoped to be able to get.

All they could get was the little room at the School of Physics⁹ where Marie had made her first experiments. It was furnished with some worn kitchen tables, a black-board and an old iron stove, and the rain often came in through the roof. Indeed few people would have been willing to work in such a place¹⁰, but the Curies accepted it. There was one good point about the shed — it was so miserable that nobody thought of refusing them the use of it.

As they were taking possession of the shed, they had a piece of good news¹². The owners of the pitchblende ore, from which the uranium salts had been extracted, had decided to present them with a ton of the substance and offered to supply further quantities cheaply. So the Curies had only to pay for its transport.

One morning a heavy wagon drew up¹³ before the School of Physics. Pierre and Marie hurried out and unloaded it. Eagerly they undid one of the sacks and bathed their hands in the dark brown ore¹⁴.

That was where the radium was hidden¹⁵, and from there they must extract it, even if they had to treat a mountain of the stuff.

Marie had lived through the most exciting moments

of her student life in an attic¹⁶; now she was to have more wonderful moments in a broken-down shed.

The shed could not have been more uncomfortable¹⁷. In summer it was like a hot-house. If it rained, the water fell drop by drop with a monotonous noise on to the table where they were working. If it froze, then the stove had to be lighted, but it produced so little heat that it was scarcely an improvement.

In the division of labour, Marie had chosen the workman's part. She worked in the courtyard in the midst of dust and smoke. Sometimes she passed the whole day stirring a boiling mass of the ore with an iron bar, almost as big as herself. Inside the shed, her husband was working out the most difficult experiments.

Pierre and Marie knew that the radium was there in the tiniest quantity mixed up with the ore; the difficulty was to isolate it. The days became months and years. The work went on.

The two scientists passed this time in a dream, seeing very few people. They sometimes left their apparatus in order to drink a cup of tea, then they would talk endlessly about their beloved radium.

"I wonder what IT will be like¹⁸, what IT will look like," said Marie one day, with the curiosity of a child who has been promised a plaything. "Pierre, what form do you imagine IT will take?"

"I don't know," the physicist answered gently. "I should

like it to have a beautiful colour."

Their work was going on splendidly and the new science of radioactivity was opening up a wide field for experiment. The Curies needed help and they were joined by André Debierne¹⁹, a fine French scientist. He became the close friend of Pierre and Marie, and later of their children²⁰.

Marie continued to treat the tons of pitchblende, which were sent to her from Austria on several occasions. For four years she laboured and planned and was nearing the end of her experiments. She needed a spotlessly clean work-room, but because the shed was exposed to the wind, iron and coal dust in the air got mixed with the products she had so carefully purified²¹. Such little daily accidents took up much of her time and strength.

Pierre was so tired that he was ready to give up the endless struggle for a time. He did not dream of dropping the study of radium, but would have liked to put off the preparation of pure radium. He thought that Marie's efforts were tiring her out. Little did he imagine that his wife was so stubborn²². She wanted to obtain pure radium and she would obtain it. In 1902 she succeeded in preparing a tiny quantity of the pure radium. The new metal could now be seen, and weighed. The few sceptical chemists could only bow before the facts.

Radium officially existed²³.

It was nine o'clock at night. Pierre and Marie were in the little house to which they had moved in 1900. It suited

them well. There was a small public garden behind the house and from it they could escape easily on their bicycles, beyond the city and into the woods.

Old Dr. Curie,²⁴ who now lived with them, had gone to his room. After Marie bathed her child, she would put her to bed and sit beside her for a long time. This was a custom, for if Irène²⁵ could not see her mother, she would call out "Mé", which she and afterwards Eve used always instead of "Mamma". When this happened, yielding to the stubbornness of the four-year-old Irène, Marie would climb the stairs and sit with her till she slept.

Pierre used sometimes to become impatient²⁶. He was so used to the constant presence of his wife²⁷ that her shortest absence troubled him. If she stayed too long with her daughter, he received her on her return with words so unjust that they were funny: "You never think of anything but that child."

Pierre walked slowly about the room, and Marie sat down to work at an apron for the child. She never bought ready-made clothes²⁸ because she thought they easily got worn out.

But this evening, she could not concentrate. She got up and then said suddenly: "Let's go to the shed for a moment."

So they put on their coats and walked along arm in arm, saying very little. Pierre unlocked the door and they entered.

“Don't light the lamp,” said Marie in the darkness and added with a little laugh: “Do you remember you once said to me that you hoped IT would have a lovely colour?”

Now suddenly they saw it -- and it had something better than colour; it glowed with a soft brilliance.

They sat silent in the darkness, gazing at this mysterious thing, their radium. Marie leaned forward with an eager expression and Pierre's hand lightly smoothed her hair.

It was an evening she was to remember all her life.

【注释】

1. Four Years in a Shed; “棚屋中的四年”。本文根据伊夫·居里所著《居里夫人》一书的简写本第八章编写。玛丽·居里(Marie Curie)是世界著名的女科学家，一八六七年生于波兰华沙，其父在中学教物理和数学。玛丽从小喜爱学习，十五岁时中学毕业，成绩优异。由于家庭经济不富裕，玛丽十七岁时开始工作，作家庭教师。她求知欲望十分强烈，非常希望能上大学读书，但在当时沙俄统治下的波兰，大学不收女生。玛丽用自己工作积蓄下来的钱到法国进了巴黎大学。在法国，她与法国物理学家皮埃尔·居里结婚。居里夫妇共同合作研究铀的放射性，并在一八九八年宣布发现两种新的元素——钋和镭。居里夫人毕生献身于放射性研究工作，曾先后两次获得诺贝尔奖金。

“棚屋中的四年”一文描写了居里夫妇把一座简陋的棚屋变作实验室，经过整整四年的努力，终于从大量的沥青铀矿中提炼出不到一克重的镭样品。

2. Eve Curie; 伊夫·居里，居里夫妇的第二个女儿，音乐家和作家。她的最主要的作品是《居里夫人》一书。
3. They wanted to see, touch and weigh the metal before they would accept its existence; 他们要看、触摸并称出这种金属的重量之后才愿承认它的存在这一事实。注意这一句中 before 从句的译法。例如：I'll stay in

Shanghai for about a month before I leave for Nanking. (我在上海呆个把月, 然后再去南京。)

4. polonium [pə'louniəm]: 钋, 一种放射性化学元素, 一八九八年由居里夫妇发现, 他们将这新元素命名为钋 (polonium) 以纪念玛丽·居里的祖国波兰 (Poland)。
5. by treating large quantities of pitchblende; 通过处理大量的沥青铀矿……。
6. They little knew, 他们不太了解……。little (副词) = almost not. 又如: Little did I imagine that the problem could be solved so soon. (我几乎没有想到问题会解决得这样快。)
7. did not count for more than a millionth part of pitchblende ore, 还不占沥青铀矿的百万分之一强。
8. What remained of the ore was held to be of little value; 沥青铀矿剩下的部分被认为没有什么用途。注意 of the ore 修饰 what 而不是修饰 remained. what 从句是名词从句, 在句中作主语。held = considered, to be of little value 是主语的补语。
9. the School of Physics, 物理学院。皮埃尔·居里在该校任教, 居里夫妇在此从事了多年的科学实验研究。
10. few people would have been willing to work in such a place; 没有多少人会愿意在这种地方工作。注意 would have been willing 是虚拟语态, 含意是当时如果换了别人就不会愿意这样作。包含的条件是: if they had been asked to do so
11. the Curies: 居里夫妇。在姓氏的前面加定冠词 the, 并用于复数, 表示全家或夫妇二人。又如: the Lius (刘家),
12. a piece of good news; 一条好消息。注意 news 是不可数名词, 前面不能加不定冠词 a 或基数词 (one, two, three, etc.), 一条消息应译成 a piece (或 an item) of news, 几条消息应将 piece (或 item) 变成复数。
13. drew up; (车) 停了下来。
14. they undid one of the sacks and bathed their hands in the dark brown ore; 他们打开一个袋子, 把手插到深褐色的矿料里。
15. That was where the radium was hidden; 镭就在那里。where 从句在句中作表语。