

外刊选粹 原汁原味

English Digest

英语活页文选

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Teaching and Learning Strategies for

the 21-st Century

Chow for Now

Yangze Rising

面向二十一世纪，我为何家做准备

今日周国平

崛起扬子江

北京大学出版社

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Preface

Most Chinese learners of English are more or less handicapped by the lack of ready access to timely original readings in that language. In an attempt to find a way out, we have prepared this collection of well-written articles, which are selected from various latest American, British, Canadian and Australian publications. They will guide you through the colourful world of English, making learning not only a pleasant experience but a way to keep yourself in touch with both the past and the present.

Therefore, we believe that this collection and the ones to come, with handy compact knowledge, could well serve your needs for an enrichment of mind and ~~for rapid improvement~~ in English.

前言

尽管当今英语书籍铺天盖地,但是,及时的、地地道道的英语资料还不是我们广大英语爱好者可以信手拈来的。鉴于此,我们策划出版了一套选自英美等国最新报刊的文章集粹。我们希望,它既能给您提供当今时代丰富的信息,又能使您保持良好的阅读习惯。因为源自英语母语国家的报刊文摘能展示给您最纯正的英语表达。

创刊伊始,希望我们努力的结果能满足您的要求;而未来,您的要求就是我们努力的方向。

编辑组

Turning Fifty(I)

Older and wiser, America's first Baby Boom First Lady wrestles with career, family and how to leave a mark

What made Hillary pull back was that by late 1994 her record was a ledger^① of error and miscalculation. "That stung her really hard, put her in shock," says a longstanding ally. "Hillary Rodham Clinton never recovered from that, in a profound way."

Reich, an old friend, sees it differently. "She bounces back easily. She really does," he says. "Except in the one domain of trust." Nowhere does that show more than in her tortured relationship with the media. In the rare instances when she allows reporters on her plane or dines with them on the road Hillary is charming and revealing. She is a wicked mimic, her repertoire^② ranging from witty stories of wandering the White House (she and Bill haven't seen every room) to the migration patterns of screwworms. But the First Lady enforces an almost inviolable rule that these very human encounters are to be off the record. For this article, it was easier to get an interview with her husband than with her. When she finally agreed to talk, near midnight after a punishing^③ day of travel and official events, Hillary turned testy on even softball questions if they approached anything personal. She engaged only when the topic turned to poli-

① a record 记录

② a reserve of something 全部技能

③ extremely tiring 非常疲惫的

cy.

Hillary's sense of fragility^④ comes not only from her public beatings but also from the deep personal losses she has suffered since entering the White House. Her father died, then the President's mother. Deputy White House counsel Vince Foster, her close friend and law partner from Arkansas, committed suicide, under circumstances that continue to nourish the dark theology of the Clinton haters. Others from the "Little Rock"^⑤ circle left in disgrace.

It is not surprising that Hillary began to regain her voice and her footing far from home, on the other side of the world, at the U. N.'s Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September 1995. That was a delicate time in U. S. -Chinese relations, so tense that some in Washington had argued she should not even attend. When Hillary took the podium, she unleashed "the most stinging human-rights rebuke"^⑥ ever by a prominent American speaking for this government on Chinese soil. The address had an odd, disjointed rhythm, losing bits here and there in translation as it made its way to the headphones of women from more than 180 countries. But if at times her words took a moment or two to register^⑦, Hillary's message got through clearly enough. Delegates cheered, others leaped from their seats and pounded the tables. The applause lasted more than 20 minutes after she left the stage. Women she has met since in Soweto^⑧, Budapest^⑨ and Manila can recite the lines she delivered that day.

The freedom she feels abroad may explain why Hillary spends so much time there. She is by far the U. S.'s most traveled

④ weakness 脆弱

⑤ the capital of Arkansas, of which Bill Clinton was once the governor

⑥ the harshest protest against human-rights abuses 指责

⑦ to be understood 被理解

⑧ a group of black townships in northeastern South Africa

⑨ the capital of Hungary. 2,104,000 (population) 布达佩斯

First Lady. In Senegal she was called “Sister Hillary.” In Bangladesh an entire village was named for her. But whatever affirmation they offered, those trips did little to help her come to terms with her skeptical audience at home. That was why, on the plane back from Beijing, in Ireland and in Latin America, the computer illiterate First Lady curled up with a legal pad on her lap to produce, in her semilegible longhand^①, *It Takes a Village*. As her critics might have expected, she wrote glowingly of expensive social programs, such as France’s child-care system. But the book also provided glimpses of a surprisingly conservative Hillary. She advocated school uniforms long before her husband’s campaign discovered the issue. She praised the “heartening efforts” of “Promise Keepers^② to strengthen marriage.

As she contemplates the years ahead, Hillary, like her husband, can’t help fretting over ^③ her legacy. For one thing, her most tangible gift to the future, Chelsea, is on her own now. “I’m looking for ways to divert myself from my empty nest, and I’ll take just about any dinner invitation I can get,” the First Lady joked recently.

But there are other forces besides the empty nest compelling Hillary to move on to the next project. Unlike those of the most recent predecessors, who were nearer retirement age when they left the White House, Hillary’s chance to make a mark doesn’t end when the helicopter rises from the “South Lawn^④ for the last time. A few months ago, she mused to her friend actress Mary Steenburgen that she and Bill might be itinerant college professors for a while, taking stints at various campuses as they sort out their future. On the other hand, says Steenburgen, the idea of putting down roots has more than a little appeal to a woman who

① 普通写法,与速记(Short hand)相对而言

② “信守诺言者”组织

③ to worry about 担忧

④ 白宫南草坪

has spent most of her adult life in government housing, with each election bringing the prospect of eviction. The President's vision has them sitting on a bench somewhere, "old people laughing about our lives and not begrudging^⑤ young people having more time than we did."

Chances are, none of those fantasies will completely satisfy Hillary, who says, "I'll go on to do something else that I find challenging and interesting."

[From *Time*, Oct. 20, 1997, by Ann Blackman]



⑤ to show dissatisfaction at 对某事不满

Teaching and Learning Strategies for the 21st Century

**Presentation by Prof. Ludmila A. Verbitskaya
Rector of St. Petersburg State University, Rus-
sia**

Dear friends,

Examining the situation in the higher learning today, we realize that since the end of the last World War there have been basic changes in the relations of the state and the university in many countries. These changes are connected with dramatic increase in the number of students and not less with the increase in the cost of research. The social consequences of these processes are: a). The profound change in the structure of the society due to the grown percentage of university graduates; b). The risk of intellectual unemployment of this part of society; c). The relative devaluation of other vocations and the decrease in the number of young people who select manual vocations; and, as the result, d). A potential social lack of equilibrium and the inability of the society to support the university. But let me now come to more practical matters and enumerate the main factors that determine the development of education on the very eve of the 21st century.

1. The development of information technologies. Throughout the world, information and telecommunication technologies are bringing about a new industrial revolution which already looks to be as important and radical as those revolutions which

preceded it. The benefits that come along with the development of new technologies are obvious and have been discussed quite a lot. I would like to draw your attention to those sides of introduction of information technologies which can pose new problems for education. The availability of information on the INTERNET, for example, widens the possibilities of informal education immensely. It could lead to knowledge of "the lowest common denominator^①" in which people lose their historical, geographical and cultural bearings. New information technologies are widely introduced in schools and universities, and allow to develop distance education programs without boundaries. However, methods of teaching and learning through electronic means are still to be developed. In many cases, lecturers try to use the traditional methodology of teaching while dealing with new media—and fail.

2. Internationalization is connected both with political situation and with the development of technologies. Nowadays our world is becoming smaller and smaller, and turns into a "global village." International academic cooperation is an excellent basis for nation-wide cooperation and one of the key factors for sustainable development. It is absolutely vital for technical harmonization, environmental protection, political stability. In the recent years we have witnessed active development of international educational programs, growth of student mobility, activation of regional cooperation. One can be quite sure that these processes will continue and deepen in the next century. Again, there are a number of issues which need serious consideration. To what extent should we standardize educational programs? How much risk does internationalization contain for national identity? How to create a global system of academic recognition—and is it really necessary?

① shared value orientations 共同的价值取向

3. Reduced funding. Unfortunately, governmental financial support of universities is decreasing almost everywhere. The cuts in the governmental financing of education in Russia during the last years have been very severe. We have started to introduce tuition fees, that help universities to survive and cover some very urgent expenses. We have developed a number of additional educational programs to attract mature students for further education. We have to create educational marketing which had never existed in Russia and will take some time before it starts to bring fruit. On the global scale, reduced financing is probably one of the factors that brought about institutional changes —new forms of administration and management, decentralization, the economic-rational approach to universities, growing service-orientation of the higher learning school.

4. Service orientation of universities. With the exception of a small number of privileged institutions that enjoy generous endowments or access to unique sources of funding, most universities will need to devote increasing energy to carrying out research on demand and tailoring their instructional programs to external needs. There is high probability that in the 21st century a good number of universities will excel in service rather than conventional academic research. Service in this case can be defined as "the delivery, installation and maintenance of knowledge-based applications to clients wherever they may be". The service university is characterized by several features: the existence of professional schools, short tailor-made courses, contracting of services and funding by contracts.

I am not sure I have much time to talk more about the features of teaching and learning in the next century, but among other trends that may be characteristic of higher education in the future we can expect rapid development of programs of life-long education and re-qualification, diversification of programs and more independence and autonomy of universities.

Visit to a Smaller Planet

Pictures sent back from Mars prove just how alone in the universe we are. On the night of the fourth, when we landed on Mars, I walk the beach and watch the fireworks compete with the stars in the enormous black sky. This is Independence Day, and I am alone. So are we all. This is what we discover at times like these—the first flight around the moon, the moon walk, the probe of Jupiter, the Viking^① missions, and now this amazing, take-your-breath-away event. Errands into space lift us out of ourselves and return us to ourselves. They tell us that we are alone in the universe, and how terrible and wonderful an idea that is.

Mars, of course, has offered the perpetual test of human uniqueness, and has lately become the proof. If life existed anywhere else under the sun, it should have been there. We have always given most-favored-planet status to Mars. How would you describe an elephant to a man from Mars? If a man from Mars were to visit Earth...? And so forth.

Imagination was abetted^② by science. If life could evolve on little old Earth, why not on another planet in the same solar system, one that was a mere seven-months' flight away? Mars had a warm, dense atmosphere, water, floodplains. Last August brought news of a meteorite^③, most likely from Mars, containing

① “海盜”号宇宙飞船(1976年到达火星)

② to encourage 激励

③ 陨石

minerals and other evidence of a long-past * microbial life^④; a thrill was felt around the world.

Tonight the thrill is greater. Earlier in the day, a rocket ship dropped a cluster of airbags into the flood delta of a valley called Ares, and all the Main Street parades and the hot dog cookouts and * three-legged races^⑤ stopped cold. Five hours later, televised pictures emerged depicting a rust-colored desert with rust-colored rocks and a distant hill against a gray-brown sky. The scenery was boring, the excitement overwhelming. People on TV spoke of how great and adventurous America is, how like a Pathfinder^⑥—a nation of explorers and pioneers. But the feeling of the moment went way beyond July 4 flag waving. Here was Earth's dominant species sailing out into the wilderness again, and what did it discover? Itself, again.

The beach I walk is like most others. The waves churn up the sounds of eternity; the sand speaks of ephemera^⑦ and decay. I see all the usual symbols and have all the usual reactions. This is like more * Matthew Arnold's^⑧ "Dover Beach," on which the occurrence of an earth-jolting discovery awakens thoughts of self-examination, self-location, a touch of resolve.

What should one do with the knowledge that we are alone in the universe? One could go anywhere with that daunting thought. We could conclude that we humans are a special breed, appointed by universal forces to planet-hop and rule. It would be like us to think that—every dead brown rock on every dead brown planet serving to exalt our life by contrast. We are the fireworks in the darkened universe, the Chinese firecrackers, the Roman candles and the sparklers. In a few short decades we may

④ 微生物

⑤ a race between pairs having one runner's right leg tied to other's left leg

⑥ “探路者”宇宙飞船(1997年7月4日在火星降落)

⑦ short-lived things 短命的东西(尤指短命植物)

⑧ British poet (1822—1888)

be spread out as settlers on various globes under the stars.

But it would also be like us not to thump our chests, but to recognize some moral, personal responsibility in aloneness. "Ah, love, let us be true to one another!" As a species we have been known to go in decent and stupid directions both, often at the same time. I am tired of worrying about human nature myself. It has sufficiently proved unreliable, basically childish and selfish, with exceptional moments that prove the rule, such as this one.

What one man calls cosmic loneliness, another might see as being part of a system in which everything is at once lonely and companionable—rocks, beaches, people. Out there is Mars with its wasted territory. Around here are oceans and a gaseous atmosphere that turns the sky blue. The only justification for our loneliness is that we feel it. Did the Neanderthals^⑨ experience cosmic loneliness? Is that why they kept quiet?

In a few hours the sun will rise over this place as it now rises over the floodplain of Ares Vallis. More pictures will pop up on TV and make us feel both closer to and more distant from the rest of space. Someone will say that if we can put a cluster of airbags on Mars, why can't we cure cancer? And we will celebrate the speculation that we are capable of anything. It is probably untrue. We do what we were made to do, no less or more, like everything else in the universe. We are alone and not alone, and sometimes in the light.

[From *Time*, July 14, 1997; by Ann Blackman]

⑨ an extinct subspecies of humans that lived in the Stone Age 尼安德特人

Chow for Now

With "The Replacement Killers," Hong Kong film star *Chow Yun-fat^① is set to become America's newest action hero. But is Hollywood any place for a nice guy like him?



Welcome to Hollywood, Yun-fat. A lot is riding on his trip; the almost unique opportunity for an Asian actor to become a mainstream Hollywood star. And since Hollywood films rule the box office in virtually every territory where they are freely shown, the release of *The Replacement Killers* (this week in Hong Kong and Feb. 6 in the U. S.) means that the world's most powerful image-makers have put their stamp of approval on the face of a new hero. A suave^②, sullen facet-unarguably compelling, unmistakably Chinese.

Chow has not come alone. But Chow has the most at stake. He is not shuttling across the Pacific, "hedging his bets^③" by continuing to shoot films back home. Hollywood is not a hobby; it's the next decisive step in a brilliant career. *The Replacement Killers*, is a bit less than brilliant, but it gets the job done. And it makes its star happy. "I am a lucky guy," says this longtime fan of Hollywood cinema. "There is one and only best American

① 周潤發(香港影星)

② smooth and gracious in manner 溫文爾雅的

③ to secure oneself against loss, esp when betting, by compensating transactions 兩面下注以防損失

movie in your life. And now I am in it."

He could stay there *for keeps^④ because the time is right, say the Hollywood executives who have promoted Chow's career. "Look at the landscape," says Teddy Zee, a former executive at *Columbia Pictures^⑤, which is distributing the film. We've had the same stable of action players for 10 years or more. With the age of movie-goers and a more sophisticated audience, there's a demand for something fresh. Yun-fat is it."

If the odds are even that he'll succeed in Hollywood, that's because Chow has made it this far on his terms. He took his time—three years—between *Peace Hotel* and this movie, putting himself at ease in a new land, waiting for the right film. But Chow has always been his own man. He was unusual among Hong Kong stars in that he didn't bother anglicizing^⑥ his name.

A comfortable presence on Hong Kong TV serials from 1976, Chow blasted to big-screen stardom^⑦ a decade later as the charming gunman—a sociopath^⑧ with a soft heart—in *A Better Tomorrow*. The film triggered a long fascination with "heroic bloodshed"; the producers must have gotten their ammo^⑨ wholesale. The bullet ballets took place all over the city. They made restaurants a perilous place to be even before *the chicken-flu scare^⑩. When Zee read the *Replacement Killers* script, originally angled as *a smartguy action film^⑪ he thought it could work for Chow. Ten exhausting drafts later, it did.

The actor spent hours with screenwriter Ken Sanzel, who

④ permanently 永远地、长期地

⑤ 哥伦比亚电影公司

⑥ to make or become English in form or character 英国化

⑦ status of being a famous actor, performer, etc. 明星

⑧ 精神变态者

⑨ supply of bullets, bombs, grenades, etc. (俚) 弹药

⑩ It happened in Hong Kong at the end of last year.

⑪ 英俊小生动作片

streamlined the assassin's verbiage^⑫. Says Matthew Baer of Brillstein Grey, the management and production firm that produced the movie: "We set out to develop Yun-fat's screen personal along the lines of Clint Eastwood—a guy who can be expressive with just a look. Yun-fat has that same amazing ability to express himself without saying anything, and it worked well for his first English film."

Still, it was an ordeal. "It's difficult for me," Chow says, "because I have to take care of the language, the tone and my facial expression at the same time. I kept on speaking 'my condolences' in a berserk^⑬ way—it took them ages to have me fixed." After that, Chow relaxes and the international moviegoer's ear becomes attuned^⑭ to the forceful music of his delivery—and the ferocious silence of his stare.

He flashes it in the film's first scene. John Lee strides into a bustling disco and, without a word, kills four people. Before one murder, he executes the flourish of a full twist. He and Sorvino have no special chemistry^⑮, but their roles are adversarial. Anyway, subtle characterization is not needed.

Fuqua^⑯, who first saw the actor "floating through the room in a beautiful Armani suit" at a 1996 party, admires the dialogue scenes in Chow's old films. "But he's at his best when he's silent and deadly." Chow was grateful for the direction. "Antoine was very encouraging," he says. "He asked me not to care too much about the language, just keep the expression. Yet, there's still time when you find yourself trapped in a language which is not your own." To practice, he would phone Fuqua at 3 a. m. and talk about word usage. Says the director, "He told me his fa-

⑫ unnecessary words for the expression of an idea 冗词,赘语

⑬ uncontrollably wild 狂暴的

⑭ bring into harmony or agreement with 使协调

⑮ a relation, esp. a harmonious or sympathetic one(喻)和谐的关系

⑯ the director of the film

vorite English term was 'thank you for your hospitality'."

Before shooting began, Fuqua took Chow and Sorvino to a farm where they could fire off tons of guns in preparation for the film's heavy artillery scenes. The director wanted Chow to have the experience of running out of ammunition—something he never seemed to do in those Hong Kong flicks^①(in *A Better Tomorrow* he fires, by our count, 51 rounds out of two sixshooters). "The funny thing," says Fuqua, "is that Yun-fat doesn't like guns at all. When he's done shooting them on the set, he hands them right back to the prop guy. Some actors go around fighting in bars, trying to live up to their macho^② hero status. Yun-fat does it on screen better than most, and then he goes home to his wife and garden."

So Mr. Chow has gone to Hollywood. But don't expect him to "go Hollywood"—to surrender to the crushing glamour and excess of the place. "I see acting as a job," he says. "An actor is like a worker working in a factory. After that, I return to my real life." He happily spends that life with his wife Jasmine in a rented home in Southern California. Any other dream? He flashes the Chow smile and says, "To be a dumb actor in a movie." In his precise new English, he means non-talking, of course. No one could accuse Chow Yun-fat of being any other kind of dumb.

[From *Time*, Jan. 26, 1998;
by Isabella Ng and Stephen Short and Leffrey Ressler]

① a motion picture (钀) 电影

② an exaggerated sense of manliness 强壮男子