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畅游英语角

Exploring the English Corner: a Cultural Perspective

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前 言



亲爱的朋友,你手中的这本书是目前我国惟一的一本专门指导英语角活动的书。

随着全球通讯网络化的步步深入,当代社会对大学生的英语交际能力提出了时代的挑战。然而,当前大学英语教学围绕着四、六级统考的指挥棒,根本无法给予学生充足的训练英语口语表达能力的机会。你或许尝试过台湾扶忠汉的“双向式英语”或者李阳的“疯狂英语”,感觉如何?自我感觉或许不错,但与他人用英语交谈时可能还是张口结舌吧!主要原因还是因为他们抓住了人们爱走“捷径”的心理,向我们提供了一些与实际交际环境不适应的机械训练方法与材料,到头来让同学们学到的还是“哑巴英语”,苦不堪言。

彻底解决这个问题的关键还是要回到语言交际的实践中去。俗语说“不下水是学不会游泳的”。我们平时学习英语知识和进行一些机械训练确实必不可少,但它们仅仅只是“下水前”的练兵,说英语的能力只能在实际交际环境中逐渐培养。对于大部分同学来说,你周围最佳的英语交际环境就是校园里的英语角了。本书就是要教你如何走进英语角这个“游泳池”,并让你很快能畅游其中。

《畅谈英语角》是“英语角系列”的初中级本,主要是从英语角话题、功能表达和交谈策略三方面指导英语角的交谈活动,以提高你讲英语的流利性。《畅游英语角》是高级本,由英语角话题,英语习惯表达和交谈策略三部分组成,主要是训练学生用英语思维的能力和语言表达的准确性。

本书编写的主要目的是帮助你做好参与英语角的充分准备,共汇集了英语角的18个热门话题,分20个单元编写。每个单元的



内容你都应该在去英语角之前阅读并进行练习。每个单元各部分的内容及使用方法说明如下：

1. 话题阅读 阅读内容选材广泛，有时事报道、评论、散文等，来源于国内、外的最新报刊，目的是为英语角的某个话题提供广阔的思考空间，增加英语交谈的乐趣。读后有 Questions for Reflection and Discussion，既启迪大家思维，也可以是大家在英语角讨论的问题。对于这个部分，你应该做两方面的工作。首先，通过阅读材料，收集话题所涉及的各种观点与态度；其次便是通过阅读材料积累与熟悉讨论这个话题时的常用词汇。在英语角中经常听见许多人抱怨无话可谈。上述两方面的努力是解决这个问题之关键。

2. 英语习惯表达 中高级水平的英语学习者觉得在他们的口语流利性达到一定程度后，英语表达的准确性和生动性成了他们进一步提高口语水平的另一个台阶。在这个部分，大量的英语语按专题分类，安排在各单元中，方便你的记忆和查找。学会使用这些英语习惯表达法必将会使你的英语听起来更加地道。

3. 英语角的 FAQ 对于大家在英语角中常问的一些问题，如“如何减少我的地方口音？”“如何在英语角辩论？”等等，作者以 FAQ 的形式作了简明扼要的回答。隔一段时间把这个部分阅读一次，然后对自己在英语角活动中使用的策略总结一番。如果有人在英语角问到 FAQ 中的一些问题时，你可以结合自己的经验与体会进行回答，过上一把当老师的瘾。

总之，本书的内容安排充分体现了确实提高口语水平的基本思路，那就是**细观察、勤思考、多开口**。如果在这本书的指导下，你终于能在英语角大胆地说英语，并取得一些明显的进步，那么这本书的目的就达到了。如果你想获得更多英语角信息，请浏览我们英语角网站：<http://home.gbsource.net/english>。

本书亦可供教师在课堂组织口语教学和同学们在课外本班英语角活动时使用。若你和你的朋友们手中都有了这本书，那么英语

角就会时刻都伴随在你的身边。

美籍教师 Chad Yoneda 和 Jason Liu 审阅了本书的部分内容。书中的部分漫画由韦淑潇同学绘制,在此向他们表示衷心的感谢。对在本书编写过程中向笔者提供了各种建议和帮助的老师、同学和朋友们也表示诚挚的谢意。

编 者

1999 年 10 月

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Unit One



China in the Future

未来的中国

Readings for English Corner 话题阅读

Predicting the future of China (I)

当新中国走过那艰难但辉煌的 50 个年头后,未来的中国将何去何从呢? 1999 年在美国《时代》杂志和世界经济论坛邀请之下,中美有关学者就中国在将来的 50 年里,经济、政治、军事、人口、城市化等方面的发展趋势及将会面临的问题进行了预测。

The Economic Puzzle

Nicholas Lardy, senior fellow, Brookings Institution:
China's record in generating growth and improvements in productivity(生产力), as opposed to simply accumulating capital, is not very impressive. It is difficult to foresee how, in the next 50 years, China can move to an economy where technological innovation(技术革新)—a knowledge-based economy—generates a large portion of its growth.

Huang Yasheng, associate professor, Harvard University



business school: A lot of these challenges are already being experienced by the state-owned sector, which is shrinking even without drastic reforms. The issue now is not about how to reform those institutions that govern the old, dying sector. Instead, the question really is whether the government has the capacity to look forward to leading a “new economy.”

Fan Gang, director, National Economic Research Institute: If you look at the fast-growing countries of the past 50 years, they were all in one way or another run by authoritarian governments (集权政府), Japan being an exception. But in the next 50 years democracies will have an edge. In the past, the best economic model was the fast and successful catch-up country. The emphasis was on assembly-type operations, labor discipline and low-end skills. It is quite possible in the next 50 years to have a dramatically different model.

Andy Xie, executive director, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter: The most important development in China's future will be the movement toward the rule of law. It's the foundation of a modern economy—in which people with ideas create wealth, not the people who have control over capital. This transition is not going to be an entirely smooth one. Too many people in China are still focused on capital-intensive industries.

Fan: Globalization, especially of the financial markets, implies that entrepreneurs (企业家) don't have to rely on the local capital market. So the role of the government in managing finance to provide capital is diminished (减少). And that's very good for small, innovative entrepreneurs. In Asia it's likely that we'll have two business models: the more traditional one that emphasizes basic skills and disciplines, and another that empha-

sizes innovation and ideas. It is likely that democracy fosters the new model and creates conditions for it to succeed better than authoritarian governments could. So the relationship between politics and economics is going to be quite different from what the world has known before.

Xie: If you look at ethnic Chinese in the region, you'll see they have a common set of characteristics. For example, they're very risk-taking, very entrepreneurial (创业精神). On the other hand, they have not been able to create big, successful corporations. In the next 50 years, we'll see increasing use of information technology. So a higher level of organization will not be as important as before. This is what Bill Gates has been talking about: empowering individuals in small organizations. This works very much in favor of Chinese culture. If you're worried that somehow China has not created big successful corporations, in the long-term this trend might work out in China's favor.

Fan: There's something else starting to emerge that's very important. Recently we had a constitutional change that gave private ownership legal protection. More and more people realized the importance of the ownership issue, the property rights issue.

Huang: But there has to be a dynamic process. In the past, growth came from the fact that society was stable. In the future, returns will be coming from dynamic, mobile people and capital, and therefore there has to be some sort of legal system to accommodate that. The demand for a different type of political and legal system will increase relative to the demand for a stable and traditional system. I would associate growth with democracy and the rule of law. We ought to invest more in creating those types



of political institutions that reward people for their innovative-ness (革新精神) and energy.

Fan: Why weren't democracy and growth compatible before? Previously, growth was controlled by the government. The ownership was in the state, so there was no middle class, no private owners, no fundamental framework for democracy. Why couldn't China tolerate demonstrations before? Because if you had a demonstration on the street, the whole economy stopped. Not like in South Korea, where they can have student demonstrations every day but the economy keeps going. This is why I think private ownership is fundamental.

Huang: As long as you have growth, you can use the benefits of growth to pacify (抚慰) the losers. Instead of using a political authoritarian system to suppress dissent, what you do is manage growth and then use its benefits to pacify those left behind. That's how democracy solved that problem.

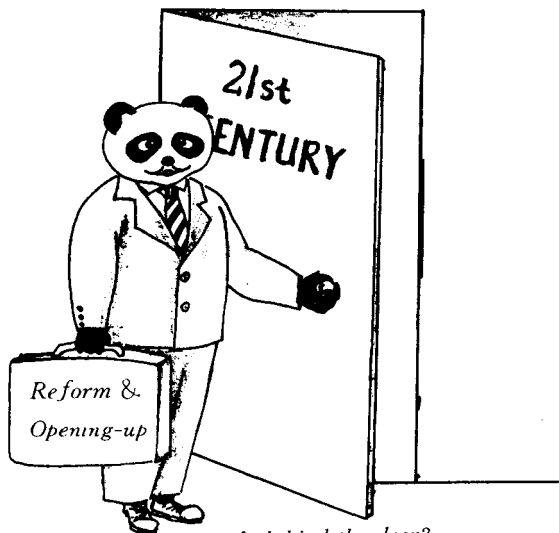
Heading to the City

Fan: Yes, but the urbanization (城市化) process itself will create jobs. The reason why is that in previous years rural industry was limited—it produced things, but it didn't produce many consumers. Urbanization means more public infrastructure, more housing. The urban service sector itself creates jobs.

Xie: But urbanization also can create an ecological disaster (生态灾难). So in China people have to pioneer something like a super city. It will be something different from what the United States is experiencing. It's more like in Japan. Take Honshu Island—the whole island is really a city with 60 million to 70 million people. That is the sort of scale we're talking about.

Lardy: I think the increase in urbanization is actually going to be much smaller than that for the simple reason that there is very little arable land (可耕种土地), and crop yields are already high. So when you take people off the land you can't raise yields enough to feed everybody. China will become highly dependent on external food supplies, so there will be limits to urbanization.

Xie: The future of agriculture depends largely on genetic engineering and mechanization, so it's very possible that the yields could rise a lot. Look at the development of new varieties of corn. Corn crops in the U. S. have greater resistance to pests, and they are also less labor-intensive.



What's behind the door?

Fan: Labor is not the issue, because now the labor productivity of Chinese farms is very low. Many rural people are underemployed. Nominally (名义上), there are a lot of workers. Actually, they can be reduced by one-third to one-half without changing output.



Lardy: The real scarcity is land. The question is, how do you overcome that problem? Technological change is one possibility. But because of this land scarcity, I don't think China can follow patterns previously found in Europe and America's industrialized towns, which ate up a lot of land.

Xie: China just has to grow differently, because its population-density is tremendously different from anybody else's. The challenge of urbanization is not that you can't keep people on the land but that you are going to have an ecological disaster when they move.

Hu Angang, professor, Qinghua University: During the 1990s natural disasters subtracted (减去) 3% to 5% from the GDP (国内生产总值). Pollution now accounts for 3.5%. China's GDP is 57% of America's, but its consumption of water resources is nearly equal to America's. The question is how do we encourage new technology in solving these problems.

Zhang: Technology may mean that the environment issue, the problem of energy—all these important problems might be solved. Take the car industry. In the next 20 years, we may have a totally new car, with no pollution and lower energy consumption.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion 思考讨论题

1. Which direction will Chinese economic development take in the next fifty years, capital-intensive mode or technological innovation mode? What are the major factors that will pose the greatest influence on the Chinese economy at that time?

2. What are the problems that China will encounter in the process of its urbanization?

English Idioms 英语习惯表达

Ability, Cleverness, Stupidity 能力, 聪明, 愚笨

1. be/get on top of something 能胜任或处理难事等; 通晓
This is a difficult job but I'm sure that Mr. Lee is on top of it from the excellent reports I've had. 这是一件棘手的工作, 但根据收到的那份杰出的报告, 我敢肯定李先生是能胜任的。
2. spread /stretch one's wings 施展自己的才能, 展翅
You can't do everything for your children, there comes a time when they must leave home and spread their wings.
你不能为孩子们包干一切, 总有一天他们必须离家施展他们自己的才能。
3. give a good/excellent account of oneself 干得好(尤指在竞争中); 大显身手 opposite: give a poor/disappointed account of oneself
Rosemary gave a good account of herself in the tennis finals and almost won. 罗斯玛丽在网球决赛中大显身手, 差点获胜。
4. You can't teach an old dog new tricks 很难使守旧的人接受新事物, 使年老守旧的人发展新能力
He is old, and so you can't expect him to change his ways of doing things. You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
他年岁大了, 因此你别指望他会改变做事的方法, 使年老守旧的人接受新事物是很难的。
5. be/get out of one's depth 为……力所不及或不能理解
Alan has taken a new job with a computer company but is quite out of his depth with that kind of work. 艾伦在一家计算机公司获得了新职位, 但是那工作远非他力所能及的。