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冷眼看西方英语阅读丛书之六

Take Back the Night
找回夜晚

主编 折鸿雁
编者 刘睿
石艳蕊

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【内容简介】 刚毅的女性面对性骚扰不再沉默,立志找回宁静的夜晚;与异性约会切实可行的小窍门;美丽的混血儿梦想成为仙女;有犹太人血统的美国女强人奥尔布莱特心平气和看过去;亚洲的卓别林及其代表作《男人难做》;跨文化家庭的快乐与烦恼;亚洲揭开震惊世界的隐秘。几十个闻所未闻的话题将满足你体味不同地域文化的新鲜与好奇。自然而然,促使你的英语水平更上一层楼。

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前 言

长期以来,我国的外语教学一直受“工具主义语言观”的影响,即认为语言是一种用来交流思想的工具。诚然,从语言的基本功能来看,把语言视为工具无可厚非,但语言的功能、作用远大于此。狭隘的语言观使人们只注意对“工具”本身,即语言系统内部规律的研究,这会把人们引向形式主义,使人们对形式的重视大于对内容的关注。在外语教学中,学生们死抠语法,细究句子结构,却忽视对句子中、上下文里深层涵义的挖掘。向老师提出的语法问题远远多于对文章的理解问题。手持英语四、六级证书的学生在跨文化的语言交际中,却时常碰到操作“工具”之难。

语言是一种符号系统。语言媒介和它所承载的信息密不可分,两者是形式与内容的关系,这里的内容即文化系统。萨丕尔曾说过:“语言是一种非本能性的,获得‘文化的’功能。”对于儿童来说,习得母语的同时,也不知不觉地习得本国的文化,在内化语言系统内部组织规则的同时,也会内化文化系统中

的规范。从这个意义上讲,在外语教学中冲破结构工具主义语言观的束缚,建立新的文化语言观就显得尤为重要。

简而言之,“文化语言观”就是以文化的角度看待语言,不是把语言视为独立于文化系统之外的符号系统,而是把语言系统视为文化大系统的组成部分,而且是构成文化大系统的基础。有必要使教师和学生都树立这样一种观念:“学习语言必须学习文化”。这就要求外语学习者在学习外语语法规则的同时,大量接触其文化。要培养一种强烈的“文化习得意识”,在具备语言能力的同时,也应具备文化能力。

接触外国文化的最佳途径莫过于融入所学语种的民族文化氛围之中,耳濡目染,不断熏陶,观察其生活习俗、风土人情、行为方式、价值观念等文化在各方面的具体表现形式,以期达到以所学语言国家的文化心理看待并运用这种语言的境界。但身临异国文化环境对我国的外语学习者并非惟一且切实可行的形式。而一国的风俗、艺术、哲学、宗教、伦理、道德规范、政治法律制度等中的各种文化现象,必定会在其语言文字中所体现。因此,大量阅读与各类文化现象有关的书籍文章,不失为接触异国文化的有效途径之一。

正是基于这种思想,本书着意选择了那些能称之为文化的内容,也就是那些能代表时代和社会的事件、人物。从激光美容到网上寻亲;从采访美国国务卿到讨论学生作弊;从基因遗传到预防癌症,从回忆猫王到缅怀寅次郎;轻松到传授与异性交往的窍门,严肃到对历史的反思。这些文章力图从不同侧面反映以美国为代表的西方生活习惯、思维方式、价值观念、道德标准和生存状态。当然,由于篇幅所限,本书不可能做到面面俱到,但求对英语学习者了解西方文化有所帮助。

随着社会的发展,国际交往日益密切,我们希望在今后日渐频繁的跨文化交际中,年轻的一代能利用他们对异族文化的了解,为世人了解中国,为促进世界上不同种族之间的理解、宽容,减少摩擦、冲突做出贡献。

刘 睿

1999年8月

培养学生思考、分析、应用所学知识,最终影响其言行和气质,影响其思维方法和人格塑造?

而对种种问题,我真的不知道能做些什么?我不知道我个人的力量能否使之改观。再者,对自己所做过的工作从来没有感到过满意。但我还是想尽自己微薄之力影响我的学生,编写有益于改变状况的书以影响读者。

“冷眼看西方英语阅读丛书”正是基于这样的思索和情绪而进行酝酿与构思的。在我看来,英语阅读从来就不该只为英语而读,而是应为思想而读。希望读者朋友能在这个层次上有所收获。

在本套书的编排形式上,每单元都由两篇文章组成,一篇为主题性文章,另一篇为辅助性文章,每篇文章前我们都加有汉语导读,它的作用仅仅是使读者能够顺利地进入某个话题。至于两篇文章之间有什么内在的关联,我们却没有点破,因为不同的人对相同的事物往往会得出截然相反的判断。所以这个问题我们将留给广大读者去领悟。如果你在读完一组文章之后,不是茫然无知,而是有一股要发表自己见解的冲动,那么我们为思想而阅读的目的便达到了。同时你也获得了一种能力、一种素质,阅读水平的提高将不在话下,阅读中所遇到的语言难点亦将迎刃而解,此时,阅读变成了一种高雅神圣的精神享受,变成了一种追求,而不仅仅是一种获取信息的过程或应付各类考试的负担。

西安交通大学英语专业研究生孙长虹、蒋秋霞、贺莉、尤文怡、李瑞、叶飞飞等为本套丛书做了一些文章背景注释及练习编写工作。陕西省研究生英语研究会副会长白靖宇曾对这套丛书的策划和出版提出过许多宝贵的建议,在此表示深深的感谢。

折鸿雁

1999年10月于西安

Unit 1

No Longer Just Suffering in Silence

不再沉默

性骚扰是西方社会普遍存在的现象,各国都在寻求对付这个难题的高招。

Groper 原意为“探索者,摸索前进的人”,但现实生活已赋予它以新的意义。每天早晚交通高峰时刻,日本铁路新宿站总有一位女警官在暗地里守候着。她的职责不是维持秩序,也不是抓扒手,而是在寻机抓获 groper,此时 groper 的意义是“在人群中进行性骚扰者或抚摸异性者”。

“女权”运动的不断深入,使得受性骚扰的女性在长期隐忍之后,不再沉默。

During morning rush hours, the platforms at JR Shinjuku Station, a major terminal in Tokyo, all but overflow with commuters pouring in and

out of the trains. Among them is a female police officer keeping a sharp eye out for trouble. Even as she is pushed by the crowd, she remains calm to go into action as soon as "it" happens.

The policewoman is Yumi Kakisako of the railway police of the Metropolitan Police Department. "Gropers" are her targets. During morning rush hours, there are always some men who take advantage of the crowded conditions to fondle female passengers. Female police officers are now there at the ready to answer calls for help from the victims.

On this particular day, Police Officer Kakisako and her colleagues caught three gropers within an hour. "It's amazing just how many types of gropers there are," says Kakisako. "Many of the gropers arrested have been found to live in stressful conditions. Another notable trend is that a lot of the offenders are people in middle management and higher. You arrest a person and he turns out to be a company executive. I'm not kidding. It happens."

Posters reminding people that "groping is a crime" are attractively displayed in railway stations. That suggests how difficult it is to cope with this offense. One study found that about eight out of 10 women have encountered a groper. But only a fraction ever report their experience to the police. It's not only a sense of shame that prevents them from reporting the incidents—women apparently feel that overcrowded trains and gropers are something they just have to endure. This seems to strike some foreigners as a classic example of Japanese tolerance.

Four years ago, police began to take steps to get women to drop such attitudes. In 1992, the railway police of the Saitama



Prefectural Police appointed female members to deal with the problem of groping and set up a consulting office. The result was a sharp increase in the number of women seeking advice and reporting to the police as well as a substantial rise in the number of arrests. Inspired by the response, local police throughout Japan began to adopt anti-groping measures mainly involving the assignment of female officers.

In July 1996, the railway police of the Metropolitan Police Department also beefed up their anti-groping operations by launching consulting offices for victims at Tokyo and Shinjuku stations. Kakisako and five other policewomen were assigned to these offices.

Arresting gropers is their main duty, but giving advice to victims is another important role. Some women suffer a serious mental blow from an encounter with a groper. In interviews and over the telephone, Kakisako and her fellow policewomen give advice to victims on how to deal with the problem. Gropers are sometimes arrested as a result of victims acting as instructed. Indeed, two of the three arrests made that particular day were the fruit of such instruction.

“Until now, both men and women took the view ‘It’s only a minor incident.’ But in the past three months, there’s definitely been a change, especially among men. In fact, there’s been an increase in the number of cases where male passengers have helped us control suspects.” says Kakisako.

Capturing gropers requires close teamwork, observes Kakisako: “We need to have everybody join forces, not only female police officers but also their male colleagues, station attendants

and passengers in general. I think it would be great if our efforts could help change the way passengers view groping, thereby contributing to a lower incidence of sexual harassment in commuter trains. ”

While, statistically speaking, Japan has fewer sex crimes than Europe and the United States, the fact remains that such crimes do occur here.

Women who are raped suffer immeasurably deep psychological wounds. Even if the rapist is arrested and receives a 20-year prison sentence, the victim may be tormented by the fear that 20 years later he'll take his "revenge".

"Rape is psychological murder. Just to satisfy a man's momentary lust, the life of a woman he has absolutely no relationship with is ruined," detective Rikako Itaya of the Kanagawa Prefectural Police remarks with obvious anger.

In April 1996, the Kanagawa Prefectural Police became the first prefectural police force to set up an all-female sex-crime investigation team. Led by Assistant Police Inspector Itaya, the team consists of three policewomen.

As with other crimes, recreating the scene of the incident is an indispensable part of a sex-crime investigation. But the exchange with the police that starts at the time a suspect is arrested and continues until he is turned over to the prosecutor is a process of mental anguish for the victim. The investigators, for their part, have to be particularly careful not to inflict further pain on the victim. The latter is often in such a state of mind that she'll be hurt even by such a casual remark as "It'll be alright". How can one comfort a victim in such a mental state and

relieve her pain? Itaya and her colleagues deal with sex-crime victims by drawing on their ability to empathize with them as fellow women.

The telephones sitting on the desks of the sex-crime investigation team are used to receive calls from rape victims seeking counseling. They are not only the first point of contact between the team members and the victims, but also provide the starting point for investigation. When the hotline service was launched in April, some women called seeking advice on incidents that could not be taken up as criminal cases, such as those which took place long ago. But since August, more and more women have been calling about cases that took place in the previous week or so.

“Apparently they find out about us through newspapers and decide to call up for advice”, Itaya says. “Many victims never mention to others what happened to them and suffer the pain all by themselves. We never back away from our callers. We listen to them thoroughly even though what they say sometimes makes us sick to the stomach. At times we even end up crying with them.”

It is quite common for Itaya and her colleagues to talk with callers for 30 minutes or even an hour. Since the all-female team was established, not a day has passed without a call from a victim of sexual abuse. On a busy day, the team receives about 10 calls, and it is in between taking those calls that the members go out to investigate other criminal cases. They also provide counseling to the victims. Thus the team is literally operating to full capacity. Still, Itaya remarks: “No matter how tired, we forget our fatigue when a victim says ‘I really depend on you.’ We

want our callers to feel close to us, but at the same time to see us as trustworthy police officers, not professional counselors. To arrest the suspect and solve the case at hand is our number one goal.”

What Itaya fears most now is “getting so used to dealing with sex crimes that it becomes a mere routine”. Says she: “No matter what type of sex crimes we may handle, we must be able to cry with the victim and feel the same anger she feels. We should never lost this standpoint. Every victim is, after all, different from every other.”

Female railway police strive to stamp out groping in commuter trains, while female police detectives play a key role in going after sex criminals. The seriousness of the crimes dealt with may be different, but there are two things in common: dealing with sex offenses from the victim’s standpoint and with a firm determination not to let sex offenders go unpunished.

Statistics compiled by the National Police Agency show 1,500 rape cases and 3,644 indecent assault cases for 1995. These are reported cases; actual numbers are believed to be anywhere from three to five times larger. As for groping cases, there is simply no practical way of estimating the actual numbers.

“Victims of sex crimes are reluctant to report to police largely because of their sense of shame. And it is highly likely that many of the victims fail to report to police out of fear that they may be further offended by questions that police officers must ask them during their criminal investigation. But if sex crimes are left unsolved, the offenders will be free to claim

second and third victims. By improving the way police deal with victims, we hope we can help increase the number of sex crimes reported and thereby make easy the arrest of the offenders.” says Deputy Director Takahiko Yasuda of the First Criminal Investigation Division of the National Police Agency’s Criminal Investigation Bureau.

It is on just such an improvement in the approach to crime victims that the National Police Agency is currently placing its greatest emphasis. Until now, the police put so much stress on arresting criminals that they did not always provide sufficient care for the victims. Reflecting on this state of affairs, the agency began reexamining law enforcement practices two years ago and in February 1996, distributed an official notice to police headquarters throughout the country calling for the promotion of measure suitable for crime victims. And sex offenses are given prime attention in the agency’s new approach to crime victims.

As of the end of September, instructors on sex-crime investigation methods were stationed in 47 police headquarters, while female police officers were assigned to the sex-crime investigation and guidance sections in three prefectures. Meanwhile, the sex-crime hotline service was being offered at 27 police headquarters.

One of the problems, however, is the absolute shortage of female police officers. At present, only about 3 percent of all police officers are women, and there are only about 500 women detectives. Yasuda remarks: “While the numbers of policewomen need to be increased, it is equally important to raise the level of their competence by, among other things, improving their

investigative skills. It will take some time before it becomes a mere matter of course to have female investigators assigned to sexcrime investigations throughout the country. We would like to establish such a system within five years, if possible.”

New Words

1. commuter [kə'mju:tə] *n.* 经常往返者
2. groper [grəupə] *n.* 抚摸异性者
3. fondle ['fɒndl] *v.* 爱抚, 抚弄
4. prefecture ['pri:fektjuə] *n.* (日本)县
5. sexual harassment 性骚扰
6. lust [lʌst] *n.* 色欲; 淫欲
7. stamp out 根除, 废除
8. prosecutor ['prɒsɪkjutə] *n.* 检察官
9. psychological [ˌsaɪkə'lɒdʒɪkəl] *a.* 心理上的; 精神上的

Reading Comprehension

1. “She remains poised to go into action as soon as it happens.”
“It” refers to _____.
A. the overcrowding of the train
B. groping
C. stealing on the train
D. pushing
2. Yumi Kakisako _____.
A. is looking for trouble at JR Shinjuku Station
B. is waiting for the train
C. is ready to stop the gropers
D. is ready to help people catch the train

-
3. Many of the gropers arrested have been found _____.
- A. to live under distressful pressures
 - B. to be from the lower class
 - C. to be unemployed
 - D. to be very poor
4. "This seems to strike some foreigners as a classic example of Japanese tolerance." "This" refers to _____.
- A. posters reminding people that "groping is a crime" are easily found in railway stations
 - B. 8 out of 10 women have encountered a groper
 - C. women feel shameful to report the groping to the police
 - D. women think gropers are something they should endure on the overcrowded trains
5. When did the police begin to take measures against gropers?
- A. 1992
 - B. 1988
 - C. 1990
 - D. 1996
6. "... the railway police of the Metropolitan Police Department also beefed up their anti-groping operations ...", "beefed up" can be replaced by _____.
- A. started
 - B. set up
 - C. strengthened
 - D. carried out
7. In the anti-groping operations _____.
- A. people begin to change their view that groping is only a minor incident
 - B. men begin to join the police force to stop gropers
 - C. gropers are sometimes arrested as a result of victims acting as instructed
 - D. all of the above

-
8. Women who are raped _____.
- A. suffer a serious mental blow
 - B. will suffer a revenge from the rapist in years' time
 - C. are hurt by the remarks of the prosecutor
 - D. will be looked down upon by people around
9. The sex-crime investigation team _____.
- A. strives to get rid of groping in commuter trains
 - B. consists of Itaya and 2 other police women
 - C. only deals with the phone calls from the victims
 - D. begins to think it a routine to deal with sex crimes
10. The common things existing between female railway police and female police detectives are _____.
- A. that the seriousness of the crimes dealt with is the same
 - B. that both groups deal with sex offenses from the victim's interests
 - C. that both groups deal with sex offenses with a firm determination not to let sex offenders unpunished
 - D. both B and C
11. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
- A. Japan has in fact more sex crimes than Europe and the United States
 - B. it is very hard to estimate the actual numbers of groping cases.
 - C. victims of sex crimes are willing to report to police
 - D. statistics compiled by the National Police Agency show the actual numbers of the assault cases
12. The improvement in the approach to sex-crime victims could be reflected from all of the following facts EXCEPT that

- _____.
- A. instructors on sex-crime investigation methods were stationed in 47 police headquarters
 - B. female police officers were sent to the sex-crime investigation and guidance section in 3 prefectures
 - C. the sex-crime hotline service was being offered at 27 police headquarters
 - D. the National Police Agency distributed an official notice calling for the promotion of measures against crime victims
13. The female police need to be improved in the following aspects EXCEPT that _____.
- A. the numbers of policewomen need to be increased
 - B. the policewomen should be more considerate to the victims
 - C. the policewomen need to raise the level of their competence
 - D. the policewomen need to improve their investigative skills
14. The last paragraph carries a tone of _____.
- A. pessimism
 - B. optimism
 - C. doubtfulness
 - D. anxiety

Sexual Harassment

性骚扰

保障就业机会均等委员会宣称：“在三菱汽车制造厂伊利诺斯分厂遭到性骚扰的女工多达数百名。”