

你说东,我说西

Everyday Dialogues on Cultura [英] Nick Stirk著 Differences

张满胜 译

老中老外,

互揭糗事,

观念对对碰,

天下一家亲!





你说东,我说西

Everyday Dialogues on Cultural Differences

[英] Nick Stirk著 张满胜 译



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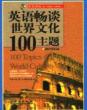


















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Introduction 序言

These dialogues will make you laugh, make you cry, make you think, but most of all they will make your English better. They are special in three ways. First, they have been written by a native speaker who has had several years experience in China teaching at top universities. They are full of up-to-date natural expressions used by native speakers, which means that you will be using the same language that they speak. Second, there is an emphasis on coll-ocations, phrases and expressions. This is because two, three, four and even five-word collocations, phrases and expressions



make up a huge percentage of all naturally-occurring text, spoken or written. Estimates vary, but it is possible that up to 70% of everything we say, hear, read or write is to be found in some form of fixed expression. Therefore, it is vital to realise that this is the way we store vocabulary in our lexical minds. We are more likely to memorise and use phrases rather than single words. So get rid of word lists and replace

them with lists of phrases. Third, and most important of all, culture involves everything we say, do and think, so it's very important, not only in our own culture but also when we interact with another culture, that we develop a culture consciousness. Knowing the differences and allowing for them is very important when we meet someone from another culture, whether in their country or our own.

I wish to acknowledge the encouragement and assistance provided by my publisher Cai Qing. I would like to thank my English majors at Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications for their help in road-testing these dialogues and for making many valuable suggestions. I would specially like to thank Li Yang for her suggestions on various dialogues. I am truly grateful for her insight and knowledge of intercultural communication. Finally I would like to thank Tori Waters-Wang and her husband Wang Qing for contributing some of the dialogues and to Zhang Mansheng for his skilled translation and for his ability to transfer my sense of English humour into Chinese.

本书中的对话会让你哭, 让你笑, 让你思考, 最主 要的是会让你的英语有所长进。特别之处有三:其一, 本书的作者来自英国。并且拥有多年在中国一流大学的 教学经验。对话中充满了最时尚的表达方式,也就是说, 你将会学到现在英国人最流行的口语。其二,对话中突 出强调了词组、短语和表达法。因为在任何课文中, 无 论是口语还是书面语、由二、三、四、甚至是五个单词 所组成的词组、短语和表达法都占据了主要部分。在我 们日常的听说读写中, 固定表达法的比例可能会高达 70%,这就是我们大脑储存词汇的方式,意识到这点很 重要。与单个的单词相比,我们更倾向于记忆和使用词 组。所以, 在学习英语时, 不要只记单个单词, 而应该 记忆词组和短语。第三, 也是最重要的, 我们日常所说、 所做与所想都会涉及到文化, 因而在我们进行跨文化交 流过程中, 要有文化意识, 这点是非常重要的。不论我 们身在异国还是在自己的国家, 当我们遇到外国朋友时, 了解并尊重彼此之间的文化差异, 是我们进行良好交流 的基础。

非常感谢我的出版人蔡箐小姐给予我的鼓励与帮助。 感谢北京邮电大学英语系的同学为本书中的对话进行了 实际演练,并提出了很多宝贵的意见。我要特别感谢李 杨为对话提出了许多中肯的建议,以及她对跨文化交流 的丰富见解。最后,我还要感谢 Tori Waters-Wang 以及 她的丈夫 Wang Qing 先生,为本书贡献了许多精彩的对 话。同时,还要感谢张满胜先生的出色的译文,准确传达 了该书的幽默风格。





对于英语学习者来说, 在英语会话中进行角色 扮演是锻炼英语水平的一个绝好的机会, 这让学生 们有机会去担任一个完全不同于自己本人的任何角 色。即使犯了错误也无所谓,因为并不是你犯的, 是你扮演的角色犯下的! 你完全可以设想自己所扮 演角色的性格特征并将其发挥到极至。你的声音、 习方式。找个搭档与你一起练习书中的对话, 是个 不错的主意。

角色扮演小贴士

- 2. 努力融入角色
- 3. 语言表达要抑扬顿挫
- 4. 使用恰当的肢体动作和手势
- 5. 进行角色互换,以便尝试不同角色
- 6. 不要羞于扮演异性角色

学习口语其实很简单、即使在这个快节奏、竞 争激烈的社会里。随身带着这本书,书中每段对话 都是相互独立的, 你可以逐一学习。路上堵车 15 分钟, 你不妨就来读一个话题。坐地铁时也带着 它,四处挤点时间就够了。要是你每天练习一篇对 话,50天后你就会惊讶于自己英语的进步。你在讲 英语时会非常自信, 再遇到老外的时候, 你就不会 无话可说了。



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Background Information

Humans are emotional creatures created with a vast capacity to love and to be loved. This need to give and receive love is fundamental to life. We are born from love in order to love. With love the impossible is nothing; yet without love nothing is possible. Love makes the world go round, makes your head spin, makes your heart beat faster and makes your day. There are no limits to love. A grandmother can love a baby and a baby can love a grandmother. An Englishman can love a Chinese girl and a Chinese boy can love a Korean girl. Love can be timeless, eternal and never ending. It can also be brief, spontaneous and passing. Love is cool. Love is hot. But love can never be boring. The eyes sparkle, the heart flutters and the toes twinkle.

人是有感情的动物, 生来就有爱与被爱的巨大的能力。给予爱 与接受爱成为生命之必需。我们因爱而生,为爱付出。有了爱,一 切皆有可能;没有爱,一切皆不可能。爱让世界转动,爱让你头晕 目眩, 爱让你心跳加速, 爱让你幸福快乐每一天! 爱无所不能。祖 母可以爱孙儿, 孙儿也可以爱祖母; 英国绅士可以爱上中国姑娘, 中国小伙儿可以爱上韩国女孩。爱可以是长久的、永恒的,也可能 是短暂的、稍纵即逝的。爱可以是一丝清凉, 也可能是一团热火, 但爱不会令人乏味。爱让你明眸闪亮, 内心悸动, 双脚雀跃。

背暑信息

Dialogue 1

- Helen: What's your opinion about cross-cultural love[®]? Would you ever date a local guy?
- Tori: To be honest, I wouldn't. I don't find Chinese men attractive, but not because we are different cultures. I mean, I'd date someone from another Western country, no problem. How about you, have you ever dated a foreigner?
- H: All the time! I love foreign men! Especially the older ones because they know how to treat a girl right. Wine her², dine her³, buy her romantic gifts. I think foreign men are simply more romantic than Chinese men.
- T: I wouldn't say that's strictly true, especially nowadays as China is becoming more open and Westernised. I've met lots of romantic Chinese men.
- H: I know that Chinese men look after you until the wedding but then once they are married they stop and focus on their career.
- T: Yes, I think that's true. But as I said, I wouldn't do it because I don't really go for Chinese guys. And I find they don't go for me either. Maybe my size puts them off!
- H: Yes, I've noticed that Western girls are a lot bigger than Chinese girls.
- T: And most Chinese men are smaller than Westerners so they don't want to date someone who is taller than they are.
- H: Maybe I should introduce you to Yao Ming!

习惯用语 1

- ① cross-cultural love: 异国之恋, 跨国婚姻 (来自两个不同国家的人彼此相恋)
- ② wine sb.:约某人出去一起喝酒
- ③ dine sb.: 约某人出去一起吃饭

2

- H: 你对跨国恋怎么看? 你会跟这里当地的小伙子约会吗?
- T: 老实说,不会的。我觉得中国男人不怎么吸引人,并不是因为文化差异。我的意思是,我会和其他西方国家的人约会,这没什么。你呢?你跟老外约会过吗?
- H: 我一直都和老外约会! 我喜欢外国男人! 尤其是年龄大的,他们知道怎么疼女孩子。请她喝酒,约她吃饭,给她买浪漫的礼物。我觉得外国男人基本上都比中国男人浪漫。
- T: 也不绝对,尤其是现在中国越来越开放,越来越西化。我就遇到 过好多浪漫的中国男人。
- H: 我知道中国男人在婚前总是很照顾你,一旦结了婚,他们就把精力都扑在事业上了。
- T: 是的,我觉得这没什么不对。但就像我说的,我不会去和中国男人约会,因为我对他们不感兴趣。我发现他们对我也是如此。估计是我的体型吓到他们了!
- H: 是的, 我注意到了, 西方女孩比中国女孩高大。
- T: 而且大多数中国男人都比西方人矮小,因此他们也不想跟比自己 高大的人约会。
- H: 也许我该把你介绍给姚明!

Questions 1

- 1. Have you ever dated someone from another country?
- 2. Who do you think is the most romantic, Chinese or Westerner? Why?



Dialogue 2

Helen: I had a date with an older American man last weekend.

He took me to a beautiful restaurant, we drank expensive imported wine, and then I went back to his massive, international apartment, where we had a romantic evening. Nothing like my local ex-boyfriend, he would take me to a Chengdu snacks restaurant and buy me a Beijing beer.

Abbey: Exactly! You said it, "expensive". Maybe your last boy-

friend wasn't lacking in the romantic department, he was lacking in cash. He bought you all he could afford. Your situation is not about romance, it's about money. Anyway, how does your family feel about you having all of these foreign boyfriends? Does your mum think they are good marriage material[®]?

- H: Actually, my mum is very happy with my dating foreign men. Since China has been open she's travelled to Australia, where she always dreamed of going, many times. She hopes that I find a rich Australian man who will help her to emigrate! What about you?
- A: No way! A traditional Chinese mum would like her daughter to settle down with a traditional Chinese boy from a good family, with a good education and a good job.
- H: Yeah, and if she has anything to do with it, she'll choose him! I'd rather choose my own lover because I love him rather than it being my parents' choice.
- A: That reminds me of a joke. A boy kept bringing his girlfriends back home but his mother never approved of them. Finally, he took home a girlfriend who was just like his mother in every way.

H: So his parents approved of her and they got married?

A: No! His mother liked her but his father didn't!

习惯用语 2

- ① good marriage material: 适合结婚的人
- H: 上周末,我和一个年长的美国男人约会了。他带我去了一个漂亮的餐厅,我们对饮昂贵的进口葡萄酒,饭后,去了他宽敞的国际公寓,一起度过了浪漫的一夜。他可不像我以前的中国男友那样,

- A: 没错! 你说了,"昂贵"。也许你的前男友并不缺少浪漫,而是缺钱。他给你买了所有他负担得起的东西。你现在关注的不是浪漫,而是金钱。你家人对你的这些外国男友怎么看? 你妈妈认为他们是理想的结婚对象吗?
- H: 其实,我妈妈很乐意我与外国人约会。中国开放后,她有机会去了几次她梦想中的澳大利亚。她希望我能找到一个有钱的澳大利亚人,帮她移民。你怎么看?
- **A:** 不会吧,传统的中国母亲都想让自己的女儿与传统的中国男子结婚,这个男孩要有好的家庭背景,受过良好的教育,拥有体面的工作。
- **H:** 没错,如果她真能自己选择的话,她也会选择这么一个男孩。我要选择自己的恋爱对象,我的爱远比父母的选择重要。
- A: 这倒使我想起一个笑话。有个男孩总是带不同的女朋友回家,可 是他的妈妈却总也不满意。最后,他带回家了一个在各个方面都 与他妈妈极其相似的女孩。
- H: 他的父母很满意, 然后他们就结婚了?
- A: 不是, 男孩的妈妈很满意, 可是他的爸爸又不满意了!

Questions 2

- 1. Do you like a boyfriend who buys you expensive things?
- 2. Would you marry someone your parents did not approve of?



Dialogue 3

- Frank: You don't see too many East-West couples where the man is Chinese and the woman is a foreigner.
- Nick: But when you do they tend to be married. I know of at least two Western girls who are married to Chinese and they seem very happy.
- F: Yes, but you do see plenty of East-West couples where the man is a foreigner and the woman is Chinese.

- N: And usually the woman is in her thirties. She is either divorced with a child or is a left girl.
- F: A left girl? What's that?
- N: They're called that because they're left behind and left on the shelf^①! They're also known by their three H's—high diploma, high salary and high age! They're also known as the three S's—single, stuck and born in the seventies!
- F: So because they find it difficult to get a Chinese husband they turn to Westerners!
- N: That's right! Most Chinese men want to marry someone who is younger than they are and also less educated or at least they don't have a higher degree than they do.
- F: You mention divorced women with a child. Why do they go for Western men?
- N: Partly because it's difficult for them to remarry a Chinese. As I said before, most Chinese men want to marry a younger girl and they don't want a woman with a child because education is expensive in China.
- F: Well, so long as they marry for the right reasons then everyone is happy.

习惯用语3

- ① leave on the shelf: 束之高阁,无结婚希望的(大龄单身女子)
- ② go for: 选择, 对…有好感
- F: 在东西方跨国婚姻中, 你很少见到男方是中国人, 女方是外国人的。
- N: 也有啊。我就知道至少有两位外国女孩嫁给了中国人,他们看起来很幸福。
- **F:** 这倒也是。不过,在东西方跨国婚姻中,更多的还是由西方男人和中国女人组成的夫妻。

- N: 通常, 女方已经30 多岁了, 她要么是离婚, 还带个孩子, 要么就 是"无人问津"了。
- F: 无人问津? 什么意思?
- N: 是因为她们都是大龄女青年,已经没有人愿意和她们交往了。她 们以"三高"著称——高学历、高薪水、高年龄。她们往往是单 身,难以找到对象,都是生于70年代。
- F: 所以, 她们觉得很难找到满意的中国丈夫, 于是就把注意力转向 老外!
- N: 没错! 大多数中国男士都想娶一个比自己年轻、比自己学历低或 者至少与自己学历相当的女子。
- F: 你刚才提到了离异且有孩子的女人。她们为什么要找老外呢?
- N: 部分是因为与中国男人再婚有点儿困难。就像我刚才说的, 大多 数中国男士想找一个比自己年轻的女子,他们不想娶一个带着孩 子的妈妈, 因为在中国, 教育的开销是很大的。
- F: 嗯, 其实, 只要大家结婚理由正当, 就会很幸福。

Questions 3

- 1. Do you know of any western girls dating Chinese men?
- 2. Do you know any left girls?





