

黄衡田 肖耀田 陈友良 著

# Confusable Figures of Speech in English

## 英语易混修辞格

(Revised edition)

(修订版)

湖南大学 出版社

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## 序

英语语法讲的是英语语言运用的常规,而英语修辞所讲的则是英语语言表达的艺术。学习英语语言文学的大学生和讲授英语语言文学的大学教师,显而易见,只懂得英语语法是远远不够的,还必须进一步掌握大学教科书和文学作品中常见的英语修辞格,才能深透地领会和充分地欣赏教科书和文学作品的内容,教师才能讲好,学生才能学好,才能写作好,才能翻译好。不妨说,学好英语基本修辞,乃是大学英语专业学生奠定听、说、读、写、译五种基本功基础的不可缺少的条件之一。

笔者先后阅读过一些有关英语修辞的书籍,各有侧重,各有特点。看黄著《英语易混修辞格》之后,发现本书具有如下鲜明的特点:

第一,深浅适度,编排新颖。著者在编写过程中,始终坚持由近及远、由浅入深的原则,以大学高年级英语专业教材中出现的修辞格为起点,把性质接近但又容易引起混淆的辞格分组论述,并简明扼要地指出每组中各辞格之间的本质区别,以利于读者有效地、准确地运用这些辞格。

第二,观点明确,论述详尽。各辞格的定义均以英美原文词典中的界说为准,把每一辞格所涉及的方面面无不详尽地加以论述,使学生和读者对之达到全面而透彻的理解。

第三,实例丰富,译文恰当。便于学生和读者理解与欣赏辞格的丰富内涵。

总之,本书称得上是一本理论密切联系实际的最佳和以致用的典范。特写短序如上,以供读者参考。



# Contents

## Chapter 1 Simile • Metaphor • Analogy

- 1.1 Simile(明喻) ..... (1)
- 1.2 Metaphor(暗喻/隐喻) ..... (15)
- 1.3 Analogy(类比) ..... (28)

## Chapter 2 Metonymy • Synecdoche • Antonomasia

- 2.1 Metonymy(转喻) ..... (32)
- 2.2 Synecdoche(提喻) ..... (43)
- 2.3 Antonomasia(换称) ..... (46)

## Chapter 3 Onomatopoeia • Personification

- 3.1 Onomatopoeia(拟声法) ..... (52)
- 3.2 Personification(拟人法) ..... (57)

## Chapter 4 Oxymoron • Transferred Epithet • Hendiadys

- 4.1 Oxymoron(矛盾修辞法) ..... (62)
- 4.2 Transferred Epithet(移位修饰语) ..... (67)
- 4.3 Hendiadys(重言法) ..... (71)

## Chapter 5 Understatement • Euphemism

- 5.1 Understatement(低调陈述) ..... (80)
- 5.2 Euphemism(委婉语) ..... (87)

## Chapter 6 Syllepsis • Zeugma

- 6.1 Syllepsis(一语双叙) ..... (98)

6.2 Zeugma(轭式搭配法) .....	(102)
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## **Chapter 7 Parallelism • Climax • Anticlimax**

7.1 Parallelism(平行结构) .....	(106)
7.2 Climax(层进法 / 递进法) .....	(110)
7.3 Anticlimax or Bathos(渐降法 / 突降法) .....	(112)

## **Chapter 8 Innuendo • Irony • Pun**

8.1 Innuendo(暗指 / 影射) .....	(115)
8.2 Irony(反语) .....	(117)
8.3 Pun or Paronomasia(双关语) .....	(120)

## **Chapter 9 Antithesis • Paradox • Oxymoron**

9.1 Antithesis(反对法 / 对照法) .....	(125)
9.2 Paradox(反论 / 隽语) .....	(128)
9.3 Oxymoron(矛盾修辞法) .....	(130)

## **Chapter 10 Sarcasm • Ridicule • Satire**

10.1 Sarcasm(讽刺 / 挖苦) .....	(132)
10.2 Ridicule(嘲笑 / 嘲弄) .....	(135)
10.3 Satire(讽刺) .....	(136)

## **Chapter 11 Allusion • Antonomasia • Parody**

11.1 Allusion(典故 / 引喻) .....	(144)
11.2 Antonomasia(换称) .....	(157)
11.3 Parody(仿似) .....	(157)

## **Chapter 12 Chiasmus • Palindrome**

12.1 Chiasmus(交错配列) .....	(162)
12.2 Palindrome(回文) .....	(164)

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**Chapter 13 Repetition • Parallelism**

13.1 Repetition or Reiteration(重复) ..... (169)

13.2 Parallelism(平行结构) ..... (188)

**Chapter 14 Hyperbole • Euphemism**

14.1 Hyperbole(夸张) ..... (190)

14.2 Euphemism(婉辞)..... (219)

**参考文献** ..... (220)



# Chapter 1

## Simile • Metaphor

### 1.1 Simile(明喻)

Simile: A figure of speech comparing two essentially unlike things and often introduced by like or as(as in cheeks like roses, a heart as hard as flint). (WED)

Simile 是把一种事物与另一种性质不同的事物进行比较。这两种事物在一个方面相同或相似,而在其他方面则不同。这相似之点一般反映在动词、形容词、副词所表达的抽象概念上。它一般由 as, like, than 等比喻词来引导喻体(Vehicle/Reference),被比喻的事物称为本体(Tenor/Subject)。它的基本格式为“甲像乙”。它常用来更形象、更具体、更生动地描写事物或说明事理。汉译时可直译,也可意译,只要符合汉语的习惯即可。

#### 1.1.1 引导明喻的比喻词

(1)介词 as, like, of 等。

A. as:

Beauty is as summer fruits, which are easy to corrupt and cannot last... (Bacon: *Of Studies* )

美者犹如夏日果蔬,易腐难存……

He arose joint by joint, as a carpenter's rule opens, and beat the dust from his clothes. (O. Henry: *The Cop and the Anthem* )

像打开一把曲尺似的,他一节一节地撑了起来,掸去衣服上的灰尘。

I wandered lonely as a cloud. (W. Wordsworth: *The Daffodils*) 我像一朵浮云独自漫游。

They are as like as two peas. (= They are very much alike.) 他们两个长得一模一样。(意译)

cf. They are as like as two brothers.

The boy runs as fast as a hare.

那个男孩跑得像野兔一样快。(直译)

His young daughter looks as red as a rose.

他的小女儿面庞红润得像朵玫瑰花。(直译)

I passed and repassed the house, and stopped and listened at the door; all was dark and silent as the grave.

(B. Shaw) 我在那房子前面走了几趟,并在门口停下来听了听;一片漆黑,沉寂得像座坟墓。(直译)

The old man is often drunk as a fiddler/a lord.

那个老人经常喝得酩酊大醉。(意译)

You're as welcome as flowers in May.

你像五月里的鲜花那样受欢迎。(意译)

The girl player is (as) brisk as a bee.

那个女运动员动作轻快得像燕子一样。(斟换形象)

That fat fellow is as stupid as a goose.

那个胖家伙笨得像猪一样。(斟换形象)

That wrestler is as strong as a horse.

那个摔跤运动员健壮如牛。(斟换形象)

B. like:

He sleeps like a top(log).

(= He sleeps very soundly.) 他睡得很香。

He works like a horse/beaver/Trojan/black.

(= He works very hard. )他辛辛苦苦地干活。

They spent money like water. 他们挥金如土。

She made after him like a mad woman.

她像疯女人似的追赶他。

He talks/speaks like a book all the time.

他老是文绉绉地说话。

He knew the area like a book.

他对这个地区很熟悉。

He eats like a horse. (= He eats very much. )

他吃得很多。

He smokes like a chimney. (= He smokes very much. )

他抽烟很厉害。

He drinks like a fish. (= He drinks large quantities of alcohol. )他大口大口地喝。

cf. We get on together like old friends.

我们像老朋友一样相处在一起。

He sank like a stone.

他像石头一样地沉下去了。

She grins like a Cheshire cat.

她常常无缘无故地傻笑。

My heart is like a singing bird  
Whose nest is on a watered shoot;  
My heart is like an apple-tree  
Whose boughs are bent with thick-set fruit;  
My heart is like a rainbow shell  
That paddles in a halcyon sea;

My heart is gladder than all these  
 Because my love is come to me. (Rossetti)  
 我的心像只善歌的小鸟，  
 小巢建在轻拂水面的嫩枝上；  
 我的心像棵苹果树，  
 沉甸的果实把树梢压弯；  
 我的心像天边彩虹，  
 它轻拂着平静的海面；  
 我的心比这些更喜悦，  
 由于我爱人将来我身边。

值得注意的是，在人的范畴里，往往把具有某特点的一个人比喻成具有相同特点的另一个不同时代的人，或不同年龄的人，或不同性别的人，或不同地位的人，或特殊状况的人。这种修辞格叫做“以人喻人”(Person-personification)。例如：

He is as wise as Solomon. 他像所罗门一样聪明。

He works like a Trojan/black. 他辛辛苦苦地工作。

She was... chaste as a vestal. (Thomas Hardy: *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*) 她……和祀神的贞女一样纯洁。

... who was full of expectedness as a girl at her first party.  
 (O. Henry: *mammon and the Archer*)

……那老头活像一个初次交际的姑娘，总是提出一些叫人意想不到的问题。

When he(Charlie Chaplin)found a voice to say what was on his mind, he was like a child of eight writing lyrics for Beethoven's Ninth. (Billy Wilder)

当他(查利·查普林)有发言权说出他的心事时，他像一个要为贝多芬的第九交响乐写抒情诗的小孩。

C. of:

He has a heart of stone. 他有一副铁石心肠。

Lake has the heart of a lion, but he does everything in a down-to-earth way.

莱克有狮子般的勇气,他办事可认真呢。

He is sometimes bad-tempered but really he's got a heart of gold.

有时候他似乎脾气不好,但他的心眼可好了。

(2)连词 as(犹如), what(犹如), as if, as though, than, and, the way 等。

a. His heart shivered as a ship shivers at the mountainous crash of the waters. 他的心颤动着,好像一艘船在海浪搏击中震荡一样。

Air is to man as water is to fish.

人离不开空气,犹如鱼离不开水。

b. Education is to a human soul what gardening is to a piece of land. 教育之于心灵,犹如园艺之于土地。

Leaves do for plants what lungs do for animals.

叶子对于植物的作用,正如肺对于动物的作用。

The pen is to a writer what the gun is to a fighter.

作家的笔犹如战士的枪。

What blood vessel is to a man's body, that railway is to a nation. 铁路对于国家,好比血脉对于人体一样。

What light is to the eye, that knowledge is to the mind.

知识之于头脑,犹如光线之于眼睛。

What sculpture is to a block of marble, that education is to the soul. 教育之于心灵,犹如雕刻之于大理石。

What the nest is to the bird, that to the man is the house.

房屋对于人正如窝巢对于鸟一样。

- c. As a man makes his bed so must he lie.

自己铺床自己睡。(直译)自作自受。(意译)

As you brew, so must you drink.

自己酿酒自己喝。(直译)自作自受。(意译)

As fire tries gold, so does adversity try virtue.

正如烈火试验真金,同样逆境试验人的美德。

- d. He walks as if he were drunk.

他摇摇晃晃地走路,像是喝醉酒一样的。

He speaks as if there were a frog in the throat.

(=He speaks in a hoarse voice.) 他说话声音很沙哑。

The girl listened as if (she had been) turned to stone.

女孩倾听着,一动也不动,好像变成一块石头似的。

The first time I read an excellent book, it was to me as if I had gained a new friend.

我初次读到一本好书,就像结识了一位新朋友。

Seen from the hill-top, the silvery river wound its way through the valley as though it were a shimmering necklace of pearls. 从山顶上眺望,银色的小河从山谷里蜿蜒流过,宛如一串闪光的珍珠项链。

They stood upon a bleak and desert moor, whose monstrous masses of stone were cast about as though it were the burial place of giants. 他们站在荒无人烟的旷野上,那里满地都是硕大无朋的岩石,宛如巨人的墓地。

He was a beautiful horse that looked as though he had come out of a painting by Velasques. (E. Hemingway: *For Whom the Bell Tolls*) 这匹马真雄俊,看起来仿佛是从一幅维拉斯奎茨的油画里跑出来的一样。

注：由 as if /as though 引导的从句一般用虚拟语气。

- e. The ruby shall be redder than a red rose and the sapphire shall be as blue as the great sea. (O. Wilde)

红宝石将比红玫瑰还要红，蓝宝石像大海一样蓝。

When in fury, she is more savage than a tigress.

她狂怒时，比母虎还要凶猛。

How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child. (Shakespeare)

忘恩负义的小孩比蛇牙还要严酷无情！

She eats less than a bird. 她吃得太少。

- f. Books and friends should be few but good. = Books, like friends, should be few but well chosen.

书像朋友一样，应该少而精。

A word and a stone let go cannot be recalled. (= A word spoken cannot be recalled.) 一言既出，驷马难追。

Truth and rose have thorns about them.

真理像玫瑰一样，身上都有刺。

Love and a cough cannot be hid.

恋爱跟咳嗽一样，是逃不过人们耳目的。

Truth and oil are ever above.

真理跟油一样，总要升到上面来。

A woman's mind and winter wind change often.

女人之心，说变就变。（女人的心思犹如朔风，捉摸不定，变化无常。）

A woman and a glass are ever in danger.

女人易毁，玻璃易碎。

注：在英语谚语中，常用 and 连接两个毫不相关的名词，其作用相当于 like，故汉译时应把它译成“像……一样”，不宜译成

“和”、“与”、“以及”。这是明喻的一种特殊形式。

g. I should smell it the way a cat smells a mouse.

我可以像猫嗅老鼠那样闻出它的气味来。

The best work is done the way ants do things—by tiny, tireless and regular additions.

最好的作品是像蚂蚁干活那样完成的——通过点滴、不懈、经常不断的增补而成。

(3) 动词 seem, resemble (名词 resemblance), treat / honour / regard / consider / respect... as, compare to, liken to, pass (胜过), remind of, be similar to 等。

The stars seemed little cuts in the black cover, through which a bright beyond was seen. (V. Sackville-West)

星星像小黑锅上的小窟窿, 透过小窟窿可以看见外面的光。It (the gate of the building)... seemed to be the entrance to a vast hive of six or seven floors. (Th. Dreiser; *Sister Carrie*) 这座楼房的大门看起来就像一个有六七层高的巨大蜂巢的入口。

Look at the moon. How strange the moon seems; She is like a woman rising from a tomb. She is like a dead woman. ((O. Wilde) 瞧一瞧那轮明月。她看起来多奇怪: 像从墓中起身的妇女, 像死妇一样惨白。

So as she shows she seems the budding rose.

Yet sweeter far than is earthly flower...

(R. Greene; *Pandosto*)

当她出现, 看来犹似含苞的玫瑰, 但却远比尘世的花儿馥郁……

Her face resembled a silver moon. (= Her face bore the resemblance of a moon.)



她的脸长得像一轮银月。

He treats his child as the apple in the eye.

他把他的孩子当成掌上明珠。

Samuel Johnson regarded a dictionary as a watch.

塞缪尔·约翰逊把词典看成钟表。

Shakespeare compared the world to a stage. (Wood)

莎士比亚把世界比做舞台。

The last days before liberation are often compared to the darkness before the dawn.

解放的前夕往往被比作黎明前的黑暗。

cf. Compare this with that, and you will see which is better.

(Wood)

你把这个和那个比较一下,就会明白哪一个好些。

注:compare to 为“比喻”(say that one thing is like sth. else); compare with 为“比较”(examine two or more things side by side in order to find out how they are similar or different)。

You can liken your eye to a camera. (Neal)

你可以把你的眼睛比作照相机。

Passions are liken'd best to floods and streams;

The shallow murmur, but the deep are dumb...

(W. Raleigh: *The Silent Lover*)

激情最像洪水与溪流:

水面喧声淙淙,水底无语无声……

Thus fair Samela

Passeth fair Venus in her bravest hue...

(R. Greene: *Samela*)

因而美丽的莎米娜

胜过衣着最华丽的维纳斯……