

全国翻译专业资格(水平)考试指定教材

英语笔译实务

总主编 黄源深 主编 张春柏



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全国翻译专业资格(水平)考试指定教材

英语笔译实务

(三级)

总主编 黄源深主 编 张春柏编 者 汪幼枫 邓昱平 陆 颖 杨 林 许 高

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前 言

《全国翻译专业资格(水平)考试英语笔译三级考试大纲(试行)》中有关笔译实务考试的目的和要求中明确指出:"考生需具备双语互译的基本技巧和能力,能够运用一般的翻译策略和技巧进行双语互译,且译文通顺、用词正确,无明显语法错误、错译和漏译。"本《教材》正是根据国家人事部《全国翻译专业资格(水平)考试暂行规定》的精神,依据《全国翻译专业资格(水平)考试英语笔译三级考试大纲(试行)》的要求编写的。力求在提高考生快速、正确进行双语互译,培养考生的翻译技巧和能力等方面给予考生尽可能多的、有效的指导和启发。

本《教材》共分 16 个单元(Unit),每个单元由"范文分析"、"课后练习"、"翻译技巧"和"深化练习"四个部分组成。其中,"范文分析"包括英译汉和汉译英各一篇,每篇课文后都有详细讲解,并配有参考译文,这些课文以实践语料为依据,大都取材于体育与娱乐、旅游、政治、文化、教育、卫生、商务、工农业和科学等主题领域,力求使大家扩展视野,从范文分析中通过比较、寻找提高双语互译能力的突破口;"课后练习"是针对两篇课文设置的,旨在考察大家对两篇课文的理解和掌握程度;"翻译技巧"是针对翻译中常用的且重要的技巧及易错的方面给予了详细讲解。使大家在翻译技巧的掌握和运用上能有一个质的提高;"深化练习"是检测大家对整个单元知识的掌握情况,深化练习的设置科学合理、紧扣单元知识,对大家自测具有重要的指导意义。

因时间仓促,难免有疏漏之处,希望大家能够谅解并给予指正。

编 者 2003年12月31日 I

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II

Unit One

TEXTS AND EXERCISES



Maya: away from crowds¹

Central America is home to many secret treasures for tourists who like to avoid the crowds, ² including numerous ancient Maya settlements

The seven countries of Central America — Guatemala, Panama, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica — are full of natural beauty and cultural treasures. Many of the region's nature reserves, ancient Maya settlements and colonial cities have been declared world cultural heritage sites by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.³

There are lots of volcanoes and an exotic animal kingdom to explore, yet few people outside the region know of them. The view into the crater of the Masaya Volcano in Nicaragua is a breathtaking experience, enlivened by the accompanying strong smell of sulphur and the loud screaming of parrots ⁴. Yet the car park on the edge of the crater is nearly empty. This is a boon for daring travelers who can enjoy all the beauty without having to share it with hordes of others visitors.

El Salvador has a "road of flowers," and Nicaragua has a "road of white villages" connecting villages from the colonial period ⁶ Honduras is developing a means of connecting the native American communities in the Atlantic coast.

Geological enthusiasts could also follow a volcanic trail through Central America 7 There are many volcanoes in just a small area, some with perfectly cone-shaped peaks constantly emitting smoke from their craters. Some of them are partially accessible 8

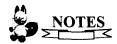
A bus travels to the edge of the Masaya craters in Nicaragua, an active volcano just 500 meters high. For safety reasons, every traveler should get local information from the local tourism authority before climbing a volcano.

英语笔译实务(三级)

The Arenal Volcano in northern Costa Rica terrified local inhabitants and tourists in August 2000 when it spouted hot gas and ash.

Individual travelers can easily find travel information. The long distance buses that connect all the countries in the region are very comfortable with air conditioning and TV.

And if you travel through the villages in small, local rundown buses, you will swiftly come into close contact with local inhabitants and their animals. You are just as likely to have a hen thrust into your lap as a small child.⁹



- 1. Maya: 玛雅文明是公元前 2,600 年左右发源于犹卡坦半岛(Yucatan Peninsula)的美洲印第安人文明,在公元 325 年到 925 年间处于鼎盛时期,随后衰落。现在墨西哥、危地马拉和伯利兹等处尚存不少遗址。
- 2. be home to 原意为"是……的家园,动物或植物的栖息地或生长地",这里可理解为秘密宝藏的"隐藏之处"。
- 3. the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: 联合国教育、科学与文化组织,通常简称为 UNESCO (联合国教科文组织).

world cultural heritage: 世界文化遗产。在 1972 年 10 月联合国教科文组织在巴黎召开的第 16 届大会上决定成立"世界遗产委员会"(World Heritage Committee)并建立《世界遗产名录》(World Heritage List),鼓励各国加大对世界遗产的保护力度。自 1978 年第一批世界遗产得到确认起至 2003 年,全世界共有 754 处遗产被列入《世界遗产名录》,其中包括 582处世界文化遗产,149 处世界自然遗产(World Natural Heritage)和 23 处混合遗产。其中我国有 29 处被列入了该名录。

- 4. 本句意为: 当你朝尼加拉瓜的玛苏雅火山口望进去(the view into...)的时候,你会倒吸一口冷气(breathtaking),但是当你闻到那股浓烈的硫磺味,听到鹦鹉尖厉的叫声时,你又会回过神来,惊叹(enlivened by)它的壮美。本句有人译为"游览尼加拉瓜的玛莎雅火山是一次惊心动魄的历程。置身其中,你会被从火山口喷发出来的强烈硫磺气味和鹦鹉的尖叫声所震撼。"这样译法实际上是误解了原文。原文中的两个意义相反的关键词"breathtaking"和"enlivened by"表明,主句和从句描写了两个动作或状态,一个是朝玛莎雅火山口看了以后有点窒息的恐怖感,后一个动作则是闻到浓烈的琉璜味和听到鹦鹉的尖叫声后为之一惊(enlivened)的感觉。两者不应该割裂开来。另外,experience 一词这里还是不译为好。
- 5. Yet the car park on the edge of the crater is nearly empty. This is a boon for daring travelers who can enjoy all the beauty without having to share it with hordes of others visitors. 这两句要和上下文联系起来理解:尽管玛莎雅火山如此美丽,但是敢于驱车靠近火山口的人却很少。所以,它的美景是对那些勇敢的独行者的一种奖赏。
- 6. ...villages from the colonial period: 殖民时期,指哥伦布于 1492 年发现美洲后至 19 世纪中

叶西班牙殖民者对中美洲的殖民时期。除了伯利兹以外,上述中美洲国家都于 19 世纪 20 年代和 30 年代获得独立。

- 7. 这里 volcanic trail 意为"连接各座火山的小道",而不是"由火山构成的小道"。
- 8. 这里后一句中的 some 是前句中的 some 的一部分,意为:在那些终年冒着烟灰的火山中,有些山因为烟灰较为浓烈而难以接近。这里"因烟灰浓烈"是句子的隐含意义,如不译出,本句与上句的联系就断了,很容易给人一种突兀之感。另外,partially accessible 不可译为"只有部分可以接近"或"不能完全接近"那种诘屈聱牙的汉语。在理解原文的本意(即有些火山由于烟灰浓烈而难以接近)的基础上,可以把结果(即因此人们无法完全看清它们的庐山真面目)表达出来。
- 9. ...you will swiftly come into close contact with local inhabitants and their animals. You are just as likely to have a hen thrust into your lap as a small child. 注意这里 just as 在意义上连接前面的 swiftly 和后面的 likely,表示两者的相似性。这里后一句可改写为: You are likely to ... as you swiftly come into close contact with...



EXERCISES

I. Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

- 1. Unfortunately, over the years Stonehenge has suffered from such an influx of visitors and now bears many scars.
- 2. Now a World Heritage Site, Stonehenge and all its surroundings remain powerful witnesses to the once great civilization of the Stone and Bronze Ages, between 5,000 and 3,000 years ago.
- 3. The Australian continent has many different climatic zones ranging from tropical in the north, leading to subtropical and savanna, to arid deserts in the centre and temperate in the south.
- 4. Towering over Black Hills of South Dakota at 6,000 feet above sea level are the four life-like figures of American presidents: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, and Theodore Roosevelt.
- 5. The reason for Disney's success are varied and numerous, but ultimately the credit belongs to one person the man who created cartoon and built the company from nothing.
- 6. The line of trees that breaks the monotony of the pavement is laden with leaves in shades of russet.
- 7. The beauty of our country or at least south of the Highlands—is as hard to define as it is easy to enjoy.
- 8. We have here no vast mountain ranges, no illimitable plains, no leagues of forest, and are deprived of the grandeur that may accompany these things.
- 9. About an hour's easy drive north of Cairns, you come across the bougainvilles-draped little town of Port Douglas. Cairns and "Port", as it is locally known, both offer direct access to the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef.
- 10. The Southern Downs region of Queensland has a promotion which does underline the fact that there is more to Queensland than rolling surf beaches, golf courses and coral reefs.



西双版纳之行 1

一架从昆明起飞的小飞机载着我们飞越群山,把我们带到了西双版纳自治州首府景洪。² 自治州占地 25,000 平方公里,其中百分之五十是山林。在其 620,000 人口中,百分之三十是傣族。那里还有其它少数民族,³ 他们大都散住在山区里。⁴

我们到达时正好赶上参加他们的泼水节,⁵ 所有的少数民族和在那里安家的汉族人都庆祝这个节日。节日延续三天,标志着傣年的新年。我们去了一个傣族村庄。大家聚结在一个露天广场上,手中都拿着小面盆。⁶

随后跳舞开始了,⁷有六个男青年,头上系着的浅紫色丝带在脑后打个结,⁸他们绕着圈在人群中穿行,一边舞姿优美地跳着,一边打着他们的鼓。⁹

所有的人都参加了进来,无论是汉族人还是外国游客。村民们向干部和驻军战士泼水,他们也笑着回敬。水从四面八方欢快地飞来。不一会儿,我们浑身上下都湿透了。¹⁰ 我真记不得我还有过比这次更快乐的经历了。

NOTES

- 1. 本文是一篇游记。本文汉语看似简单,其实对译者而言却充满了陷阱,值得细细体会。本文的标题很容易使人想起 E.M. Foster 的小说 A Passage to India (《印度之行》),但是这里不能译为 "A Passage to Xishuang Banna",因为这篇游记里作者只写了一次经历,而不是在西双版纳一路游览时的种种事件。
- 2. 本句汉语原文含有四个动词词组,即"起飞"、"载着我们"、"飞越群山"、"送到······景洪",但是它们并不表示同样性质的动作,在意义上有主有次,其中"飞越"和"送"表示主要意义,"起飞"和"载"则表示次要意义。这类句子译成英语时,通常必须把表示主要意义的汉语动词译为英语的谓语动词,表示次要意义的汉语动词则译为非谓语动词或介词短语等其它形式。这里"起飞"和"载"如果用英语动词表示,则有画蛇添足之嫌。试比较:
 - A) A small plane took off from Kunming, carried us, flew over the mountains, and sent us to...
 - B) A small plane which took off from Kunming carried us over the mountains, and sent us

这里例 A 为错句,因为"载着我们"是静态动词,表示飞机飞行时的伴随状态,其它动词为动态动词,表示飞机的动作,两类不同性质的动词不能并列,所以要用其它手段表示(参考译文中的 sent us 已经包含此义,所以不能再译出)。例 B 也不自然,因为这里并不需要描写飞机起飞的动作。需要注意的是,这里汉语原文中的动词词组"起飞"是不能省略的。换言

- 之,汉译英时,句子里表示次要意义的动词往往要转类甚至干脆不译。
- 3. "少数民族"也是中华民族的一部分,所以原则上译为 national minorities 或 ethnic minorities。 在非正式文体中有时也可用 minority people,但是不能译为 minority nationalities。
- 4. "散住"二字中的"散"表示状态,英语译文中的过去分词 scattered 是主语补语。这里不能用副词 scatteredly。
- 5. 本句不少人可能会译成 We were just in time to join in their Water Splashing Festival when we arrived there。参考译文中把二者合为一个主谓结构,十分简洁。
- 6. 本句的谓语动词 gathered 需要复数主语,所以不能用 everyone。此外,"手里都拿着小面盆"的参考译文中加了介词短语"of water"。因为人们准备庆祝泼水节时手里不可能拿着空面盆。
- 7. 这里"跳舞"二字看似简单,其实极易译错。不少人把本句译成:
 - A) Then they began to dance.
 - B) Then the dance began.
 - 例 A 显然与上下文不符,因为是六个男青年先开始跳舞,其它人后来才加入他们的行列的。例 B 中定冠词意味着某支舞曲(很可能上文中已经提到过)开始了。在原文中"跳舞"指泼水节的几项活动之一,所以只能用动名词。
- 8. 这里"头上系着的浅紫色丝带在脑后打个结"是次要结构,表达次要信息,所以不能用主谓结构。参考译文用了独立主格结构,恰到好处。
- 9. 本句中"一边……,一边……"结构表示的是这些男青年在人群中穿行时的伴随动作,所以"穿行"用谓语动词译出,表示跳舞和打鼓的动词则用现在分词表示。
- 10. 本句"回敬"一词也可译为 "splashed back",但是"笑着"二字却颇费思量。试比较:
 - A) who splashed back with a smile
 - B) who splashed back smilingly
 - C) who splashed back with a laugh

这几种译法都是不可接受的。首先 smile 一词表示一种"无声的微笑",与泼水节欢快的场面格格不入。其次,with a smile 和 with a laugh 表示笑了笑然后再"回敬",这也不符合当时人们自始至终开怀大笑的欢快场景。

11. "我真不记得······"这种结构很容易被译成带宾语从句的句子: I really cannot remember that I had more hilarious time。这里参考译文中用的是简单句,值得仔细体会。



II. Translate the following sentences into English.

- 1. 西双版纳是我国云南著名风景区,每年吸引了数十万游客。
- 2. 泼水节是傣族的重要节日,时间在傣历六月,相当于公历4月中旬。
- 3. 杭州位于钱塘江北岸,是一座花园城市,素以风景优美著称。
- 4. 每年国庆节数百万人从全国各地来到北京,游览故宫和长城等世界著名历史景点。
- 5. 在少数民族地区旅游, 你不但能观赏到美丽的风景, 还能领略到当地的民俗和传统文化。
- 6. 在宾馆里,旅行者不但可以休息,还可以参与各种各样的文化娱乐。

英语笔译宝备 (三级)

- 7. 我至今还清楚地记得那年在北京看到周恩来总理的情景。
- 8. 随着生活水平的提高,越来越多的人选择在节假日外出旅游。
- 9. "三峡"是瞿塘峡、巫峡和西陵峡三段峡谷的总称,它西起四川奉节县,东到湖北宜昌, 全长 204 公里。
- 10. 2009 年三峡工程竣工后,这里将是我国重要的工农业生产基地,又是旅游胜地。



一、理解原文

理解是整个翻译过程的第一个环节。它的重要性是不言面喻的,因为错误的理解不可能译出 正确的译文。所以在下笔之前一定要努力吃透原文。要吃透原文就必须仔细阅读原文,不仅要准 确地理解每一个词和句子,而且要准确地理解词与词、句子与句子、段落与段落之间的内在联系。 毫不夸张地说,只要能真正吃透原文的意思,译文也就呼之欲出了。所以,著名的德国哲学家伽 德默尔说:"阅读即翻译,而翻译则是第二次翻译了。"

在翻译实践中,不少人自以为吃透了原文的意义。事实并非如此。上面英语短文并不很难,但是有些译文却是错误百出。例如:

- The view into the crater of the Masaya Volcano in Nicaragua is a breathtaking experience, enlivened by the accompanying strong smell of sulphur and the loud screaming of parrots
 - 误译:游览尼加拉瓜的玛莎雅火山是一次惊心动魄的历程。置身其中,你会被从火山口 喷发出来的强烈硫磺气味和鹦鹉的尖叫声所震撼。
 - 说明:译文用后一句来说明游览尼加拉瓜的玛莎雅火山是一次惊心动魄的历程。事实上原文包含两层意思:一、朝火山口看去给人一种窒息的感觉;二、闻到强烈的硫磺味和听到鹦鹉的叫声又令人惊叹。"看"与"听、闻"是两种不同的体验,不可混为一谈。译者显然没有意识到这一点。
- 2) Yet the car park on the edge of the crater is nearly empty. This is a boon for daring travelers who can enjoy all the beauty without having to share it with hordes of others visitors.
 - 误译:大胆的旅游者甚至把汽车停在火山口边缘,借此独览火山口的全部美景,而不必 簇拥在一大群游客中与别人一同分享。
 - 说明:原文的意思正好相反,即因为绝大多数人没有勇气把车子停在火山口的边缘,所以那里的停车场是空荡荡的;正因为如此,独览火山口的全部美景才是对少数勇敢者的奖赏。
- 3) Geological enthusiasts could also follow a volcanic trail through Central America.
 - 误译: 地理学爱好者也可以沿着由众多火山构成的道路穿越整个中美洲。
 - 说明: volcanic trail 指连接各座火山的小道,而不是由火山构成的道路。再如: forest trail 指 "林间小道" 而不是 "由森林构成的小道"。另外, geological 是 geology (地质学)的形容词形式。

4) There are many volcanoes in just a small area, ...

误译:中美洲火山众多,即使是一小块土地上也有许多火山。

说明: 读者只要仔细地看一下整个段落, 就不难明白原文的意思实际上是, 这条 volcanic trail 经过的地区就是 just a small area。

5) Some of them are partially accessible.

误译:有些火山不能完全接近。

说明:这句汉语句子本身就不通,不懂英语的读者看了难免一头雾水。这也说明译者没有很好地理解原文。这句原文的意思必须和上文联系起来才能理解。上面的参考译文添加了几个字,意思就清楚了。其中最后几个字"难窥全貌"也可译为"难以接近"。

二、汉译英时英语词形的选择

在词汇层面上,汉译英时除了在准确理解原文的基础上选择正确的词以外,还有一个词形的选择问题。这是因为汉语是没有形态变化的语言,而英语是有形态变化的语言。同一个汉语单词,往往可以有几个不同词性或形态的英语单词与之对应。如上面的汉语原文中的"跳舞"和"到达",英语中就有四五个不同的词形与之相对应:

跳舞: dance (名词), dance (动词), to dance (不定式), dancing (动名词或现在分词) 到达: arrive (动词), to arrive (不定式), arriving (动名词或现在分词), arrival (名词)

上面的例子表明,英语词汇往往可以通过加前缀或后缀的方法构成不同的词类,但其根本意义不变;而汉语的单词则缺乏词形变化。因此,几个词根相同的英语单词可以译为同一个汉语单词,与此相反,一个汉语单词也往往可以译为几个词形不同的英语单词。例如:

1) 他来了, 我很高兴。

译文一: I was delighted that he arrived.

译文二: His arrival delighted me.

译文三: His arriving delighted me.

2a) 驴子突然叫唤了一声,老虎以为它要咬自己,便吓得逃走了。

Just then the donkey suddenly gave a loud bray.

2b) 几天以后老虎听惯了驴子的叫声,不再像以前那样害怕了。

After a few days the tiger gradually became accustomed to the donkey's *braying* and was no longer so afraid.

2c) 驴子不仅大叫起来,并用后蹄狠狠地踢老虎。

He (The donkey) not only brayed loudly, but struck out his hind legs and kicked wildly,

3) 每天有上万人游览这座公园。

译文一: About 10.000 people visit the garden every day.

译文二: The garden has about 10,000 visitors every day.

这里第1例中汉语动词"来了"可用三种不同的词形(谓语动词、名词和动名词)表示,句子意义的差异主要体现在文体上,词义本身没有太大的区别。但是在第2例中,bray的三种形式却

英语笔译宝条 (三级)

表示了不同的含义。例 2a 要求译文表示驴子只叫了一声,如果把 brayed 用作谓语动词就不能表示这种意义。例 2b 中"驴子的叫声"包含驴子叫的方式,因此动名词 braying 显然比名词 bray 要好的多。例 2c 中的"叫"含驴子不停地大叫的意思,所以用 brayed 最为确切。同理,上面课文中的"笑着回敬"中的"笑着"只能用 laughingly 或 laughing all the time,表示人们始终在开怀大笑;如用名词 laugh (with a laugh),译文呈现给读者的则是一幅完全不同的图景了。

至于文体上的差异,通常英语的动词形式相对比较接近口语,而名词和动名词形式相对比较正式,通常用在书面语中。如上面例 1 的"译文一"最为常用,"译文二"和"译文三"相对比较正式。其中"译文三"中的动名词比"译文二"中的名词形式含有更强的动态意义,所以它表示的不仅仅是个简单的事实。同样,例 3 的"译文二"显然比"译文一"更为正式。

另外,由于汉语词形的限制,汉语中的"形容词+名词"和"副词+动词"结构,通常很难互相转换,但是英语非常灵活,因此,汉译英时,切不可逐字翻译,必须根据上下文的要求灵活掌握。例如:

4) 他工作很努力。

译文一: He works hard.

译文二: He is a hard worker.

5) 她很会写文章。

译文一: She writes very well.

译文二: She is a very good writer.

总之,译者必须充分认识到英汉两种语言在词形上的差异,充分认识的同一单词不同词形的 意义与文体差别,准确地表达原文的意义。



MORE EXERCISES

I. Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

- 1. Prague offers a stunning blend of history and modernization.
- 2. One day I strolled into a curiosity shop where I browsed the antiques on display.
- 3. To travel by Greyhound is easy, cheap and convenient, though not so fast as travelling by plane or so comfortable as by train.
- 4. In January New England was covered with thick snow and ice while Miami was warm with flowers in blossoms.
- 5. Sparsely populated by the descendants of its original inhabitants, Arnhem Land is accessible through specialized operators (some of them Aboriginal owned) which give travellers rare and unforgettable insights into indigenous Australian art and culture.
- 6. The island continent of Australia offers an enormous array of scenic variety and you can take the opportunity of enjoying just about every adventure you've ever dreamed possible.
- 7. The idea of going to Europe just for scenery is my idea of a misspent journey when there are so many different cultures to explore and historical and artistic experiences to absorb.
- 8. (Scotland is spectacularly beautiful.) From moors to dark brooding mountains to bottomless lochs, and from sweeping ocean beaches to ranges of blue hills profiled like a Chinese water-colour, the landscape rarely failed to interest and often evoked awe.

- 9. Mark Twain was so impressed that he said of Montreal "you can't throw a brick without hitting a church."
- 10. The villages and towns were usually perched on the edge (of the farms) so as not to waste arable soil and because there was a need, before the High dam tamed the Nile, to live beyond the reach of the annual floods.

II. Translate the following sentences into English. Try to come up with two versions for each.

- 1. 他烟抽得很厉害。
- 2. 她酷爱音乐,并具有舞蹈天赋。
- 3. 你一定很不会学,要不然就是教你的人不会教。
- 4. 在车没有停稳之前请不要站起来。
- 5. 你要当合格的导游,就必须熟悉这个国家的历史和文化。
- 6. 要学好英语,就必须尽可能多地接触这门语言。
- 7. 没有党的坚强领导,要实现四个现代化是不可能的。
- 8. 二十世纪八十年代,大量的乡镇企业兴起,给中国经济带来了空前的活力。
- 9. 这件事本身便表明,他们是有合作的诚意的。
- 10. 那好看的苹果、桃子和石榴把自己的果子悬在枝上,鲜红嫩绿的颜色,令人一望而发羡慕的 心。

III. Translate the following passage into Chinese.

Delta

The large river best known to the ancient Greeks was the Nile of Egypt. They spoke of the river with admiration and called Egypt "the gift of the Nile". The reason for this was, first, that the Nile brought water to a rainless desert and, second, that once a year, the river overflowed its banks, leaving, as the water went back, a new layer of fertile soil.

The flood waters carry in them soil (called silt) from the upper parts of the river valley to the lower parts, and so to the sea. But as the river meets the sea, the sea acts as a barrier and forces the river to drop the silt it is carrying.

There are no tides in the Mediterranean to carry the silt away, so year after year it collects at the mouth of the Nile, and the river must find its way around islands of silt to the always more distant Mediterranean. In this way, a vast area of fertile soil has been built up at the mouth of the Nile and out into the sea. The river water splits up to form small branches winding across the area. To the ancient Greeks, the mouth of the Nile looked like the Greek alphabet delta.

Now we sometimes name things after the letters of the alphabet they resemble: a U-turn, an I-beam a T-square, an S-bend, and so on. The Greeks did the same. The triangular area of land built up at the mouth of the Nile looked like the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet delta (\triangle) and so this was the name

they gave it. The word is now used for all areas of land formed at the mouth of rivers which flow into tideless seas, even when they are nor triangular in shape. The Mississippi delta, for example, is not shaped at all like the Greek delta, as you will see if you look at a map.

IV. Translate the following passage into English.

万里长城

两千多年前的春秋战国时期,中国北方有个匈奴民族,经常侵扰南部周朝的几个诸侯国。战国七雄中的秦、赵、燕三国,为了保卫自己的国家,都在自己的边界上修筑了很长的城墙。那时候,这三段城墙之间还没有连接起来。

秦始皇灭六国,统一中国以后,在公元前 215年,派大将蒙恬统帅三十万军队,打败了匈奴。接着,命令三十万军队和几十万的民工整修和扩建长城。前后修了十几年,把三段城墙连接了起来,长达五千余华里,人们一般称为"长城"。在历史上又称为"秦长城"。

以后,历代王朝都对长城进行过修建,特别是明朝时候,曾经先后三次大规模地扩建长城,直到公元 1500 年前后,"明长城"才全部建成。这样,加上原有的"秦长城",这座长城东起山海关,经过内蒙、山西、陕西、宁夏,西到甘肃嘉峪关,就像条长龙一样,总长一万二千七百多华里,号称"万里长城"。假如把修筑长城的砖块和石头,用来筑成高二点五米、宽一米的城墙,那末可以绕地球一周还绰绰有余。

雄伟壮观的长城是中华民族创造的最宏伟的工程奇迹,她像—条巨龙,飞舞于广袤平原,绵亘于群山峻岭,显示着中华民族的智慧和力量。凡到过长城的人无不惊叹她的磅礴气势、宏伟规模和 艰巨工程。长城是中华民族的进取精神的缩影,也是中华民族文明的象征,现已被列为"世界文化遗产"。长城存在的久恒,影响的深远,是世界上任何其它文化遗产所无法比拟的。

REFERENCE TRANSLATIONS OF THE TEXTS



远离人群——去玛雅

中美洲蕴藏着大量的秘密宝藏,包括众多的古代玛雅遗址,等待着那些喜欢远离人群的旅行者去发现。

中美洲的七个国家——危地马拉、巴拿马、伯利兹、洪都拉斯、萨尔瓦多、尼加拉瓜和哥斯达黎加——遍布自然美景和文化宝藏。本地区有许多自然保护区、古玛雅人遗址和殖民时期的城市已经被联合国教科文组织列入世界文化遗产。

那里有太多的火山和珍禽异兽有待探寻,可是它们却鲜为外人所知。例如,尼加拉瓜的玛莎雅火山口的奇观令人屏息,喷发出来的强烈硫磺气味和引起的鹦鹉的尖叫声又叫人惊叹不已。然而此时火山口附近的停车场却几乎空无一人。这是给勇敢者的一种奖赏,他们可以尽情独享这一切,而不必同比肩接踵的其它游客分享美景。

萨尔瓦多有一条"鲜花之路",尼加拉瓜则有一条"白色村庄之路",连接殖民时期留下来的各个村庄。洪都拉斯也正在开发一条通道,把大西洋沿岸的美洲土著人社区连接起来。

地质爱好者也可以沿着连接各座火山的小道穿越中美洲。中美洲地域不大,但是火山众多。 有些火山呈完美的圆锥形,山口终年喷着烟雾。有些火山因烟灰浓烈而难窥全貌。

旅游汽车可以到达高度仅 500 米的尼加拉瓜玛莎雅活火山口的边缘。出于安全原因,每个旅游者登山前必须先到当地旅游局了解有关信息。

2000 年 8 月,哥斯达黎加北部的阿雷纳尔火山突然喷出滚烫的气体和火山灰,令当地居民和游客猝不及防,魂飞魄散。

旅游散客也很容易获取有关旅游资料。配有空调和电视的长途客车连接着本地区的所有国家, 是非常舒适的交通工具。

要是你搭乘的是当地破旧的小客车,你很快就可以与当地居民和动物亲密接触。随时会有一只母鸡像小孩一样撞到你的怀里。



A Visit to Xishuang Banna

A small plane from Kunming carried us over the mountain tops and set us down in Jinghong, capital of Xishuang Banna Dai Autonomous Prefecture. It covers an area of 25, 000 square kilometres, fifty per cent of which is mountain forests. Thirty per cent of its 620,000 population are Dais, but there are also other national minorities who live scattered mainly in the mountains.

We arrived just in time to join in their Water Splashing Festival. It is celebrated by all the minority people, as well as by the Hans who have settled down there. The festival lasts for three days and marks the Dai New Year. We went to a Dai village. All gathered in a large open square, with small basins of water in their hands.

Then dancing began. Six young men, heads bound by strips of pale purple silk tied in the back, wove their way through the crowd in a large circle, dancing gracefully while beating their drums.

Everybody joined in, the Hans and foreign visitors alike. Villagers splashed the cadres and local armymen, who laughingly returned the compliment. Water flew merrily from all sides. In a short while we were all soaked from head to foot. I really can't remember when I had a more hilarious time.