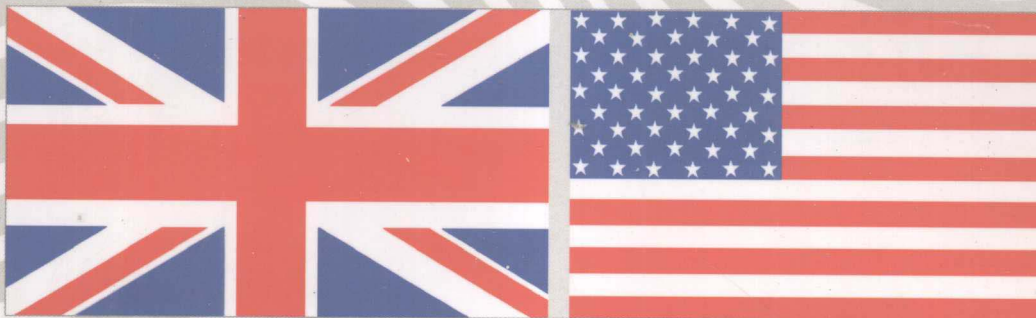


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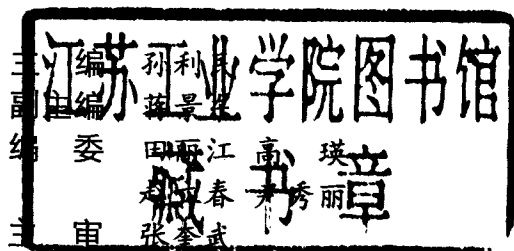
LANGUAGE
&
CULTURE
语言与文化

孙利民 / 主编 张奎武 / 主审

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语言与文化



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内容提要

本书分为两个部分。第一部分按内容划分为 10 章。第一章为绪论,给出了语言、文化和思维的定义,讨论了语言、文化和思维的特征,进而探讨了这三者之间的关系。第二章探讨词汇与意义之间的关系。第三章介绍了英汉语法的一些主要差异,同时也介绍了一些学者对于语法、文化和思维之间关系的研究成果。第四章介绍英语和汉语日常谈话中的文化习俗差异,正确理解和使用英语称呼语、问候语和辞别语,以及其它一些社交常用语。第五章主要在文化的层面上讲述英语独有的和英语及汉语相对应而又存在差异的成语、谚语和典故,并了解它们的文化内涵。第六章主要讲解明喻和隐喻的含义,介绍比喻中本体、喻体和比喻词之间的关系;第七章讲述了汉语中的敬语、谦语、委婉语和禁忌语在英语中的适当表达方式,以及英语和汉语中有关敬语和谦词的文化差异。第八章介绍语篇与文化之间的关系。这是语言与文化研究的一个前沿领域,尚有待深入探究。第九章简要介绍英语的两个地域方言和四个语域,使学习者对一些英语变体有一个概括的了解。本章还探讨一些英语变体与相应的汉语变体的差别,以及造成这些差别的文化因素。第十章介绍非语言交际的基本概念、非语言交际的定义、非语言信息的功能、以及非语言交际与文化之间的关系。第二部分是练习部分,包括习题、试卷、习题和试卷的详细解答。

本书可用作大专院校英语专业的教材或各种相关考试的辅导用书,也适用于外事、导游、出国人员阅读。

前 言

语言与文化的关系是密不可分的。语言是人类用来表达思想和传递感情的交际工具。语言反映出使用该语言的民族的地域特征、历史文化、经济发展、风土人情、社会习俗。语言是文化的重要载体和表现形式,语言的使用规则实际上就是这种语言所属文化的各种因素。语言是一种文化现象,也是一种社会现象。在语言自身的漫长发展中,文化因素时时刻刻,无处不在地对语言进行渗透,语言因此也就积累了难以计数的文化沉淀。从这个意义上说,语言与文化有着水乳交融的关系。语言的使用脱离不了产生这种语言的社会环境,所以,学习一种语言实际上就是学习一种文化。学习和运用语言必须了解与这种语言密切相关的文化。不了解语言中所蕴含的社会文化就无法真正掌握一种语言。所以,熟悉有关文化知识有助于保证学好语言,使用语言得当。这点,在外语学习和应用方面表现得尤为突出。

基于以上道理,也为了帮助中国人学好英语,用好英语,我们编写了本书,希望本书能够真正地帮助读者从语言中学习文化,又从文化中学习语言;既能学到文化知识,又能掌握语言技巧。

本书的特点主要表现在以下几个方面:

1. 本书采取有的放矢的方法提出问题,并从英美民族文化历史的各个侧面去探索语言和文化的关系。
2. 本书从大量的语言材料中分析语言与文化的密切关系,通过加深对英语民族文化的了解来提高跨文化的语言交际能力。
3. 本书从文化差异的角度,采用对比的方法探讨英汉两种语言的语用功能,表达方式和双向转换问题。
4. 本书不仅注意从表层现象和表现方式考察英汉语言和文化的

差异问题,而且还重视对其产生差异的深层思维模式的探究。

5. 本书采取问答形式对课程中的主要问题进行解答,层次分明,有助理解,容易记忆。本书还辅以大量的习题和试题。这两个特点(问题解答 + 习题试题)非常适用于大学生参加校内外的有关考试,考研,以及参加国家自学考试的考生。

本书由孙利民担任主编(负责第一部分 1 — 5 章的编写),蒋景东担任副主编(负责第一部分 8 — 10 章和第二部分中一些习题的编写);参加编写的还有田丽江(负责第一部分 6 — 7 章的编写)、高瑛、赵立春和尹秀丽(负责材料的收集和整理工作,以及部分习题的编写);最后由孙利民统一定稿,张奎武教授主审。

本书在撰写过程中参阅了大量的词典、著作、学术论文和文章,恕不在此一一致谢。书中如有不当之处,恳请专家学者不吝赐教。

编 者
2005 年 3 月

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PART ONE
TOPICS FOR
CONSIDERATION

Chapter One

Language, Culture and Thought

1. How would you define the terms system, arbitrary, vocal, symbol, human-specific, and communication as used in the discussion of language?

1) Language is a system, because:

- (1) It is rule-governed;
- (2) Its speakers have to follow these rules when they speak;
- (3) There would be no communication, either oral or written, without these rules.

2) Language is arbitrary, because:

(1) Basically, there is no logical relationship between language items and their meanings. They are decided or arranged without reasons or plans;

(2) Words are only arbitrary symbols. They are almost meaningless when they are separated;

(3) But language is not entirely arbitrary. There are exceptions, such as onomatopoeic words and compounds.

3) Language is vocal, because:

(1) Speech is the primary medium of language, while writing is secondary;

(2) But that does not mean that writing is not important.

4) Language is a set of symbols because:

(1) Words are arbitrarily associated with objects, actions and ideas through convention;

(2) Words are nothing but symbols.

5) Language is human specific because:

(1) Only human beings possess what can be called language in the true sense of the term;

(2) Animals do communicate among themselves, but the medium they use cannot be defined as language.

6) Language is used for communication because:

(1) Communication is the fundamental function of language;

(2) Human societies would not operate normally without communication by means of language.

2. How would you explain the statement that language is a carrier and container of cultural information?

1) Human experience and knowledge are represented in language;

2) Without language as the carrier and container of cultural information there would be no such a way as to pass human experience and knowledge to next generations, and human beings have to experience everything anew personally for knowledge about the world;

3) If this should be true, humankind would never be able to reach this stage of civilization.

3. Is the term language used in senses other than the ones discussed in this chapter?

In this course, the term “language” is used in its technical sense, but it can be used in other senses as well.

1) It may refer to a concrete act of speaking in a given situation. For example, “He expressed himself badly. He has a language problem.”

2) It may mean an individual's consistent way of speaking or writing, such as "Lu Xun's language";

3) It may refer to everything in a language system that makes it different from any other such systems. Examples are: "the Chinese language" or "the English language";

4) Of course it may be used in some other senses, too.

4. Culture can be defined as "attributes of man" in its broad sense, including whatever distinguishes man from the rest part of the world. Culture is contrasted with nature;

1) Culture can be discussed in either its broad sense or its narrow sense;

2) Culture can be defined as "attributes of man" in its broad sense, including whatever distinguishes man from the rest part of the world. Culture is contrasted with nature;

3) Culture can be defined as "life way of a population" in its narrow sense, meaning what characterizes the particular way of life of a population. Culture is contrasted with other cultures.

5. How would you define large C Culture or academic culture and small c culture or anthropological culture? What are the major differences between them?

1) Culture in the sense of "attributes of man" is known as large C Culture or academic culture.

2) Culture in the sense of "life way of a population" is called small c culture or anthropological culture.

Major differences between large C Culture and small c culture:

1) Large C Culture is concerned with characteristics of man as contrasted with those of nature;

2) Small c culture is concerned with the way of life of a population as contrasted with life ways of other populations;

3) Large C Culture contains six important components:

(1) Social institutions and organizations;

(2) Language and other communicational systems;

(3) Customs, habits and behavioral patterns;

(4) Value systems, world views, national traits, aesthetic standards, thinking patterns;

(5) Materials; and

(6) Knowledge about nature and man himself and artistic development;

4) In large C Culture defined above, 1), 2), 3) and 4) are important, while 5) and 6) are marginal in small c culture.

6. What are the properties of culture?

1) Culture is human specific, which means that only human beings have what can be called culture;

2) It is a social phenomenon, which means that culture is a cooperative product of human societies;

3) It is a national phenomenon, which means that each nation has been living in its unique geographical and historical framework in which a unique culture has been established and developed;

4) It is a historical phenomenon, which means that each generation inherits the culture established by its forefathers.

7. How would you support or refute the statement that language is determined by culture?

Refutation:

1) Although strongly influenced and shaped by culture, language is not entirely determined by culture;

- 2) Language exerts its influence on culture as well;
- 3) A language helps to reinforce certain ideas and beliefs within a culture;
- 4) Each language is a system in its own right;
- 5) So, for these reasons, we cannot say that language is determined by culture.

8. How would you explain the relationship between language and culture?

- 1) The relationship between language and culture is complex, each influencing and shaping the other;
- 2) Language is part of culture, but it is a special part of culture, because it can represent all the other components of culture;
- 3) Language is strongly influenced and shaped by culture, reflecting many features of culture;
- 4) But language is not determined by culture. On the contrary, it exerts its influence on culture, helping to reinforce certain ideas and beliefs;
- 5) In short, language and culture interact and interplay.

9. Can you cite a few examples to show the close relationship between culture and language?

- 1) Human knowledge and experience can be described and stored in language. For example:
 - (1) Culture itself is discussed in language;
 - (2) Eskimos, living in the world of snow, have as many as seven different words for snow to distinguish among different types of snow;
 - (3) Chinese people talk about kinship relations much easier than the English speaking people, because there are many more kinship

terms in Chinese than in English;

2) The above-mentioned examples show that language is a mirror of culture and illustrate the close relationship between language and culture.

10. Discuss briefly the three models for the analysis of culture.

1) Key Questions model. It was proposed by Nelson Brooks, highlighting the individual and institutional aspects of culture;

2) Thematic model. It was proposed by Howard Lee Nostrand, emphasizing three culture elements: values, traits and world views on which H. L. Nostrand's twelve themes of culture are based;

3) Seven facets model. It emphasizes the behavioral aspects of culture and treats whatever one does, says or thinks as behavior. It maintains that each behavior has seven facets.

11. What is thought?

1) Thought is the function and product of the human brain;

2) Thought is a social product, part of culture. It refers to patterns of ideas characteristic of a social group.

12. How would you define the terms of logical thinking and artistic thinking as used in the discussion of thought?

1) Logical or abstract thinking: It refers to thinking in terms of pure reasoning.

2) Artistic thinking: It refers to thinking in which images are particularly attended to.

3) Logical and artistic thinking are not mutually exclusive.

13. How is language related to thought?

1) Language is an instrument used in the communication of

thought;

2) Language is closely related to thinking;

3) Since language represents thought, it is influenced and shaped by thought;

4) Language is used for conveying ideas, so its structure and function must reflect these ideas;

5) Language also exerts strong influence on thought.

14. Can you cite a couple of examples to show the close relationship between thought and language?

1) Analogy is a way of thinking. In language there are metaphors and similes to reflect this way of thinking;

2) In Chinese, there is a small set of words termed as quantifiers, many of which suggest the shape of the objects involved. They reflect how the Chinese people look at objects.

15. How are language, culture and thought related?

1) Language, culture and thought interact and interplay, each influencing and shaping the other two;

2) They are seen as three parts of a whole. No one can operate independently. They are mixed together and can never be separated.

Chapter Two

Words and Meaning

1. How would you define the term “word”?

- 1) In a sense, a word is an intuitively recognizable unit;
- 2) In speech, it is a sequence of sounds between pauses;
- 3) In writing, it is a sequence of letters between blanks;
- 4) In the textbook, “Language and Culture”, a dictionary entry is treated as a “word”.

2. How would you define “meaning”? Can you explain the following terms: conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, reflected meaning, affective meaning, and collocative meaning?

Meaning:

1) Meaning: There are several ways to define meaning. In the textbook, “Language and Culture”, “meaning” is treated as the total sum of several types of meaning, including the following meanings:

- (1) conceptual;
- (2) connotative;
- (3) social;
- (4) affective;
- (5) reflected;
- (6) collocative; and
- (7) thematic.

2) Connotative, social, affective, reflected, and collocative