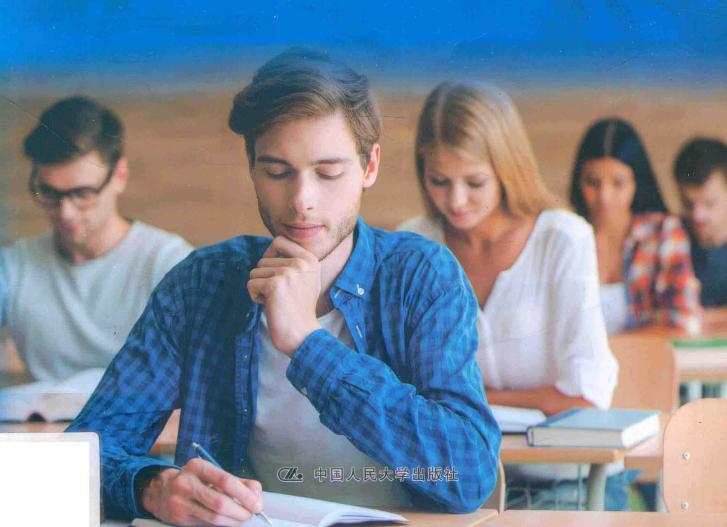
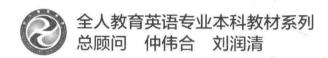
WORKPLACE WRITINGS—FOCUS ON DOING 实用英语写作教程

主编 | 高非汪顺玉





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总序

教育作为一种社会现象,自人类社会产生之日起就出现了。在人类社会的发展过程中,人类积累了经验和知识,这些经验和知识传递给下一代的活动就是教育的雏形。随着人类知识和经验的不断增加,教育活动也不断发展和完善,逐渐成为一种组织严密、培养人的正规社会活动。教育的重要性是无与伦比的,之所谓"建国君民,教学为先"就是这个道理。今天几乎没有人会否认迪斯累里(Disraeli)在1874年所说的话:"一个国家的命运取决于这个国家的人民的教育。"外语教育作为教育的一个重要组成部分,在人类的教育中扮演着十分重要的角色。外语教育如何在我国的教育中发挥自己的作用,这是我们所有外语学人必须关注的问题。我国的外语教育有一百多年的历史,取得了辉煌的成就,但如何进一步提升外语教育的质量,这是当今外语教育的核心问题,也是外语教育改革的一个永恒主题。英语专业教育如何提升自己的质量,到底希望培养什么样的学生,怎样才能实现这些希望,这是我们英语专业教师必须思考的问题,也是英语专业教育改革的核心问题。把英语作为专业外语来学习,这是时代的需求,既是个人的需要,更是国家语言战略规划的需要。

《国家中长期教育改革和发展规划纲要(2010—2020年)》明确指出,要"适应国家经济社会对外开放的要求,培养大批具有国际视野、通晓国际规则、能够参与国际事务和国际竞争的国际化人才"。要培养既通晓相关专业知识又熟练掌握外语的优秀人才,我国的外语教育责无旁贷。英语专业是我国高等教育的重要组成部分,其专业化、特色化非常明显。我们组织编写这套"全人教育英语专业本科教材系列",其目的就是为了彰显英语专业教育的特色,满足我国英语专业教育的多元需要。在编写之前,我们研究了多种国内外现行的英语专业教科书,咨询资深专家学者,进行了充分的调研和需求分析,确定了本套教材的编写理念和编写方案,最终本套教材才得以与广大师生见面。

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一、编写依据

1. 政策依据

"全人教育英语专业本科教材系列"编写的政策依据是《国家中长期教育改革和发展规划纲要(2010—2020年)》《教育部关于全面提高高等教育质量的若干意见》(教高【2012】4号)以及即将颁布的《英语类专业本科教学质量国家标准》(讨论稿)。在编写过程中我们充分考虑到新常态下我国英语专业教育的现状,并力求体现当代英语专业教育的本质、特征、目标和任务,贯彻为实现目标所倡导的外语教育理念、教学原则、教学模式、教学过程、教学方法和教学评价,着力服务并促进我国英语专业教育改革,提升英语专业教育的质量,更好地提高英语专业学生的英语水平、跨文化交际能力和综合素质,促进学生的全面发展。

2. 理论依据

本套教材编写的理论依据主要是教育学、心理学、语言学、认知神经科学等学科的理论和原则。 其教育学依据主要是"全人教育理论"(holistic education),主张"教单科、育全人"的外语教育理念;其 心理学依据主要是多元智能理论,强调英语学习的特殊性,把听、说、读、写、译等基本技能与学 生的多元智能有机地结合起来;其语言学依据主要是应用语言学和教育语言学,尤其是终身学习理 论下的体验学习、自主学习与合作学习;其认知神经科学依据主要是全脑教育,认知神经科学有助 于我们理解人脑的共同之处与个体差异,有助于英语教学的因材施教,人脑具有可塑性,只要学生 拥有信心、自尊和动机,外语学习随时都可以成功。

3. 实践依据

本套教材的编写是在广泛调研的基础上进行的。针对我国英语专业学生的英语水平和学习情况,并参照英汉语言文化的差异,系统地培养和提高学生的语言意识和文化意识,提高他们的英语水平、跨文化交际能力和国际视野。我们在编写前对国内多所院校的英语专业教学的实际情况进行了需求分析,与专家学者、教师、学生开展了广泛的交流,同时也吸收了国内外同类优质教材的宝贵经验以及英语专业教材编写的经验。此外,本套教材的编写还认真参考了《义务教育英语课程标准》(2011年版)和《高中英语新课程标准》,充分考虑了英语专业教学与中学英语的合理衔接,内容编排也考虑了大学生的认知和情感特点。

二、教材特色

记不清楚是谁说过这样一句话:"教育是民族的根本;教科书是教育的根本。"由此可见教科书的重要性。现代社会教科书在学校教育中的地位是双重的:一方面,互联网时代学生获得信息的渠道快捷而方便,慕课(MOOC)、私播课(SPOC)等也冲击着高校课堂,传统教科书的权威性已受到极大的挑战;另一方面,教科书仍然是课程的中心和学校教育的重要载体,教科书的地位同时得到教育主管部门和教师的强化。当今我国英语专业教育改革的不断深化,给教科书的内容、使用和

外部环境都带来了很多变化。教科书要与时俱进,编写新教材就势在必行。

"全人教育英语专业本科教材系列"正是在上述背景下应运而生的。本套教材以《英语类专业本科教学质量国家标准》(讨论稿)为指导,以教育学、心理学、语言学、学习科学、认知神经科学等学科为理论依据,以培养学生的英语应用能力及跨文化交际能力为核心,以促进学生的全面发展为目标,针对我国英语专业教学的现状以及学生的心理、生理和认知特点,主要突出以下特色:

1. 倡导"教单科、育全人"的全人教育理念

"全人教育英语专业本科教材系列"编写的主要理念是"教单科、育全人"的全人教育,即以"终身学习和终身发展"的育人、发展人、提高人的综合素质为核心的教育模式。这一模式体现了人本主义的基本思想:学习就是成为一个和谐而完善的人。也就是要把学生培养成为有道德、有知识、有能力、和谐发展的"完人"。我们虽然教的是英语专业,注重学生的基本知识和基本技能,但培育的是一个完整的人。所以,在英语专业教学中决不能忽视对人的培养,要帮助学生树立正确的人生观、价值观和世界观,教育学生认知、认同和践行社会主义核心价值观。联合国教科文组织和国际教育发展委员会编著的《学会生存——教育世界的今天和明天》中就特别强调要"培养完人"(2009:192),"把一个人在体力、智力、情绪、伦理各方面的因素综合起来,使他成为一个完善的人,这就是对教育基本目的的一个广义的界说"(2009:195)。

2. 围绕"教育的四大支柱", 突显体验学习和自主学习

全人教育特别重视人生的经验和体验学习。本套教材的编写始终围绕四种基本的学习能力进行安排,即教育的四大支柱: 学会认知 (learning to know)、学会做事 (learning to do)、学会共同生活 (learning to live together)以及学会生存 (learning to be)。教材的编写始终把语言知识、语言技能、学习能力和学习策略等融入教材内容中,通过任务、活动及练习的设置引导学生体验学习和自主学习;通过"体验""模仿""合作"等学习方式,丰富学生的百科知识,提高他们的英语应用能力和自主学习能力。

3. 强调批判性思维能力的培养

本套教材秉承一个重要的主张,即教育的真正目的就是让人不断地提出问题和思索问题。据说, 美国天赋教育的"童子功"人门第一招就是培养学生的批判性阅读行为,第二招就是培养批判性聆 听技巧。而批判性思维能力的培养成了各个高校课程设计围绕的核心。培养学生的批判性思维能力, 这是全人教育的重要主张之一。本套教材非常注重培养学生的批判性思维能力和创新思维能力,在 教材设计的任务、活动和练习中,引导学生对问题进行批判性思考,展示自身作为读者或参与者的 理解和评价,提出问题、分析问题和解决问题。

4. 强调英语的工具性与人文性的结合

学校教育的最终目标就是发展学生的能力。本套教材的编写充分注重工具性和人文性的结合。除了帮助学生掌握英语这一交流工具外,即提高学生英语听、说、读、写、译的能力以及跨文化交际能力,还特别强调英语教育的人文性,把以人为本、弘扬人的价值作为英语专业教育的另一核心,

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注重学生的综合素质培养和全面发展。在教材中我们充分挖掘英语专业课程丰富的人文内涵,把社会主义核心价值观有机地融入各类教材中,在潜移默化中培育和教育学生。

5. 体现实用性与趣味性的有机统一

本套教材在内容的选择、练习的设计等方面都体现了时代的特点和要求,遵循我国英语专业大学生的情感因素和认知特点,重视学生的兴趣和需求以激发他们的求知欲望,让他们变"要我学"为"我要学",从而使他们在主动学习丰富多彩的教材内容的过程中提升英语水平和综合素质。各类教材题材丰富,内容生动有趣,语言地道,文笔优美,体现了趣味性和实用性的有机统一。

6. 融中西文化为一体, 注重培养国际化视野

斯宾塞有一个著名的问题:什么知识最有价值?这一问题的背后实际上蕴含着这样的核心问题:谁的知识最有价值?用谁的文化去教育学生?在这些问题上,教科书起到很重要的作用。因此,本套教材特别注重培养学生对中国传统文化的认知与意识,注重培养和提高学生使用英语介绍中国文化的能力。教材融入中西文化,在选材方面重视本土问题和国际问题、中西对比等问题,帮助学生了解国际惯例、规则和形势。既培养学生的跨文化意识,又提升其跨文化交际能力,同时培养其国际化视野。

三、编写团队

本套教材的编写有一个强大的团队。顾问为我国著名外语教育专家、北京外国语大学博士生导师刘润清教授,以及广东外语外贸大学博士生导师仲伟合教授,总主编为西南大学博士生导师文旭教授,参加编写的主要学校有西南大学、北京理工大学、东北大学、内蒙古大学、河南大学、贵州大学、上海海事大学、西南政法大学、山西大学、广州大学、湖南科技大学、华南师范大学、陕西师范大学、西北师范大学、四川师范大学、贵州师范大学、云南师范大学、广西师范大学、海南师范大学、西华师范大学、重庆交通大学、重庆理工大学、重庆邮电大学、浙江理工大学、沈阳工业大学、西南石油大学、新疆师范大学、青海师范大学、北京信息科技大学、长江师范学院、中国海洋大学、中国石油大学、济南大学等多所高校的英语专业教师,他们长期从事英语专业教学工作,具有丰富的英语教学经验和教材编写经验,确保了教材的水平和质量。

本套教材的编写凝聚了许多专家学者和教师的经验和智慧,从内容到形式都有不少新的尝试与探索。在此,对为本套教材的编写和出版付出辛勤劳动的所有专家、老师表示衷心的感谢。对于共同研发并出版此套教材的中国人民大学出版社外语分社表示衷心感谢。诚然,由于时间仓促、水平有限,不足之处在所难免。我们会虚心听取大家的意见和批评,并在未来的教学中使之日臻完善。

全人教育英语专业本科教材系列编委会 2015年5月

前言

《实用英语写作教程》(以下简称《教程》)是针对英语专业学生进行综合素质培养的教材。《教程》涉及英语专业学生毕业后找工作、入职以及在工作中会遇到的写作任务。较之同类教材,本《教程》有四大特点:"以做带学""梯度提升""真实文本"以及"教学易施"。

"以做带学"原则贯穿每个单元。以"做(Doing)"带动教学,所编排的写作内容是学生今后在工作中会确实去"做(Doing)"的。同时,学生只有通过"做(Doing)",学习范文,完成写作任务,才能有所提升。

"梯度提升"充分体现在《教程》的总体结构和单元布局中。《教程》分为三部分。第一部分是对实用写作的总体介绍。第二部分深入浅出、系统完整地讲解了九大内容模块。从较容易的问询信到难度较大的合同写作和图标描述,编排的内容均为学生今后职业生涯可能遇到的写作任务。第三部分也颇有特点,此部分提炼出在实用写作中学生会遇到的难点句子,并在八个单元中由浅入深地讲解。第二、三部分是本教材的核心和重点,虽在编排形式上是独立的两部分,但在实际内容上是相辅相成,浑然一体;第二部分的篇章包含第三部分的句子技能,第三部分的句子技能的提升又促进第二部分篇章质量的提升。在教学实践中建议穿插进行。最后的附录包括两部分,一是学生相互修改写作的策略,是教师课堂操作,也是学生自我提升的指导;第二部分是公司中职位的英文和中文表达法。《教程》总体结构和单元内部的梯度设计,能帮助学生的写作能力稳步提升。

"真实文本"是本《教程》的独到之处。教材前期规划和编写期间,编者收集和筛选大量真实公司文书文本,并针对教学重点进行编辑。《教程》对文本加以解剖,并设计难度梯度上升的写作练习,使学生逐步读懂真实文本,并掌握工作中所需的实用英语写作技能。

"教学易施"是从任课教师的角度,让课堂教学环节易于实施。根据《教

Workplace Writings—Focus on Doing

实用英语写作教程

程》单元内部结构,教师引导学生从例文阅读的"输入",到独立写作的"产出",中间分化出例文结构分析、策略指导、语言讲解、半独立写作等环节;第三部分句子技能训练的补充,加以配套练习的详细答案,使教师在教学实施中游刃有余。

《教程》是针对英语专业学生编写的写作教材,同时也适用于非英语专业本科高年级学生和研究生,亦是提升实用英语写作自学的理想教材。

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PART ONE

INTRODUCTION

Objectives

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- 1. understand what workplace writings are about;
- 2. know the steps of effective business writing;
- 3. understand the principles and strategies of effective business writing.



INTRODUCTION

I. Overview

Workplace Writings introduces you to some of the most important aspects of writing in the real workplace. It covers a wide range of written documents from memos to legal contracts. In a textbook like this it will be impossible to cover every aspect in detail. Nonetheless, what this book attempts to achieve is to give you an introduction to the most common types of business writing you are likely to encounter in the workplace. This book also provides you with the ability to understand, construct and manipulate written information in a way that is directly transferable to future professional situations.

The ability to write well in professional situations is a much sought-after and all-too-rare skill. This book takes a hands-on approach to help you excel in writing a range of documents with its focus on "Doing," in that all the contents of this book revolve around what you will practically "Do" in your future work, i.e. write documents for communication purposes. In addition, the book presents several writing tasks that you are expected to "Do" in order to improve.

The book is organised into three parts. Part One talks about the definition of business writing, its principles, steps and strategies. Part Two consists of nine modules, each addressing one specific writing task for corporate internal or external communications. They include: inquiry letters, complaint and adjustment letters, meeting notices, application letters, memos, meeting minutes, agreements and contracts, describing graphics and oral presentation writings. Part Three contains eight units, and it serves as a "bonus" that will help you write better and smarter sentences for various tasks. Some units in this part are purposely made relevant to the modules in Part Two.

II. About Business Writing

Business writing differs substantially from the academic writing you may be used to. It is not about writing essays, compositions or assignments to achieve credits or gain marks in an exam. It is about communicating a message, which will be passed on to and comprehended by your colleagues, customers or clients, and partners and so forth. Although some workplace communication will be in your own language, the increasingly international workplace renders written communication global as well. That means the universal language, English, will be your working language in the cross-cultural business world.

Strong communication skills are pivotal for you if you aspire to rise in today's businesses, and written communication skills in particular are one vital element. Written communication enables people to communicate across space and time and also provides a valuable record for companies. As such, strong written communication skills increase effectiveness and efficiency and contribute to business success. It is not surprising that today's companies all over the world invest heavily in improving their employees' written communication skills.

Written communication is a two-way process where your ideas in written form are transmitted to another person, who then interprets the message. This may involve some sort of feedback or response. Written communication therefore concerns at least two persons; it is not only about writing the document, it is also about the message in the document being conveyed, understood and reacted upon. The relationship between the writer and the reader of the document also has an effect on how the message is written and received. Misunderstandings can easily arise if any of the above points are not handled with care. It is the writer's responsibility to ascertain that the message sent is as clear and unambiguous as possible, and this necessitates considering these points when writing.

III. Principles of Business Writing

Clarity is key.

Make sure you clearly get your ideas across to your readers. You need to be clear in your own mind about the purpose of the written document. You also need to consider your choice of language. Use simple words and phrases rather than complicated ones which may look impressive but do not convey the message. Use simple paragraphs that focus on just one topic, and start each paragraph with a topic sentence that helps the reader understand what the paragraph is about. You may also employ pictures, diagrams, listings and examples where possible to clarify what you are trying to convey.

> The right register is vital.

Register concerns what sorts of words and phrases you should choose for your readers. If you are writing to engineers it is alright to use technical jargon, but you are not supposed to use jargon if you are writing to the Marketing Department. In addition, an email to a close colleague



will be very different in tone to an email to the CEO, even if both emails essentially convey the same information.

We and You shortens the interpersonal distance.

Write to the readers as if you are talking to them in person. This means that you can call them *you* rather than "the supplier," or "the customer," or "the receiver." In the same vein, use *I* and *we* when you are referring to your own organisation.

> Titles and names matter.

Addressing others by the right titles and names shows courtesy. However, it is very easy to get titles or names wrong, which can seem very impolite.

IV. Steps in Business Writing

There are several steps you can follow when writing either company internal or external communications.

1. Clarifying your aim

Always bear in mind what your writing aims to achieve, whether it be extending an invitation to your client or persuading your business partner to pay for a loss. The following steps will all be built on this one.

2. Identifying your readers

Knowing your readers prior to writing is of great significance because you may choose entirely different styles and tones when writing to your peers, supervisors, business partners or clients. And how much your prospective readers know about your subject also affects your writing.

3. Formulating your message

The message you intend to communicate must be formulated into the key points and however much you want your readers to know about these points.

4. Sketching an outline

The outline very much resembles a navigation system for drivers. Sketching the outline may help you map out the direction of your writing and what you will do along the way.

5. Drafting the text

The outline is not only a road-map but also a skeleton which you need to flesh out. At this stage you need to produce all the details to transform the outline into a fully-developed text.

6. Revising and editing

You need to alter or improve your first draft by paraphrasing, adding new information or deleting unnecessary content. You sometimes have to bring your draft up to date through timely revising and editing.



7. Proofreading

Written documents in the workplace may serve as a permanent record, so even minor errors may be unacceptable. This requires you to proofread carefully to root out any mistakes.

V. Strategies of Business Writing

A key factor to consider in effective business writing is who will receive the information. Business communication is the delivery of information to readers in a manner that is adapted to their needs, level of understanding and background. In fact, this audience element is so vital that it is one of the cornerstones of this book. In subsequent modules you will be challenged to write in a professional manner about subjects in a business scenario. The following are some strategies you may employ.

> Strengthen transitions.

It may be difficult for readers, particularly non-specialists, to see the connections between the main sections (groups of paragraphs), between individual paragraphs, and sometimes even between individual sentences. You can make these connections much clearer by adding transition words and by echoing key words more accurately. Words like "therefore," "for example," and "however" are transition words—they indicate the logic connecting the previous thought to the upcoming thought. You can also strengthen transitions by carefully echoing the same key words. It is not a good idea to vary word choice: use the same words so that people do not get any more confused than they may already be.

> Create topic sentences for paragraphs and paragraph groups.

It can help readers immensely to give them an idea of the topic and purpose of a section and in particular to give them an overview of the subtopics about to be covered.

> Work on sentence clarity and economy.

This is closely related to the "control." Often, a written style can be so wordy that it is hard or frustrating to read. When you revise your rough drafts, put them on a diet; go through them line by line trying to reduce the overall word, page or line count by 20 percent. Try it as an experiment and see how you do. You will find a lot of unnecessary detail and inflated phrasing that you can chop out.

> Break text up or consolidate text into meaningful, usable chunks.

For non-specialist readers, you may need to have shorter paragraphs. Rule out seemingly impressive details to avoid confusion and increase clarity.

Use headings and lists.

Readers can be intimidated by dense paragraphs of writing unbroken by anything other than a blank line now and then. Search your rough drafts for ways to incorporate headings—look for changes in topic or subtopic. Search your writing for listings of things—these can be made into vertical lists. Look for paired listings such as terms and their definitions—these can be made into