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文摘 (丛刊)

Reader's Digest

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"Dead" Language¹ Lives in Village

绍 珍 选注

满语是阿尔泰语系通古斯——满洲语族中的一种。这种语言，早在十八世纪很多满族人自己就已经不再会讲了。随着满族文化与其他民族文化的融合，终于失去其交际作用而从社会生活中消失，成了“dead” language。

最近发现，在黑龙江省西部一个偏僻的小村子里，人们竟然还在讲着一种与古满语十分相似的方言。这一发现对古满语以及对整个阿尔泰语系的研究都具有巨大的意义，从而引起了国内外语言学家们的瞩目。

本选文就是有关这一发现的专题报道。

A small village in Heilongjiang Province, which homes 500 Manchus², has attracted a lot of outside attention³, not because of its beautiful landscape but because of the unique⁴ language of the townspeople.

Both Chinese and foreign linguists have discovered that the village of Sanjiazi⁵ in western Heilongjiang's Fuyu County⁶ is an ideal place to study the language used by the ancient Manchu nationality⁷.

There are more than 4.3 million Manchus living in

China. But they're spread out mainly in Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning and Hebei as well as in Beijing, Chengdu, Xi'an and Hohhot⁸.

Chinese linguists have discovered that the Manchus living in the village of Sanjiazi speak a dialect that closely resembles the original Manchu⁹. This is because until 1961 only Manchus lived in the village. Without outside influences the people kept their language pure and the pronunciation of their language has changed very little over the past centuries.

Manchu is an Altaic¹⁰ language first written down when Nurhachi (1559-1626)¹¹ united the tribes of Manchuria¹².

But by the 18th century many of the Manchus could no longer speak their ancestral language. After a long period of mixing with¹³ other Chinese, many of the Manchus had been assimilated¹⁴ into the larger Chinese culture.

In the 17th century the Manchus of northeast China overthrew the Han people's Ming Dynasty, which had ruled for 300 years. The Manchus then founded the Qing Dynasty and ruled the country for another 300 years, until 1911.

The town of Sanjiazi, which was founded in 1685, has more than 50 residents¹⁵ who can speak fluent Manchu. Many of the villagers who are over 40 years old are fluent¹⁶ in both the Manchu and Han languages. The young people, however, are better at Han¹⁷, while most villagers don't write either language.

Seventy-seven year old Ji Chunsheng can write all the Manchu letters and about 900 words. He is considered to be the village's scholar¹⁸.

In order to help further preserve their language, students in the village are studying the Manchu language at school. The local education authority has hired a teacher who recently graduated from the Heilongjiang Research Institute for the Manchu Language¹⁹.

So far, linguists from Japan, Denmark²⁰ and West Germany have visited the village.

(From *China Daily*, September 27, 1986)

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1. "dead" language: "已消亡的"语言。这里指满族的通古斯语。
2. Manchus: 满族人。 3. has attracted a lot of outside attention: 已经引起很多外界人的注意。 4. unique: 独一无二的。
5. Sanjiazi: 三家子(村)。 6. Fuyu County: 富裕县。
7. the ancient Manchu nationality: 古代满族。 8. Hohhot: 呼和浩特。
9. a dialect ... the original Manchu: 与原始满语密切相似的方言。 10. Altaic: 阿尔泰语系的。 11. Nurhachi: 努尔哈赤(清太祖)。
12. the tribes of Manchuria: 满洲(东北的旧称)各部落。 13. mixing with ...: 与……混合。
14. assimilated: 同化。 15. residents: 居民。 16. fluent: 流利的。
17. are better at Han: 更精于汉语。 18. He is considered... scholar: 他被看作村里的秀才。 19. The local education authority ... for the Manchu Language: 当地教育当局已雇请了一名最近毕业于黑龙江满语研究所的教师。
20. Denmark: 丹麦。
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(原文见p.91)

1. I was moving with the crowd: 我正随着人流向前走。
2. maneuver around: 设法绕过。 3. grabbed: 突然抓住。
4. fiancée: 未婚妻。 5. what the heck: (what the hell 的委婉语)"真见鬼"。 6. A small thing: 区区小事。 7. "If you can call four hundred people small": "假如你能把四百个人称为区区小事的话"(意思是说"要是我邀请四百个人来参加我们的婚礼,你若说是区区小事,你可以这样说。)" 8. chimed in: 插话。 9. chatted gaily: 高兴地聊着。 10. ex-girlfriend: 以前的女朋友。



Vanity Fair

【英】William Makepeace Thackeray

王国富 选注

《名利场》是十九世纪英国伟大的现实主义小说家威廉·梅克皮斯·萨克雷的代表作。小说以班扬《天路历程》中的“名利场”为书名，一针见血地揭示了英国“上流”社会的本质。小说一八四六年一问世就奠定了作者在文坛上的地位。

《名利场》有两条线索贯穿始终。第一条线索写了天真纯洁、目光短浅的女主人公爱米莉亚钟情于纨绔薄情的乔治·奥斯本，历尽艰辛，终成眷属的恋爱故事。第二条线索则以爱米莉亚在寄宿学校的同窗好友蓓基·夏泼为主角，展现了一幅女冒险家卖弄风情，不择手段，昧着良心在情场上和社会上沉浮荣辱的生动画面。小说中这两条线索始终是齐头并进，交织在一起，形成了鲜明的对照。

在《名利场》中，萨克雷以犀利的笔触深刻地揭示了资产阶级的思想面貌和心理特征，栩栩如生地再现了资本主义社会中人人追名逐利，个个唯利是图的严酷现实。

Becky Sharp and Amelia Sedley¹ became good friends while they were students at Miss Pinkerton's School for girls.² It was proof of Amelia's good, gentle nature that she took as kindly as she did to her friend,³ who was generally disliked by all the other girls. Amelia overlooked

as much as she could the evidences of Becky's selfishness.⁴

After the two girls had finished their education at the school, Becky accompanied her friend to her home for a short visit. There she first met Joseph Sedley,⁵ Amelia's older brother Jos, who was home on leave from military service in India. Jos was a shy man, unused to women, and certainly to women as designing and flirtatious as Becky.⁶ His blundering and awkward manners did not appeal to many women,⁷ but Becky was happy to overlook these faults when she compared them with his wealth and social position. Amelia innocently believed that her friend had fallen in love with her brother, and she discreetly tried to further the romance.⁸

To this end she arranged a party at Vauxhall,⁹ at which Becky and Jos, along with Amelia and her admirer, George Osborne, were present. There was a fifth member of the group, Captain Dobbin, a tall, lumbering fellow,¹⁰ also in service in India. He had long been in love with Amelia, but he recognized how much more suitable for her was the dashing George Osborne.¹¹ But all the maneuvering of the flirtatious Becky and the amiable Amelia was not sufficient to corner Jos, who drank too much punch and believed that he had made a silly figure of himself¹² at the party. A day or so later a letter delivered to the Sedley household announced that Jos was ill and planned to return to India as soon as possible.

Since there was no longer any reason for Becky to remain with the Sedleys, she left Amelia, after many tears and kisses, to take a position as governess to two young girls at Queen's Crawley.¹³ The head of the household

was Sir Pitt Crawley, a cantankerous old man renowned for his miserliness.¹⁴ Lady Crawley was an apathetic soul who lived in fear of her husband's unreasonable outbursts. Deciding that she would have nothing to fear from her timid mistress, Becky spent most of her time ingratiating herself with¹⁵ Sir Pitt and ignoring her pupils. Becky also showed great interest in Miss Crawley, a spinster aunt of the family, who was exceedingly wealthy. Miss Crawley paid little attention to Sir Pitt and his children, but she was fond of Rawdon Crawley, a captain in the army and a son of Sir Pitt by a previous marriage. So fond was she of her dashing young nephew¹⁶ that she supported him through school and paid all his gambling debts with hardly a murmur.

During Becky's stay, Miss Crawley visited Sir Pitt only once, at a time when Rawdon was also present. The handsome young dragoon soon fell prey to Becky's wiles and followed her about devotedly.¹⁷ Becky also took care to ingratiate herself with the holder of the purse strings.¹⁸ Miss Crawley found Becky witty and charming, and did not attempt to disguise her opinion that the little governess was worth all the rest of the Crawley household put together.¹⁹ And so Becky found herself in a very enviable position. Sir Pitt was obviously interested in her, as was his handsome son. Miss Crawley insisted that Becky accompany her back to London.

Becky had been expected to return to her pupils after only a short stay with Miss Crawley. But Miss Crawley was taken ill²⁰ and she refused to allow anyone but her dear Becky to nurse her. Afterward there were numerous other

excuses to prevent the governess from returning to her duties. Certainly Becky was not unhappy. Rawdon Crawley was a constant caller, and a devoted suitor for Becky's hand. When the news arrived that Lady Crawley had died, no great concern was felt by anyone.²¹ But a few days later Sir Pitt himself appeared, asking to see Miss Sharp. Much to Becky's surprise, the baronet threw himself at her feet and asked her to marry him.²² Regretfully, she refused his offer. She was already secretly married to Rawdon Crawley.

Following this disclosure, Rawdon and his bride left for a honeymoon at Brighton. Old Miss Crawley, chagrined and angry, took to her bed, changed her will, and cut off her nephew without a shilling.²³ Sir Pitt raved with anger.²⁴

Amelia's marriage had also precipitated²⁵ a family crisis. Her romance with George had proceeded with good wishes on both sides until Mr. Sedley, through some unfortunate business deals, lost most of his money. Then George's snobbish father ordered his son to break his engagement to a penniless woman.²⁶ George, whose affection for Amelia was never stable, was inclined to accept this parental command. But Captain Dobbin, who saw with distress that Amelia was breaking her heart over George, finally prevailed upon the young man to go through with the marriage, regardless of his father's wishes. When the couple arrived in Brighton for their honeymoon, they found Rawdon and Becky living there happily in penniless extravagance.²⁷

Captain Dobbin also arrived in Brighton. He had

agreed to act as intercessor²⁸ with Mr. Osborne. But his hopes of reconciling father and son were shattered when Mr. Osborne furiously dismissed Captain Dobbin and took immediate steps to disown George.²⁹ Captain Dobbin also brought the news that the army had been ordered to Belgium. Napoleon had landed from Elba. The Hundred Days had begun.³⁰

In Brussels³¹ the two couples met again. George Osborne was infatuated with³² Becky. Jos Sedley, now returned from India, and Captain Dobbin were also stationed in that city, Captain Dobbin in faithful attendance upon neglected Amelia.³³ Everyone was waiting for the next move Napoleon would make, but in the meantime the gaiety of the Duke of Wellington's forces was widespread.³⁴ The Osbornes and Crawleys attended the numerous balls. Becky, especially, made an impression upon military society and her coquetry extended with equal effect from general to private.³⁵ The fifteenth of June, 1815, was a famous night in Brussels, for on that evening the Duchess of Richmond gave a tremendous ball.³⁶ Amelia left the party early, broken-hearted at the attentions her husband was showing Becky. Shortly after she left, the men were given orders to march to meet the enemy. Napoleon had entered Belgium, and a great battle was impending.³⁷

As Napoleon's forces approached, fear and confusion spread through Brussels, and many of the civilians fled from the city. Not so Amelia or Becky.³⁸ Becky was not alarmed, and Amelia refused to leave while George was in danger. She remained in the city some days before she heard that her husband had been killed. Rawdon returned

safely from the battle of Waterloo.³⁹ He and Becky spent a gay and triumphant season in Paris, where Becky's beauty and wit gained her a host of admirers. Rawdon was very proud of the son she bore him.

Amelia, too, had a child. She had returned to London almost out of her mind⁴⁰ with grief, and only after her son was born did she show any signs of rallying.⁴¹

When Becky grew bored with⁴² the pleasures of Paris, the Crawleys returned to London. There they rented a large home and proceeded to live well on nothing a year. By this time Becky was a past master at this art, and so they lived on a grander scale than Rawdon's small winnings at cards would warrant.⁴³ Becky had become acquainted with the nobility of England, and had made a particular impression on rich old Lord Steyne. At last all society began to talk about young Mrs. Crawley and her elderly admirer. Fortunately Rawdon heard nothing of this ballroom and coffee house gossip.

Eventually, through the efforts of Lord Steyne,⁴⁴ Becky achieved her dearest wish, presentation at Court.⁴⁵ Presented along with her was the wife of the new Sir Pitt Crawley. The old man had died, and young Sir Pitt, his oldest son and Rawdon's brother, had inherited the title. Since then friendly relations had been established between the two brothers. If Rawdon realized that his brother had also fallen in love with Becky, he gave no sign, and he accepted the money his brother gave him with good grace.⁴⁶ But more and more he felt himself shut out from the gay life that Becky enjoyed. He spent much time with his son, for he realized that the child was neglected. Once or twice

he saw young George Osborne, Amelia's son.

Amelia struggled to keep her son with her, but her pitiful financial status made it difficult to support him. Her parents had grown garrulous and morose with disappointment over their reduced circumstances.⁴⁷ At length Amelia sorrowfully agreed to let Mr. Osborne take the child and rear him as his own. Mr. Osborne still refused to recognize the woman his son had married against his wishes, however, and Amelia rarely saw the boy.

Rawdon was now deeply in debt. When he appealed to Becky for money, she told him that she had none to spare. She made no attempt to explain the jewelry and other trinkets⁴⁸ she bought. When Rawdon was imprisoned for a debt, he wrote and asked Becky to take care of the matter. She answered that she could not get the money until the following day. But an appeal to Sir Pitt brought about Rawdon's release,⁴⁹ and he returned to his home to find Becky entertaining Lord Steyne. Not long afterward Rawdon accepted a post abroad, never to return to his unfaithful, designing wife.

Amelia's fortunes had now improved. When Jos Sedley returned home, he established his sister and father in a more pleasant home. Mrs. Sedley having died Jos resolved to do as much as he could to make his father's last days happy. Captain Dobbin had returned from India and confessed his love for Amelia. Although she acknowledged him as a friend, she was not yet ready to accept his love. It was Captain Dobbin who went to Mr. Osborne and gradually succeeded in reconciling him to his son's wife. When Mr. Osborne died, he left a good part of his fortune

to his grandson, appointing Amelia as the boy's guardian.⁵⁰

Amelia, her son, Captain Dobbin, and Jos Sedley took a short trip to the continent. This visit was perhaps the happiest time in Amelia's life. Her son was with her constantly, and Captain Dobbin was a devoted attendant. Eventually his devotion was to overcome her hesitation and they were to be married.

At a small German resort they encountered Becky once more. After Rawdon left her, Becky had been unable to live down the scandal of their separation.⁵¹ Leaving her child with Sir Pitt and his wife, she crossed to the continent. Since then she had been living with first one considerate gentleman and then another. When she saw the prosperous Jos, she vowed not to let him escape as he had before. Amelia and Jos greeted her in a friendly manner, and only Captain Dobbin seemed to regard her with distrust. He tried to warn Jos about Becky, but Jos was a willing victim of her charms.⁵²

Becky traveled with Jos wherever he went. Although she could not get a divorce from Rawdon, Jos treated her as his wife, and in spite of Captain Dobbin's protests he took out a large insurance policy in her name.⁵³ A few months later his family learned that he had died while staying with Becky at Aix-la-Chapelle.⁵⁴ The full circumstances of his death were never established, but Becky came into a large sum of money from his insurance. She spent the rest of her life on the continent, where she assumed the role of the virtuous widow and won a reputation for benevolence and generosity.⁵⁵

(From *Masterplots*)

1. Becky Sharp and Amelia Sedley: 蓓基·夏泼和爱米莉亚·赛特利, 小说中的两位女主人公。 2. Miss Pinkerton's School for girls: 平克顿小姐开设的一所女子学校。 3. It was ... to her friend: 爱米莉亚自然而然地爱上了她的朋友, 这证明她心地善良和性情温柔。 4. Amelia overlooked ... Becky's selfishness: 爱米莉亚尽量不去理会蓓基的自私自利的行为。 5. Joseph Sedley: 约瑟夫·赛特利, 爱米莉亚的哥哥, 小名乔斯(Jos)。 6. Jos was ... as Becky: 乔斯是一个腼腆的人, 碰到女人就羞羞答答, 碰到象蓓基那样富有心计、善于调情的女人当然就更拘谨了。 7. His blundering ... to many women: 他那莽撞和笨拙的样子哪能讨女人的欢心。 8. She discreetly tried to further the romance: 她小心谨慎地促成这段风流良缘。 9. To this end ... at Vauxhall: 为此她在游乐场举行了一次宴会。 10. Captain Dobbin, a tall, lumbering fellow: 都宾上尉, 一个个子高高、外形笨重的人。 11. he recognized ... the dashing George Osborne: 他承认穿着入时的乔治·奥斯本与她更相配。 12. made a silly figure of himself: (他)自己出了洋相。 13. to take a position ... at Queen's Crawley: 在女王的克劳莱镇上给两个小女孩当家庭教师。 14. The head of the household ... for his miserliness: 户主是毕脱·克劳莱爵士, 一位以吝啬出名、脾气暴躁的老人。 15. ingratiating herself with ...: (她)讨好……。 16. So fond was she of ... = she was so fond of ... 17. The handsome ... followed her about devotedly: 那位英俊的年轻骑兵很快就落入蓓基设下的圈套, 跟她形影不离。 18. the holder of the purse strings: 掌管金钱的人。 19. did not attempt ... put together: 她认为克劳莱家族所有的其他人都凑在一起也敌不上这位个子瘦小的家庭女教师, 她并不想隐瞒自己的这一观点。 20. was taken ill: 得病。 21. no great concern was felt by anyone: 大家都并不感到十分忧虑。 22. the baronet threw himself ... to marry him: 从男爵拜倒在她的脚下, 并向她求婚。 23. Old Miss Crawley, ... without a shilling: 老小姐克劳莱又悔恨又冒火, 卧床不起, 她改变遗嘱, 剥夺了她侄子的继承权, 一个先令也不给他。 24. Sir Pitt raved with anger: 毕脱爵士大发脾气。 25. precipitated a family crisis: 加深了家庭危机。 26. Then George's snobbish father ... to a penniless woman: 于是乔治那势利的父亲命令儿子与身无分文的女子解除婚约。 27. living there happily in