



# 用英语说中国

INTRODUCE CHINA IN ENGLISH



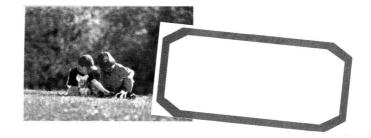
**Family Life** 

◎ 主编 沈光煜 浩 瀚





Ⅲ 科学技术文献出版社



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### **Family Life**

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#### 内容简单介

自改革开放以来,传统的中国家庭模式正在遭受现代化建设 大潮的冲击,中国人的生活方式、生活态度、生活水平也都在悄然 发生着变化。

本书共分七章,41 个单元,着重从婚姻观念、子女教育、赡养老人、妇女地位、人民日常生活条件、社交与文化风俗、传统节日继承七个方面,向读者提供了一个了解中国社会、人民生活状况的窗口,双语展现,魅力无穷。

本书适合具有中级以上英语水平的读者参阅。

科学技术文献出版社是国家科学技术部系统惟一一家中央级综合性科技出版机构,我们所有的努力都是为了使愿增长知识和才干。

## Foreword

一位著名的人类学家曾言:"家庭是个能动的要素,它从来不是静止不动的,而是随着社会从较低阶段向较高阶段的发展,从较低的形式进到较高的形式。"家庭,作为人类社会文化的一个载体,展现出来的是各个时代的特征。

自改革开放以来,传统的中国家庭生活遭遇到现代化的建设大潮,人们的思想观念经历了由传统、封建、单一向现代、开放、多样形式的过渡,人们的生活方式也随之发生翻天覆地的变化。传统婚姻观念与现代婚姻观念的巨大反差,人口老龄化造成家庭负担增大,计划生育政策与新生一代的教育问题,妇女地位的今昔对比,人民日常生活状况的改善,社交礼仪与文化风俗的演变,传统节日的继承,都是中国人日常生活中突出的热点。针对以上七个方面,我们组织编辑了此书,希望给广大读者提供另一个了解中国文化的窗口。

全书有如下几个特点:

**流畅精句:**选择了贴切、简单实用的语句,采用英仅对照的形式,让你脱口而出。

精彩片段:采用典型的具有代表性文章段落,介绍详细具体,一目了然,可让读者获得英语学习和了解中国建设的双重丰收。

**文化链接:**用汉语讲述相关知识背景,可以让大家更深层地了解中国的发展轨迹。

**妙词连珠:**鲜活、亮丽词汇,为大家脱口而出打下坚实基础。 用英语说中国,不仅让中国走向世界,也让世界更多地了解中国。

此为试读,需要完整PDF请访问: www.ertongbook.com



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## 1

### 传统婚俗与现代婚姻

Traditional Marriage Customs and Modern Marriage

## **し** 传统婚姻 nit 1 Traditional Marriage



- 1 Traditional marriage customs lost its popularity due to the collapse of feudal marriage custom and its complexity.
  - 由于封建婚俗的衰落和婚礼过程的繁琐,传统的婚礼风俗习惯已不再流行。
- 2. Traditional marriage can still be seen in the countryside, despite innovations.
  - 尽管有了一定的创新,在农村我们仍然能看到传统的婚礼。
- 3. Now, traditional marriage custom revives in some places and attracts will-be-couples.
  - 现在,传统婚俗在一些地方又盛行起来,吸引了大量即将走入婚姻殿堂的人们。
- Although many Chinese still follow the traditional wedding customs, modern or western ceremonies are becoming more and more popular with the young generation.
  - 尽管很多中国人结婚还是遵循传统的婚礼习俗,但现代或西方式的婚礼习俗在年轻一代人中越来越流行。

### 用英语说中国——家庭生活 Introduce China in English—Family Life

- 5. Chinese marriage was systemized into custom in the Warring States Period(402-221BC).
  - 中国的婚嫁是在战国时(公元前402-221)形成的一种习俗。
- 6. Due to vast expanse and long history, there are different customs to follow in different places, although they are generally the same.

由于国家幅员辽阔,历史悠久,不同的地方就有不同的习俗,尽管它们大体上是一致的。



(Paragraph 1)

### **M**传统婚姻 arriage in a Confucian Context

In Confucian thought, marriage is of grave significance both to families and to society. Traditionally incest has been defined as marriage between people with the same surname. From the perspective of a Confucian family, marriage brings together families of different surnames and so continues the family line of the paternal clan. This is generally why having a boy is more preferred than a girl when giving birth. Therefore, the benefits and demerits of any marriage are important to the entire family, not just the individual couples. Socially, the married couple is thought to be the basic unit of society. In Chinese history there have been many times when marriages have affected the country's political stability and international relations. From the Han Dynasty the rulers of certain powerful foreign tribes such as the Mongolians, the Manchus, the Huns, and the Turks demanded women from the Imperial family. Many periods of Chinese history were dominated by the families of the wife or mother of the ruling Emperor. Thus marriage can be related to politics.



### T传统离婚程序 raditional Divorce Process

In traditional Chinese society, there are three major ways to dissolve a marriage. The first one is no-fault divorce. According to the legal code of Tang Dynasty (618-907), a marriage may be dissolved due to personal incompatibility, provided that the husband writes a divorce note.

The second way is through a state-mandated annulment of marriage. This applies to when one spouse commits a serious crime (variously defined, usually defined more broadly for the wife) against the other or his/her clan. Finally, the husband may unilaterally declare a divorce. To be legally recognized, however, it must be based on one of the following 7 reasons:

- The wife lacks filial piety towards her in-laws. This makes the inlaws capable of breaking a marriage against both partner's will.
  - · She fails to bear a son.
  - · She is vulgar or lewd/adulterous.
- She is jealous. This includes objecting to her husband taking an additional wife or concubine.
  - She has vile disease.
  - · She is gossipy.
  - · She commits theft.

Obviously, these reasons can be stretched quite a bit to suit the husband and his family. However there are 3 clearly defined exceptions, under which the unilateral divorce is disallowed:

- · She has no family to return to.
- · She had observed a full 3-year mourning for an in-law.
- Her husband was poor when they married, and now is rich.

The above law about unilateral divorce was in force from Tang Dynasty to its final abolition by the government of Republic of China in 1930.

Paragraph 3

### W中式婚宴 edding Reception in Chinese Society

In Chinese society, the wedding reception is known as xi-jiu, (literally joyful wine), and is far more important than the wedding itself which tends to be a brief civil ceremony. The timing and the characteristics of the reception vary strongly from locale to locale. They are typically extremely elaborate and expensive, often costing several years' salary of the groom's family. However, because cash in the form of red envelopes and jewelry (particularly gold) are given as wedding presents, and because the wedding hosts keep very careful track of the cost of the gifts (jewelry is given with a receipt which indicates the actual cost of the gift), the cost of the reception is effectively split among the wedding guests. Wedding receptions also build local community solidarity. As each couple weds, their wedding reception is in effect financed with gifts from the other members of the community with the expectation that the new couple and their family will give gifts in future wedding receptions within the village.



### 中国传统婚姻类型

婚姻类型,指的是男女双方选择配偶到嫁娶成婚等一系列过程中所采取的方式方法,其中包括了很多制度、地方习俗、伦理准则及审美取向。中国历史悠久,人口众多,民间婚姻形式多种多样,多到不好分类的地步。经总结,到明清时期,中国民间的婚姻形式足有 15 种之多。盛义在自己的《中国婚俗文化》里将其分门别类,列出七大类:血缘型、氏族型、掠夺型、财产型、补偿型、信仰型和其他类。随着社会的发展,旧的婚姻类型在不断地消失,新的婚姻类型也可以不断地出现。

### 传统婚俗与现代婚姻 Traditional Marriage Customs and Modern Marriage



forced(/coercive) marriage 逼婚 forcing somebody to get married 逼婚 (娶或嫁)

polyandrist 多夫女人 unlawful (/illegal) marriage 非法婚 姻

feudalistic marriage 封建式婚姻
husband purchase 购夫制
wife purchase 购妻制
shotgun marriage 强制婚姻
group marriage 群婚
uxorilocal marriage 入赘婚
hypergamy 上攀婚
arranged marriage 撮合婚(指父母

之命、媒妁之言的婚姻)
civil marriage 世俗结婚
child marriage 童婚
good marriage 喜结良缘
polygamy 一夫多妻制
monogamy 一夫一妻制
lucky(/auspicious)day 黄道吉日
marriage 婚嫁

marriage contract (/engagement) 婚 约

be burdened with a family 家累 marrying into money 嫁入朱门 hen-pecked husband 惧内 wedding 喜事 wedding feast 喜宴 better half 贤内助 relation by marriage: in-laws 姻亲 wedded(/lawful) wife 元配 couple leading a poor life; bread-andcheese marriage 糟糠夫妻 mate selection 择配 ill-assorted marriage 不相配的婚姻 bigamy 重婚 marriage of convenience 功利婚姻 uxorilocal marriage 入赘婚 runaway marriage 私奔结婚 running away from wedding 逃婚 negotiating marriage 协商婚事 relation by marriage 姻亲 early marriage 早婚 prescribed marriage 指定婚姻 prenatal betrothal 指腹为婚 growing old together 白头偕老

## **U**求婚与订亲 nit 2 The Proposal and the Betrothal



- In ancient times, it was very important to follow a basic principle of Three Letters and Six Etiquettes, since they were essential to a marriage
  - "三书六礼"是古代婚嫁的基本形式,它们对于婚姻来说必不可少。
- 2 Three Letters inclued Betrothal Letter, Gift Letter and Wedding Letter. Betrothal Letter is the formal document of the engagement, a must in a marriage.
  - "三书"包括聘书、礼书和迎书。
- 3. This process was traditionally placed in the hands of a go-between, who acted as a medium between the two parties.
  - 这一手续从传统上来讲掌握在媒人手中,由她充当男女双方家庭的中介。
- 4 Through the spokeswoman, the family of the groom will ask for the bride's "Eight Letters"
  - 男方通过媒人询问女方的"八字"以占卜吉凶。
- 5. In all probability, the bride and groom would not yet have met; nevertheless, the betrothal was considered binding unless both families agreed to annul the contract
  - 无论如何,新郎和新娘都还不能见面。过了大礼之后就可以视作是缔结了婚约,除非双方父母同意取消婚约。
- 6 The engagement (betrothal) period might have lasted for a year or two
  - 订婚期一般会持续一至两年。

### 传统婚俗与现代婚姻 Traditional Marriage Customs and Modern Marriage



Paragraph 1

### T求婚 he Proposal

The process began with an elaborate marriage proposal and acceptance. This process was placed in the hands of a go-between, who acted as a medium between the two parties - a role similar to that of a real estate agent today. The important parties in proposal and betrothal negotiations were the parents of the prospective bride and groom, rather than the bride and groom themselves.

"Marriage was for continuing the ancestral line and creating alliances between families—too important a duty to be left in the rash hands of the young." Costa explains

When the boy's parents identified a likely bride-to-be, they would send the go-between to present gifts to the girl's parents and to sound out their feelings about the match. If the proposal was well-received, the go-between would obtain the date and hour of the girl's birth recorded on a formal document

The groom's family would place this document on the ancestral altar for three days. If no inauspicious omens, e. g. quarrels between the parents or a loss of property, took place within that time, the parents would give the information to a astrological expert to confirm that the young woman and their son would make a good match. If the boy's family found the horoscope to be favorable, they gave the boy's birth date and hour to the go-between to bring to the girl's family, who would go through the same process

Only after both outcomes were favorable, would the two families arrange to meet. Finally face-to-face, each family evaluated the other in terms of appearance, education, character, and social position. If both



were satisfied they would proceed to the betrothal.



### **T**订亲 he Betrothal

First both sets of parents exchanged family credentials as tokens of intention. Then, after extensive bargaining, the two families would arrive at the amount of money and goods that would make up the gift to the girl's family. After presenting engagement tokens, the go-between would ask the bride's family to chose among several auspicious wedding dates suggested by the boy's family and also set a date for presenting betrothal gifts.

The boy's family presented betrothal gifts of money and significant items such as tea, "Dragon (male) and Phoenix (female)" bridal cakes, pairs of male and female poultry, sweetmeats and sugar, wine and tobacco, accompanied by an itemized statement of these gifts. Tea was such a primary part of these gifts in some areas that they were known collectively as cha-li, that is, "tea presents." The girl's family reciprocated with gifts of food and clothing.

It was customary for the girl's family to distribute the bridal cakes they received from the boy's family to friends and relatives as a form of announcement and invitation to the wedding feast. The number of cakes given to each was established according to a rigid etiquette, on the basis of seniority and degree of intimacy. Those who received the bridal cakes, were expected to present congratulatory gifts to the girl's parents.

The boy's family's gifts acknowledged the parents' efforts in raising the girl, and by accepting the gifts, the girl's family pledged her to the boy's It is interesting to note that the bride was given to the family rather than the groom alone. Although the bride and groom probably had not met yet, betrothal was considered binding unless both families agreed to annul the contract.