

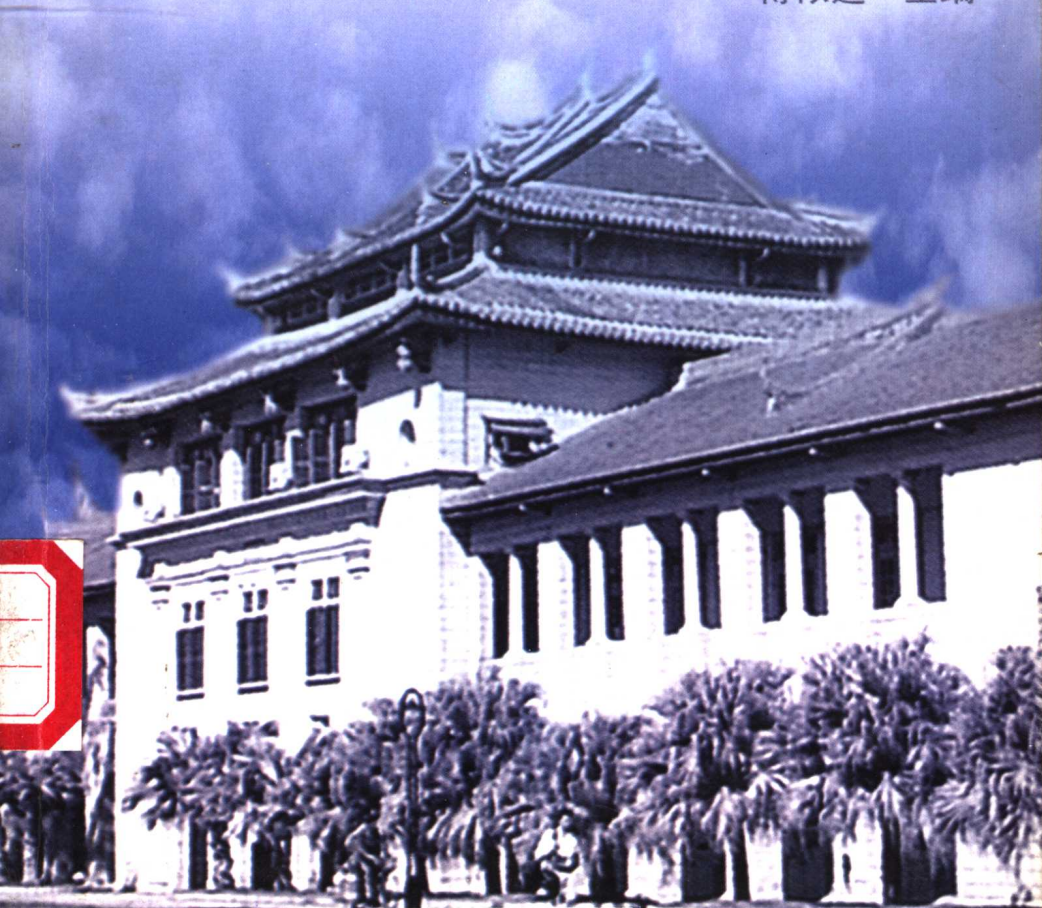
■ 名校大学生英语习作系列

厦门大学

英语专业学生优秀作文选评

Model Compositions by English Majors of Xiamen University

傅似逸 主编



北京大学出版社

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编者的话

我们可以自信地说，这是一本值得一读的书，无论您是想提高自己的英文写作水平，还是想了解当代大学生的精神风貌和生活状况，抑或是想作为写作教学的参考资料……

这本作文集显示了我们英语系本科教学的部分成绩，也反映了近几年我系学生的思想和生活概貌。里面既有模仿，也有创造；既有青春的浪漫，又有理性的思考；既有优美的抒情文和生动的叙事文，也有优秀的议论文和标准的应用文。作为编者，我们尽可能兼收并蓄，汇编了从大一至大四各年段、各班级学生的近 60 篇优秀英文习作，以从各个角度反映学生的写作水平，也使更多的读者受益。由于学生的流动和资料的缺失，这本作文集其实并非我们同学最佳作品的荟萃。有不少好文章，我们虽依然记得其大致内容和动人之处，却无法找到原文。在扼腕叹息之余，只能引以为憾。然而，这本书的代表性和可读性却依然显而易见。我们本着帮助读者朋友提高写作水平的宗旨，对书中的每一篇作文都加以点评，既肯定其优点，也指出其缺点；对一些涉及英文写作的原则，我们更是再三强调。如果读者朋友能在赏读佳作的同时提高自己的评判能力和写作水平，我们就心满意足了。

为了使读者能透彻地体会我们的用心，我们使用了眉批结合点评的方式。对于点评，我们特别注重其多样性。除了请研究领域各异的老师们从多角度进行点评外，即便是同一位老师，也尽量针对作文的不同特点从不同侧面进行点评，因为我们希望奉献给大家的是一桌风味多样的满汉全席，让每位宾客都能吃到自己喜欢的菜肴、摄取自己需要的营养。

学习英文写作，关键在于培养思维能力和英语的语言表达能

力。不少人认为,只要懂语法并掌握足够的词汇,就能胜任英文写作。此大谬也!写作是为了交流思想,而不是交流语言。语言仅仅是思想的载体,思想的贫瘠与苍白是任何语法和词汇都无法补救的。运用母语写作也好,运用英语写作也罢,思想均是写作不可或缺的“质”。这个“质”就是思维的产物。在编辑这本集子时,我们欣慰地看到,越来越多的学生已经能够运用英文写作来交流思想、抒发情怀,而非视之为不得不学的考试科目。同时,我们也惊喜地发现了部分同学的写作实力,如二年级学生的习作“Winter”、三年级学生的习作“When the moon rises”等,其思想的深邃、表达的地道均堪足称道。

应该说,对于大部分英语学习者特别是高校学生而言,学习英文写作的主要任务不但在于克服英语表达方面的障碍,更在于对作文的内容进行深刻而透彻的思索,组织丰富新颖的材料,并选择最合适且最具特色的表达方式。这个过程就是思维的过程、培养能力的过程。那么,怎样培养思维能力呢?首先要多读,在阅读中吸取思维的材料(知识)和思维的方法。我们知道,文章或书都是人写成的,阅读时注意理解作者的思路,体会其写法的妙处,发现其不足或纰漏,长此以往,我们的视野自然就会开阔,对事物的认识也自然会加深。这样,我们写出的东西自然就会有分量了。另外,还要学会观察。这似乎是老生常谈了,但却极其重要。“读万卷书,行万里路”,说的就是阅读与阅历并重,而后者的获得靠的就是观察——如果你对什么都视而不见,纵然走遍整个宇宙又有何用?因此,在英语写作教学中,我们不应该舍本逐末,一味地咬文嚼字。语言问题主要在精读课上解决,而写作课讨论语言的目的是为了更正确、更有效地表达思想。教会学生观察、阅读、思考、鉴赏,才是提高他们写作水平的根本,也是学习英语写作的兴趣之所在。

当然,本书仅能起到引导作用,要想真正提高英语写作水平,主要还得靠多实践,多练笔,舍此而无它途。

我们感谢各年段的“小作家们”,没有他们的创作,就没有这本

书;感谢参与点评与编辑的青年教师们,他们让本书焕发出智慧的光彩。我们感谢在本书编辑过程中付出辛勤劳动的外籍专家。加拿大专家 Marion Wyse 审阅了所有作文,做了有益的评论,并拨冗为本书作序;前任英国专家 Charles Tyzack 在四月份旅厦逗留的短暂的 3 天里,不吝宝贵的时间,与我们讨论并解答了书稿中有争议的问题。

最后,我们感谢北京大学出版社为我们提供了这片园地,使这些稚嫩的蓓蕾得以稍露头角。

编者

2002 年 4 月于厦门大学外文学院

Preface

I have had the honour of being a foreign expert in western culture at Xiamen University for four years now. Since I teach in English, my students must express themselves in that language in class and papers. Over the years I have observed the challenge that presents to them, and how they strive to overcome obstacles in the way of communication. Most are persistent and are rewarded by high marks. Those who do not persist, who give up and claim to be lazy, slip back into the faceless mass. And that saddens me. I know how hard it is to learn another language and express yourself in it. That difficulty will always be there, but if you imagine that it is like an athletic contest, then you know the more you try the stronger you will be. So I was very happy to be asked to participate in this project as foreign editor. The essays were evidence that many students here in Xiamen University strive hard to communicate about different things, getting inspiration from relationships, nature and experiences (happy or sad). The ability to express varies, as you will see, but the *intent* is clear, and that is what makes for a good composition in the final analysis, no matter what the problems of grammar or logic may be.

The two areas of biggest confusion for Chinese EFL students are: verb tenses, and articles. Verb tenses are not present in the same way in Chinese, and even students who learn to express themselves well often reach for the present tense, forgetting this confuses the foreigner. Take special care with this in your writing: it is a learnable skill, and makes logical sense if you *pay attention*. As for articles, that is harder. When do you use or not use "the"? The idea that something can be specific in

one sentence and not in another is part of the philosophy of language, and teachers have to be very careful in their own use so as not to confuse students. Reading widely is the only recommendation I can make here for overcoming both of these obstacles — after the basic grammar rules are learned, of course! Reading different authors, novels, science books, philosophy books — that is how the language penetrates.

And this is my main point. Learning a language should be done for opening a door into how a people think and communicate. That in turn teaches you how to use the same words to communicate your own feelings and thoughts in a creative manner. There is no short cut. It takes years. Sometimes it takes your whole life. But it is very worthwhile, since creative writing is the best known way to let others into your world, and let you into their world, across all time and space. So all compositions become a way to open that door, to make that communication work. Language learning is not about the rules; it's about the reality of which it speaks.

Marion Wyse

(Professor of Cross-Cultural Issues)

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一 灵感的流云

这个板块由九篇抒情文组成，其中有被外教誉为“a Chinese Joyce in Bloom”的作者所写的“Winter”；有以《诗经·陈风·月出》英译诗题为标题的“When the Moon Rises”；有别开生面的“A Most Unforgettable Birthday”；还有运用意识流捕捉生活瞬间的“I Walk in a Desert”等，可谓佳作云集，琳琅满目，足可一观。



姓名:叶丽贵 年级:2000



写作时间:2001 年 12 月

Winter

Nature is always in brutal and precise order. It is winter, the last season of a year, that eventually falls softly on this small southern island, when spring days ebbed then summer also took its French leave, and then the merciless autumn made off with all my memories and solicitude. Having written down this title, I found that winter was dropped from the point of my pen to the desk, on whose corner lay several frost-beaten oranges, glimmering in the dusk and hush, which I bought yesterday from a market on campus.

此处使用了三个不同的短语,显得生动活泼。另外,相对松散的句式也使语句十分优美。

I could say, there are even rarer images that would denote winter here, compared to Fuzhou, though they are both southern cities in the same province. The sky above, for the most part, is so azure and clear, quite opposite to those words typically used to describe the winter sky, such as overcast, gloomy. And there is the palm tree which, as the tree peculiar to the

简单的 there be 结构却引人入胜。

tropics, could never create an atmosphere of winter, with its rustling leaves reminding me of summer's hilarity and hustling.

独立主格结构使句子既凝练又重点突出。

However, I still love winter here, neither so harsh nor so delicate. During the long season, the most pleasant hours are the quiet afternoon, when I always hang a thick carpet round my bed as a screen, and lie down, thoroughly enjoying its protection from the cold as well as the stinging light. While lingering between dream and reality, light and shadow, I feel my mind being gradually fertilized. I would listen carefully to the sound outside, muffled by the screen, sometimes a throng passing below my balcony with noisy gaiety, and sometimes perhaps a sparrow flitting from one spray of a longan tree and then alighting on another.

此处应改用 too。

本段的语言非常诗化,用词细腻又形象,例如, stinging, lingering, muffled, noisy gaiety, flitting, alighting。这些考究的用词将把我们带入一幅优雅画卷。

There are in fact a number of longan trees along the lane below, tall enough to reach my balcony. I don't know why I single out one of them, and cherish affectionate feelings towards it. Perhaps it is because it comes into my view every time I look out, and long staring at each other leads to some fondness. It grows new leaves in spring, and remains neither too green nor withered all the year round, a display of steadiness. As for its character, it could be compared to a reserved person, especially in

cherish 和 hold 相比显然更诗化。

winter. It listens quietly to Nature, hidden deep in the dusk mist; even when it is itself in pain from some damage to its bark. As the dearest friend in the world has departed me and the first love has not made its approach yet, it is he who converses with me in silence, keeping company with me in every lonely moment.

depart 为不及物动词，一般搭配 from。

The other day when I was with the tree, I noticed that some top branches had turned brownish yellow, in contrast with other verdant ones, seeming to have sustained a great disaster. Immediately my mind was cast back to a winter evening a year ago. That evening I was sitting indoors reading, and when I looked out for a change of mind, I found something sparkling in the tree. It was a small flame skipping cheerfully among the green foliage, making a buzz while licking it up. I shuddered at the great pains he was suffering and the vitality of the warm fire, and for a long time I stood motionless, staring at this scene, possibly caused by a careless smoker upstairs. After a while, water was poured down from above and quenched the fire. Yet it has left him with a conspicuous scar ever since, with the dead branches still hanging down in the air. The color has deepened into dun. I know, on the branches are recorded my ups and downs, joys

使用 with，将树拟人化，与作者的心思相吻合。

该段和第三段一样，充分展示了作者超乎寻常的英文水平。用词依然是那么凝练，那么形象。试体会这些措词：sparkling, skipping cheerfully, among the green foliage, buzz, licking it up, vitality of the warm fire, quenched。

and sorrows in the past year as well as one year's frost, rain and sunshine.

This drowsy season would confine me in the stuffy room and make me too idle to move any more. To dispel the easily coming sleep, I sometimes would go out for a walk, taking a road rarely trodden by others. The turf in front of the Jiannan buildings shows the bearings of winter, I find, like a great blanket sewed with stripes of green, yellow. The grasses have survived the ruthless trampling of the students in the training camp not long ago. They are now pressed close to the earth and seem to have lapsed into sound sleep, waiting to be woken up again in the warm breeze of next spring. And in the dun soil beneath my feet is accumulated next year's hope.

该句比较容易将读者带入情景,与其一同感悟。

The sun shines, bright and clear on the sleeping lawn and Jiannan Auditorium; the winter wind, whistling aloft, produces ceaseless echoes through the square. All around is in slumber, except me, sober, standing there alone.

该段中使用形容词短语和现在分词短语作状语,比较写意。

Winter is really a dreamy season. The winter's dream, no matter awake or asleep, in the dreary room or in the open air, realistic or romantic, sweet or bitter, is always so simple, fertile and promising, having the solicitude of