

英汉对照

NOAM  
CHOMSKY

诺姆·乔姆斯基

[英] 约翰·莱昂斯 著

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NOAM CHOMSKY  
诺姆·乔姆斯基  
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〔英〕约翰·莱昂斯 著

杨光慈 译

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## 目 录

初版序言 .....	3
修订版序言 .....	7
乔姆斯基小传 .....	13
第一章 引言 .....	19
第二章 现代语言学: 目的及态度 .....	35
第三章 “布卢姆菲尔德学派” .....	61
第四章 语言理论的目标 .....	81
第五章 生成语法: 一个简单的模式 .....	107
第六章 短语结构语法 .....	127
第七章 转换语法 .....	149
第八章 乔姆斯基及后乔姆斯基语言学发展近况 .....	185
第九章 生成语法的心理含义 .....	241
第十章 语言和心灵的哲学 .....	283
第十一章 结论 .....	315
附录 I 形式语言和形式语法 .....	351
附录 II 关于乔姆斯基及其经历的另一种看法 .....	397
注释 .....	411
索引 .....	431
简明书目 .....	439

## CONTENTS

Preface to the First Edition.....	2
Preface to the Revised Edition.....	6
Biographical Note.....	12
<i>i</i> / Introduction.....	18
<i>ii</i> / Modern Linguistics: Aims and Attitudes.....	34
<i>iii</i> / The "Bloomfieldians".....	60
<i>iv</i> / The Goals of Linguistic Theory.....	80
<i>v</i> / Generative Grammar: A Simple Model.....	106
<i>vi</i> / Phrase Structure Grammar.....	126
<i>vii</i> / Transformational Grammar.....	148
<i>viii</i> / Recent Developments in Chomskyan and Post-Chomskyan Linguistics.....	184
<i>ix</i> / The Psychological Implications of Generative Grammar.....	240
<i>x</i> / The Philosophy of Language and Mind.....	282
<i>xi</i> / Conclusion.....	314
<i>Appendix 1</i> / <i>Formal Languages and Formal Grammars</i> .....	350
<i>Appendix 2</i> / <i>An Alternative View of Chomsky and His Background</i> .....	396
<i>Note</i> .....	411
<i>Index</i> .....	431
<i>Short Bibliography</i> .....	439

## 译者的话

《诺姆·乔姆斯基》为英国企鹅出版社出版的《现代大师》丛书的一部。该丛书已出版 36 部，其中包括《马克思》、《列宁》、《爱因斯坦》、《弗洛伊德》、《威根斯坦》、《索绪尔》、《卡夫卡》、《庞德》、《艾略特》等。他们之所以被誉为现代大师，（用本丛书编者法兰克·寇莫德，Frank Kermode 的话来说，）那是因为他们“已经改变、并且正在改变我们所处的这个时代。”

乔姆斯基是美国著名语言学家，于 1957 年发表《句法结构》一书之后逐步创建了一整套转换生成语法体系，在语言学界掀起了一场革命——乔姆斯基革命而闻名遐迩。这场革命影响深远，除语言学之外还波及多种学科，因而引起了广泛的兴趣与注意。

约翰·莱昂斯为英国著名语言学家，除《诺姆·乔姆斯基》外还著有《结构语义学》、《理论语言学导论》等著作。在《诺姆·乔姆斯基》一书中，约翰·莱昂斯介绍了乔姆斯基的学术见解与成就，而且还概括了后乔姆斯基的诸多理论，其观点鲜明、剖析精辟、论述严谨、颇有独到之处，是了解乔姆斯基以及后乔姆斯基理论的必读佳作。该书在英美许多大学广为使用。

本书翻译得到许国璋教授热情鼓励和悉心指导，在百忙之中通读了全文。本书前三章译稿曾经周谟智教授校订。在此仅向他们表示衷心的感谢。

由于本书属于专业性学术理论读物，翻译难度较大，难免仍有错误或不够确切之处，欢迎批评指正。

杨光慈 1987年9月

## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

I should like to record here my gratitude to Noam Chomsky for reading and commenting upon the manuscript of this book. The fact that it has been read in advance by Chomsky (and corrected in a number of places) encourages me in the belief that it gives a reasonably fair and reliable account of his views on linguistics and the philosophy of language. There are of course a number of points, especially in the final chapter, where Chomsky is not in entire agreement with what I have to say. But these points of disagreement will be obvious enough either from the text itself or from the footnotes that I have added.

My main purpose in writing the book has been to provide the reader with enough of the historical and technical background for him to go on afterward to Chomsky's own works. I am aware that certain sections of my book are fairly demanding. But I do not believe that it is possible to understand even Chomsky's less technical works or to appreciate the impact his ideas are having in a number of different disciplines without going into some of the details of the formal system for the description of language that he has constructed.

J. C. Marshall and P. H. Matthews have also been kind enough to read the book for me in manuscript, and I

## 初版序言

承蒙诺姆·乔姆斯基审阅和评论了本书手稿，在此谨向他表示感谢。鉴于乔姆斯基事先审阅过本书手稿（并在若干处作了校正）这一事实，我深信：本书对乔姆斯基的语言学和语言哲学观点作了相当公正和可靠的阐述。当然，在一些问题上，尤其在最后一章里，乔姆斯基并不完全同意我的陈述。但是，在本书的正文中或是在我所加的注脚中，这些分歧之点都是一目了然的。

我撰写本书的主要目的是，向读者提供足够的历史和技术方面的背景知识，使他们能够进而阅读研究乔姆斯基本人的著作。我知道，本书的某些章节读起来相当费劲。但我认为，假如不阐明乔姆斯基所创建的描写语言形式体系的某些细节的话，那就甚至不可能读懂乔姆斯基的学术性不那么深的著作，也不能理解他的思想对许多不同学科正在产生的影响。

J·C·马歇尔和 P·H·马修斯也审阅过本书手稿；根据



have made many changes in the final version as a result of their comments. I am deeply indebted to them for their assistance. Needless to say, I am myself solely responsible for any errors or imperfections that still remain in the text.

*Edinburgh*

*October 1969*

J.L.

他们的意见，我在定稿时作了许多修改。对他们的帮助，我深表谢意。毫无疑问，本书中存留的任何谬误和欠缺之处，完全由我本人负责。

爱丁堡

1969年10月

约翰·莱昂斯

## **PREFACE**

### **TO THE REVISED EDITION**

In preparing this revised and enlarged edition I have left the first seven chapters almost unchanged (except for the correction of some misprints and minor errors). However, I have brought the Introduction up to date by adding a little material and changing a few phrases, and I have inserted one or two footnotes drawing the reader's attention to the appendixes. Chapter viii, on developments that have been taking place in the field of generative grammar since the late 1960s, is wholly new; and fairly extensive additions have been made to what are now chapters ix-xi.

Somewhat to my surprise, the book has been widely used by students (for whom it was not primarily intended). This being so, I thought that it might be helpful if I included, as an appendix, a semiformal account of the formalism upon which Chomsky's system of generative grammar rests and, no less important, some cautionary comments about the complexity of the relationship between generative grammars and natural languages. Mathematically minded readers will forgive me, I trust, if I have not gone into the formalism, even in this appendix, as fully as they might have liked. If their appetite is whetted but not satisfied, they will find references to Chomsky's own more technical work in the suggestions for further reading that I have appended to the expanded and updated Bibliography.

## 修订版序言

在撰写修订增补本的过程中，除了对一些误印和小的错误作了订正之外，原书前七章几乎未加任何改动。可是，在序言中我增加了一些材料并改动了几个句子，以此反映乔姆斯基语言学 and 语言哲学发展近况，此外，为了引起读者对附录的注意，还增加了一两个注脚。第八章则全部是新增添的。该章论述了六十年代后期以来生成语法这一领域的发展情况，对新版本的第九、第十和第十一章，我作了相当广泛的增补。

我感到有点惊讶的是，这本书（原先并不以学生为其主要对象）竟为学生们广泛地使用。既然如此，如果我在书中增加一个附录，对乔姆斯基生成语法体系赖以体现的形式体系作一个半正式的描述，并对生成语法与自然语言之间关系的复杂性进行某些并非不重要的提示——我想这样做对读者可能会有帮助。在这个附录中，如果我没有像具有数学头脑的读者们所期望的那样，对形式体系进行充分的描述的话，我相信，他们是会原谅我的。假若我激起了他们的兴趣而又没有加以满足的话，他们可以进一步阅读我在经过增补和更新的书目中提出的，乔姆斯基本人撰写的更为专门的著作。

The second short Appendix is intended to correct what many have taken to be a certain imbalance, not to say prejudice, in my presentation of Chomsky as a "modern master." On the whole, I stand by my own assessment of the significance of Chomsky's work; but I now see, in the light of what Chomsky himself says in the recently published version of *The Logical Structure of Linguistic Theory* (to which I draw attention in Appendix 2), that there may have been less difference than I thought (on the basis of his published work) between Chomsky's earlier and later views. I have also thought it appropriate that I should respond, in Appendix 2, however briefly, to some of the criticisms that Dell Hymes made in his gratifyingly lengthy and careful review of the first edition and that, in doing so, I should acknowledge my indebtedness to a scholar whose knowledge of the subject is in many respects greater than my own and who, for reasons best known to himself, considered my unambitious little book worthy of detailed comment. I have learned a great deal from his review, even where I disagree with the points that are made; and I recommend it to everyone for the background information that it contains about *American linguistics* and American academic life and attitudes in the 1960s, when Chomsky emerged as a political thinker and activist. I have, admittedly and by design, said relatively little about this in my book. It would have been an impertinence for a non-American to have attempted to; and, in my view at least, important though Chomsky's political ideas are in any portrayal of him as a man, it is his theory of language that makes him a "master of modern thought."

我把乔姆斯基说成是“现代大师”，许多人认为这不妥当，甚至说这是偏见，简短的附录II的目的就在于纠正这些人的看法。总的来说，我仍然坚持我对乔姆斯基的学术之意义所作的评价。可是，依据乔姆斯基本人在他最近发表的《语言学理论的逻辑结构》一书(参阅附录II)中所持的观点，我发现乔姆斯基早先的观点与其后来的观点之间的分歧要比我以前(基于乔姆斯基已发表的著作)设想的可能要小一些。德尔·汉姆斯对本书初版写了长得可喜而又详细的书评。我应该在附录II中对这个书评提出的某些批评作出反映，尽管是很简单的反映，与此同时，我还应该对这样一位对论及的课题所掌握的知识在许多方面都比我渊博的学者表示感谢，出于他本人才明白的原因，这位学者认为，我这本平淡无奇的小册子值得进行仔细评论。我想，我这么做也是合适的。我从他的书评中学到许多东西，即使是他提出我碍难同意的论点也是如此。我向读者推荐这篇书评，从中诸位可以了解到，六十年代在乔姆斯基作为一位政治思想家、活动家而崛起的时候，当时美国语言学以及美国学术界状况和学术态度等方面的背景知识。在本书中，有关这方面的情况，我承认谈得比较少，而且也是有意这样做的。我不是美国人，如果我谈了这方面的情况，那就会显得不怎么恰当了。虽然把乔姆斯基作为一个个人来进行描绘时，其政治思想是重要的，但是，至少在我看来，他之所以成为一位“当代思想大师”则是由于他在语言的理论方面有

**Sussex**  
**March 1977**

**J.L.**

所建树。

萨塞克斯

1977年3月

约翰·莱昂斯



## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Avram Noam Chomsky was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on December 7, 1928. He received his early education at the Oak Lane Country Day School and the Central High School, Philadelphia, and then went on to the University of Pennsylvania, where he studied linguistics, mathematics, and philosophy. It was at the University of Pennsylvania that he took his Ph.D., although most of the research that led to this degree was carried out as a Junior Fellow of the Society of Fellows at Harvard University between 1951 and 1955. Since 1955 he has taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he now holds the Ferrari P. Ward Chair of Modern Languages and Linguistics. He is married, with two daughters and a son.

Chomsky's work has been widely acclaimed in academic circles. He has been awarded several honorary doctorates: by the University of Chicago (1967), the University of London(1967), Loyola University (1970), Swarthmore College (1970), Bard College (1971), the University of Delhi(1972), the University of Massachusetts (1973). He is a Fellow of the American Society for the Advancement of Science; a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences; and a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy. He has been a Visiting Fellow at Columbia University (1957-58), a Fellow of the