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# *Social Issues in Focus*

## 社会聚焦集

中 级

主 编 郭晶晶  
副主编 刘 毅 阙紫江  
编 者 刘细珍 吴 燕 曹火群

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## 前 言

1999 年 12 月颁布的《大学英语教学大纲（修订本）》（以下简称新大纲）指出：“从语言学习的规律来看，英语应用能力的提高是建立在大量的语言输入、尤其是大量的阅读的基础之上的。”新大纲还提出：“大学英语教学还应有助于学生开阔视野，扩大知识面，加深对世界的了解，借鉴和吸收外国文化精华，提高文化素养。”

为了贯彻新大纲的精神，全国高等学校大学外语教学指导委员会英语组于 2000 年 7 月在大连召开工作会议，重点讨论了大学英语文库建设。会议确定了大学英语文库的编写原则和编写方案，会议提出，要“加紧大学英语文库建设”。

这套大学英语文库正是在上述思想指导下组织编写的，旨在使学生——读者通过大量阅读，巩固和加深所学语言知识，扩大词汇量，增强英语语感，达到双“提高”的目的，即：既提高英语语言应用能力，又提高文化素养。

这套文库内容十分丰富。从异彩纷呈的现代社会到五光十色的现代生活，从多姿多彩的各国文化到日新月异的科技世界，这套文库都有涵盖。这些内容分属五个系列，它们是：《社会聚焦集》、《文化广角镜》、《名人故事篇》、《科技新视野》和《生活万花筒》。每个系列均按语言难易程度分为初、中、高三个级别。原则上，初级适用于大学非英语专业一年级学生，中级适用于二、三年级学生，高级适用于四年级学生和研究生。

这套文库在选材、译注、体例和编排上均独具特色，不落窠臼。其主要特点有：

1. 各系列各级选文大都摘自国外报刊和互联网，仅个别选文有少量删改。文字规范，语言鲜活，有时代特征，并充分考虑了知识性和趣味性的统一。故这套文库不仅是学习英语、

提高语言应用能力的读物，而且是涉猎世界文化、社会、生活和科技知识的园地。每篇选文长度一般控制在 700—2 000 词之内（仅数篇确因内容不忍割舍的短文不足 700 词）。为方便读者做阅读速度的自我检测，文尾标出了该文的词数。

2. 每篇选文后均附有“Sentence Translations for Reference 参考译句”，以帮助读者加深对文中的长难句及全文的理解。这种在文中择句翻译的形式与全国大学英语四、六级考试中的“英译汉”题型是一致的，因此，它还有助于提高读者的英译汉能力，有助于他们备考英译汉测试。

3. 每篇选文以《大学英语教学大纲（修订本）》的词汇表为参照标准，直接在文中注出了超纲生词的词义，并且在不同文章中重复出现的生词重复注出词义。这样有利于读者打乱顺序任选文章阅读，也有利于读者加深对生词的记忆。此外，每篇选文还用脚注的形式针对有关语言难点和人物、典故进行注释，每条注释力求明快清晰、言简意赅。有的词语用了双语注释，目的是为了从各个方面来提高读者的英语应用能力。

4. 每篇选文均编撰了简明扼要的导读。读者在看到中英文对照的标题后，即可结合导读了解文章的主旨，有助于读者从语篇水平上加深对文章的理解；同时，导读还可以激发读者的兴趣，增强阅读的动力。

这套文库是华中科技大学、武汉理工大学和中国地质大学等三校联袂合作的成果。参加编写工作的有三校的老、中、青年英语教师 and 华中科技大学外国语言学及应用语言学专业部分硕士研究生，共计 30 多人。编写分工如下：华中科技大学负责《社会聚焦集》、《文化广角镜》和《生活万花筒》三个系列；武汉理工大学负责《名人故事篇》系列；中国地质大学负责《科技新视野》系列。

华中科技大学出版社对本文库的编写和出版给予了鼎力支持，投入了很大力量。本文库在编写过程中得到了华中科技大

学外语系、武汉理工大学外语学院和中国地质大学外语系领导的关心、支持以及许多大学生的帮助。我们全体编写人员在此谨表示衷心的感谢。

这套文库大部分选材来源于最新的有关原版书刊和互联网，编委会谨向原作者一并致谢。

由于校际间合作编写这样的大型文库是我们的第一次尝试，经验不足；加上水平有限，时间匆促，疏漏与错误在所难免，敬希各方读者和同行不吝赐教。

大学英语文库编委会

2002 年 5 月

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# The Truth about Immigration

## 移民的真相



*There are many myths about immigrations in New Zealand. It is time to know the truth about them.*

Most New Zealanders like the immigrants they know—the decent, hard-working Fiji-Indian who owns the dairy on the corner, the *Polish* (波兰的) mechanic who lives next door or the South African doctor *practicing* (行医) at the local medical center. But generally as a nation we don't seem comfortable with the idea of immigration.

For example, in a 1996 survey carried out by Massey University, 60 per cent of *respondents* (调查对象) said they thought the number of immigrants coming to New Zealand should be cut. The main reason: "Immigrants take jobs away from people who were born in New Zealand." About half the respondents said there were too

many immigrants from Asia and the Pacific Islands.

For many New Zealanders, the subject is highly *emotive* (动感情). "It will be too late to cry when there are no jobs left for our people," complained one *North and South* reader.

Most reasonable New Zealanders believe that our immigration programme should be well managed and that we should not be flooded with more people than our infrastructures<sup>①</sup> can handle.<sup>[1]</sup> Some, however, want to stop all immigration. One is John Lehmann, president of the Auckland-based lobby group<sup>②</sup>. "The government is playing Russian *roulette* (轮盘赌) with the balance of our society," he says.

The truth is, immigration is not to blame for New Zealand's unemployment and economic problems, and the ills attributed to it are grossly overstated (夸张).<sup>[2]</sup> Today's immigrants make a real contribution to our country and our economy, as did their predecessors. We would damage our nation's future if we refused them entry. Here are some of the myths:

**Myth: Today's immigrants are less educated than in the past**

In reality, the educational level of immigrants is rising, not falling. Thirty years ago, immigrants were admitted to New Zealand on the basis of nationality and occupation rather than their educational qualifications. For example, in response to a labour shortage in the late 1960s, we *recruited* (招聘) immigrants particularly from Britain. Education was not a criterion for entry. This drive produced a record *intake* (接受量) of 70,000 immigrants in one year, according to Dr. Ward Friesen, an immigration expert at the University of Auckland. "Many of these newcomers were unskilled and semiskilled workers," Friesen says.

The government has since changed its focus from country of origin to "personal merit", which means that *prospective* (未来的) immigrants must prove they can make a real contribution to New

① infrastructure: (社会、国家或一个地区居民赖以生存的) 基础结构

② lobby group: 游说议员团体

Zealand, says Friesen. Entry criteria now include educational qualifications and work experience.

In a 1994 Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) survey of 500 recent immigrants, almost two-thirds had earned university qualifications before coming to New Zealand.

Many of the survey respondents worked in high-technology sectors that are critical to New Zealand's future—science, engineering and computers. "Immigrants can provide *expertise* (专业技术) in sectors where local professionals are in short supply," says Ian McTavish, general manager of Compuforce, a recruitment agency that specializes in information-technology (IT) *placements* (布局). In the past year, McTavish's agency has *sourced* (获得) IT experts from the United Kingdom and India.

"Foreign-born specialists are vital to our business," says Richard Aitken, chief executive of engineering giant Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner Ltd. "Their knowledge and experience give us a distinct competitive advantage." Around eight per cent of Beca Carter's staff are immigrants, their birthplaces as *far flung* (分布广泛的) as Sri Lanka, Croatia and Iran. Many work on the company's most important projects. A South African engineering manager is *overseeing* (指导) the development of a *multimillion-dollar* (数百万美元) partnership between Beca Carter and another company.

Without immigrants, many New Zealand companies might have to *commission* (委托) their work abroad. "That would have a big impact on our economy," says McTavish.

#### Myth: Immigrants take our jobs

Behind this myth, notes Dr. Simon Chapple, former senior research economist with the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research, is the *misconception* (错误的想法) that jobs are limited, and the more taken by immigrants, the fewer there will be for those already here. A number of studies debunk this. In a book entitled *International Migration and the New Zealand Economy*, economists at Wellington's Victoria University concluded that: "...the process of immigration tends to raise the proportion of the population in the

labour force."

Department of Labour statistics bear this out<sup>①</sup>. While net immigration increased almost *tenfold* (十倍) between 1992 and 1996, the unemployment rate dropped from 11.1 per cent to 6.5 per cent. "Immigrants create demand for goods and services, which obviously translates into demand for labor," says Chapple.

What's more, less-educated immigrants will do the work that some New Zealanders will not. "Most of the people I work with are from Samoa, Asia or Europe," says Tifaga Frost, a Samoan immigrant who has worked as a cleaner in Auckland for several years. "Our job may not be glamorous (充满魅力的), but it feeds our families and puts our kids through school—and it's just as important to the economy as any other profession."<sup>[3]</sup> Immigrants also create jobs. Originally from India, Roger Bhatnagar came to New Zealand from Canada in 1980. Using his life savings of \$ 34,000, the 38-year-old opened a small electronics store in Auckland. He worked more than 12 hours a day, gradually saving enough money to open another nine stores in the North Island. In 1991, Bhatnagar and a business partner bought the Noel Leeming electrical appliance store<sup>②</sup> chain. Two years later, he invested in the venture that brought Burger King to New Zealand, and in 1994 established Computer City, which now has 15 outlets across the nation.

Today the companies in which he is a *shareholder* (持股人) employ over 600 staff and have an annual *turnover* (营业额) of \$300 million. "This nation has *ample* (充足的) business opportunities for people willing to seize them," he says.

#### Myth: Immigrants are welfare bludgers

According to the 1996 Census, 26 per cent of working-age people born overseas receive some form of government benefit, as opposed to<sup>③</sup> 28 per cent of working-age people born here. Moreover,

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① bear...out: 证实

② electrical appliance store: 电器商店

③ opposed to: 相对

while New Zealanders can apply for social security almost as soon as they need it, many immigrants must sign a "personal resources" declaration, which usually *precludes* (排除) them from applying for benefits in their first two years of residence.<sup>[4]</sup> In 1995-1996, more than 70 per cent of successful principal immigration applicants were in their prime working years, from 25 to 44—over double the portion this age group represents in the local population.<sup>[5]</sup> Ironically, the taxes paid by these people help *underwrite* (使……得到保障) social-security cheques for New Zealand's aged.

Says Peter Cotton, director of the Refugee and Migrant Service, "Most refugees have escaped countries gripped by war, famine and political oppression. I find that they are grateful for the opportunity to start a new life, and determined to succeed."

Immigrants often start in humble circumstances and work their way up. When Seyed Ihmid Seyed Hosseini arrived in New Zealand from Iran in 1991, he had only enough money to buy an old sewing machine and rent a small workshop in Auckland. Working long hours, the 44-year-old made leather Kiwi *souvenirs* (纪念品) — key rings, wallets, handbags—and sold them to tourist outlets throughout the city. Within two months, he was able to employ three more workers.

Hosseini was granted permanent residence here in 1993. He settled with his wife and three children in Christchurch, where he opened a sheepskin-jacket factory and a large souvenir shop.

Today he employs 30 people and turns over \$ 1.5 million a year. "New Zealand is a country where hard work still reaps big rewards," says Hosseini.

#### Myth: Immigrants won't integrate

In fact, most immigrants are keen to integrate. Of the 387,000 people from more than 190 countries who have moved to New Zealand since 1982, over half have become citizens. Almost 60 per cent of respondents in the DIA survey said they planned to take out<sup>①</sup> New Zealand citizenship or had already applied.

① take out: 申请获得

To make a decent living and settle in happily, immigrants must learn our language. In the DIA survey, more than half the respondents who were fluent in English on arrival in New Zealand had found employment in their field of expertise, compared with less than 20 per cent of non-English speakers. Said one respondent: "Without English you cannot find a job." Not surprisingly, therefore, most immigrants want to learn English rapidly. According to the 1996 Census, only 8 per cent of overseas-born New Zealanders do not speak the language.

Judi Altinkaya is national *coordinator* (协调人) of the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) home-tutor schemes, which provide free one-on-one English lessons to newcomers by trained volunteers. "People who think immigrants don't want to learn English should try *manning* (守候) our centres' phones for a day," Altinkaya says. "We can't keep up with the demand."

Latvian-born Anatoly Scholten could speak little English when he arrived in New Zealand seven years ago. "I knew the alphabet and about ten words", he says. His first job was at a furniture-assembly factory in Auckland, where he quickly picked up the basics of the language. Within two years, he was becoming fluent.

Now a *robotics* (机器人学) engineer at Fisher & Paykel, Scholten became a New Zealand citizen in 1995. He says he will never forget his Latvian ancestry. "But New Zealand is my home now. I feel blessed to live in a country of such wonderful opportunity."

**Myth: New Zealand is being overrun by Asians**

This is simply untrue. The 1996 *Census* (人口普查) gives the total number of people born in Southeast, Northeast and Southern Asia living in New Zealand as 117,792, which represents just 3.5 per cent of the nation's population. The 1996—1997 immigrant intake from these regions was 12,929 less than two fifths of the total.

Asian immigration represents only a portion of the current wave of new settlers. Says Patrick O'Connor, director of Christchurch's Pasefika Education and Employment Training Organization (PEETO), a private enterprise that provides English courses and vocational

training to immigrants: "Around 35 nationalities are represented in our courses." The hopes, aspirations and difficulties experienced by Asian immigrants are similar to those of any other group, O'Connor adds. "All immigrants have a common desire to make a fresh start here, and are committed to contributing to New Zealand."

James Ng is a good example. Born in China, Ng arrived in New Zealand in 1941 with his mother and brother when he was five years old. Ng's grandfather had opened a laundry and then a market garden in Gore, later moving the family to Ashburton. In 1959, Ng completed a medical degree at the University of Otago. The following year he married an Auckland girl and in 1961 started working at Dunedin Hospital. Ng has since served as a national executive member of the New Zealand Medical Association and president of the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. He has also published three of a four-volume series on the history of the Chinese in New Zealand. In 1996, he was awarded the Companion of New Zealand Order of Merit<sup>①</sup> for his services to historical research and the community.

Says Ng: "This country has given me many wonderful opportunities I would not have had in China. I am very grateful for my life here."

Not all New Zealanders oppose immigration. Many see through the myths. Says minister for immigration Max Bradford: "There's no doubt immigrants make, and have always made, a valuable contribution to our country. We give them a chance to build a new life here. In return, they bring with them new cultures, skills, investment and innovation. That can only be good for us all."

(1,910 words)

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① New Zealand Order of Merit: 新西兰功绩勋章

# Sentence Translations for Reference

## 参 考 译 句

- [1] 多数理智的新西兰人相信：“应该很好地制定移民计划而不应该让超过我们的基础结构所能接纳的移民涌入我国。”
- [2] 事实是，移民并不是新西兰失业和经济问题的根源，移民带来的弊病被严重地夸大了。
- [3] “我们的工作可能不是那么令人向往，但是可以养活全家，供孩子上学，它像其他职业一样对经济同等重要。”
- [4] 另外，新西兰人只要需要社会保险就可以申请到，而很多移民则必须鉴定“个人财力”申明，到新西兰不足两年的人则被排除在外。
- [5] 1995—1996 年间，70%以上的成功获得移民申请的人处于壮年(25 岁到 40 岁之间)，是当地同一年龄段人口比例的两倍以上。



# The Right to Die

## 死亡的权力



*"Death-hastening" behavior in nonindustrialized societies is common. Is it acceptable?*

On August 4, 1993, Dr. Jack Kevorkian, a 64-year-old retired pathologist (病理学家), helped a 30-year-old Michigan man with Lou Gehrig's disease<sup>①</sup> commit suicide in a van. Thomas Hyde, Jr., died after *inhaling* (吸入) carbon monoxide<sup>②</sup> through a mask designed by Dr. Kevorkian; in doing so, he became the seventeenth person to commit suicide with Kevorkian's assistance. In aiding Hyde's suicide, Kevorkian openly challenged a Michigan law adopted in early 1993 (and aimed at him) which makes it a felony crime<sup>③</sup>—punishable by up to four years in jail—to assist in a suicide.<sup>[1]</sup> Michigan authorities had attempted to *prosecute* (起诉) Kevorkian for murder three

① Lou Gehrig's disease: 肌萎缩性脊髓侧索硬化症

② carbon monoxide: 一氧化碳

③ a felony crime: 重罪