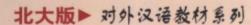


Introduction to Chinese Writing

应用汉语读写教程

王海龙 编著





Introduction to Chinese Writing

应用汉语读写教程

務

作者多年在国外教授外国人学习汉语,尤其注重应 用文的教学。本书以讲授写作为主,以写作带动阅读。 全书共八章,讲述公私信函、合同、契约、通告以及自 荐材料等各类应用文的写作,于中文与外文习惯不同处, 着意点明。书中附有大量例文,可资参考。偏难的词语 附有英文注释。

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自 序

在学汉语和中国文化的外国学生、学者中间常常会见到一种很奇怪的现象:很多中文已经学得相当棒的学人,可以读懂中文小说、可以看懂中文的电影,甚至中文说得也很利落,可是他们不能用中文写一封简单的表情达意的信。有的甚至获得了中国历史、文学和相关学科的博士学位、能读懂中国的古诗、古文甚至一些较艰深的古代文献,可是却仍然不能写出一封清通可读的信或普通的条子。这样,在需要用中文写封信或写个便条时,他们往往不仅会捉襟见肘,有时甚至会表错情,达错意。其后果是,轻者弄得收信人一头雾水,不尴不尬的;严重的甚至会造成误会或不可挽回的经济和社会效益方面的损失。这样说不是耸人听闻,在西方的大学里教书,身边这类的笑话真不少,有的我们已经不忍心说它是笑话了。

出现这种现象的原因何在呢?如果我们把这种现象和操汉语为母语土生土长的中国人做一下比较,就很容易看出问题来了。中国人从牙牙学语的童年时就说中文,从六岁就入学学汉字,如果按读书读到初中毕业算,一般人学中文会学到近十年。有说母语的环境,天天几乎除了说汉语什么别的语言都不说,又是生活在自己的祖国,您想想,有多少初中毕业生能写出比较可读、没有错别字的书信?

慢说国内的初中毕业生,就是高中、大学毕业生,又有多少人能写出一封清通可读,文情并茂的书信来呢! 笔者八十年代曾经在国内大学中文系教过九年书,很了解以中文为专业的大学生的中文水平和写信的能力。如果专治中文的学生写信是那个水平,我们有什么理由期待不了解中国的社会风情,几乎从来没到过中国的外国学生写出像样的中文书信来呢?

可是,那又怎么解释他们能读懂古文、诗词和那些甚至中国人都读不懂的古文献呢?最合理的回答是中文的习得和使用有两个系统。笔者暂且把它们粗分为"人文汉语"和"应用汉语"两个领域。恰如数学、物理、化学等领域有纯数学纯物理化学而又有应用数学应用物理和应用化学的研究一样,它们中间的关系虽然是相辅相成,但内容却并不完全一样。连经济学这样侧重于实用的学科都有理

论经济学和应用经济学的分别,那么,我认为,海外汉语的教学确有分出人文汉 语和应用汉语的必要。

传统的文学和高级汉语教学重诗情的培养,它们着重文采、描写和体情察物的训练,讲究的是对镜花水月般的美和东方式缠绵哀婉情调的领会,词汇和表达方式的训练和日常生活的应用有相当"隔"的成分,它是"文学的"汉语。应用汉语则重视实际操作的技能技巧训练,讲究的是对现实生活的准确把握和表述,它要求简练、实惠、学以致用。能破译声情并茂的古文和诗篇,并不意味着能读懂和写出日常应用的实践性话语、能对现实生活中的起码要求应付裕如。古典的令人心醉的美远去了,我们毕竟是生活在语言变化日新月异的当代。因为"人文汉语"和"应用汉语"是用不同的文化语法和语言符码写的,因此对它们"解码"的操作方式当然不同。

在这两种高级层次的汉语之间,恰如它们使用的基本语言材料和语境语法不同一样,写作训练和思维方式上也有着完全不同的套路和方法。

人文汉语和应用汉语不止名称不同,内容、方法和目的都应该不同。但不管有什么不同,万变不离其宗,想学好高级汉语,特别是学好写作,扎实的基本功永远是一个最起码的要求。如果有了良好的基础写作能力,不管写什么文体都会出色;而相反,虽然写应用文体有捷径可循,但如果写作基本功不好,就仍然不能写出合格的应用文来。世间从来没有一种学问能够不需要下苦功,只喊一声"芝麻,开门!"就能轻松得到的,打好基础是根本。外国学生学汉语并不都想研究汉学和钻研古文献,从近年来趋势看,西方人学中文学以致用的目的更明显,因而应用汉语的重要性就被越来越迫切地提到议事日程上来了。

回到刚才的话题,写中文信对中国人来说也是一个难题。一封信如果写得出色可以广交天下朋友,可以化干戈为玉帛,可以获得利润,也可以促成贸易合作;当然,因为一封写得不好的信而引起不快甚或战争的事在中国也史不乏书。中国人从古就深味写好书信的重要,自古就有教人写信的书,就有各种各样供人写信时参考模仿的《书信大全》,直到今天,坊间各种版本的这类书仍然畅销。美国书店也大量充斥着教美国人如何写书信的工具书和范本。须知,这类的工具书都是训练本国人的。如果用自己的母语写信尚需要训练、借鉴、使用参考书,那么,对用外语写信的人,它们的重要性就自是不言而喻了。就是在这种对教材和方法探讨的压力、动力和社会需要的激励下,我写了这本书。

一封信要想写得出色,当然要靠修养和作者总的写作素质,但它不是不可以

通过速成性的"恶补"获得显效或进行必要的模仿而增色的。写信不像写有创造性色彩的小说散文需要以奇取胜。它讲究有章可循,有规格可据。严格地说,写信是一门技术,它有固定的格式,有可训练性(当然,高境界的书信是一门艺术,但对一般人的训练则不必要求达到艺术的境界),既然它是一门技术,就有可模仿性和可操作性。写信不应该是畏途。

我认为,训练写信或写应用文应该有硬件和软件两个部分。

硬件就是它的格式,是一种程式化的东西。程式化的东西非常容易把握,在 教学过程中也容易收到立竿见影的效果。这部分比如信封的写法,中国式书信和 西方书信的基本不同点的比较(如称呼,问候语段和祝颂语段这些西方式书信没 有的内容及一些必要的套话等等)、中外公文和应用文写法的基本格式的不同等。 这些内容易教,易学,易记,只需极少的时间,就能从形式上使外国学生一下子 得到一个飞跃性的进步,从而产生学习动力和成就感。

软件部分就是社会文化内涵和文字修养部分的内容了。这一部分应是最难的。别说外国学生,即使是中国人,写信或写应用文时也难免露怯。这是一种综合性的基本功训练,有些内容,其实已经超出了语言和写作训练的范畴,这些内容是我们在这本书里研讨的重点,相信它对授课者和学习者皆会有帮助的。

这本教材的另一特点是着重于实用性和操作性。使用过它的学生中具各种各样背景,从博士后到本科生都有,他们所学的专业也是百花齐放,从文、理到工学院、商学院、法学院、医学院、国际关系学院、新闻学院甚至时装学院各科皆备,学生的种族和国籍背景也是非常具有多样性。此书还在北京清华大学和美国哥伦比亚大学合办的国际性的中文密集型训练项目教学中使用,取得了良好的效果。通过在对各科几届学生的教学实践不断地修改调整,现在这部教材渐趋成熟,它被证明具有针对性和实用性,受到了广泛的欢迎较高的评价。

此书的每个章节都有充分的解说、辨析、大量的案例和练习题。它可以用作 教材,亦可以用作参考书。在使用过程中,读者和学生当然也可以按自己的需要 根据提供的范例直接进行改写、扩写或套用,使之变成自己需要的书信。本书的 内容比较丰富,包括了日常生活的主要方面和一般工作、商业活动、应酬等方面 的内容。考虑到一般教学人员在海外寻找资料的困难,这本书中尽量提供了必要 的理论和实践内容,因之,它既可用作应用文、商业和书信写作的专业教材,又 可以作为一般中文写作课的辅导教材。

中国加入 WTO, 在整个世界范围内学习应用汉语的外国人大增, 这无疑对海

外中文教学是一个机遇和挑战。它给我们提出了新课题,也给中国和世界的联系 掀开了一个新的篇章。我希望我们会有更多更好的著作问世,以无愧于这个伟大 的时代。

本书的部分内容在纽约哥伦比亚大学 1999 年主办的国际汉语研讨会和 2000 年波士 顿全美外语教学年会上做过介绍,受到了本专业的专家学者的好评,通过 交流,也使我得到了很多教益,特在此致谢。

感谢北京大学出版社郭力教授和胡双宝教授,从约稿到本书的写作、修改, 他们都提出了很多宝贵的意见,没有他们的关怀和支持,此书当然不能这么快得 以面世。

二〇〇二年春,海龙序于纽约,哥伦比亚大学

PREFACE

About Business Chinese Writing

It is interesting to note that many highly-educated non-Chinese students are able to reach a level of Chinese where they can read a newspaper, a Chinese novel or even the Classics but still fail to complete the simple task of writing a note or letter. More and more people learning Chinese as a foreign language tend to receive an academic foundation and lack the practical means of everyday writing. Why can a student write a Chinese essay but have difficulty writing a note to a classmate or professor? These are all skill levels that are easily trainable and easily learned. Business writing in Chinese is a special field. Not only do non-native students need training but native speakers as well. Business writing combines both internal and external techniques: a highly stylized way of expression that correlates to a standardized format or custom. Writing works beyond language to communicate concepts.

Why is it important to learn Business Chinese writing now? In recent years, China has experienced unprecedented growth and change in its economic, political and social agendas. Its future in the WTO and increased communications with the rest of the world will only make Business Chinese a more important way to facilitate that communication and exchange of ideas. Chinese is the second most widely spoken language after English. In tomorrow's work place, it will be extremely important for those participating in China's market to have a working knowledge of Chinese Business writing.

The Function of Business Writing

Even in modern society, where devices are getting more technologically advanced by the day, we must know when and why to write a letter. A business letter has a certain purpose and function that cannot be replaced by the telephone, a fax, or even an e-mail. Particularly in China, with its rich literary past, the function of a letter still represents a certain necessity to display ones knowledge, style, etiquette, and purpose in writing. Even in certain forms of business writing today, allusions to old canonical sayings, ideological phrases or classical idioms are used to encompass certain relationships or sensitive topics that are in-

appropriate to state directly. These more stylized versions of business writing are more commonly found in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore, as the Mainland forms followed a more vernacular, non-literary style due to Chinese government's efforts to find a unifying language everyone could understand. The style in this manual is a combination of both the vernacular and stylized versions.

Steps in Writing and Effective Chinese Letter

This text provides a student with clear instructions on how to read and write several useful Chinese business documents. Each section begins with an introduction to the document, its purpose and function in business writing, and its format followed by several examples of different styles.

- Preparation Basically, the most important part of the letter writing is not because how good is the language skills the writer has, the key point is the composition. I believe that about half the time the writer put into writing a letter should be spent planning it before he/she writes the first draft. A letter is a singular and lasting reflection of the writer's abilities to be clear, coherent, and thoughtful. In order to avoid writing anything unintelligible, incomplete, or inappropriate that they might regret on second thought, the more considerate preparation is very important.
- Purpose of Writing Consider that the purpose of a letter is to motivate your reader to think, feel, or act in some specific way. Bear in mind that an effective letter is not necessarily one in which you say what you want to say. Instead, it is one in which you say what you need to say to achieve your desired outcome.

To focus better on your purpose for writing, ask yourself these questions regarding the person to whom you are trying to communicate:

- + What is my reader like? What other people might read my letter? What are they like?
- + What does my reader know about me and the subject about which I am writing? What are my reader's attitudes toward that subject and me?
 - + What do I want my reader to think, feel, or do as a result of what I'm writing?
- + How can I best express what I have to say so that my reader will react in the desired way? What does and doesn't my reader need to know? What style and tone should I use in the letter?
- Organization and Outlining Writing down an outline is always a good habit of letter writing. With that you can have an approximate step-by-step chart of what you're going to say in the letter. As you work on this outline you will feel confident about the overall content and shape of your letter. In general, an effective English letter states its purpose clearly

and succinctly within the first paragraph; the rest of the letter should consist of material supporting this main purpose. However, in Chinese letter writing you cannot directly write your purpose "clearly" in your first paragraph. If you do, I almost can guarantee you will not get what you want. Therefore, in this case, we ought to know how to organize our ideas and how to present them in the best way that may not only requires your knowledge of the language but will also request your cultural knowledge on the topic. We will explain this in the text.

- Simple, Clear and Concise Try to make your letter as simple, clear and concise as possible, and try to avoid big words, fancy words, sophisticated words, technical words or abstract words. However, we have to learn some formatted expressions in our Chinese letter writing.
- Rewrite Rewriting not only gives a letter its final polish, but also helps ensure that it is as effective as you can make it. If it is worth taking the time to write, it is worth taking the time to rewrite. After you finish your Chinese letter, try reading your first draft out loud. This is an excellent way to check for language that sounds unnatural, impersonal, or awkward.

Pedagogical Procedure

The author believes that there are basic formulas in Business Chinese writing. As teachers, our tasks is to give the "key" to our students and to analyze or "decode" the "key" and teach them how to master the formulas. Writing a good business Chinese letter is a skill but not an art. Business writing is a special field. No matter how good our language skills are, we still need specific training to write a proper letter. This phenomenon has happened in all the languages in world. We can easily find books teaching native speakers how to write a successful letter in their own languages at markets. If even a native speaker needs to learn the skill of writing a good letter, we can see how important is for a foreign language learner to learn these skills. Since business letter writing is a technique, we should have a basic way to approach it. My goal is to explore how to write a successful business letter in Chinese and try to make it as easy as possible to teach our foreign students to write a decent, authentic and successful Chinese business letter.

The basic method of our book is to explain the two different writing systems in Chinese: literary writing and the business writing. We will pay specific attention to the different functions and thinking styles involved in writing in our daily life and in writing poetic expression.

We have eight chapters in our book. They include all fields of the daily used topics in

business Chinese: I. The elements of business Chinese writing. II. Introduction of yourself (business card, resume, etc). III. Private letter writing. IV. Public-related affair correspondence or formal correspondence. V. Business letters writing. VI. Note writing. VII. Announcement and commercial writing. VIII. Contract and treaties writing.

In each chapter, we will introduce the basic information of the subject first, and then we will teach the basic method or general requirement in each kind of writing style. Special emphasis will be placed on the differences between Chinese business writing and western business writings in mood, expressions and customary ways. After the introduction of the basic formulas of the specific genre, we will analyze part by part the writing skills that are characteristics of each form. Thirdly, we will offer various kinds of writing examples to train our students in the correct way to learn and imitate. There are over 200 practical and easy-to-use guided writing samples to teach you how to write a clear, effective business letter. Besides that, we have many well-designed exercises on our topics after each chapter, which include "useful patterns and expressions", "practical writing and functional exercises", "exercise of substitutions and extensions", "exercise on expending vocabulary focus on the topic" and a general review, questions and answers, etc.

I started writing this book in 1998 and it has been used at Columbia University for five generations. I have discussed the basic ideas and teaching methods of Chinese business writing with my colleagues and I have presented them at several professional conferences, including the *International Conference of Chinese Language Learning and Teaching* (1999, Columbia University, New York), and *American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages*, (2000 Boston). The positive reviews and comments that gave me courage to finish this book sooner. I would like to express my thanks to many teachers, experts and researchers in this field for their encouragement and supports. My thanks especially to my students at Columbia University and in the Beijing, Columbia at Qinghua University program. Without all their hard work and corporation, exploration with me in this field, and timely feedback, I simply can not finish this work.

Hailong Wang
2002, Spring
Columbia University
New York

目 录

(Content)

第一章	章 概论	1
_,	应用文的基本常识	1
=,	应用文的基本特点	2
	立足实用——主题明确——格式固定——注重真实——强调时效——可训	
	练性	
三、	怎样写作应用文 ······	4
	务实——简明——得体——多练——注重技术技巧	
第-	章练习题	6
第二重	章 介绍你自己 ······	8
、	名片	8
	名片的内容——名片的使用	
=,	个人履历	12
三、	如何写个人履历表	13
1	. 个人履历表的主要内容	13
	全名、通信地址、电话工作的历史和工作经验学历或教育背景	
	特殊技能——发表文章或专业贡献——可提供的推荐人或单位	
2	,有关注意事项	15
	时间顺序——详细和省略——格式要求——避免使用的词语	
	履历分析例一	
	履历分析例二	
	——履历分析例三:申请销售部主任	
	——履历分析例四:申请研究员	
	——履历分析例五:申请助理教授	
	——履历分析例六:申请读研究生	

		——履历分析例七:甲请做研究页	
		——履历分析例八:申请就读医学院	
		——履历分析例九:申请当业务经理	
	第二	章练习题	26
舅	三章	ī 私人信函 ·······	29
	— ,	称谓	29
		家人或亲属——师友——熟人——未见过面的人	
		问候语段	30
	·	一般性问候节日、气候或季节性的问候特殊性问候或就事论事的问候	
	三、	正文	31
		叙述性的书信正文——解释性的书信正文——议论性的书信正文——应酬性	
		的书信正文——表达感情性的书信正文——其他	
	四、	祝颂语	33
		一般祝颂语——特殊祝颂语——祝颂语的位置	
	五、	署名	34
	六、	日期	35
	七、	其他	35
		——信例一: 叙述性	
		——信例二:议论性	
		信例三: 抒情性	
		——信例四:应酬类	
	八、	中文信封格式和地址的写法	39
	第三	章练习题	41
負	四重	t 事务信函 ······	45
٠.		求职信和与工作有关的信函	
		邀请信、委托信	47
		推荐信、证明信	
		感谢信、祝贺信	
	H,	~~~··································	70
		——· 求职信例二·申请销售部经理职务	

——求职信例四:申请数学教师职务	
——求职信例五:申请研究员职务	
——求职信例六:申请产销部经理	
——邀请信例一:邀请开会	
——邀请信例二:邀请参加文化活动	
委托信例一:委托帮忙	
委托信例二: 借书	
推荐信例一:推荐申请助理教授职务	
——推荐信例二:推荐申请助理经理	
——征求推荐信例一:请老师写推荐信	
——征求推荐信例二: 招聘单位请申请人原单位写推荐信	
——证明信例一: 学生在校表现	
证明信例二: 买电脑和电脑软件价款	
感谢信例一:感谢招待	
——感谢信例二:感谢借书	
——祝贺信例一:祝贺银行庆祝四十周年	
祝贺信例二:祝贺艺术展览	
——建议信例一:工作建议	
——建议信例二:庆祝春节	
投诉信例一:传真机质量问题	
——投诉信例二:错误账单	
第四章练习题 ······	74
第五章 商业信函	79
一、概说	79
二、商业信函的作用	79
三、商业信函的写作特点	80
一事一函,内容简洁、明确——文风朴素,行文冷静、客观——语言准确,	
用语规范、严谨——格式统一,形式美观、大方	
四、商业信函的基本结构	82

——求职信例三:申请电脑工程师职务

		编号称谓正文祝颂语签名日期其他	
	五、	传真信函和电子信函	85
		——商业信函例一:催货	
		——商业信函例二:征求贸易伙伴	
		商业信函例三:关于继续办理保险业务	
		——商业信函例四:保险费保持不变	
		——商业信函例五:讨论价格	
		——商业信函例六:催欠款	
		——商业信函例七:请代查询营业情况	
		商业信函例八: 电传文例	
	第五	[章练习题 ····································	95
第	六章	f 各种便条 ····································	
	-,	概说	98
	_,	便条的特点	98
		简便性——随意性——限制性	
	三、	便条的分类	99
		留言性便条——邀请性便条——馈赠类便条——请假类便条——借条——收	
		条或领条——推荐或介绍类便条——请求和委托帮忙类的便条——催请类的	
		便条	
	四、	便条的写法	01
	五、	便条的写作要求	01
		——留言性便条例	
		——邀请性便条例	
		——馈赠性便条例	
		请事假条例	
		——请病假条例	
		——借条例	
		——收条例	
		——· 领条例	
		推荐便条例	
		——介绍便条例	
		请求和委托帮忙便条例	

		——催请类便条例	
	第六	章练习题	111
第	七章	通告与启事	114
	,	概说	114
		通告和启事的特点	114
	•	明确的目的性内容的公开性接受者的广泛性接受者的选择性	
	=,	通告和启事的分类	115
	_ •	事务通报性的通告、启事——声明性的通告、启事——有时间和责任性的通	115
		告、启事——广告性的通告、启事	
	四、	通告和启事的写作方法	116
	- `	突出重点——注意语言文字的精练和优美——格式要准确	110
		——招聘启事例	
		——招生启事例	
		——通知开会例	
		——·宣布婚礼例	
		——征求会员例	
		——更改账户例	
		——同乡会召开会议通知例	
		——同学会征文例	
		——公司更改名称通告例	
		——公司合并声明例	
		——维护公司产品声誉声明例	
		——遗失声明例	
		——产品利益转让启事例	
	,	——严正警告声明例	
		公开道歉声明例	
		——鸣谢启事例	
	•	——公司休假启事例	
		——公司迁址公告例	
		会议改期通知例	
		招领启事例	
		——征婚广告例	