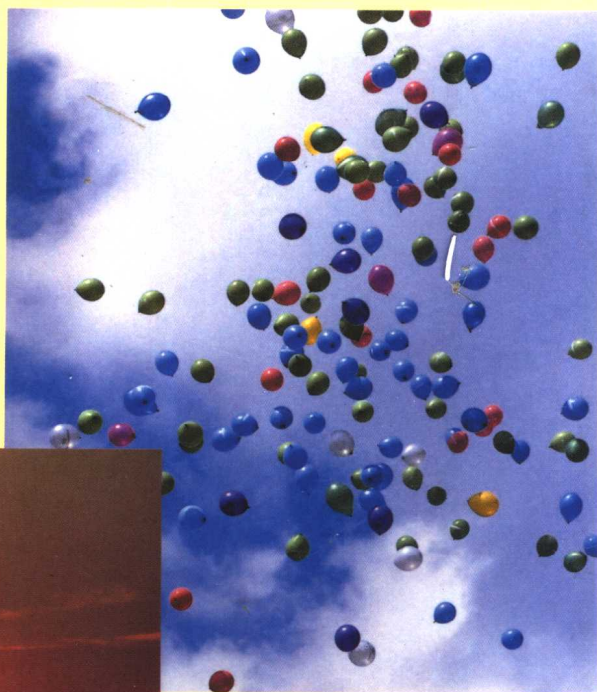


# A NEW ESSENTIAL COURSE ON LINGUISTICS

# 新编语言学基础教程

魏辉良 谢元花 编著



87

中国社会科学出版社



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# 总 序

国际国内经济贸易发展的新形势要求我们对国际经济贸易的理论与实践、对世界经济贸易的规律性、对我国坚持实行和进一步扩大对外开放的伟大事业有更深刻的认识与了解。鉴于国际国内经济发展的大趋势,依据高等学校外语专业教育指导委员会就关于外语专业本科教育改革提出的若干意见的要求,考虑到外贸、商务英语专业的特点及社会对既懂外语又懂经贸、商务专业的复合人才的迫切需求,为满足广大中高级英语水平读者对适合于他们水平的经贸英语教材的强烈愿望,也考虑到目前我国经贸英语教材的现状及未来的发展,我们有责任和义务编写出一批内容新颖、信息可靠、语言规范、具有权威性的经贸英语教材及教学参考书。这套新编经贸英语系列教材就是我们基于上述种种考虑,通过认真研究、反复论证、深入调查、充分准备,编写出的一套吸取其他同类教材优点,又独具特色的最新经贸英语系列教材。希望通过这套系列教材,对我国外语专业及经贸专业院校尽快地、高效地培养更多更优秀的复合型外语人才做出一些贡献。

经贸英语系列教材的编写充分体现了时代特色,强调理论和实践的有机结合。针对英语专业、外贸英语、商务英语专业中高年级学生,国际贸易、国际金融、经济学、工商管理等其他经贸类专业的高年级学生和具有较高英语水平从事经贸商务工作的在职人员虽然过了专业英语八级或大学英语六级但在专业英语学习方面仍有困难的现状,编写出的一套衔接基础英语和专业英语的难度适中的经贸英语系列教材。该系列教材共有十一册。它们分别是《新编经贸英语阅读教程》、《新编经贸英语写作教程》、《新编经贸英语翻译教程》、《新编经贸英语报刊选读教程》、《新编经贸英语口语教程》、《新编经贸英语听力教程》、《新编经贸英语口语教程》、《新编英语国家文化基础教程》、《新编语言学基础教程》、《新编英美文学欣赏教程》、《新编中国文化基础教程》。

由周富强、王长江编著的《新编经贸英语阅读教程》是一本内容涉及国际贸易、国际经济、工商管理、国际金融、市场营销、财务会计、国际投资、国际服务、国际经济合作、知识经济等各个领域取材宽泛、材料翔实的经贸英语阅读教材。全书分十四个单元。每个单元包括A、B两篇课文、阅读材料、疑难词汇与词组、供思考讨论的问题及注释。课文对国际经济贸易各科理论、实践及其历史沿革和目前发展趋势作出系统的概述;阅读材料展示经贸理论热点;词汇与词组部分就超出大纲的生词及词组和专业术语作出了详细的解释以帮助读者快速理解课文内容;课后讨论问题从不同角度就课文相关内容提出问题以引导读者对所读理论知识作系统深入的思考并运用所学理论分析实际问题;注释就课文相关的理论知识给以较全面的展现,以加深读者对所学知识的理解,进而扩大读者的知识面。

由梁润森等编著的具有较强操作性和模仿性及实践性的《新编经贸英语写作教程》由十二课组成。第一课介绍商业书信的标准格式。第二课介绍通过哪些途径来发展新客户,开拓新市场。第三课介绍如何讯盘某一商品。第四课介绍实盘和虚盘的界定。第五课介绍常见的讨价还价的事实依据。第六课介绍签约和履行合同条款。第七课介绍各种普遍适用的付款方式。第八课介绍包装,租船定舱和集装箱运输。第九课介绍如何审查信用证和要求修改信用证。第十课介绍索赔和解决索赔争端。第十一课介绍电传传真通讯。第十二课介

绍制单收汇。书中的范文体现了在我国对外贸易灵活政策下的国际进出口业务的新做法和灵活做法。编者期望读者能从该教程中学会拟写符合规范的外经贸业务英文函电和电传传真,从而提高解决实际业务问题的能力。

由褚东伟等编著的《新编经贸英语翻译教程》是一本经贸翻译实践指导书,分英译汉篇、汉译英篇、翻译的商业化运作篇(翻译过程概说、自由职业、翻译公司和翻译现代化)。其中英译汉篇和汉译英篇为本书的主要部分,每篇分为信函、合同、商业文件和技术资料四个部分,每部分提供了大量的曾经被客户接受的翻译实例并对这些实例进行技术点评和规律总结。读者在学习翻译技巧的同时自然地熟悉各类文体,对英语写作也有一定的提高。翻译的商业化运作篇帮助读者走出篇章,讲述走向市场以翻译为职业、以翻译为事业的技巧。

由李贻定编著的《新编经贸英语报刊选读教程》收入了世界著名英文报刊的最新文章。考虑到世纪之末的世界网络经济发展的突飞猛进,电子商务的欣欣向荣,而在中国的金融部门及制造业等领域的现代化方面却出现了“瓶颈”现象,本书的编选突出了网络经济、电子商务、金融和制造业方面的文章。影响世界经济贸易发展潮流方面的有关市场营销、高科技等方面的文章也有不同程度的选入。鉴于新闻体裁文章的时效性,本教程的选材侧重预测未来的文章,这样就大大延长了本教程的时效性。为了增加该教程的灵活性及个性比,本书介绍了一些新闻体裁的阅读技巧,以供读者分析根据自己兴趣所选的文章。本教程还设计了一些使读者通过浏览找出文章观点的问题及概括文意的技巧,并介绍了在飞速发展的信息社会中阅读报刊杂志的一些新方法。

由赵军峰等编著的《新编经贸英语口语教程》分理论篇和实践篇。本书以理论篇为教学先导,针对口译的性质特征,从理论的角度向读者作一高屋建瓴的概述,使读者对口译的性质、特点、标准、过程、类型乃至译员的素质有一概括性的认识。本书实践篇结合经贸活动诸层面中出现的具体语境,如迎来送往、广告宣传、参观访问、商务谈判、礼仪祝词、人物专访等等,将口译训练融化在12个单元之中。该书各个单元训练所需的有声和文字材料均具有针对性、真实性和时效性,大部分取自全真的口译现场录音。该书取材覆盖面广,各单元兼顾英汉、汉英双向训练,有译前准备、口译笔记、语体模式识别与转换、信息的概括与增删以及按命题意义重组句型等编辑技巧训练。该书充分体现了口译理论与实践相结合、针对性与通用性相结合的特点。

由何勇斌等编著的《新编经贸英语听力教程》以培养读者英语笔记能力为重点。选用的材料包括经贸报告、经贸会谈等方面。该教程共分为18个单元。每单元可供4课时使用。每单元包括听前训练(课前背景材料阅读、词汇训练、难句预读),实听练习(笔记、听力理解监测题),听后练习(口头讨论或写作)三大部分。该教程配有《教师手册》,包括录音的书面材料、练习及答案两个部分。

由周杏英、罗爱琼编著的《新编经贸英语口语教程》分上下篇。上篇包括两大部分。第一部介绍迎接与送别外人的全过程(接待、交通安排、食宿及参观等活动)。第二部分是关于商务洽谈的全过程(询价、订货、运输、付款及索赔等)。下篇为阅读材料篇。主要是关于国内外著名城市、景点、著名宾馆、风俗人情、著名公司及著名产品介绍。上下篇紧密结合,全方位地为读者提供了内容新颖、紧扣时代脉搏的理想的经贸口语学习蓝本。

由周富强、霍海洪编著的《新编英语国家文化基础教程》共分为十四章。第一章概括介绍文化的特征、范畴、文化研究的历史及全球文化的发展。第二章概述主要英语国家简况。第三章介绍主要英语国家国土及其自然资源。第四章介绍英语国家的人民及社会状况。第五章论述英语及其变体的特征;着重比较对比英国英语和美国英语的异同。第六章简述英语国家的历史发展及其沿革规律。第七章比较对比英语国家的政治制度的异同。第八章着

重论述英语国家经济模式及商贸实践。第九章介绍宗教及其在英语国家文化中的地位。第十章使学习者对英语国家的教育体制及其发展状况有一全面的把握。第十一、十二章分别介绍了英语国家的文学和艺术的发展、演变及其特征。第十三章注重英语国家的媒体介绍。第十四章则综述了英语国家的国际关系。通过本教程,编者力图全面地介绍英语国家的民族风格、历史、语言特色、政治制度、经贸、文学、宗教、教育、新闻媒体、家庭生活、社会问题等有关文化背景的方方面面,为经贸英语学习者成功地参与国际商务活动,更有效地进行国际全面合作打下坚实的文化基础。

由戴桂玉等编者的《新编英美文学欣赏教程》具有把文学基本理论与文学名作欣赏融为一体来进行教学的特点,本书共分十六个单元。内容涵盖小说、诗歌和戏剧的基本要素、文学批评的基本原理以及主要的文学流派和写作技巧。本教程精选了一些有代表性和各具特色的作家的作品或选读来加深读者对文学本质、文学流派和文学风格的认识和理解。每篇作品或选读后面都有注释和本单元的文学要点讲解,以及作者的写作技巧、风格和主体的介绍;还有供读者理解的阅读思考题或课堂分析讨论题。本教程旨在让读者既能获得理论上的指导,又能得到文本分析的实践,以便有效地提高读者的文学欣赏水平和英文写作能力。

由魏辉良、谢元花编著的《新编语言学基础教程》是一本依照最新高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲(1999),立意新颖、材料详实、讲解透彻、可读性强的英语语言学教程。其目的在于使学生了解人类语言研究的最新成果,提高他们对语言的社会、人文、经济、科技以及个人修养等方面重要性的认识,培养语言意识,发展理性思维,以帮助拓宽学生的思路和视野,全面提高学生的语言素质。本书共分为十六章,其内容涉及语言的起源、结构、变迁、口语与书面语等普通语言学范畴及语言与思维、语言与大脑、语言与文化、语言习得、语言教学等应用语言学范畴。本书不仅适用于英语专业高年级本科生,也可作为非英语专业的本科生学习语言学基础知识的参考书。

由王长江、刘国华等编者的《新编中国文化基础教程》是一本内容涉及中国历史、宗教、哲学、文学、艺术、政治经济制度、法律、教育、风俗习惯以及中西文化交流等有关中国文化诸层面的基础教程。本书以英语写就,将使读者在学习英语的同时,加深对中国文化底蕴的了解,增强用英语表述中国文化内容的能力。为了帮助读者深刻理解课文内容,对中国文化的诸方面做深入的分析 and 思考,每章节后都附有词汇表以及思考题。本书除适用于学习英语的中国学生之外,对我国外事工作者、外经贸工作者和对中国文化感兴趣的外籍人员亦有裨益。

广东外语外贸大学  
国际经贸学院  
新编经贸英语系列教材编委会  
2000年10月

# 前 言

现行的《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》把“语言学导论”作为专业知识必修课的第一门功课,其目的在于使学生了解人类语言研究的丰硕成果,提高学生对语言的社会、人文、经济、科技以及个人修养等方面重要性的认识,培养语言意识,发展理性思维。为了保持与新大纲一致,我们在新千年的第一年编写了这本《新编语言学基础教程》。

自上个世纪 50 年代末以来,国内外语言学的研究取得了巨大的发展。语言学作为一门名副其实的学科已经确定无疑,语言学的研究价值也得到了普遍的认可。语言学不仅研究语言的本质、语言的普遍现象,它还研究语言与社会、心理、文化等其他领域的关系。因此,本书的目的正在于给学生既系统讲授语言学的基础知识,也介绍语言学中的最新成果,以便于在我国高校中推广和普及语言学的教学。

全书共分为十八章,分别从语音学、音韵学、构词法、句法学、语义学、语用学及篇章分析等方面探讨了语言的本质,还阐述了语言的起源与变异、语言与思维、社会、文化等其他学科间的关系以及第一语言习得和第二语言习得的理论。此外,尚有一个附录,简单系统地介绍了语言学研究的一种新的方法 - 语料库语言学。因为语料库的建立既为更精确、更可靠的语言描述提供基础,也将对外语教学产生深远的影响。

本书由魏辉良和谢元花合作完成。魏辉良编写了第一至第十章,谢元花编写了第十一至十八章及附录部分。编者在编写的过程中力求语言浅显易懂,材料详实,讲解透彻,可读性强,并且每章附有一些有助于理解和思考的问题。我们在编写过程中参阅和引用了大量的国内外语言学方面的文献,它们在本书的参考文献中均已列出,其中主要有 V. Fromkin and R. Rodman (1983), F. Palmer (1971), V. P. Clark, P. A. Eschholz and A. F. Rosa (1981), G. Yule (1996a), H. D. Brown (1994), I. Taylor (1990), G. Yule (1996b), R. Wardhaugh (1993)。我们在此谨向这些语言学专家、学者们表示由衷的敬意和谢意。如有不妥之处,敬请谅解。本套丛书的主编周富强先生不断地鼓励我们,并在百忙之中审校了书稿,还提出了许多宝贵的意见,我们在此表示感谢。

本书适合高校英语专业高年级本专科生使用,同时也可作为非英语专业的高年级本科生及广大英语自学者学习语言学基础知识的参考书。

由于我们水平有限,本书之中难免存在缺点和错误,敬请读者批评指正。

编著者  
2001 年 5 月于广州



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# 1

## Language: An Introduction

Whatever else people may do when they come together — whether they play, fight, or make things — they talk. We live in a world of words. We talk to our friends, our associates, our wives and husbands, our lovers, our teachers, our parents and in-laws. We talk to bus-drivers and total strangers. We talk face to face and over the telephone. And everyone responds with more talk. Television and radio further swell this torrent of words. As a result, hardly a moment of our waking lives is free from words, and even in our dreams we talk and are talked to. We also talk when there is no one to answer. Some of us talk aloud in our sleep. We talk to our pets and sometimes to ourselves. And we are the only animals that do this — that talk.

Indeed, the possession of language, more than any other attribute, distinguishes humans from other animals. Language makes us human, and we spend a large part of our waking life speaking, listening, reading and writing. But most people take their language ability for granted. Speaking and understanding speech seem as natural as breathing or sleeping. Few people would stop and think, 'What is language?'

As for a definition of language, linguists are in broad agreement about some of the important characteristics of human language and one definition of language widely associated with linguistics, which is the scientific study of human language, may be used to illustrate those areas of agreement. This particular definition states that language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication.

### 1.1 Properties of language

#### 1.1.1 Communicative versus informative

In our investigation of language, we can concentrate on those properties which differentiate human language from all other forms of signaling and which make it a unique type of communication system.

In order to describe those properties, we should first distinguish what are specifically communicative signals from those which may be unintentionally informative signals. A person listening to you may become informed about you via a number of signals which you have not intentionally sent. She may note that you have a cold (you sneezed), that you aren't at ease (you

shifted around in your seat), that you are untidy (unbrushed hair, rumpled clothing), that you are disorganized (non-matching socks), and that you are from some other part of the country (you have a strange accent). However, when you use language to tell this person, 'I would like to apply for the vacant position of senior brain surgeon at the hospital,' you are normally considered to be intentionally communicating something. By the same token, the blackbird is not normally taken to be communicating anything by having black feathers, perching on a branch and eating a worm, but is considered to be sending a communicative signal with the loud squawking to be heard when a cat appears on the scene. So, when we consider the distinctions between human language and animal communication, we are considering both in terms of their potential as a means of intentional communication.

### 1. 1. 2 Unique properties

There have been a number of attempts to determine the defining properties of human language, and different lists of features can be found. We shall take six of these features and describe how they are manifested in human language. We shall also try to describe in what ways these features are uniquely a part of human language and unlikely to be found in the communication systems of other creatures. We should remain aware, however, that our view of how other creatures communicate is essentially an outsider's view and may be inaccurate. It is possible that your pet has quite complex communication with other members of its species and frequently comments on how hard it is to get points across to the large clumsy bipeds who act as if they know it all. Bearing that caveat in mind, we can now consider some of the properties which the bipeds believe are unique to their linguistic system.

#### 1. 1. 2. 1 Displacement

When your pet cat comes home after spending a night in the back alleys and stands at your feet calling *meow*, you are likely to understand this message as relating to that immediate time and place. If you ask the cat where it was the night before and what it was up to, you may get the same *meow* response. It seems that animal communication is almost exclusively designed for this moment, here and now. It cannot effectively be used to relate events which are far removed in time and place. When your dog says *GRRR*, it is likely to mean *GRRR, right now*, because it does not appear capable of communicating *GRRR, last night, over in the park*. Now, human language-users are perfectly capable of producing messages equivalent to *GRRR, last night, over in the park*, and going on to say *In fact, I'll be going back tomorrow for some more*. They can refer to past and future time, and to other locations. This property of human language is called **displacement**. It allows the users of language to talk about things and events not present in the immediate environment. Animal communication is generally considered to lack this property.

However, it has been proposed that bee communication does have the property of displacement. For example, when a worker bee finds a source of nectar and returns to the hive, it can perform a



complex dance routine to communicate to the other bees the location of this nectar. Depending on the type of dance (round dance for nearby and tail-wagging dance, with variable tempo, for further away and how far), the other bees can work out where this newly discovered feast can be found. This ability of the bee to indicate a location some distance away must mean that bee communication has at least some degree of displacement as a feature. The crucial consideration involved, of course, is that of degree. Bee communication has displacement in an extremely limited form. Certainly, the bee can direct other bees to a food source. However, it must be the most recent food source. It cannot be *that rose garden on the other side of town that we visited last weekend*, nor can it be, as far as we know, possible future nectar in bee heaven.

The factors involved in the property of displacement, as it is manifested in human language, are much more comprehensive than the communication of a single location. It enables us to talk about things and places whose existence we cannot even be sure of. We can refer to mythical creatures, demons, fairies, angels, Santa Claus, and recently invented characters such as Superman. It is the property of displacement that allows the human, unlike any other creature, to create fiction and to describe possible future worlds.

### 1. 1. 2. 2 Arbitrariness

It is generally the case that there is no 'natural' connection between a linguistic form and its meaning. You cannot look at a word, for example, the English *dog*, and determine from its shape that it has a natural meaning. The linguistic form has no natural or 'iconic' relationship with that four-legged barking object out in the world. Recognizing this general fact about language leads us to conclude that a property of linguistic signs is their arbitrary relationship with the objects they are used to indicate. The forms of human language demonstrate a property called **arbitrariness**: they do not, in any way, 'fit' the objects they denote. This is perhaps why Shakespeare says *a rose by any other name would smell sweet as well*. For another example, the same word may express different meanings, /raɪt/, may be represented as *write*, *right* and *rite*. On the other hand, different languages may have different sounds to represent the same object that exists in society. The word of such an object as a house is *fangzi* in Chinese, *maison* in French, *dom* in Russian, *Haus* in German.

There are, of course, some words in language which have sounds which seem to 'echo' the sounds of objects or activities. English examples might be *cuckoo*, *Crash*, *slurp*, *squelch* or *whirr*, which are onomatopoeic. In most languages, however, these onomatopoeic words are relatively rare, and different languages use different words to imitate the same natural sounds. The vast majority of linguistic expressions are in fact arbitrary.

Still there is an interesting fact in Chinese, that is, some written symbols may directly reflect the entities they represent without the medium of sound, presenting the impression that there exists a direct relationship between the symbol and the referent. Examples may be such characters as 馬, 牛, 魚. However such characters are pronounced, they resemble the animals they represent in