

大学生英语实践短剧

孙万军 陈凤兰◎编著



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前言

新世纪我国的外语教学面临着新的机遇和挑战,在众多的挑战中,"费时低效"是一个较为突出的问题,受到社会各界的广泛关注。有专家指出"费时低效"问题的症结在于许多学校"为片面追求升学率,把外语作为知识来传授,教学方法和教学手段落后,不重视培养学生的外语交际能力"。学习外语就像学习游泳,只学动作要领规则,不下水实践,仅仅纸上谈兵,是学不会的。同样,外语的交际能力是不能在课堂上仅凭教师讲授获得的,而是需要学生通过积极参加语言实践活动来"习得"的,也就是要在交际活动中,通过语言实践,让语言技能潜移默化地进入到个人的认知系统,成为个人知识和经验的有机组成部分。

由此看来,我国外语教学"费时低效"的一个重要原因就是实践教学环节薄弱。我们的外语教学,绝大部分没有理想的语言环境,学生进行语言实践的机会很少。如果再忽视实践环节的教学活动,学生就很难有机会通过语言实践活动来习得外语的语言交际能力。由于多年来忽视了外语学习实践环节的教学,结果就是教师和学生在外语教学上所花费的精力常常付之东流,学生辛辛苦苦学了近十年英语,其结果仅是学了一些"应试英语",只会考试选择 ABCD,而不会实际应用。外语学习代价很高,效果不佳。教学实践环节薄弱已经成为我国外语教学的瓶颈,严重阻碍着学生外语交际能力的提高。因此,要解决"费时低效"的问题,外语教学就必须注重加强语言实践环节的教学。

20 世纪 80 年代末、90 年代初兴起的建构主义学习理论在加强大学 外语教学的实践环节方面,有着重要的指导作用。建构主义学习理论强 调以学生为中心,认为学生是认知的主体,是意义的主动建构者。英语戏剧表演的实践教学,正是一种基于建构主义教学理论的教学实践活动。戏剧不仅仅是以文字的形式供读者阅读和欣赏的剧本,其最终目的是以舞台表演的艺术形式向观众展示其特有的魅力。英语戏剧表演实践教学活动是训练学生英语语言能力、培养学生英语交际能力、提高学生人文素养,使学生了解和感受英语国家社会与文化的有效手段。

建构主义学习理论特别强调"情景"、"协作"、"会话"及"意义建构"四大要素,认为理想的学习方式是这四大要素的有机结合。"情景"就是根据课程内容和教学目标创设与当前学习主题相关的、尽可能真实的学习情境;"协作"就是学习者通过合作,共同完成学习任务;"会话"是协作过程中不可缺少的环节,学习者通过互相交流,互相学习,把个体体验化作集体的收获;"意义建构"是学习的最终目标,通过创设情境、协作和交流,学习者把新知识与头脑中原有的知识和经验相结合,把新的知识和经验纳入自己的认知系统,完成意义的建构。

英语戏剧表演的实践教学是一种生动活泼的教学实践形式,它是通过台词和表演来塑造人物形象,表现人物性格的。戏剧教育专家加文·博尔顿指出:"戏剧不仅以文字的形式向人们传递信息,而且以声音、空间、行为等舞台因素与人们进行交流。"舞台就是一个小社会,在外语语言环境严重缺乏的情况下,戏剧作品为特殊的文化行为设定了场景,英语戏剧表演实践活动给学生提供了全方位接触英语国家社会与文化的机会。

另外,戏剧对白与自然对话的语言机制非常接近,戏剧中的语言并不是为了学习或训练某个语言点而设计的,是真正接近日常生活、以交流为目的的语言。戏剧对白是对日常交流对话中精华的浓缩,剔除了日常对话中无意义的话语成分,每个角色的语言都为塑造人物性格服务,通过对角色语言的学习,有助于学生认识到人与人之间的交流是如何建立在语言基础之上的。可见,戏剧表演实践教学是培养学生语言能力、交际能力和文化意识的有效方法。这种方法不仅有利于外语学习,对本族语的学习也具有促进和提高作用,英国 20 世纪 90 年代的英语课程教

学大纲中也指出: "戏剧教学有助于实现英语语言教学和文学教学的教学目的。"

英语戏剧表演实践教学是基于建构主义学习理论基础之上的教学实践,这种实践活动囊括了建构主义学习理论中理想学习方式的四大要素——"情景"、"协作"、"会话"及"意义建构",并把这四大要素有机地结合了起来。

根据建构主义学习理论,学生是知识意义的主动建构者,而不是外界刺激的被动接受者。教师的角色也应发生变化,不仅仅是知识的传播者、训练者,而应成为智慧的启发者、教学过程的组织者、指导者。教师在英语教学中的作用不是"演员"而是"导演"。在英语戏剧表演的实践教学中,教师成为了真正意义上的"导演",组织和引导学生参加语言实践活动,以学生为中心,充分调动学生的积极性和主动性,培养学生的语言交际应用能力。

教育专家维各托斯基早就指出,表演是一种建设性的行为,它有助于提高学生的思维能力、想象力、创造力以及对周围世界的判断力。英语戏剧表演的语言实践活动调动了学生学习英语的积极性和主动性,对学生更好地理解语言、灵活地运用语言都有极大的帮助作用。同时,英语戏剧表演的实践活动也扩大了学生的视野,让他们真正感受到了中西文化的差异,提升了学生跨文化交际能力、文化鉴赏力和艺术审美能力,从而提高了学生的综合文化素养。更为重要的是,英语戏剧表演充分挖掘了学生的创造力,培养了协作精神。在提高语言交际能力的同时,也提高了学生自主创新的能力,实现了建构主义学习理论的学习理念。

英语戏剧表演是提高学生语言实践能力行之有效的手段,北京印刷学院外语专业已连续多年开展了英语戏剧表演的实践,取得了不错的效果。然而,在教学实践中我们发现,目前的市场上供学生考试用的资料不少,但供大学生英语实践使用的剧本不多。虽然有一些英语戏剧选读,但大多数是以大学生阅读欣赏为目的的,从语言的难度和剧本的长度上不太适合大学生表演实践。因此,我们编写了这本《大学生英语实

践短剧》,选取了语言难度和戏剧长度适当的短剧,以戏剧表演实践为目的,希望能为提高大学生的英语实践能力尽一点绵薄之力。

作者 2012 年 6 月 1 日于北京印刷学院

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BIG NOSE (A MODERN CYRANO) ^①

by D. M. Larson

剧情简介:几个缺乏才气的演员在剧院进行一场矫揉造作的乏味演出,引起了观众的不满。"大鼻子" Cyril 看不下去了,他开始在场下起哄,对演员大声讽刺挖苦,逗乐了观众,却惹恼了演员,致使演员要"罢演",这可急坏了剧院老板——Cyril 的朋友。救场如救火, Cyril 灵机一动,把演出变成了"才艺秀",受到挖苦的演员不服气,要和 Cyril 一决高下,拿 Cyril 的"大鼻子"当笑柄,开始对他进行人身攻击, Cyril 毫不示弱,在斗嘴过程中施展自己的才华,结果妙语连珠,让与其争斗的演员败下阵来,并赢得了女演员的一吻。

表演提示:剧中的语言诙谐,妙趣横生,有许多双关语,在演出时 需仔细体味把握。

Cast of Characters

CYRIL (MAN): A local man who has a rather large nose.

① This play is selected from http://freedrama.net/(Retrieved on May 28, 2012). Thanks to the author for the permission to use the play script here. Cyrano 本来是十九世纪法国剧作家 Edmond Rostand 在其剧本中刻画的一个人物,汉语常翻译成"大鼻子情圣",Cyrano 是一位才华横溢的诗人,但因其鼻子太大,相貌不佳而得名。本剧的主人公也是一个机敏睿智的"大鼻子",所以称作"现代的 Cyrano"。

CAPTAIN: A bad actor who makes William Shatner look good.

SOLDIER: Another equally bad actor.

FRIEND(S): A friend of CYRIL's in the audience who can be played by one or more actors of either gender.

ROXY: An actress in the CAPTAIN's play who catches CYRIL's eye.

KELLY: CYRIL's friend who runs the theatre.

Scene:

Time and Place: A modern day community theatre in small town USA. (Lights come up on a poorly constructed set. There is a balcony with odd colored cloth hanging down and a backdrop that is supposed to be a castle. Two men enter in Shakespearean type dress. They are very bad actors who think they are very good.)

CAPTAIN: Look at yonder window, friend. She awaits me, she does.

SOLDIER: Doth she?

CAPTAIN: She does.

SOLDIER: But doth she love thee?

CAPTAIN: She does.

SOLDIER: So good for you.

MAN: (From audience.) So bad for us!

(He and FRIENDS laugh. The two actors take a quick glance out in surprise then quickly get back in character.)

CAPTAIN: Uh... yes. She loveth me. She wroteth a letter.

(Takes it out. Sniffs lovingly.)

Ah, doth though smelleth her fragrance? Doth thou find it heavenly?

SOLDIER: (Excited.) I smell. I smell.

MAN: You can say that again.

(He and friends laugh. The two actors try to hide their anger, but they

don't do it well.)

CAPTAIN: Tonight, I shall go to her. Tonight. Tonight!

MAN: When?!

CAPTAIN: (Angry. Trying to be more dramatic.) Tonight!

MAN: (Mocking.) I can't hear you.

CAPTAIN: (Turns to run off the stage.) Now look here! (SOLDIER grabs him.)

SOLDIER: I can not let you go to her.

CAPTAIN: (One more look at MAN then gets back to play.) Why doth thou stopeth me?

SOLDIER: Because she is to be mine.

CAPTAIN: Then we must fight to our deaths.

MAN: We can only hope.

SOLDIER: (*They pull swords.*) We fight for love!

(They dual. MAN sings "Love Boat Theme." He gets FRIENDS to join in. CAPTAIN is stabbed.)

CAPTAIN: Oh, my heart. My loving heart. My heart is stabbed. I can love no more.

SOLDIER: Oh, my captain. I have slain thee. But how?

MAN: What do you mean "how"? What's that in your hand, a swizzle stick?

CAPTAIN: I die now. I die. I leave thee to love for I can love no more. My heart is worn. My blood will pour this night no more. I leave my sword, my rank, my love. You have it all now. You have everything I desire. (Cough.)

I die and leave thee. I die and leave thee these words.

MAN: Will you just die already?!

CAPTAIN: (Jumps up.) I've had it with you!

MAN: It's a miracle. He's alive.

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CAPTAIN: (*Picks up his sword.*) Come on, whoever you are. I've had it with you. One night is bad enough but three in a row!

MAN: (Leaps up onto the stage.) Do you not know me?

(The man is CYRIL DE BURG, local jokester. He is well known for his big nose.)

CAPTAIN: Oh, yeah. I know you now. I've heard about you. You're the one with the big nose.

(Gasp from CYRIL'S FRIENDS.)

FRIEND: (From audience.) You shouldn't have said that.

CYRIL: You're offended by my nose?

CAPTAIN: It is no stranger than a dog with two tails.

(He laughs but no one laughs with him.)

CYRIL: There was a poem a read once. It goes something like this:

(Picking up a sword.)

"Roses are red. Violets are fuchsia. What you dish out, comes right back to ya".

(And CYRIL quickly unarms the CAPTAIN with a twist of his sword.)

CAPTAIN: (Looks at empty hand.) How did you?

(Backs away.)

No hard feeling, huh?

CYRIL: None at all.

(CAPTAIN starts to go.)

CYRIL: I look forward to seeing your performance tomorrow night.

CAPTAIN: Oh, no.

CYRIL: Oh, yes.

CAPTAIN: Oh, golly.

(Exits.)

ROXY: (Comes out on balcony.) What's going on out here?

CYRIL: (To audience.) Now, for the moment you've all been waiting for.

The farewell. When we last left our hero, he was flat on the floor, bleeding and giving some terribly boring speech. But his fair lady comes out and sees him dying. She calls out to him:

(He points to her.)

ROXY: (She gives him a dirty look.) What is this?

CYRIL: And she says...

ROXY: (Sighs. Speaks flatly.) Oh, but I must have one goodbye kiss.

CYRIL: And so our hero, though he is bleeding to death, uses his last bit of strength to climb up to her.

(He does actions. The ROXY looks very annoyed. He is almost to her.)
He wants that one last kiss. The kiss he has been dreaming of. But

before he can reach her he tosses the mortal coil. UHHH!

(He dies and falls. Looks out at audience.)

And dies.

(Stands up.)

Finally.

ROXY: That isn't how it ends.

CYRIL: It isn't?

ROXY: No.

(She looks at him.)

It ends with a kiss.

CYRIL: It does?

ROXY: Yes.

CYRIL: Really?

(He climbs up again.)

Could you perhaps... show me?

ROXY: (She looks at him critically and then smiles. She leans to almost kiss him.) In your dreams.

(She pushes him off. KELLY rushes out and faces audience.)

KELLY: Well, folks. That was an interesting twist in tonight's show. We will now have a ten minute intermission.

CAPTAIN: (Storms onto the stage. Rips up a contract in front of KELLY.)
I quit!

(Exits.)

KELLY: Let's make that a twenty minute intermission and we'll be back with something.

(Angrily calls to CYRIL under her breath.)

Get over here.

CYRIL: Something wrong?

KELLY: Thanks to you, the theatre group canceled the rest of tonight's performance. Now what am I going to do?

CYRIL: Hey! Let's have a community talent show.

KELLY: You mean right now?

CYRIL: Give a prize. That will make them happy.

KELLY: (Sighs.) I guess. What else can I do?

KELLY: (ROXY exits as CYRIL enters. He watches her go.) You ready?

CYRIL: Of course.

(To audience.)

Everyone, Can I have your attention please? Due to a sudden attack of stupidity, we will not be showing our regularly scheduled play. Instead, I present to you a talent show where you, the audience, can be a part of it. First prize' MYM100.

KELLY: MYM100?

CYRIL: (Aside.) Just play along.

KELLY: Easy for you to say. It's not your MYM100.

CYRIL: I'll start things off by reciting some of my poetry.

CAPTAIN: (Appears out of audience.) I thought you said this was a talent show. It can't be one with you in it.

CYRIL: You're still here? Did the rest of the theatre group leave without you?

CAPTAIN: Aren't you being a little nosey^①?

(Referring to CYRIL'S nose.)

I guess you're probably always nosing around².

(CYRIL is mad. ROXY, SOLDIER, KELLY reappear on stage.)

What's wrong? I guess nobody nose!

CYRIL: Is that all you can think up?

CAPTAIN: I'm sure I could come up with a few more.

CYRIL: I bet you can't.

CAPTAIN: Wanna bet?

CYRIL: Gladly.

KELLY: Cyril. What are you doing?

(CYRIL waves her down.)

CYRIL: I challenge you to a dual of jokes. Whoever tells the most nose jokes...

(CAPTAIN is up on stage.)

CAPTAIN: Yes?

CYRIL: (Thinks. CYRIL motions to ROXY.) Gets a kiss from the lovely lady.

KELLY: Cyril!

ROXY: No, it's okay.

CAPTAIN: (Comes onstage. Eyeing ROXY.) I'll gladly accept as long as it's a real kiss, not one of those stage kisses.

ROXY: (Winks at CYRIL.) It depends who wins.

① nosey:在这里是个双关语,指好管闲事的,爱追问的或大鼻子的。CAPTAIN以此来取笑 CYRIL 的大鼻子

② nose around:同样是双关,一方面指"四处探听情况",同时用 nose 这个词来挖 苦 CYRIL。

(FRIENDS cat call from audience.)

CYRIL: Shall we begin?

CAPTAIN: Okay, big nose.

(Laughs.)

There's one.

CYRIL: That's it? I guess I shouldn't expect much from someone who must use his nose to count to eleven.

FRIEND: (From audience.) One - one!

CYRIL: No, no. We are insulting my nose, not his. Let's see. Oh, yes.

Aggressive: Sir, if I had such a nose, I would cut it off to please, not spite, my face.

(Looks at audience.)

One - one.

CAPTAIN: Your nose is so big you must use a box of tissues a day.

(A few boos from FRIENDS.)

CYRIL: Oh, let's give it to him. Two - one.

(Thinks.)

Hmmm. Ah, here's one: Hey, that thing's nearly a house... and wow, what a view!

FRIEND: Two - two!

CAPTAIN: (Frustrated. Then smiles.) I've seen a bigger nose. On an elephant.

CYRIL: Very good. Three - two.

(Thinks. Smiles.)

On exercise: I've heard of people developing their muscles, but developing your nose? It's the noseflex exercise challenge.

FRIEND: Three all!

CAPTAIN: (Annoyed.) Uh, your nose is so big you... you...

CYRIL: See the snot before you hear the sneeze?

FRIEND: That point goes to Cyril.

CAPTAIN: He didn't let me finish.

CYRIL: Go ahead.

CAPTAIN: It's so big... you're always nosing around.

(Boos.)

CYRIL: No point.

(CAPTAIN scowls.)

Gracious: How kind of you! How many people put a bird perch on his face?

CAPTAIN: Now look here...

CYRIL: When you have a cigarette and blow out your nose, do the neighbors cry, "Look out! A chimney's on fire!"

CAPTAIN: Forget it... I'm through...

CYRIL: (Stops him.) But I'm just getting started. When you go to the movies, do they charge you twice?

FRIEND: Seven to three!

CAPTAIN: It is not!

CYRIL: (CAPTAIN is really ticked.) And for my final insult: Musical. Sing with me now:

(FRIENDS sing.)

Nobody NOSE the trouble I've seen. Nobody NOSE my sorrow.

(FRIENDS give wild applause.)

CAPTAIN: I'm out of here.

CYRIL: Don't forget to write.

ROXY: It's about time somebody put that jerk in his place.

(Smiles at CYRIL who suddenly becomes shy.)

And for your prize... a kiss.

(She kisses him.)

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK