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序

郭鸿同志所编《外交与外交语言一外交英语文体分析》一书完成了,这是一件可喜的事。

将现代文体学的原则应用到外交英语研究,而成果如此丰富,体例又如此完整,从理论到实际应用,从历史到现状,又从讲解到提供阅读材料,大体具备,这据我所知在我国还是第一次。

文体学的第一原则是使用语言要适合内容、对象和场合,即得体。这在外交语言尤为重要。本书对外交英语的分析是:它严谨,正式,礼貌,常有一些历史遗传下来的格式和法律用语,特别在文书上如此。

但它又不是一成不变的。例如过去外交文书多用法语,现在则通行英语,这是一种变化。老的格式和说法也有废弃不用的,这又是一种变化。将来还会有别的变化。这些都在本书中有专节论述,是此书优点之一。

文体学虽是讲各体语言之学,它却始终不忘一条最重要的道理,即无论何体,都得有共同的语言作基础。专属于一体语音、词条、句法等等毕竟不多,要讲好或写好外交英语,首先得全面掌握英语,而且要掌握当今活的英语。在注意全面掌握英语的前提下,再来学习本书所讲的原则和例子,就会更加得心应手了。

我乐见此书之成,谨志数语,作为介绍。

王佐良

说明

随着我国对外开放政策的执行,我国的国际交往日益增多,越来越多的人学习外交语言,特别是外交英语。然而,外交英语是用于各种外交场合和各种目的的许多类别的英语的综合体,各类外交英语都有自己的语言特征。此外,同一名称的外交文书可能有不同的用途,而不同名称的外交文书又可能有相同的用途。这种情况增加了学习外交英语的复杂性和难度。为了帮助学习者掌握外交英语的功能和语言特征,笔者试图采用文体学的方法编写出一套教材。

笔者相信,这种方法能帮助学习者,在较短的时间中,譬如一个学期中,了解外交语言的历史和现状,它的基本特征,以及各类外交英语的功能和语言特征,特别是这些语言特征和各类外交英语的语言情景之间联系,这样就能帮助记忆和掌握外交英语。

全书分为两大部分。第一部分是对外交英语的讲解,第二部分是外交英语的阅读材料。

第一部分分为四章。第一章:"外交与外交语言",讲解一些与外交英语有关的语言学理论和外交基本知识,为学习外交英语打下基础。这部分包括有关的语言学原理,外交的定义以及语言在外交中的作用,现代外交的起源、演变和文化背景以及外交活动的职能和规则程序。

第二章:"外交语言今昔"是对外交语言的历时和共时的研究。 这部分包括谨慎的措词、外交术语和外交中实际使用的语言:拉丁语、法语、英语以及其他语言。

第三章:"外交活动和外交英语的基本特征",通过对外交英语 的文化语境和外交英语的使用者和用法的研究,说明拉丁基督教 文化对外交英语的影响、外交英语的基本特征和发展趋向以及外 交英语是甚么样的语言。

第四章:"各类外交英语及其语言特证",按雅各布逊的六种功能(指称功能、使动功能、表情功能、社交功能、诗的功能和元语言功能)将外交英语进行分类,并按情景因素(语场、语旨和语式)描述各类外交英语的语言特征。这样就能使各类外交英语的命名与其功能基本一致,便于记忆掌握。

第二部分包括按上述功能分类的各类英语外交文书和"外交 口语",以及注解和练习。

此书适合大学本科生、研究生、外事工作者以及共他人员使用,重点各异。在过去三年中,已在中国人民解放军国际关系学院的本科生、研究生和干部学员中使用,切合实际,证明语言学的基本原理并不难懂而且有助于学习外交英语。

北京师范大学钱瑗教授的著作《文体学引论》(Introduction to Stylistics for Students of the English Language)为本书提供了文体学理论框架,外交学院黄金祺教授编写的《外交文书教程》提供了部份阅读材料。本书由对外经贸大学黄震华教授和北京外语学院吴冰教授初审并经国家教委教材编审委员会审稿会初审通过,由黄震华教授和外交部裘克安教授复审(主审)并经国家教委教材编审委员会批准出版。我的老师著名学者王佐良教授为本书作了序。我借此机会向以上专家学者致以诚挚的谢意。

由于笔者水平有限,文体学应用于外交语言的教学和研究是一种尝试,本书一定有不少错误和缺点,恳切希望读者批评指正。

郭鸿

一九九一年十一月

CONTENTS

PART	ONE DIPLOMACY AND DIPLOMATIC LANG	U	AC	ŝΕ
	- A STYLISTIC STUDY OF DIPLOM			
	ENGLISH			
1	Diplomacy and Diplomatic			
	Language ·····	(3)
1.1	Linguistic Guide to the Study of Diplomatic			
	Language	(3)
1.2	Definition of 'Diplomacy'and the Important Role			
	Language Plays in Diplomacy	(6)
1.3	The Origin and Evolution of Modern Diplomacy			
	and Its Cultural Background	(9)
1. 3. 1	The Origin of Diplomacy	(9)
1. 3. 2	The Cultural Background of Modern Diplomacy			
		(9)
1. 3. 3	The Evolution of Diplomacy and Diplomatic			
	Language ·····	(14)
1.4	Diplomatic Activities	(:	25)
1.4.1	Functions of Diplomatic Activities	(2	25)
1.4.2	Diplomatic Rules and Procedures	(2	29)
2	The Past and the Present of Diplomatic Language			
		(3	36)
2. 1	Diplomatic Language	(3	36)

	Guarded Understatement			
2. 3	Technical Terms in Diplomacy	(40)	
2.4	The Actual Language Used in Diplomacy	(41)	
2.4.1	Latin	(43)	
2.4.2	French	(45)	
2.4.3	English and Other Languages	(47)	
.3	Main Features of Diplomatic Activities and			
	Diplomatic Language	(53)	
3. 1	Main Features of Diplomatic Activities	(53)	
3. 1. 1	Conservativeness	(53)	
3.1.2	Formalism	(56)	
3.1.3	Rigid Hierarchy and Precedence	(60	•)	
3.1.4	Causes of the Above-mentioned Features	(62)	
3.2	Linguistic Analysis of Diplomatic Language	(65)	
3.3	Users of Diplomatic Language (dialect)			
3.4	Uses of Diplomatic Language (register)	(70)	
3.4.1	Field of Discourse	(71)	
3.4.2	Tenor of Discourse	(72)	
3. 4. 3	Mode of Discourse			
3. 4. 4	General Features of Diplomatic Language	(80)	
3.5	Trend of Diplomatic Language	(97)	
4	Varieties of Diplomatic Language and Their			
	Respective Linguistic Features	(10	3)	
4.1	Functions of Language	(10	3)	
4.2	Classification of Diplomatic Language in Terms			
	of Function ·····	(10	4)	
4.3	Varieties of Diplomatic Language and Their			
	Respective Lin-guistic Features	(10	5)	

4. 5. 1 Conversation on Social Occasions (phatic function)
(106)
4. 3. 2 Speechs or Talks on Diplomatic Occasions
(conative, emotive and poetic functions) (107)
4. 3. 3 Diplomatic Documents Concerning Protocol
Matters (phatic and emotive functions) (114)
4. 3. 4 Diplomatic Documents for Publicity (conative
function) (119)
4. 3. 5 Diplomatic Documents for Communication
(referential function) (121)
4. 3. 6 Diplomatic Documents for Identification
(referential function) (125)
4. 3. 7 Legal Diplomatic Documents (referential and
metalinguistic function) (129)
Conclusion (139)
PART TWO SELECTED READINDS IN DIPLOMATIC
ENGLISH (CLASSIFIED IN TERMS OF
FUNCTION
I. CONVERSATION ON SOCIAL OCCASIONS (phatic
function, omitted) (153)
II. SPEECHES OR TALKS ON DIPLOMATIC OCCA-
SIONS (conative, emotive and poetic functions) (153)
1. Debate on THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION
INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION
Dated 30 September 1985 (153)
2. THE DIPLOMAT (Extracts) (190)
1) Essex's Interview with Molotov
2) Essex's Interview with Vishinsky (198)
3) Essex's Interview with Stalin (208)

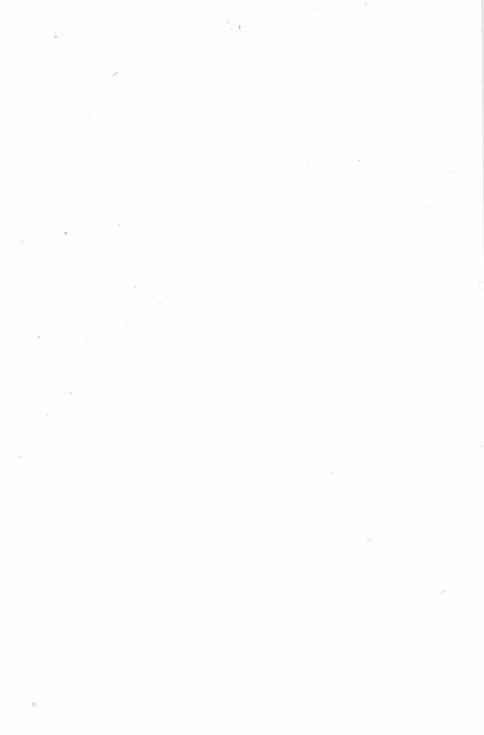
3.	President Nixon's Toast at the Banquet Given by	
	Premier Zhou Enlai ·····	(219)
4.	President Nixon's Toast for Reciprocal Banquet	(221)
	Speech by British Prime Minister Mrs Margarat	
	Thatcher at the Welcoming Banquet on September	
	22, 1982	(224)
III	. DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS CONCERNING	
	MATTERS OF PROTOCOL (phatic and emotive	
	functions)	(231)
6.	Speech by Chinese Ambassador to India	(231)
7.	Chinese Leader's Condolence on the Passing Away of	
	Ohira ·····	(233)
8.	Congratulations on the Opening of Conference of	
	Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned	
	Countries	(234)
9.	To Express Sympathy over an Assassination Attempt	
	*** ***	
1(). Telegram of Thanks for Fair Appraisal	(236)
IX	DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS FOR PUBLICITY	
	(conative function)	(238)
1	1. Statement of the Government of the People's	
	Republic of China on the Complete and Thorough	
	Destruction of Nuclear Weapons	(238)
1	2. News Release concerning the Expiration of the	
	Sino-Soviet Treaty	• (245)
1	3. Joint Statement of the Premiers of China and India	
	on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence	• (247)
1	4. China-US Shanghai Communiqué (February 28, 1972	2)
		(251)

×:			
V.	DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS FOR COMMUNI-		
	CATION (referential function)	(260)	
15.	To Notify the Arrival of a Chargé d'affaires a. i	(260)	
16.	To Inform Another Embassy of the Establishment		
	of an Embassy and the Designation of Its Charge		
	d'affaires a.i. ······	(261)	
17.	To Invite a Leader for a visit	(262)	
18.	To Request Assistance in Providing Facilities for		
	Covering a Visit	(263)	
19.	Personal Message from Prime Minister Nehru to		
	Premier Zhou Enlai(September 14,1956)	(264)	
20.	Letter from Premier Zhou Enlai to Prime Minister		
	Nehru (October 19,1956)	(266)	
21.	Memorandum concerning a Protocol Reform	(268)	
22.	Memorandum Given by Indian Embassy in China to		
	Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs	(269)	
23.	Telegram to Notify Decision to Establish Diplomatic		
	Relations	(273)	
VI.	DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS FOR IDENTIFIC-		
	ATION (referential function)	(275)	
	Sample of a Standard Passport of the United States		
	of America ······	(275)	
	Letter of Credence for Ambassador of Ceylon		
		(288)	
26.	Full Powers		
	1) A Chinese Example (Translation)		
	2) A British Example ·····		
	3) An American Example		
27.	Letter of Introduction	(293)	

28.	Letter of Appointment of a Consul and Exquatur (294)
	VII. LEGAL DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS (296)
29.	Peace and Friendship Treaty between China and Japan
	(296)
30.	Sino-American Trade Agreement
	Protocol on Economic Cooperation between China and
	Australia (309)
32.	Charter of the United Nations
33.	Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (331)
	Universal Declaration on Human Rights (adopted and
	proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 217
	A(III) of 10 Dec. 1948)(355)
35.	Sino-British Joint Declaration on the Question of
	Hong Kong (366)
36.	Notes Exchanged between China and India on the with-
	drawal of Indian Military Escorts from the Tibet
	Region of China and Other Questions
37.	Memorandum of Understanding concerning Diplomatic
	Privileges and Immunities (378)
38.	China's Regulations Governing the Entry, Exit,
	Transit, Residence and Travel of Aliens (383)
39.	Power of Attorney, Certificate and Samples of
	Authentication

PART ONE

DIPLOMACY AND DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE



1 Diplomacy and Diplomatic Language

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1. 1 Linguistic Guide to the Study of Diplomatic Language

The Compiler and rwriter of the present book intends to apply modern linguistics, socio-functional linguistics in particular, to the study of diplomatic language (English). As his knowledge in this connection is limited and his attempt tentative, suggestions and criticisms by experts and readers are welcome and appreciated.

In the following is given a socio-functional view of language as a whole and diplomatic language as a variety:

The linguistic system is a component - an essential component - of the social system. It is a meaning potential. The use of language can be defined as the actualization of this potential. We understand language in use by looking at what the speaker says against the background of what he might have said but did not. In other words, using language means making choices in the environment of other choices.

Language is controlled by social structure which is in turn

O (linguistics) vocabulary grammar, etc used by speaker's importional around tances or contexts, eq. legal, commercial.

maintained and transmitted through language. Likewise, culture shapes our behaviour patterns, and a great deal of our behaviour is mediated through language. Man is 'socialized' into the value system and behaviour patterns of culture through the use of language at the time he is learning it.

Language as a meaning potential can be characterized in two ways, 'the context of culture' and 'the context of situation'. Interpreted in the context of culture, it is the entire semantic system of the language. Interpreted in the context of situation, it is the particular semantic system which is associated with a particular type of situation.

There are two major types of language variety, dialect and register. The former is defined as variety according to the user. It is what a person speaks, determined by who he is. The latter is defined as variety according to the use. It is what a person is speaking, determined by what he is doing at the time. Register can also be defined as the semantic resources that the member of a culture typically associates with a situation type. It is the meaning potential that is accessible in a given social context. Since these options are realized in the form of grammar and vocabulary, register is recognizable as a particular selection of words and structure. Register refers to the fact that the language we speak or write varies according to the type of situation. In other words, situational factors determine linguistic features of a text.

There are two dimensions of language study: diachronic and synchronic study. The former is the study of the historical development of language while the latter is the study of the present state of language. In order to know the present state of language, we

have to study the history of it, as all uses of language, throughout all stages of cultural evolution, have left their imprints on linguistic structure.

If we regard language as social behaviour, this means that we are treating it as a form of behaviour potential. It is what the speaker can do. Language is a meaning potential which is the linguistic realization of the behaviour potential; 'can mean' is 'can do' when translated into language. The meaning potential is in turn realized in the language system as lexico-grammatical potential, which is what the speaker 'can say'. Thus 'can do', 'can mean' and 'can say' are united.

From the above linguistic ideas we get the following inspirations for our study of diplomatic language:

- 1. Diplomatic language is what a diplomat can say, can mean and can do verbally. Therefore, in order to know diplomatic language, we have to study diplomatic activities.
- . 2. Diplomatic language is a part of the substance of diplomacy which forms a part of the social system and has grown up in a certain culture. The features of the culture and social system must have their reflections in diplomatic language. Therefore, to know the general features of diplomatic language, we have to study the context of culture in which it is motivated and used.
- 3. Diplomatic language, as a use of language, is a meaning potential associated with a particular type of social context (consisting of the situational factors field of discourse, tenor of discourse and mode of discourse) which determines the general features of diplomatic language. To know the general features of diplomatic language, therefore, we have to study the social context (the context of situation) of diplomatic language.