From Language to Pragmatics: Theory and Practice

从语言到语用：理论与实践

黄清贵／著

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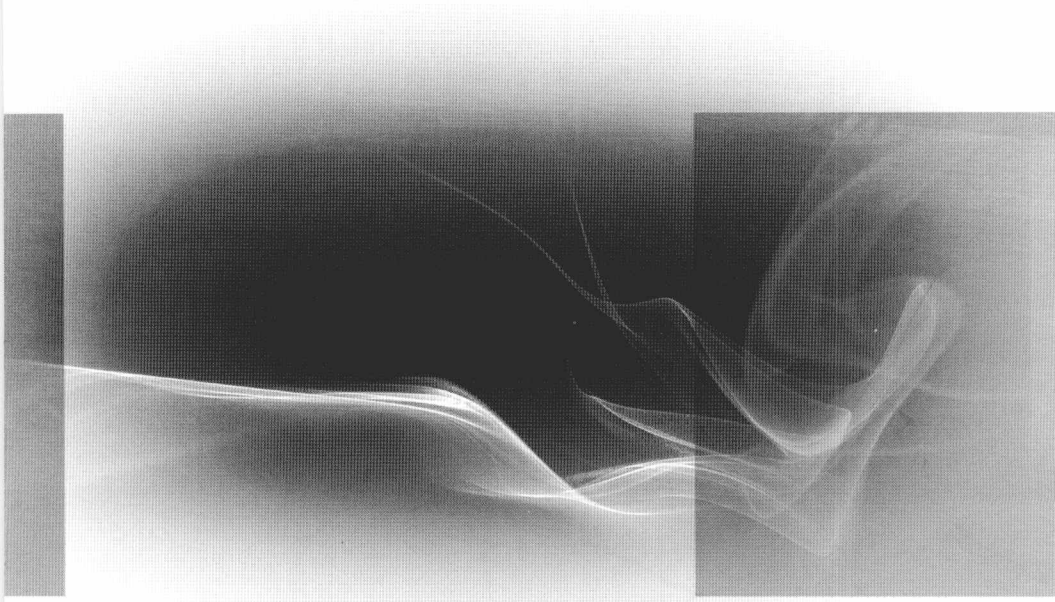

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序

黄清贵先生在硕士研究生期间是我的学生，我对他颇为了解。他上进好学，勤于钻研，虽长期身处一所地方本科院校，所需资料较为缺乏，前沿学术资讯的获取也较为不便，但到底天道酬勤，2005 年他终于获取了前往美国纽约州立大学访学的机会，系统地学习钻研语言学知识和理论。

他多年来一直笔耕不辍的精神着实令我感动，尤其是这三年多来，为了写作此书，除了平时在工作之余投入大量的时间以外，他连续三个暑假和寒假的时间几乎都在办公室里度过。为此，当他真诚地向我提出为其书作序的请求时，我欣然应允。

看得出来，《从语言到语用：理论与实践》确实凝聚了他的辛勤汗水，也显见其付出了独立思考的努力。该书的章节编排乍看之下确有如作者所言“杂酱缸”之嫌，但听了他详细的解释和他在前言部分的表述，顿觉他如此一番苦心孤诣的安排不无道理，该书对于普通本科院校高年级学生或其他具有同等知识水平的初学者来说确实是很值得一读的。况且，该书也是学术含量较高的一本专著，特别是在第三部分的语用学章节里，他的不少观点是颇有学术见地的，所举例证不但丰富，而且典型、有趣，并能利用他扎实的日语功底，结合汉语和英语，在语用对比方面做了不少令人耳目一新的有益探索；第四部分收录的他多年来的学术研究成果也显然都是他独立思考与探索的结果，与时下一些因耽于功利而未经独立思考急蹴而就的文章相比，可谓难能可贵，而且，从文章语言表达来看，也显示出他扎实的汉语表达能力和功底，很少出现当下并不鲜见的“欧化语言”现象，这也是值得大力提倡的做法。

当然，该书中有些表达法、观点和做法仍值得商榷。不过，语言学

研究是一门既深奥又复杂的学问，要写好这方面的书实属不易，作为一名非本族语者要用英语写好一本书更属不易，而要把书写得通俗易懂就更是难上加难了。对此，我们不应求全责备，相反，在这样一个难得的百家争鸣、知识爆炸的时代，对一名年轻的学者所付出的诚实而辛勤的努力，我们作为长者，不但要严格地提出要求甚至不客气地进行学术性批评，而且也应该给予爱、肯定和鼓励。

欣闻此书即将付梓，我由衷地感到高兴，希望黄清贵先生能在学术上更快地成长！

陈维振

2009 年 10 月于福州

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前 言

此书的完稿多少完成了笔者的一个夙愿。十几年前从朋友处借到一本乔治·尤尔(George Yule)撰写的《语用学》(*Pragmatics*),如饥似渴地阅读完之后不由得产生了一个念头:能不能自己将来也为那些对语言学知识感兴趣而又在语言学研究殿堂前因畏难而踯躅不前的初学者写一本如此通俗易懂的学术著作?2005 年笔者有幸在福建省委组织部举办的出国访问学者考试选拔中获得前往美国纽约州立大学访学的机会,就教于该大学著名语言学者、《跨文化语用学》期刊(Intercultural Pragmatics)主编、Istvan Kecskes 教授,并在他的悉心指导下,利用该校所提供的便利的研究条件,广泛阅读并收集了大量有关语言学及语用学的学术著作和文章,回国后结合自己多年来在语言学教学与研究方面所积累的成果,撰写了这本《从语言到语用:理论与实践》。

该书以语言学研究中的语用研究为主线,对于近年来语用研究中的一些主要理论及相关语用原则进行了较为系统的介绍和评价。同时,考虑到我们潜在的读者在语言及语言学知识方面有着不同层次的需求,我们在本书的第一、二部分(Part I & Part II)对语言及语言学一些基础知识和基本概念进行了简明扼要的介绍。本书第四部分(Part IV)是笔者十几年来在语用学及其他相关语言学领域的部分研究成果。其中,特别值得一提的是,针对语言学(语用学)理论中的一些难点和重点,我们除了尽可能进行深入浅出的理论阐释外,特别注重实例分析的作用。我们相信,众多摘自文学作品或日常生活中的典型、有趣的例子有助于把抽象、枯燥的语言学(语用学)知识和理论通俗化、直观化和感性化。

总之,我们的初衷是,尽量把知识性、理论性和趣味性结合起来。

不求面面俱到,不求系统性和纯学术性,但求以点带面,重点突出,既有利于激发读者对语言研究的兴趣,又有助于启迪智慧,提高他们的语言意识、语用意识及思辨能力。我们武断地(但并非无端地)认为,基于上述种种考虑而撰写的这本书对于普通本科院校高年级学生及其他具有同等知识水平的初学者是具有相当阅读价值的。因为,我们经过多年来的分析研究,发现普通本科院校的学生对语言学知识的需求通常有这么几种:报考语言学类研究生的学生需要了解一些有关语言学方面的基础知识和基本概念;对语言学知识及研究抱有兴趣并拟以此作为本科毕业论文课题的同学需要了解相关语言学知识和理论;以语言文化为专业的本科毕业生不管是毕业后在工作应聘面试中还是在将来的工作岗位上,提高对语言的敏感性,拥有宽厚的语言文化理论素养,具备一定的语言意识、特别是语用意识以提高他们的语言表达能力和思辨能力,无疑都具有不可忽视的重要意义。我们相信,上述几类读者都可以在本书的不同章节里获取到他们所需的相关知识。

自索绪尔以来有关语言的研究成果可谓汗牛充栋、杂彩纷陈,仅就每个时期语言学研究领域中出现数量众多的新词汇、新术语和极富争议性的新见解、新理论来看,已足于令人眼花缭乱而应接不暇,更遑论达到对这一学科研究成果的全面而透彻的理解和把握。但面对如此精彩而波澜壮阔的一场历史性"话剧",我们又不甘于做无所事事的旁观者,于是,怀着对这一学科研究无比敬畏而虔诚的心情,我们战战兢兢地拾起"龙套",始有此书。尽管该书以力求通俗易懂为宗旨,但我们并非只满足于简单的知识性介绍,细心的读者将会发现,书中字里行间浸透着笔者独立思考的辛勤汗水,隐约可见笔者不揣浅陋所做的些许大胆的尝试,不管这些尝试与思考是否都具有真知灼见,笔者深信这种做法对于本人今后的进一步研究和探索是具有积极意义的。然而,只因不少基础性知识早已成定论,有些思考与探索又囿于笔者目前的能力与水平,更有因不待厚积而急欲付梓与读者共飨的心情之迫切,使得该书可能有悖初衷,变成一口杂酱缸,里面的内容物早已变味而不自知。诚如此,则只有静待同行们来日善意的批评与帮助了。

最后,特别要感谢的是上述提到的 Istvan Kecskes 教授当年对我在

学术研究上的悉心指导和帮助，感谢他的博士夏赛花女士为我提供了大量的书籍资料，感谢我系外籍教师 Karen 对该书文字表达方面的把关，特别感谢陈维振、林大津老师对我多年来的指点、鞭策与鼓励，最令我感动的是我系年轻教师黄春兰老师在其父病患期间，不顾照顾病人的劳顿与疲惫，拨冗为本书的初稿进行认真严谨的校对和勘误并对书中有些表达不妥的观点提出自己的真知灼见，还要特别感谢本校领导和系里其他几位领导为我在写作本书期间所提供的一切便利和无微不至的关心，特别感谢厦门大学出版社和该社责任编辑对本书出版的鼎力相助，感谢一切关心笔者成长的人士！

黄清贵

2009 年 9 月于福建师范大学福清分校

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Part I Language

When you go to a country, you must learn how to say two things: how to ask for food, and to tell a woman that you love her. Of these the second is more important, for if you tell a woman you love her she will certainly feed you.

—Louis L'Amour

The three-legged stool of understanding is held up by history, languages, and mathematics. Equipped with these three you can learn anything you want to learn. But if you lack any one of them you are just another ignorant peasant with dung on your boots.

—Robert A. Heinlein

Chapter 1 Importance of Language

1.1 Importance of Language

Both Louis L'Amour and Robert A. Heinlein, one, with a touch of humor and the other, a lot more seriously, reveal to us the vital importance of the role of language in our life. Indeed, one may not survive well without the help of words and, without the invention of languages, human beings will, probably, still be as barbarous and primitive as they were in a pre-historical era. Language is to the development of civilizations what food is to the growth of the human body. When we talk about language, we usually believe that it is unique to human beings. "The effects of language are remarkable, and include much of what distinguishes man from the animals" (L. Bloomfield, 2002: 1).

The importance of language lies in its functions. It is generally agreed by most linguists that the essential function of language is for communication. Though some scholars doubt whether it is the real case and argue that the use of language for communication is only the "curious additional use (of language)" (Sperber & Wilson, 2001: 173), we cannot deny the fact that language does play a significant part in communication. If we want to ask for food so as to survive hunger in an alien place, like what Louis L'Amour says, we should learn ***how*** to ask for food, which naturally involves the use of language. Gestures or other non-verbal communicative devices are also helpful for the very purpose, some may argue, yet the chances of making yourself understood by your benefactor and eventually succeeding in getting food will probably be slim. In this sense, language is an effective and indispensable device for communication.

One may go on arguing that the assertion here is too arbitrary. Of course, in satisfying this kind of basic need, we have many choices which may prove to be just as effective and adequate: you can lie on the side of road, pointing to your mouth and stomach, looking at the passers-by with begging eyes; you can pretend that you are dying due to lack of food; you can threaten others and then rob them; or, you can lie where you are, simply doing nothing, for your miserable state has "told" the potentially sympathetic people everything you are suffering. So far, so good. But what about more sophisticated needs of life, as in the case of moral preaching or the academic activities? The answer is obvious: Without language, communication in human society would be as primitive as that of animals.

1.2 Functions of Language

When we come to the functions of language, the concept of "communication" is very misleading. For, communication, "In its broadest sense, ...refers to every kind of mutual transmission of information using signs or symbols between living beings (humans, animals), between people and data-processing machines" (Hadumod Bussmann, 2000: 83). To better understand the functions of language, a more specific categorization is necessary.

Hu Zhuanglin, in his *Linguistics: A Course Book*, summarizes seven categories with regard to the functions of language: Informative; Interpersonal Function; Performative; Emotive Function; Phatic Communion; Recreational Function and Metalingual Function (Hu Zhuanglin, 2006:10 - 14).

Informative Function, as the term suggests, refers to the function of language by which we are able to exchange information. This is the major contribution of the invention of language to the development of civilization. We need language to exchange information and transmit knowledge in our daily conversation and we need language even more badly to record the

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