高等院校规划教材

英语语言 文化知识 简明教程

郑燕平 主编

A Concire Book
on Anglo-American
Cultures

中国矿业大学出版社

China University of Mining and Technology Press

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CORRESPONDED IN

英语语言文化知识简明教程

A Concise Book on Anglo-American Cultures

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副主编 栾玉芹 周梅艳 程雪梅

内容提要

本书以与大学生英语语言学习密切相关的文化背景知识为主要内容,第一章精选了部分圣经故事及古希腊罗马神话故事。第二章主要涉及英国和美国的民族和地理状况以及两国首都城市概况。第三章介绍英国和美国的教育、艺术、体育及娱乐状况。第四章讲述英、美两国的部分历史和现代名人,包括其概况和成就等。第五章谈到英、美国家民族的重要节日和生活习俗、婚俗状况。第六章涉及英语语言中的重要典故,有源于圣经的重要典故,也有源于古希腊罗马文化和莎士比亚著作的重要典故。第七章主要介绍英语语言中的常用习语,包括含颜色词的习语、有关鸟和兽类词的习语,以及有关水果和蔬菜类词语的习语。第八章重点列举英语语言中的部分常用美国俚语。

本书紧跟英语文化教学方向,有利于消除学生语言输入和产出中的文化信息障碍,培养学生跨文化交际能力,提高学生综合文化素养。

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前言

英语语言的魅力之一就在于其富含与产生这种语言的政治、历史、地理、社会等文化背景因素密切相关的典故、习语及俚语等语言成分,如"face the music"、"Who killed Cock Robin?"、"Lady-killer"、"Mr. Clean"等。这些语言成分从字面上不难理解,但其真实的含义可能与其字面意义大相径庭。"face the music"字面意思是"面对音乐",而其真实的含义是"面对困难,经历艰难;承担责任;自食其果"。其出处有二:一种说法是,首先使用这个短语的是那些在舞台两侧等候上台的演员,他们得到上舞台的暗示后常说:"It's time go to face the music."。他们上台后正好面对舞台下的乐队。一个演员走上舞台,面对观众,可能会紧张害怕,特别是忘记台词时,还会遭到某些观众的奚落。可是他不能不出台,否则戏就演不成了。因此,"face the music"有"面对困难,经历艰难"的含义。另一种说法是,在美国军队里,如果一个士兵干了坏事,就要被迫离开军队,并当众蒙受耻辱。乐队不奏乐,只是敲鼓,在悲哀的鼓点声中,那个士兵垂头丧气地离开军队。因此,"face the music"也会有"承担责任;自食其果"的意思。

而"Who killed Cock Robin?"字面意思为:谁杀死了知更雄鸟?这是歌谣中的第一句。现转义为"大人物倒台谁负责任?"。当更换某位大臣时,政治评论家常使用此语。"Lady-killer"为美国俚语,不是指杀死女士的人,而是指"使女人倾倒的男人"。"Mr. Clean"也是美国俚语,指"为人清廉的人,廉洁奉公的人"。

由此可见,要真正掌握英语语言、学会地道的英语,对英语语言中的文化背景知识和其中的典故、习语及俚语应用的把握至关重要。

从外语教学的角度出发,可以把外语教学中的文化知识分为知识文化和交际文化。所谓知识文化,指词语的文化内涵和系统的政治、历史、地理、社会、文学等社会文化知识;所谓交际文化,指由文化因素决定的运用语言进行交际的语用知识。本书以介绍英语的知识文化为主体,其目的是让英语学习者较为全面地了解英语语言所涉及的知识文化,为培养其跨文化交际的能力打下良好的基础,并提高其综合文化素养。

本书涉及部分圣经故事及古希腊罗马神话故事、英美国家民族、地理状况、简要历史、主要名城及特色、教育、艺术、体育及娱乐、主要的历史和现代名人、重要节日、生活习俗、婚俗,源于圣经、古希腊罗马文化和莎士比亚著作方面的重要

典故、英语中常用的习语和美国俚语等,内容比较全面、丰富。

本书的内容从历史、自然、人文到社会,各章节既相对独立,又衔接自然,构成一个基本完整的体系,使得英语语言文化知识的展现自然、完整,具有较好的系统性。

本书以英语学习者语言学习过程中常见文化信息性障碍为突破口,较为透彻地揭示英语语言中的文化背景知识,难易交错,点面结合,具有较强的实用性。

本书是以具有中等及以上英语水平学习者为对象编写的,适合英语程度较好、亟待提高英语使用水平的大学生及英语爱好者使用。

本教材编写具体分工如下:第一、二、四章由郑燕平编写,第三章和第六章由 栾玉芹编写,第七章由周梅艳编写,第五章和第八章由程雪梅编写。

在编写过程中,我们参考了大量的中外文献,谨向文献的作者表示衷心的感谢。

由于编者水平有限,书中缺点与疏漏在所难免,敬请读者不吝批评指正,电子邮箱:pyzhengaas@163.com。

编 者 2013 年 8 月

体例说明

- 一、本书第一章是圣经故事及古希腊罗马神话故事的简要精选,使读者对 英语语言文化的源头有初步了解。
- 二、本书第二章至第五章按照英国内容在前、美国内容在后的顺序编写,具体内容紧扣章节标题的顺序。其中的第四章按各国人物在历史上出现的时间先后为序,第五章基本上按月份为序进行编排。
- 三、本书第六章至第八章的内容按典故、习语和美国俚语各个词条的首字母顺序进行编排,涉及颜色、动物及蔬菜、水果类的词条,按照词条中的关键词的字母顺序排列。关键词主要指名词、形容词和动词,如:习语"roll out the red carpet"以 red 作为关键词排序,"behave like an animal"和"ape one's superiors"则分别以 animal 和 ape 为关键词进行排序,"behave like an animal"在前,"ape one's superiors"在后。

四、本书中的"sb."和"sth."分别代表"somebody"和"something","SL"代表"slang", "Colloq"代表"colloquial"。

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第一章 圣经故事及古希腊罗马神话故事(节选)

Chapter 1 Bible Stories and Greek and Roman Myths_(excerpts)

■ The Creation of the World

In the beginning of creation, when God made heaven and earth, the earth was without form and void, with darkness over the face of the abyss, and a mighty wind that swept over the surface of the waters. God said, "Let there be light", and there was light; and God saw that light was good, and he separated light from darkness. He called the light day, and the darkness night. So evening came, and morning came, the first day.

God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters, to separate water from water." So God made the vault, and separated the water under the vault from the water above it, and so it was; and God called the vault heaven. Evening came, and morning came, a second day.

God said, "Let the waters under heaven be gathered into one place, so that dry land may appear"; and so it was. God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters he called seas; and God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth produce fresh growth, let there be on the earth plants bearing seed, fruit-trees bearing fruit each with seed according to its kind." So it was; the earth yielded fresh growth, plants bearing seed and trees bearing fruit each with seed according to its kind; and God saw that it was good. Evening came, and morning came, a third day.

God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of heaven to separate day from night, and let them serve as signs both for festivals and for seasons and years. Let them also shine in the vault of heaven to give light on earth." So it was; God made the two great lights, the greater to govern the day and the lesser to govern the night; and with them he made the stars. God put these lights in the vault of heaven to give light on earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness; and God saw that it was good. Evening came, and morning came, a fourth day.

God said. "Let the waters teem with countless living creatures, and let

birds fly above the earth across the vault of heaven." God then created the great sea-monsters and all living creatures that move and swam in the waters, according to their kind, and every kind of bird; and God saw that it was good. So he blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase, fill the waters of the seas; and let the birds increase on land." Evening came, and morning came, a fifth day.

God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures, according to their kind: cattle, reptiles, and wild animals, all according to their kind". So it was; God made wild animals, cattle, and all reptiles, each according to its kind; and he saw it was good. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image and likeness to rule the fish in the sea, and the birds of heaven, the cattle, all wild animals on earth, and all reptiles that crawl upon the earth." So God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase, fill the earth and subdue it, rule over the fish in the sea, the birds of heaven, and every living thing that moves upon the earth." God also said, "I give you all plants that bear seed everywhere on earth, and every tree bearing fruit which yields seed; they shall be yours for food. All green plants I give for good to the wild animals, to all the birds of heaven, and to all reptiles on earth, every living creature." So it was; and God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. Evening came, and morning came, a sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth were completed with all their mighty throng. On the sixth day God completed all the work he had been doing, and on the seventh day he ceased from all his work. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on that day he ceased from all the work he had set himself to do.

This is the story of the making of heaven and earth when they were created.

Notes

① teem with v. 大量出现…… 充满……

■ The Beginnings of History

When the Lord God made earth and heaven, there was neither shrub nor plant growing wild upon the earth, because the Lord God had sent no rain on the earth; nor was there any man to till the ground. A flood used to rise out of the earth and water all the surface of the ground. Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Thus the man became a living creature. Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden[®] away to the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. The Lord God made trees spring from the ground, all trees pleasant to look at and good for food; and in the middle of the garden he set the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

There was a river flowing from Eden to water the garden, and when it left the garden it branched into four streams. The name of the first was Pishon, that was the river which encircled all the land of Havilah, where the gold was. The gold of that land was good; bdellium and carnelians were also to be found there. The name of the second river was Gihon; this was the one which encircled all the land of Cush. The name of the third was Tigris²; this was the river which ran east of Asshur³. The fourth river was the Euphrates⁴.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and care for it. He told the man, "You may eat from every tree in the garden, but not from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; for on the day that you eat from it, you will certainly die." Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will provide a partner for him. " So God formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of heaven. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. Thus the man gave names to all cattle, to the birds of heaven, and to every wild animal; but for the man himself no partner had yet been found. And so the Lord God put the man into a trance, and while he slept, he took one his ribs and closed the flesh over the place. The Lord God then built up the rib, which he had taken out of the man, into a woman. He brought her to the man, and the man said: "Now this, at lastbone from my bones, flesh from my flesh! This shall be called woman, for from man was this taken," That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and the two become one flesh. Now they were both naked, the man and his wife, but they had no feeling of shame towards one another.

Notes

- ① Eden [圣经]伊甸园,乐园
- ② Tigris 底格里斯河,位于西南亚,流经土耳其和伊拉克,在古尔奈与幼发拉底河汇合成阿拉伯河,注入波斯湾。

- ③ Asshur 阿舒尔,为古代亚述人崇拜的主神和战神,是 Assyria 亚述(古代西亚 底格里斯河流域的国家)最初的首都。
- ④ Euphrates 幼发拉底河

■ Man's First Sin

The serpent was more crafty than any wild creature that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Is it true that God has forbidden you to eat from any tree in the garden?" The woman answered the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, except for the tree in the middle of the garden; God has forbidden us either to eat or to touch the fruit of that; if we do, we shall die." The serpent said, "Of course you will not die. God knows that as soon as you eat it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods knowing both good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good to eat, and that it was pleasing to the eye and tempting to contemplate, she took some and ate it. She also gave her husband some and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they discovered that they were naked; so they stitched fig-leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

The man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze and hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" He replied, "I heard the sound as you were walking in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked and I hid myself." God answered, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree which I forbade you?" The man said, "The woman you gave me for a companion, she gave me fruit from the tree and I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

Then the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this you are accursed more than all cattle and all wild creatures. On your belly you shall crawl and dust, you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your brood and hers. They shall strike at your head, and you shall strike at their heel." To the woman he said: "I will increase your labor and your groaning, and in labor you shall bear children. You shall be eager for your husband, and he shall be your master." And to the man he said: "Because you have listened to your wife and have eaten from the

tree which I forbade you, accursed shall be the ground on your account. With labor you shall win your food from it all the days of your life. It will grow thorns and thistles for you, none but wild plants for you to eat. You shall gain your bread by the sweat of your brow until you return to the ground; for from it you were taken. Dust you are, to dust you shall return. The man called his wife Eve because she was the mother of all who live. The Lord God made tunics of skins for Adam and his wife and clothed them. He said, "The man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; what if he now reaches out his hand and takes fruit from the tree of life also, eats it and lives for ever?" so the Lord God drove him out of the Garden of Eden to till the ground from which he had been taken. He cast him out, and to the east of the Garden of Eden he stationed the cherubim and a sword whirling and flashing to guard the way to the tree of life.

Notes

- ① on your account 为了你的缘故
- ② a sword whirling and flashing 转动时刀光闪闪的宝剑

■ Noah's Ark

This is the story of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, the one blameless man[®] of his time; he walked with God. He had three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth. Now God saw that the world was corrupt and full of violence. In his sight the world had become corrupted, for all men had lived corrupt lives on earth. God said to Noah, "The loathsomeness of all mankind has become plain to me², for through them the earth is full of violence. I intend to destroy them, and the earth with them. Make yourself an ark with ribs of cypress; cover it with reeds and coat it inside and out with pitch. I intend to bring the waters of the flood over the earth to destroy every human being under heaven that has the spirit of life; everything on earth shall perish. But with you I will make a covenant, and you shall go into the ark, you and yours sons, your wife and your sons' wives with you. And you shall bring living creatures of every kind into the ark to keep them alive with you. Two of each kind, a male and a female; two of every kind of bird, beast, and reptile, shall come to you to be kept alive. See that you take and store every kind of food that can be eaten; this shall be food for you and for them," Exactly as God had commanded him, so Noah did.

And so, to escape the waters of the flood, Noah went into the ark with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives. And into the ark with Noah went one pair, male and female, of all beasts, clean and unclean, of birds and of everything that crawls on the ground, two by two, as God had commanded. Towards the end of seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth. In the year when Noah was six hundred years old, on the seventeenth day of the second month, on that very day, all the springs of the great abyss broke through, the windows of the sky were opened, and rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights. The flood continued upon the earth for forty days, and the waters swelled and lifted up the ark so that it rose high above the ground. More and more the waters increased over the earth until they covered all the high mountains everywhere under heaven. The waters increased and the mountains were covered to a depth of fifteen cubits. Everything died that had the breath of life in its nostrils, everything on dry land. God wiped out every living thing that existed on earth, man and beast, reptile and bird; they were all wiped out over the whole earth, and only Noah and his company in the ark survived.

After forty days Noah opened the trap-door that he had made in the ark, and released a raven to see whether the water had subsided, but the bird continued flying to and fro until the water on the earth had dried up. Noah waited for seven days, and then he released a dove from the ark to see whether the water on the earth had subsided further. But the dove found no place where she could settle, and so she came back to him in the ark, because there was water over the whole surface of the earth. He waited another seven days and again released the dove from the ark. She came back to him towards evening with a newly plucked olive leaf in her beak. Then Noah knew for certain that the water on the earth had subsided still further. He waited yet another seven days and released the dove, but she never came back. And so it came about that, on the first day of the first month of his six hundred and first year, the water had dried up on the earth, and Noah removed the hatch and looked out of the ark. The surface of the ground was dry.

By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the whole earth was dry. And God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you and your wife, your sons and their wives. Bring out every living creature that is with you, live things of every kind, bird and beast and every reptile that moves on the ground, and let them swarm over the earth and be fruitful and increase there." So Noah came

out with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives. Every wild animal, all cattle, every bird, and every reptile that moves on the ground, came out of the ark by families. Then Noah built an altar to the Lord. He took ritually clean beasts and birds of every kind, and offered whole-offerings on the altar. When the Lord smelt the soothing odor[®], he said within himself, "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, however evil his inclinations may be from his youth upwards. I will never again kill every living creature, as I have just done,"

■ The Tower of Babel

Once upon a time all the world spoke a single language and used the same words. As men journeyed in the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar[®] and settled there. They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them hard"; they used bricks for stone[®] and bitumen for mortar[®]. "Come," they said, "Let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and make a name for ourselves; or we shall be dispersed all over the earth." Then the Lord came down to see the city and tower which mortal men had built, and he said, "Here they are, one people with a single language, and now they have started to do this; hence forward nothing they have a mind to do will be beyond their reach. Come, let us go down there and confuse their speech, so that they will not understand what they say to one another." So the Lord dispersed them from there all over the earth, and they left off building the city. That is why it is called Babel[®], because the Lord there made a babble of the language of all the world; from that place the Lord scattered men all over the face of the earth.

Notes

- ① the one blameless man 无可责备之人,完人
- ② The loathsomeness of all mankind has become plain to me. 人类的可憎我再清楚不过了。
- ③ the soothing odor 使人愉悦(感到抚慰)的气味
- ④ Shinar 希纳尔,《圣经》中提到的名称,即苏美尔或巴比伦尼亚地区
- ⑤ use bricks for stone 用砖当石头
- ⑥ bitumen for mortar 用沥青作灰泥
- ⑦ Babel Tower 巴别塔。诺亚的后代计划在此建造一座"通天塔"以扬名,上帝对此狂妄之举大为震怒,便将人类原来统一的语言打乱,使他们因语言不同无法交流而放弃建塔,人类也因此分散到世界各地。

■ The birth of the Messiah

This is the story of the birth of the Messiah[®]. Mary his mother was betrothed to Joseph; before their marriage she found that she was with child by the Holy Spirit[®]. Being a man of principle[®], and at the same time wanting to save her from exposure, Joseph desired to have marriage contract set aside quietly. He had resolved on this, when an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph son of David," said the angel, "do not be afraid to take Mary home with you as your wife. It is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She will bear a son; and you shall give him the name Jesus[®] (Saviour), for he will save his people from their sins. All this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord declared through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and he shall be called Emmanuel[®], a name which means God is with us." Rising from sleep Joseph did as the angel had directed him; he took Mary home to be his wife, but had no intercourse with her until her son was born. And he named the child Jesus.

Jesus was born at Bethlehem® in Judaea® during the reign of Herod. After his birth astrologers from the east arrived in Jerusalem®, asking, "Where is the child who is born to be king of the Jews? We observed the rising of his star, and we have come to pay him homage." King Herod was greatly perturbed when he heard this; and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the chief priests and lawyers of the Jewish people, and put before them the question: "Where is it that the Messiah is to be born?" "At Bethlehem in Judaea", they replied; and they referred him to the prophecy which reads: "Bethlehem in the land of Judaea, you are far from least in the eyes of the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a leader to be the shepherd of my people Israel."

Herod next called the astrologers to meet him in private, and ascertained from them the time when the star had appeared. He then sent them on to Bethlehem, and said, "Go and make a careful inquiry for the child. When you have found him, report to me, so that I may go myself and pay him homage."

They set out at the king's bidding; and the star which they had seen at its rising went ahead of them until it stopped above the place where the child lay. At the sight of the star they were overjoyed. Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and bowed to the ground in homage to him; then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts; gold, frankincense, and

myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned home another way.

After they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, and said to him, "Rise up, take the child and his mother and escape with them to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the child to do away with him." So Joseph rose from sleep, and taking mother and child by night he went away with them to Egypt, and there he stayed till Herod's death. This was to fulfill what the Lord had declared through the prophet: "I called my son out of Egypt."

When Herod saw how the astrologers had tricked him he fell into a passion, and gave orders for the massacre of all children in Bethlehem and its neighborhood, of the age of two years or less, corresponding with the time he had ascertained from the astrologers. So the words spoken through Jeremiah the prophet were fulfilled: "A voice was heard in Rama, wailing and loud laments; it was Rachel weeping for her children, and refusing all consolation, because they were no more."

The time came that Herod died; and an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said to him, "Rise up, take the child and his mother, and go with them to the land of Israel, for the men who threatened the child's life are dead." So he rose, took mother and child with him, and came to the land of Israel. Hearing, however, that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as king of Judaea[®], he was afraid to go there. And being warned by a dream, he withdrew to the region of Galilee; there he settled in a town called Nazareth. This was to fulfill the words spoken through the prophets: "He shall be called a Nazarene".

Notes

- ① Messiah 救世主,基督;弥赛亚
- ② Holy Spirit 圣灵
- ③ a man of principle 一个正直的人
- ④ Jesus 耶稣,基督教信奉的救世主
- ⑤ Emmanuel 以马利,基督教《圣经》中先知 Isaiah 及圣徒 Matthew 等对耶稣基督的别称,意为"上帝与我们同在"。
- ⑥ Bethlehem 伯利恒,耶路撒冷南方六英里一市镇,耶稣诞生地
- ⑦⑩ Judaea 朱迪亚,古巴勒斯坦的南部地区,包括今巴勒斯坦的南部地区和约旦的西南部地区