

RHETORIC IN PRACTICE

BY PROFESSOR WINFIELD GOONG

英文實用修辭學

宏圖圖書公司出版

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CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE BACKGROUND AND FIELD OF RHETORIC	1
Historical Background of Rhetoric	1
What Rhetoric Treats about To-day	3
Rhetoric as a Practical Study	4
II. RHETORIC AS PRACTICED WITH WORDS	6
General Discussion	6
I. Kind of Words to Choose	7
(A) Choosing Words According to Nature	7
1. Words for Clearness	7
(1) Simple Words	7
Exercises	8
(2) Specific Words	8
Exercises	10
(3) Denotative Words	10
Exercises	11
2. Words for Accuracy	12
(1) Words of Right Shade of Meaning	12
Examples	13
(2) Words of Right Degree of Meaning	14
Examples	14
(3) Words of Right Kind of Meaning .	15
Examples	15
Exercises	16
3. Words for Effectiveness	17
Words for Connotation	18
(a) Idiomatic Words	18
(b) Descriptive Words	19
(c) Figurative Words	22

CHAPTER	PAGE
(1) Similes	24
(2) Metaphors	25
(3) Metonymy	26
(4) Personification	26
Exercises	28
(B) Choosing Words According to Use	29
Words in Good Use	30
(a) Present Words	30
(b) Reputable Words	32
(c) National Words	33
Exercises	35
II. Kind of Words to Avoid	35
(A) Words to Avoid for Practical Utility	36
1. Foreign Words not Naturalized	36
2. Obsolete Words	37
3. Newly-Coined Words	37
4. Technical Words	38
(B) Words to Avoid for Good Taste	39
1. Colloquialisms	39
2. Provincialisms	41
3. Vulgarisms	42
Exercises	43
III. RHETORIC AS PRACTICED WITH SENTENCES	44
General Discussion	44
Grammatical and Rhetorical Classification of Sentences	44
The Structure of Sentences	45
1. Simple Form	46
2. Modified and Enlarged Form	46
Pleonastic Sentence Structure	47
Elliptical Sentence Structure	47
The Uses of Sentences	48

CHAPTER	PAGE
(1) The Use of Simple Sentence	48
(2) The Use of Compound Sentence	48
(3) The Use of Complex Sentence	48
(4) The Use of Compound-Complex Sentence	49
(5) The Use of Periodic Sentence	49
(6) The Use of Loose Sentence	49
(7) The Use of Balanced Sentence	50
The Essential Qualities of Sentences	50
1. Sentence Clearness	51
I. Correct Diction	51
(a) Position of Adverbs	51
(b) Position of Modifiers in General	52
(c) Use of Pronouns	52
(d) Watch for Squinting Construction	52
II. Proper Punctuation	53
(a) Placing of Period	53
(b) Insertion of Comma and Semicolon	53
(c) Use of Interrogation Point	53
2. Sentence Unity	54
How to Preserve Sentence Unity	54
(a) First Determine Central Thought	54
(b) Use Additional Clause for Ex- planation	54
(c) Group Clauses with Semicolons	54
Precautions Concerning Sentence Unity	56
Precaution 1. Change of Subject	56
Precaution 2. Separation of Ideas	57
Precaution 3. Crowding Details	57
Precaution 4. Loose Arrangement of Relative Clauses	58
Ways for Telling Sentence Unity	58
1. By Total Impression	58
2. By Proper Relation of Clauses	59
Exercises for Sentence Unity	60

CHAPTER	PAGE
3. Sentence Coherence	61
What Sentence Coherence Is	61
I. Promotion of Sentence Coherence	62
(a) Natural Order of Words	62
(b) Logical Use of Negatives	63
(c) Logical Connections and Relationships	64
II. Violation of Sentence Coherence	64
(a) Needless Change of Construction	65
(b) Relation between Participle and Noun or Pronoun	65
(c) Relation between Pronoun and Antecedent	66
Exercises for Sentence Coherence	67
4. Sentence Emphasis	67
What Sentence Emphasis Is	67
How to Secure it	68
I. By Position	68
(a) Beginning and End of Sentence	68
(b) Order of Climax	69
(c) Inverted Word Order	69
II. By Word Manipulation	69
(a) Word Repetition	70
(b) Word Antithesis	70
(c) Omission of Unimportant Words	70
Emphatic Sentences	70
(1) Short Sentence	71
(2) Periodic Sentence	71
(3) Balanced Sentence	71
Exercises for Sentence Emphasis	72
5. Sentence Euphony	73
What Sentence Euphony Is	73

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. Promotion of Sentence Euphony . . .	73
(a) By a Natural Beginning . . .	73
(b) By Easy Movement . . .	74
(c) By Cadence at the End . . .	74
II. Violation of Sentence Euphony . . .	75
(a) From Needless Repetition . . .	75
(b) From Harsh Combinations . . .	75
(c) From Metrical Structure . . .	76
(d) From Frequent Alliteration . . .	76
Exercises for Sentence Euphony . . .	77
6. Sentence Strength . . .	77
What Sentence Strength Is . . .	77
How to Secure It . . .	78
(1) Careful Use of Connective Words . . .	78
(2) Similar Construction of Contrasted Members . . .	78
(3) Liberal Use of Particular Terms . . .	79
Exercises for Sentence Strength . . .	79
Idiomatic Sentences Needing Special At- tention . . .	80
IV. RHETORIC AS PRACTICED WITH PARA- GRAPHS . . .	82
General Discussion . . .	82
Paragraph-Thought . . .	82
What a Paragraph Is . . .	83
The Topic of the Paragraph . . .	84
Paragraph as an Organic Structure . . .	85
Paragraph Plan . . .	85
Paragraph Analyzed . . .	86
Means of Paragraph Development . . .	88
1. By Definition . . .	88
Example Analyzed . . .	89
2. By Particulars and Details . . .	89

CHAPTER	PAGE
Examples Analyzed	90
3. By Comparison and Illustration	91
Example Analyzed	91
4. By Specific Instances or Examples	92
Example Analyzed	92
5. By Presenting Reasons	93
Examples Analyzed	93
6. By Applying a Principle	95
Example Analyzed	95
7. By Stating Causes and Effects	96
Examples Analyzed	96
8. By Introductory and Summarizing Sentences	98
(a) The Introductory Sentence	98
Example Analyzed	99
(b) The Transitional Sentence	99
Example Analyzed	99
(c) The Summarizing Sentence	100
Example Analyzed	100
General Laws Governing Paragraphs	101
1. Paragraph Unity	101
Examples Analyzed	102
2. Paragraph Selection	104
Examples Analyzed	105
3. Paragraph Coherence	107
(a) The Proper Arrangement of Sentences	107
Example Analyzed	108
(b) The Use of Proper Connecting Words	109
Example Analyzed	109
4. Paragraph Proportion	110
(a) Sufficient Details to Show Purpose	111
Example	111

CHAPTER	PAGE
(b) Adequate Amplification	111
Example	112
(c) Ordinary Illustration for Simple State- ment	112
Example	113
5. Paragraph Emphasis	113
(a) By Repetition	113
Example	113
(b) By Space	114
Example	114
(c) By Contrast	115
Example	115
(d) By Position	116
Example	116
6. Paragraph Variety	116
What Paragraph Variety Is	116
Variety Secured by Diversity of Sentences	117
Example Analyzed	117
Types of Paragraph Structure	118
General Discussion	118
Kinds of Paragraph Structure	119
I. Expository and Argumentative Paragraphs	120
(a) Logical Methods	120
1. Inductive Method	120
Example Analyzed	121
2. Deductive Method	121
Example Analyzed	122
Two Methods Compared	123
(b) Less Formal Methods	123
1. Paragraph Developed Through Definition	123
Example Analyzed	123

2. Paragraph Developed Through Specific In- stances	124
Example Analyzed	124
3. Paragraph Developed Through Causes and Results	125
Example Analyzed	125
II. Descriptive and Narrative Paragraphs	125
1. By Giving Incident	126
Example Analyzed	126
2. By Character Sketches	127
Example Analyzed	127
3. By Descriptive Sketches	129
Example Analyzed	129
Kinds of Paragraphs	130
I. The Isolated Paragraphs	131
Example Analyzed	131
II. The Related Paragraphs	132
1. Introductory Paragraph	132
Example Analyzed	132
2. Transitional Paragraph	133
Example Analyzed	133
3. Amplifying Paragraph	133
Example Analyzed	134
4. Concluding Paragraph	135
Example Analyzed	135
Exercises on Isolated Paragraphs	136
Exercises on Related Paragraphs	139
Written Exercises on Paragraphs	154
V. RHETORIC AS PRACTICED WITH WHOLE COMPOSITIONS	156
General Discussion	156

CHAPTER	PAGE
The Ways We Learn to Write Compositions . . .	156
Why Rhetoric Is Necessary in Composition . . .	157
General Rhetorical Principles of Relation . . .	158
1. The Principle of Distinction	159
Example Analyzed	159
2. The Principle of Sequence	161
Example Analyzed	161
3. The Principle of Climax	161
Example Analyzed	162
The Logical Order of Thought-Grouping . . .	163
1. The Defining Stage—Introduction . . .	163
2. The Developing Stage—Discussion . . .	164
3. The Applying Stage—Conclusion . . .	164
The Practical Plan of Composition	165
(A) Concerning Introduction	165
Examples Analyzed	165
(B) Concerning Development or Amplification . . .	168
1. To Aid Memory—The Psychological Laws	168
(a) The Law of Contiguity	168
Example Analyzed	169
(b) The Law of Similarity and Con- trast	170
Example Analyzed	170
(c) The Law of Cause and Effect . . .	171
Example Analyzed	171
2. To Give Good Movement—Two Orders of Thought-Building . . .	172
(1) Inductive Order	172
Example Analyzed	173
(2) Deductive Order	173
Example Analyzed	174
(C) Concerning Conclusion	175

CHAPTER	PAGE
1. Intellectual Type	175
Example	176
2. Emotional Type	176
Example	176
Classification of Compositions	177
I. Description	177
Purpose of Description	177
Example Analyzed	178
Methods in Description	179
1. The Popular Method	179
Example	179
2. The Artistic Method	180
Example	180
3. The Scientific Method	180
Example	180
4. The Suggestive Method	181
Example	181
Points of View in Description	182
1. The Fixed Point of View	182
Example	182
2. The Changeable Point of View	183
Example Analyzed	183
Selection of Details	185
Examples	185
Descriptive Compositions for Study	185
Descriptive Compositions for Exercises	190
Suggestions for Writing Descriptions	190
II. Narration	191
Purpose of Narration	191
Example Analyzed	192
The Principal Elements in Narration	192
1. The Plot	192
2. The Setting	193

CHAPTER

PAGE

3. The Character	193
General Classification of Narratives	194
Simple Narrative	194
Example Analyzed	194
The Requisites of Simple Narratives	195
The Unity of Simple Narrative	196
Example Analyzed	196
The Sequence of Simple Narrative	197
Example Analyzed	197
The Climax of Simple Narrative	198
Example Analyzed	198
The Complex Narrative	199
How to Change Simple Narrative into Complex Narrative	199
The Obstacles, Physical and Mental	201
Examples Analyzed	201
The Suspense	202
Example	202
The Beginning of Narrative	203
Example Analyzed	203
The Climax of Narrative	204
Example	204
The Conclusion of Narrative	204
Example	204
Narratives for Study	205
Narrative Compositions for Exercises	207
Suggestions for Writing Narratives	209
III. Exposition	211
Purpose of Exposition	211
Example Analyzed	212
Effective Exposition	213
Process of Exposition - Analysis	214
Example Analyzed	214

CHAPTER	PAGE
Methods of Exposition	215
1. Exposition by Narration or Description	215
Example Analyzed	215
2. Exposition by Paraphrase	216
Example Analyzed	217
3. Exposition by Abstract	218
Example Analyzed	218
4. Exposition by Definition—Intensive	
Exposition	219
Logical Definition	219
Example Analyzed	219
Other Means of Logical Definition	220
1. Exposition by Antithesis	220
Example	220
2. Exposition by Iteration	221
Example	221
3. Exposition by Analogy	222
Example	222
4. Exposition by Exemplification	222
Example	223
Expository Compositions for Study	226
Expository Compositions for Criticism	231
Subjects for Written Exercises	233
IV. Argumentation	234
Purpose of Argumentation	234
Argumentation and Exposition	234
Steps in Argumentation	235
1. The Choice of the Subject	235
2. The Wording of the Subject	235
3. The Analysis of the Subject	236
4. The Development of the Arguments	236
5. The Conclusion	236

CONTENTS

xv

CHAPTER

PAGE

Example Analyzed	237
Two Forms of Argumentation	239
(I) Constructive Argumentation	239
A. Through Direct Inquiry	240
1. Personal Observation	240
Example Analyzed	240
2. Testimony	241
Example Analyzed	241
3. Authority	242
Example	242
B. Through Reasoning—Induction	243
1. Inference from Particulars	243
Example Analyzed	244
2. Particulars Viewed as Cause or Effect	244
Example Analyzed	244
3. Particulars as Circumstantial Evidence	245
Example Analyzed	246
4. Particulars as Example and Analogy	247
Example Analyzed	247
C. Through Reasoning—Deduction	248
1. Syllogism in Literature	249
Example Analyzed	249
2. Syllogism in Enthymeme	250
Example Analyzed	250
3. Syllogism in Enlargement	251
Example Analyzed	251
(II) Destructive Argumentation	252
I. Analysis of Issues	252
(a) By Reducing to Alternatives	252
Example Analyzed	253

CHAPTER

PAGE

(b) By Reductio ad Absurdum	254
Example	254
(c) By Dilemma	255
Example Analyzed	255
II. Exposure of Fallacies	256
(a) By Detailed Analysis	256
Example	256
(b) By Parity of Reasoning	257
Example	257
Argumentative Compositions for Study	258
Argumentative Compositions for Exercise	263
Suggestions for Writing Argumentative Compositions	264

RHETORIC IN PRACTICE

CHAPTER I

THE BACKGROUND AND FIELD OF RHETORIC

Historical Background of Rhetoric

Rhetoric is one of the oldest organized subject treated in the world of literature. About twenty-three centuries ago, during the time of Aristotle in Greece, Rhetoric was considered as one of the few important branches of learning. Of course the field of rhetoric was then rather limited. In Aristotle's Rhetoric it embraced only the following three subjects capable of systematic treatment, namely:

1. *The possible sources of proofs*
2. *The style*
3. *The right ordering of the parts of a speech.*

From the above it can be easily traced how Rhetoric was originally applied only to oral expression, constituting mainly what we call to-day the Argumentation. This oral nature of Rhetoric was quite a historical one; it remained so all through the Middle Ages. Even down to about the beginning of the 18th century it was not much changed. John Locke, the noted English philosopher of the latter part of the 17th century, was quoted to have