

NEWSPAPER READING



英美报刊选读

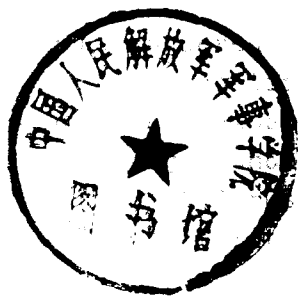
黎秀石 编著 王宗炎 审校



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湖南教育出版社





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序

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本书作者黎秀石同志让我看了他的稿子，我觉得应当谈一点感想。

关于作者，我先前有一知二不知。一知，是知道他在解放前曾任天津《大公报》的驻英记者（我爱看他的报道）；二不知，是既不知他是《西行漫记》的作者斯诺的高足弟子，也不知他善于教学生读外国报刊，写新闻纪事。从不知到知，从略知到深知，是近几年来的事。

由于解放前后曾为上海《密勒氏评论报》写过一些通讯，我和外文报刊也算有一段因缘，所以这本稿子我读起来格外亲切。我觉得它的特色是：

——选材认真。作者所注意的似乎主要是两种资料：（1）全世界瞩目的大事；（2）中国人关心的问题。读这些资料，对扩大眼界，激发爱国情绪应该有些帮助。

——分析细致。作者对各篇选文都进行了分析，但是没有死板的格局，也避免感情用事。外国人赞美我们，他不陶醉；外国人批评我们，他不吹胡子瞪眼。尤其可贵的是，那些表面恭维，骨子里带刺的话，他总是明明白白地指出来。

——注解详明。有人注解象是抓痒，只接触到表面，作者的注解象是射箭，力求命中红心。他不以抄词典上的定义为满足，总要从上下文和写作背景出发，把一句话的意思——包括言外之意——说得清清楚楚。

我感谢作者给我指点出新闻业的一些诀窍，我相信一般读者也会跟我一样，从此书得到教益和启发。

王宗炎

1984年4月20日于回春楼

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第一单元 引言

我们为什么要看英美报刊？从语言学习这方面来说，一是为了学习当代大众化的英语；二是为了提高我们阅读的水平。英语象汉语一样不断在发展与变化中，外国人学当代汉语非多看当代中国报刊不可，我们学当代英语同样要看英美报刊杂志。

要学好当代英语，只是精读几本教科书是不够的。要进行广泛阅读，才能提高我们的阅读速度。最能给我们提供广泛的阅读材料的自然是英美报刊。

但阅读水平的提高不仅仅在于快速与广泛这两方面。增加速度同时要力求增加了解内容的深度；广泛阅读，同时要努力抓住自己所需要的东西，这才有收获。因此，我们不仅要看外刊，还要学会怎么看外刊。学会看外刊需要一段入门的过程。我们可以靠自学来摸出门路，但是更好的办法是一边自己摸，一边参考别人的经验，少走弯路，缩短入门的过程。本书编写的目的就是试图向在校同学和自学的同志提出一些阅读外刊的要点，共同在阅读实践中提高我们的阅读水平。在每一篇阅读资料之后，都附有中英文注释、练习题和关于文章内容的讨论，这些可能对读者有一些帮助。

我们看外刊不仅仅是为了提高阅读水平，更重要的是掌握好这个工具来吸取国外有利于我国进行四化的知识，了解英语国家

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的政府与人民对我国事物的看法，并放眼世界，尤其是要放眼了解英语国家的现状。全世界的英语报刊不计其数，有如一望无际的原始森林，里面有香花，也有毒草；有药草，也有蒺藜，我们置身其中，如何识别它们，采集我们所需要的东西，这也要有一个锻炼的过程。本书试图在有限的篇幅里收集多种类型的报刊阅读资料，与读者共同研究。

本书根据阅读资料的内容，分为十四个单元，以便学习。本单元所收的两篇是谈“报刊英语”和当代英语的变化的。

关于本书的使用方法，编者有下列建议：把每单元的引言看完后，开始阅读资料时，最好先不查字典，也不看注释，就这样看下去。把一篇文章看过一遍后，问问自己：我看懂了多少？全篇大意掌握了多少？有什么拦路虎妨碍自己，以致看不懂文中要点？经过这样看一遍，想一想，才借助词典和注释再读一遍，然后做练习。这样，会收到较好的效果。书中安排的练习是理解题，希望能帮助读者抓住文中要点。每一篇阅读资料后面附有〈读后思考〉一栏，是为了对资料内容开展讨论，活跃思想，其中如有不妥之处，请读者指正。

I Newspaper English

“Learning a language is not merely an academic exercise. Students of English want to be able to use the language they have acquired in the same way as English people use it. They not only want to understand spoken English and to make themselves understood¹, they also want to be able to appreciate English television and radio programmes, to laugh at English jokes, to sing English songs and to read English newspapers. This last wish often gives rise to some disappointment², when for example, the student who has passed his exams with top marks and has earned the commendation of his teacher³ finds that he is quite unable to understand the newspapers which he knows English people read every day. He realizes that he lacks something:

“The deficiency is not entirely his fault⁴. The difficulty lies in the fact that British newspapers have a style all of their own, or—rather—each paper has its own individual style forming part of a general journalistic pattern which we may loosely classify as ‘Newspaper English’⁵. The more popular dailies use a chatty, slangy, up-to-the-moment way of writing⁶, which, as often as not⁷, leaves the foreign reader very bewildered⁸, if not under a totally false

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impression. Here is a typical piece of such reporting.

Curvaceous⁹ Patricia Potts, the girl with the smashing silhouette¹⁰ who was Scunthorpe's Dish of the Month¹¹ in October—the dishiest dish¹² in the area—was dished up with a dish of trouble¹³ on her way home from bingo¹⁴ last night. Two would-be muggers tried it on¹⁵ in Dark Street near her home, but she sent them packing¹⁶ with handbag a-whirling, nails a-scratching and platform clogs a-kicking¹⁷.

“Even the most conscientious student¹⁸ might be forgiven for giving up at this point. And yet it must be realized that this style carries no problems for the millions that read every day¹⁹.

“Headlines are another problem. The English reader scans the headlines²⁰ to find out what the news stories are about, the foreign student has to read the stories to find out what the headlines mean.

“The popular press, in order to print as much information in as small a space as possible, had developed a content-packed sentence²¹, very often crammed with compound words²² of a highly complicated nature, that needs to be treated warily at first. [red]

For example, 1/15/60

Warwickshire police²³ announced late last night that Arthur Prentice, a 35-year-old lorry driver²⁴ of Babblethorpe, Cambridgeshire, wanted in connection with the