

POINTS OF
MODERN
ENGLISH
SYNTAX

现代英语句法问题集

依拉德斯著

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原载荷兰《英语研究》

依拉德斯 著

罗巴特 编

孙 铎 陆国强 徐烈炯 译

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Points of Modern English Syntax
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by

P. A. Erades

Edited by N. J. Robat

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序

English Studies 从 1948 年 10 月号起请著名语法学家 E. Kruisinga 的门生 P. A. Erades 负责开辟了“现代英语句法问题”连载专栏。目的在于“激励大家学习现代英语的积极性”。“准备……陆续刊载一些句子(注明出处),提出句法上的问题,请读者评述。请对句法问题有兴趣的读者把答案、说明、解释、解答(爱用什么名称可由读者自行选择)寄给编者,然后由编者在以后某期中作一番简短的综述,就信中寄来的答案展开讨论,并阐述编者本人的看法。”这一专栏一开始就深受欢迎,答案源源不断寄来,不仅寄自荷兰,而且寄自其他国家。这是因为选题颇具匠心,引句丰富多采,评论深刻精辟。Erades 具有高超的语言天才,初看起来无法解决的难题一到他手中便迎刃而解,并分析得一清二楚。他的解释使许多读者和参加讨论的人顿开茅塞。这一专栏一期期办下去,一直办到 1968 年 Erades 逝世前几个月为止,中间从未间断过,只是在最后几年中间隔时间比较长一些。足见学英语的人都爱读这一栏文章。

我们认为,现在把每期专题讨论汇集成册重印再版,仍然会引起读者对所探讨问题的兴趣和思考。有些读者习惯于另外一套略有不同的语法术语,也许需要适应一下,例如动词词干指不定式,表语分词指被动态,动词 ing 形式指现在分词与动名词。但这并无多大妨碍。仔细阅读必然得益非浅,其乐无穷。

R. W. ZANDVOORT

前 言

原订阅 *English Studies* 的读者一定记得，已故的 Kruisinga 博士编撰的连载专栏“现代英语句法问题”。每篇都先从当代各种书刊中摘引一些独立句子，然后提出问题，请读者来解释或评论这些句子中的某些语法特点。今天的读者如果翻阅前几卷 *English Studies*，并有意一试回答这些问题，必然很想知道 Kruisinga 本人如何解答他自己所提的问题。可是要找出他的答案不是轻而易举的事，因为这位著名的语法学家在刊物中并未作明确的阐述，而要读者到他著作的一些较新的版本中去查阅，一般见之于 *A Handbook of Present-Day English* 第三版。事隔二十年之后的今天，第三版已难以找到。经两次修订，新版章节目录次与旧版完全不同。

English Studies 编辑部觉得这种启发式方法对所有从事英语教学的人大有裨益，因此决定恢复本刊这一特色。但具体的编选方式略有变更，以期做到既切合当前的需要，又可供将来参考。我们准备选择适当时机，在篇幅允许的范围内陆续刊载一些句子，提出句法上的问题，请读者评述。请对句法问题有兴趣的读者把答案、说明、解释、解答（爱用什么名称可由读者自行选择）寄给编者，然后由编者在以后某期中作一番简短的综述，就信中寄来的答案展开讨论——当然不公布来信读者的姓名——并阐述编者本人的看法。我们希望，读者不要以为采用这种做法是赶时髦、凑热闹，迎合那股热衷于搞测验题的不良之风，以至有损于本刊的声誉。我

们的目的是激励大家研究现代英语结构的积极性。这一点望读者体恤。本刊提出的问题中，有不少会涉及现有的语法书上尚未予以专门说明的一些语言现象。预计读者寄来的答案中常常会出现相当大的分歧，众说纷纭，莫衷一是。但即使不能在每个问题上最后都取得一致的意见，我们仍然希望通过交流思想互得益彰。而且在许多方面可以有助于澄清问题。无论来信提供例句，或者发表自己的见解，我们均表欢迎。所引语句务请注明出处，并附上必要的上下文，以备全面探讨。

P. A. ERADES

1948年10月

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1. I thought he was an intimate friend of yours. — Oh no, he is only an acquaintance: I know him to speak to, that is all. Sweet, *Elementarbuch*, 51, p. 124.

【问】a. 解释 was 的用法，这里显然不是过去时。b. 动词词干 (verb stem, 即不定式——译注) to speak to 起什么作用？

【答】a. 可以说来信的读者一致认为，在从句中 was 是因为要与 thought 的时态相一致。这种见解的正确性不难证明：如果用了 I think 就不能用 was (至少不能用来表达这里所要表示的意思)。这类情况表明“过去式”(preterite) 和“过去时”(past tense) 不能混用。was 当然一定属于过去式，但当它用来表示情态或表示时态的一致时，并不是过去时。

许多读者来信问：这里 thought 又是什么呢？要解决这个问题需要多引几句。

Do you know Arthur Jones? Oh, yes, he is an old friend of mine. I have known him ever since I was a boy; we went to school together. I met him last night at a party at Mrs. Carter's. I had not seen him for ever so long. I thought he was an intimate friend of yours. Oh, no, he is only an acquaintance; I know him to speak to, that is all. Sweet, *Elementarbuch* No. 51, p. 123 f.

这样一看就明白了：thought 是一般的叙述过去式，没有特殊的情态含义，意思显然是：承您纠正我之前，我一直

认为如此。

b. To speak to 最好看作是限制 to know him 的状语性附加语 (adverbial adjunct), 后面加上了 that is all 限制意义就很清楚了。因为也可以说 I know him only to speak to, 这就证明可以作此解释。

*

*

*

2. (She) had dreams of a semi-detached villa, a maid to live in, and a little car. Ethel Mannin, *Children of the Earth*, III, ch. 4.

France in the eighteenth century ... was certainly not a quiet place to live in. Lytton Strachey, *Books and Characters*, p. 193.

【问】 以上两处词组 to live in 在形式上和功能上是否相同?

【答】 两处 to live in 形式和功能都不同。a maid to live in 中重音分布为 [tə ,liv 'in]。整个词组用作 maid 的定语性附加语 (attributive adjunct), 这时 in 是副词。而 a quiet place to live in 中重音分布为 [tə 'liv ,in]。这时动词词干修饰 quiet, 不修饰 place, 略带目的意义(以居住目的而论, 不够平静); 这时 in 是介词。另一种可取的解释是: maid 和 to live in 之间的关系是主谓关系, 而 a quiet place 却是 to live in 的宾语。

*

*

*

3. Now I mustn't write any more nonsense. I'm sure, nobody to read this would ever imagine I was an al-