

英语修辞格词典

文 军 编著

A Dictionary of English
Figures of Speech

重庆大学出版社

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序

人们在说话和写作时总希望自己的表达能生动、有力,以吸引听众和读者。可见,修辞是说话和写作的一种艺术。学习一些修辞手段可以使我们的语言贴切、意义清晰、表达生动。掌握了修辞知识可以帮助我们分析英美文学作品中各位名家使用的修辞手段和表现手段,了解他们的写作风格和技巧,从而提高我们的语言修养。

《英语修辞格辞典》就是为了帮助读者学好修辞而编写的,这本工具书内容充实,论述清晰、透彻,是一本系统地介绍英语修辞词格的佳品。

近年来,有关英语修辞格的词典国内外都还不多,至于有实用价值、密切联系英语学习的修辞工具书更是凤毛麟角。《英语修辞格词典》的问世可以说填补了一个空白,它将能满足英语爱好者学习修辞的需要,提高他们的写作能力和阅读欣赏能力,值得介绍给广大读者。

是为序。

戴炜栋

一九九二年二月
于上海外国语学院

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一、喻类辞格

1. SIMILE (明喻)

Simile 一词来自拉丁语的 similar(similar 系 similis 的中性),意为“like”。何谓 simile? 请看两则定义:

A simile is a figure of speech in which two quite different things are compared because they appear to be similar in at least one characteristic... Similes are as a rule introduced by “like” or “as”. (A New Book of Knowledge)

Simile; A figure of speech in which one thing is likened to another, in such a way as to clarify and enhance an image. It is an explicit comparison (as opposed to the metaphor where the comparison is implicit) recognizable by the use of the word “like” or “as”. (A Dictionary of Literary Terms)

综上所述, simile 有以下特点: (1) 常用 like, as 引导(称为“比喻词”, comparative words 或 acknowledging words); (2) 明喻中出现两种事物, 一种被比为另一种(即主体 primary term 或 tenor 及喻体 secondary term 或 vehicle); (3) 两种事物(主体、喻体)应完全不同, 即分属不同性质的事物; (4) 两种事物至少应在某一点上相似。例如: The walls were whitewashed as

white as milk. (Dickens: David Copperfield, ch. Ⅲ) 此句中明喻比喻词是“as ... as ...”, 主体、喻体分别是“the walls”和“milk”, 二者显系不同性质的事物; 主体、喻体间的相似点是“white”。再如:

Higher still and higher
From the earth thou springest,
Like a cloud of fire...

(Shelley: To Skylark)

(你从大地一跃而起,
往上飞翔又飞翔,
有如一团火云……)

此例中主体为“thou”(指 skylark), 喻体是“a cloud of fire”, 明喻引导词为“like”, 主体、喻体亦属不同事物; 两者的相似点也是存在的——高飞翱翔。云雀似云, 但却未象上例那样明白点出, 须读者自己去咀嚼体会。因此, 无论相似点或隐或显, 明喻构成的四个要素实际上不变。

明喻的四个要素虽然都是一致的, 但其表达形式却丰富多采, 这往往体现在引导明喻的比喻词上。引导明喻的比喻词主要有以下类型:

一、由“介词(短语)”引导

1. “like”型

(1) That man over there is like a pig. (那边那个家伙象头猪。)

(2) ...her sharp mind, sawing raggedly through illusion like a bread knife through a hunk of frozen fish. (Fay Weldon) (她敏锐的思想慢慢剔开了错觉, 就象一把面包刀割开一块厚厚的冻鱼一样。)

(3) There be none of Beauty's daughters

With a magic like thee;
And like music on the waters
Is thy sweet voice to be...

(Byron, "For Music")

(没有一个美的女儿
富于魅力,象你那样,
对于我,你甜蜜的声音
有如音乐飘浮水上。)

2. “介词短语”型

With the quickness of a long cat, she climbed up into the nest of cool-bladed foliage. (Lawrence) (她以猫样的敏捷爬进了由凉爽的簇叶构成的巢里。)

二、用“连词”引导

1. “as”型

(1) ... (He) wanted it all with a horrible intensity, as the faun wants the nymph. (J. Galsworthy; The Apple Tree) (……他强烈得可怕地渴望着这一切,象牧神渴望林间的仙女一样。)

(2) He arose joint by joint, as a carpenter's rule opens, and beat the dust from his clothes. (O. Henry, "The Cop and the Anthem") (象打开一把曲尺似的,他一节一节地撑了起来,掸去衣服上的灰尘。)

(3) Beauty is as summer fruits, which are easy to corrupt and cannot last... (Bacon, "Of Studies") (美者犹如夏日蔬果,易腐难存...)

2. “(as) ... as ...”型

Today you see them bouncing, buxom, red as cherries. (C. Bronte; Shirley) (如今你看他们又结实又胖,脸上红朴朴的。)

3. “as…(,)so…”型

As a stone strikes the body, so a thought makes itself perceptible to the mind. (一种思想打击人的精神就象一块石头打在人的身上一样。)

4. “may (might) as well … as …”型

You might as well expect the sun to rise in the west as hope to move me. (你不能动摇我的决心,正如你不能指望太阳从西方出来一样。)

5. “as if (as though)”型

A crowd of people pressed around him, touching his body, felt his legs, …and bid for him as if he had been a horse. (The Quadroon) (一大堆人围在他身边,摆弄他身子,摸摸他大腿……出价买他,好象他是一匹马。)

6. “what”型,又分两种:

a. A is to B what C is to D 或 What C is to D (,) A is to B

The pen is to a writer what the gun is to a fighter. (作家的笔犹如战士的枪。)

b. A does for B what C does for D

(1) Leaves do for plants what lungs do for animals. (叶子对于植物的作用,正如肺对动物的作用。)

(2) What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the soul. (教育之于心灵,犹如雕刻之于大理石。)

三、用“形容词比较级”引导

(1) The ruby shall be redder than a red rose, and the sapphire shall be as blue as the great sea. (O. Wilde) (红宝石将比红玫瑰还要红,蓝宝石象大海一样蓝。)

(2) So as she shows she seems the budding rose,

Yet sweeter far than is earthly flower…

(R. Greene; "Pandosto")

(当她出现,看来犹似含苞的玫瑰,
但却远比尘世的花儿馥郁……)

四、用“动词(短语)”引导

1. “seem”型:见上例。

2. “surpass”型

In clearness does surpass
The crystal and the silver pure,
Or clearest polished glass.

(A. Hume; A Summer Day)

(纯净,
胜似水晶与纯银,
胜似擦得雪亮的玻璃。)

3. “be likened to”型

Passions are liken'd best to floods and streams;
The shallow murmur, but the deep are dumb...

(W. Raleigh; The Silent Lover)

(激情最象洪水与溪流:
水面喧声淙淙,水底无语无声……)

4. “remind of”型

His nose was particularly white and his large nostrils,
correspondingly dark, remind me of an oboe when they dilated.
(他鼻子特别白,而他那对发黑的大鼻孔在张大时使我想起双簧管。)

5. “compare...to”型:

I compare his genius to a lightening flash. (我将他的天才
比作闪电。)

6. “treat...as”型: