

英美 谚语选编

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YANYUXUANBIAN

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前 言

谚语往往反映人们在长期生活与斗争的实践中的体会或经验，短短的一两句话每每寓意深长，读来耐人寻味。有的喻事明理，给人以某种启示；有的概括反映某一方面的知识、经验或教训，供人学习与借鉴。由于言简意赅，内容广泛，人们十分喜爱谚语，对一些好谚语人们称之为民众的生活教科书，或比之为生活中不可缺少的良师益友。一些具有普遍意义的精辟谚语常常超越时限，世代相传，或者超越国界，四海传诵。多读谚语，不仅能从中学习如何提炼语言，增强运用语言的能力，并能获得教益，学到知识。

英语谚语历史悠久，数量众多，内容极为丰富，在英语民间文学的宝库中占有显著的地位。特别是美国的英语谚语，因为大量吸收了各国移民传去的外国谚语，内容更是丰富多采。由于时代背景，文化传统和社会制度不同，英语谚语中确有不少糟粕，如宣扬金钱、门第，信奉上帝、命运，歧视、侮辱妇女和悲观厌世之类的谚语。但是，具有普遍意义，至今仍可供人们学习的好谚语也不少，如褒善贬恶的，赞勤斥懒的，称颂美德的，提倡节俭的，教人谦虚谨慎、戒骄戒躁的等等，都很值得一读。编者谨按披沙拣金的原则，

从英美历年出版的各种谚语专集中精选出语言简炼并富于教益的谚语1800多条，辑成本书，作为学习英语的一本辅助读物。诚然，有些谚语从一个方面看，有一定的道理，但从另一方面看，也许带有片面性，望读者善自鉴别。

本书所选谚语按内容分类，并附译文，以便于查检、学习。辑录原则是：(1) 内容反动、消极的一概摒弃；(2) 意思相同或相近但用词或句式不同而各有特点的谚语，从学习语言的角度考虑，予以兼收并蓄，集中排列，以供比较、研究；(3) 意思相反的谚语，由于反映了不同的经验或认识，也一并收录。译文以直译为主，因为英语谚语在词汇、句式以及概括的手法、比喻的运用等方面都颇具特色，故力求能多保持原文的风格。不过，英汉两种语言差别较大，不少谚语不仅难以按字面意思直译，甚至用意译法也不易译得恰到好处，故亦间用其它译法。翻译时遵循的原则是：(1) 能照字面意思译的，均用直译法，如：The best horse needs breaking, and the aptest child needs teaching. 最好的马儿也要驯，最灵的孩子也要教。(2) 不宜直译的，用意译法，如：He that loses his honesty has nothing else to lose. 失去诚实就失去了一切。(3) 不宜直译而有汉语谚语与之相当的，用对译法，如：Save up your grains lest you go short some day. 积谷防饥。(4) 可以直译，且有汉语谚语与之相当的，直译、对译并用，如：A smart mouse has more than one hole. 聪明的老鼠洞穴多。(狡兔三窟。)(5) 有时用反译法，如：Lies only last for a while. 谎言不能持

久。(6)句式相同的谚语,或因内容不同,或因汉语的表达方式有别,译文的句式不尽相同,如:

No company is better than bad company.

交坏朋友不如没有朋友。

An open enemy is better than a hollow friend.

宁有公开的敌人,不要虚伪的朋友。

Practice without learning is better than learning without practice.

没有知识的实践胜过没有实践的知识。

Nothing is better than a loyal friend.

什么也比不上一个忠实的朋友。

由于水平所限,本书在谚语的选辑、分类、翻译等方面都难免有错误或欠妥之处,欢迎读者批评指正。

编译者

一九八二年八月

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1. Proverbs About Proverbs

关于谚语的谚语

Proverbs are the people's wisdom.

谚语是人民的智慧。

Proverbs are the wisdom of the streets.

谚语是街头的智慧。

Proverbs are the wisdom of the alley.

谚语是里弄的智慧。

Proverbs are common sayings.

谚语是通俗的格言。

Proverbs are wayside sayings.

谚语是路边的格言。

Proverbs are the wisdom of the ages.

谚语是时代的智慧。

Proverbs are the children of experience.

谚语是经验的产儿。

Proverbs are the echoes of experience.

谚语是经验的回声。

Proverbs are the daughters of daily experience.

谚语是日常经验的产物。

Proverbs are short sentences drawn from long experience.

谚语是从长期经验中提炼出来的简短语句。

Proverbs are well-spoken words.

谚语是精采的言词。

A proverb is an ornament to language.

谚语为语言增色。

Proverbs are the lamps to words.

谚语为语言增光。

That a proverb is to speech what salt to food.

讲话用谚语犹如菜肴加食盐。

Proverbs in conversation—torches in darkness.

谈话用谚语好象黑夜亮火炬。

What flowers are to gardens, spices to food, gems to a garment, and stars to heaven, such are proverbs interwoven in speech.

讲话用谚语宛如花园开鲜花，食品加香料，衣服配珍饰，天空呈繁星。

When one has read the book of Proverbs, no effort is needed to speak well.

读过谚语书，言辞自然见功夫。

Old proverbs are the children of truth.

古老的谚语是真理的产儿。

There is no proverb without a grain of truth.

没有一条谚语没有一点道理。

All old sayings have something in them.

古老的谚语都有一些道理。

There is something wise in every proverb.

每条谚语都有一些哲理。

A proverb comes not from nothing.

谚语不是无稽之谈。

Proverbs are not vain words.

谚语不是空话。

A proverb is a true word.

谚语是老实话。

A proverb deceives not, heavens fall not.

谚语不会骗人就象天不会坍下来。

Proverbs are so called because they are proved.

谚语是经过检验，证明有道理的话。

A saying of the people is often a salutary warning.

人民的谚语往往是有益的告诫。

Proverbs are often in themselves beautiful little allegories.

谚语往往是美好的小寓言。

In proverbs the conscience of the people sits in judgement.

从谚语里可以看到人们的良心在判别是非。

All the good sense of the world runs into proverbs.

人们的一切良知都汇集在谚语里。

A proverb has contents of gold.

谚语里面有黄金。

A proverb is the key of the thought.

谚语是思想的钥匙。

The proverb comes from the intellect, and the intellect from the proverb.

智慧出谚语，谚语出智慧。

A good maxim is never out of season.

好箴言永远不会过时。

A useful aphorism, a witty saying, is always in season.

有益的格言，隽永的谚语永远不会过时。

Time passes away, but sayings remain.

时间消逝，而谚语尚存。

All old proverbs are spread abroad.

古老的谚语四海流传。

A good proverb is made to remember.

好谚语是让人记住的。

In a proverb you buy with your ears a good lesson at the cheapest price.

听听谚语得教益，所付代价十分低。

A wise man who knows proverbs reconciles difficulties.

精通谚语的聪明人会应付困难。

Proverbs are taught through experience.

谚语是通过经验来领会的。

It is the manner of proverbs that we realize their meaning

only when we experience it ourselves.

谚语的特点是只有亲身感受才能领会其涵义。

There is no proverb which is not true, for they are all opinions formed from the same experience, which is the mother of all knowledge.

没有一条谚语不体现实际，因为谚语来自经验，而经验是一切知识之母。

The old sayings cannot be excelled.

经久的谚语无法逾越。

The wisdom of the proverb cannot be surpassed.

谚语的智慧无法超越。

The proverbs of a nation are the great book out of which it is easy to read its character.

一个民族的谚语是了解其民族特性的好材料。

As the country, so the morals; as the morals, so the proverbs.

什么样的国家有什么样的道德；有什么样的道德就有什么样的谚语。

The genius, wit, and spirit of a nation are discovered in its proverbs.

一个民族的特征、智慧和精神都能从其谚语中看出。

Nothing tells us more of the spirit of a people than its proverbs.

一个民族的谚语最能说明该民族的精神。

2. Virtue 美 德

Virtue is the health of the soul.

美德是精神健康的标志。

Virtue is to the soul what health is to the body.

身体需要健康，精神需要美德。

Virtue is the road to honour.

美德是通往荣誉之路。

Honour is the reward of virtue.

荣誉是对美德的奖赏。

If you adorn yourself with the highest virtue, the whole world will follow you.

若以至善饰身，世人就会追随你。

Virtue alone is true nobility.

唯有美德真高尚。

Virtue is its own reward.

美德本身就是一种奖赏。

Virtue is the highest reward.

美德是最高的奖赏。

Through virtue lies the one and only road to a life of peace.

美德是通往安宁生活的唯一大道。

Be in general virtuous, and you will be happy.

常有德行才会快乐。

Virtue and happiness are Mother and Daughter.

美德和快乐如同母女。

No one can be happy without virtue.

没有美德谁也不可能快乐。

Vice stings us even in our pleasures, but virtue consoles us even in our pains.

恶行使人在快乐时也感到痛苦，德行使人在痛苦时也得到慰藉。

Pleasure in virtue is itself a virtue.

以德为乐，本身就是一种美德。

Where there is shame, there is virtue.

哪里有羞耻之心，哪里就有美德。

Constancy is the foundation of all virtues.

坚贞是一切美德的基础。

Virtue never grows old.

美德永远年轻。

Virtue lives beyond the grave.

美德不朽。

Virtue will endure to posterity.

美德永垂不朽。