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床头灯英语学习读本 V

床头灯



TALES FROM SHAKESPEARE

莎士比亚戏剧故事

美国作家改编 纯英文版

原著 Charles and Mary Lamb

【英】查尔斯·兰姆 玛丽·兰姆

改编 Robert Williams

航空工业出版社

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写在前面的话

——中国人学英语现状分析

◆英语是语言的帝国

全球 60 亿人中,有 8 亿人的母语是英语;2.5 亿人的第二母语是英语。12.3 亿人学习英语,33.6 亿人和英语有关。全世界电视节目的 75%、E-mail 的 80%、网络的 85%、软件源代码的 100% 使用英语。40~50 年后,全球 50% 的人精通英语。全球约 6000 种语言,本世纪末其中的 90% 将消亡。届时英语作为主导语言的地位将进一步得到提升。

目前中国大约有 3 亿人在学英语,超过英国和美国的人口总和,这是中国努力与时代接轨、与国际接轨的一个重要标志。大量中国人熟练掌握国际通用语言是中华民族走向繁荣富强的必要保障。

◆英语学习的远期目标

在中国,英语已经远远超出一个学科的范畴,一个人英语水平的高低总是和事业、前途、地位,甚至命运联系在一起。对于个人来讲,英语在人生旅途中具有战略意义,不失时机地在英语上投入时间、投入精力、投入金钱符合与时俱进的潮流,是明智之举。

◆目前存在的问题

尽管在中国学习英语的人很多,但收效却令人担忧,学了这么多年英语,能够运用自如的人实在是凤毛麟角。由于运用能力差,无法品尝到英语学习成功的快乐,很多人不得不承认学英语的目的只是为了考试”。

◆考试的压力对英语学习的积极影响

在我国,与个人命运休戚相关的各类考试,如中考、高考、四六级、

硕士研究生入学考试、博士研究生入学考试、职称考试、出国考试,都考或只考英语。目前,很多人把中国人学不好英语的责任推到英语考试身上,好像中国人学不好英语就是因为有了英语考试,甚至有人还产生了将英语考试废除的想法。

大家可以冷静地反思一下:如果没有各种各样的英语考试,哪里有这么多人坚持学英语?国家正是利用了考试这个指挥棒引导很多人去学英语。说句实话,你不能指望每个中国人都怀着与国际接轨的远大抱负去学英语。中国曾经取消过考试,结果造成了10年的人才断层。所以,我的看法是在谈论考试的不足时,首先应该承认它在选拔人才、培养人才方面的不可替代的作用。英语考试对中国人学英语起到了很大的积极作用,功不可没。但必须承认:如果真想把英语学好,光会做几道考试题是远远不够的。

◆不可缺少的环节

没有几百万字的输入无法学好英语。语言的习得是一个长期的过程,需要大量的“输入”。一个由汉语武装起来的头脑,没有几百万字英文的输入,即使要达到一般水平也难。绝大多数的英语学习者正是由于缺少了这一环节,所以停留在一个无奈的水平上。

◆“圣人”学英语的做法

在学英语的长远目标和考试的压力共同作用下,自然会产生学好英语的强烈愿望,但这一愿望的实现需要有很强的“韧劲(自我约束力)”。春来不是读书天,夏日炎炎正好眠,秋有蚊虫冬又冷,收起书包待明年。随着物质文明的繁荣,总有一些理由使人不能安心学习。这样下去,我们的英语之树永远长不高。古人云:人静而后安,安而能后定,定而能后慧,慧而能后悟,悟而能后得。很有道理。在四川大足佛教石刻艺术中,有一组大型佛雕《牧牛图》,描绘了一个牧童和牛由斗争、对抗到逐渐协调、融合,最后合而为一的故事。佛祖说:“人的心魔难伏,就像牛一样,私心杂念太多太多;修行者就要像牧童训练他们,驯

服他们,以完美自己的人生。”那些具有很强心力的人,我们姑且称其为“圣人”,他们能够驯服那些影响我们学习的大牛、小牛,抵制各种诱惑,集中精力,专心学习,到达成功的彼岸。

◆凡人的困惑

在目前的教育体系中,学好英语是需要坚韧不拔的毅力的。但问题是我们大多数平凡的人无法和圣人相比,所以在学英语的征途上,失败者多,成功者少。客观地讲,即使采用不太高的标准来衡量在中国英语学习的失败率应该在 99% 以上,有的人说难道我们不能把大多数的人都变成圣人吗,这样大多数人就可以学好英语了。我们不得不承认大多数凡夫俗子是不能够成为圣人的。值得我们深思的是,目前的英语学习体系没有给大多数人提供一条平坦的道路。

◆兴趣——英语学习成功的真正源泉

我和大家一样都是凡人,我也曾经遇到过学英语的困惑,干巴巴的课文无论怎样都激不起我的兴趣。幸运的是我有一个在国外生活多年的姐姐,有一次她回国,给我带来很多浅显有趣的读物。我拿起一本一读,觉得很简单,一个星期就读完了。就英语学习而言,一部英文小说其实就是用英语建构的一个“虚拟世界”。那里有人,有人的心灵和人与人之间关系的揭示,有人与自然、与社会的冲突和调和。走进一部英文小说,你实际上就已经“生活”在一个“英语世界”里了,不愁没有东西可学。经典作品要读,写得好的当代通俗小说也要读。我一共读了 50 本,从此对英语产生了兴趣,英语水平有了很大的提高。还是爱因斯坦说得好:“兴趣是最好的老师。”

◆《新概念英语》的主编 L. G. Alexander 的启示

中国人读英语书有个特点,越读不懂越读,习惯于读满篇都是生词的文章。L. G. Alexander 先生是世界著名的英语教学专家,他的经典之作《新概念英语》对于中国的英语教学产生了深远的影响。针对这一现状 Alexander 先生说过:“记住,你的接受型词汇量(即你听或阅读英

语时能理解的部分)比你的积极词汇量(即你在说或写时能自如运用的部分)要大得多。如果要扩大词汇量,最好的办法是多听英语,多读英语,但不要超出自己的水平,即阅读那些比你目前水平稍低的书。”这才是提高英语运用能力的诀窍。

本套读物的特色:

●情节曲折:本书选材的时候非常注意作品的吸引力。比方说:

《查泰莱夫人的情人》(Lady Chatterley's Lover):我当年读大学的时候,班上每个同学都买一本看。有的同学甚至熄灯后,打着手电筒躲在被窝里看。

《吸血鬼》(Dracula):这个故事真吓人,我看完以后好几天没睡好觉。后来我的一个学生说他对英语从来不感兴趣,我就把这本小说推荐给他。后来他对我说:“这是我一口气读完的第一本英语书,就是太吓人了。老师,能不能再给我来一本?”

《呼啸山庄》(Wuthering Heights):讲述的是一个骇人听闻的复仇故事,当初没有想到这本书的作者竟然是一个生活在几乎与世隔绝环境中的女孩。

《飘》(Gone with the Wind):几乎所有的美国女孩都读过这本书,主人公斯佳丽是美国女孩的偶像,可以说我见过的每个美国女孩都是一个 Scarlett。

.....

本套丛书收入的都是你在一生中值得去读的作品,读这些作品不但可以提高你的英语水平,而且能够提高你的个人修养。

●语言地道:本套读物均由美国作家执笔,用流畅的现代英语写成。他们写作功底深厚,这是母语为非英语的作者很难达到的。

●通俗易懂:本书是用 3300 个最常用的英语单词写成,易读懂,对于难词均有注释,你躺在床上不用翻字典就能顺利地读下去。

●配有高质量的音带:这样大家可以在读懂的基础上进行听的训

练,请注意:阅读需要量,听力更需要量。大量的语音输入是用英语深入交谈的源泉。

这套读物供你在下课后或下班后闲暇时阅读,其优点是帮你实现英语学习的生活化,使英语成为你生活的一部分。这才是英语成功的真谛,更是任何有难度事情成功的真谛。

王若平 于北京

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故事梗概

本书共有 8 个莎剧故事:《驯悍记》(1593)、《仲夏夜之梦》(1595)、《无事生非》(1598)、《辛白林》(1609)、《暴风雨》(1611) 5 个喜剧故事;《罗密欧与朱丽叶》(1595)、《奥赛罗》(1604)、《麦克佩斯》(1605) 3 个悲剧故事。

《驯悍记》是以凯瑟丽娜和比恩卡姐妹同她们的求婚者彼特鲁乔和路森修的恋爱、婚姻的不同经历、不同结果为线索,再现了古代意大利帕多瓦城乡(实际上是英国伦敦和作者故乡斯特拉特福城乡)的社会风貌和人情世故。

《仲夏夜之梦》运用现实主义和浪漫主义相结合的手法,让以赫米娅和拉山德为代表的进步青年进入梦幻世界,在超现实力量的帮助下,进行自由恋爱并获得了美满的婚姻。

《无事生非》描写了培尼狄克和贝特丽丝等两对情侣如何排除外界的干扰和自身的心理障碍,并克服自己的偏见,苦尽甘来,终成眷属。

《辛白林》的故事主线是:在不列颠和古罗马之间,在“和平——战争——和平”的大背景下,不列颠公主伊摩琴受到后娘、后娘之子、古罗马骗子和轻信谣传的丈夫等四方势力的迫害和打击,历尽磨难,九死一生,最后重获幸福。

在《暴风雨》中莎士比亚以普洛斯彼罗父女的不幸遭遇为主线,把历史传说、官场腐败、海上冒险、荒岛求生、神奇魔法、丑恶的现实、美好的未来等各种画面,巧妙地组合在一起。美不胜收,回味无穷。

《罗密欧与朱丽叶》是莎士比亚第一部取得巨大成功的悲剧;400 多年来,一直是最受欢迎的莎剧之一。此剧描写具有新思想的罗密欧和朱丽叶在家族世仇、封建制度的重压下,为他们的自由、真诚和纯洁的爱情献出了年轻宝贵的生命。

《奥赛罗》的主要情节是威尼斯贵族之女苔丝狄蒙娜违背父命,与

黑将军摩尔人奥赛罗私订终身,终被恶棍伊阿古设计陷害,双双死于非命。

《麦克佩斯》描写了护国功臣麦克佩斯在女巫的诱惑下,原来的雄心变成野心、杀心,谋杀了表兄——斯科特国王邓肯,篡夺王位,成为杀人如麻的暴君。最后众叛亲离,兵败被杀,自食恶果。

这8个莎剧主题深刻、意象传神、意境迷人、情节丰富、人物个性突出、心理描写细腻,所展现的人性千姿百态;喜剧和悲剧都充满诗情画意和真善美的光辉。虽经两次改编,但仍保留了原剧精华。本书用现代英语讲述以上故事,是当代青年读者读莎剧、学英文的理想读物之一。

郑士生

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The Taming of the Shrew

Once, in the city of **Padua** in Italy, there lived a rich gentleman named **Baptista**. He had two daughters, named **Katherina** and **Bianca**. Everyone called Katherina “Katherina the Shrew.” A **shrew** is a sour, angry, mean young woman. Katherina was beautiful and very **intelligent**. But she was unkind, unpleasant, and usually angry with everyone. It seemed impossible that she would ever find a husband. However, her younger sister, Bianca, was beautiful, sweet, and gentle. Many men wanted to marry Bianca, but Baptista would not allow it. “When Katherina finds a husband, I will allow Bianca to marry. But not before!” he said.

One day a gentleman named **Petruchio** came to Padua. He wanted to find a wife. He heard the story of Baptista’s two daughters. He decided that Katherina’s terrible **temper** did not **scare** him. “She is beautiful and rich. I will **tame** her, as if she was a wild horse. I will marry her, and she will become as sweet and quiet as a **mouse**!”

Petruchio was very similar to Katherina. He was intelligent, lively, and independent, just like her. He

was not afraid of Katherina; instead, he was excited about taming this difficult woman. His **personality** was very fun-loving, and he thought that it would be fun to marry Katherina. So Petruchio went to the home of Baptista, to ask his permission.

“Sir, I have come from the city of Verona. I have heard stories of your gentle, sweet daughter Katherina. (Petruchio was lying, of course.) I would like your permission to spend time with her.”

Baptista wanted Katherina to be married. But he didn't want this nice-looking young man to be mistaken. “Sadly, Katherina is not sweet and kind,” he said.

Just then, Katherina's music teacher ran into the room. “Your daughter hit me over the head with her lute!” he cried angrily. Petruchio thought this was very funny. “She is a brave young lady, isn't she? Now I want to talk to her more than ever! ” Then he said to Baptista, “Sir, I am in a big hurry. I cannot come here every day to see your daughter. My father, who is dead, has left me all his land. I must find a wife quickly! Now tell me, if Katherina agrees to marry me, what dowry will you give me with her?” A **dowry** was usually money or jewels that were given to a man along with a wife.

The Taming of the Shrew

Baptista thought that Petruchio was a little strange. But he wanted Katherina to be married. So he said, "I will give you twenty thousand gold coins, and when I die, you will receive half my **property**." Petruchio agreed to this. Then Baptista went to find Katherina and tell her that someone had asked to marry her.

While Baptista did this, Petruchio thought about what he would say to Katherina. "I will speak to her sweetly. When she shouts at me, I will tell her she is as sweet as a bird. If she **frowns** and looks angry, I will say she looks as beautiful as a young rose. If she is silent, I will praise her intelligence. If she tells me to leave her, I will act as happy as if she told me to stay for a week!"

Now the beautiful Katherina entered the room. "Good morning, Kate! For that is your name, I hear." (Kate is a short name for Katherina.)

"When people speak to me, they call me Katherina," said Katherina coldly.

"No, you're lying. You are the prettiest Kate in the country. I have heard stories of your beauty and gentleness. So I have come to ask you to be my wife."

Katherina, of course, was very unkind, loud, and

angry. But Petruchio did not become angry himself. No matter what Katherina said, Petruchio said something nice to her in return. Their strange conversation continued for a while. Then Petruchio heard Baptista coming. "Sweet Katherina, we must stop talking of small things. Your father agreed that you will be my wife. Whether you want to or not, I will marry you."

Then Baptista came in. Petruchio said, "Your daughter has spoken to me most kindly. She agrees that we will be married next Sunday."

Katherina was **furious**, of course. "I did not say that! I would rather see him killed on Sunday!" she shouted. Then she scolded her father for wanting her to marry such a crazy man.

But Petruchio whispered to Baptista, "Do not pay attention to her angry words. When we were alone, she was very sweet. I'm sure she loves me, and wants to be married."

Then Petruchio said to Katherina, "Give me your hand, Kate. I will go to Venice to buy you beautiful clothes for our wedding. Baptista, you provide the **feast**, and invite the guests. I will return on Sunday, sweet Katherina!"

On the Sunday, many people came to see the wedding.

Everyone waited a long time, but Petruchio did not come. Katherina was so angry she cried. She hated to think that Petruchio had tricked her. At last, however, he arrived. But he didn't bring clothes and jewels, as he had promised. Also, he was not dressed in fine clothes. He brought a servant and some thin, sick-looking horses. Everyone was shocked, and Katherina was a little frightened. Petruchio looked and acted like a crazy man. No one could persuade him to change his clothing.

"Katherina is marrying me, not my clothes," said Petruchio. "Let's hurry up and get married!"

So everyone went into the church. Petruchio acted crazy and drunk the whole time. When the **priest** asked Petruchio if Katherina would marry him, he shouted, "Yes, she WILL!" The priest was so surprised that he dropped his book. When he bent down to pick it up, Petruchio hit him on the head. The priest fell down.

The fearless Katherina was very afraid. Who was this man? What would happen to her?

After they were married, Petruchio asked for wine. He threw some of it in a church man's face. Everyone could only stand and stare at this crazy man.

However, Petruchio was laughing secretly. His