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让国歌深入人心 执手的国度 共浴抗旱「前卫」酷刑 艺术教育的功用 假货抢手 咖啡立场 一语退群盗
魔鬼附身同性恋？ 惊问妻从何处来 国之瑰宝 前程似锦的硕博专业 你的心情是什么颜色？ 猜到中年

系列丛书 ↓ 英语精短译文译评

看！世界

B E Y O N D
T H E H O R I Z O N III

李家真 编译

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编者的话

(代序)

一向以为，每一种语言都承载着一个民族的智慧与文化，它的不断更新变化也反映着使用者思维方式的变异和他们所处社会的演进。倘若脱离了社会现实，单单把语言当做工具来学习，不但没有什么趣味，效果恐怕也要大打折扣。本书所收的短文中使用的都是鲜活生动、原汁原味的英语，其内容则是在我们这个日新月异的世界里最近发生的一些有意思的事情。这些记录真实事件的短文涉及政治、经济、科技、宗教、艺术、体育、娱乐等各个方面，正如折射国外社会风貌的一颗颗小水珠。读者们可以借鉴其中鲜活的词汇、生动的句法和颇富风趣的行文，由此改善阅读和写作的技巧；也可以从中管窥我们这个地球上各个角落人们十分多样化的生活和思想。

古代许多文人雅士都喜欢搜集当时的异人异事乃至神仙鬼怪之说汇编成书，用以美善刺恶、讽时劝世，如刘义庆的《世说新语》、袁枚的《子不语》、纪昀的《阅微草堂笔记》等皆如此类。编者愚陋，不敢追攀前贤，但选文之时亦力求每篇皆有其令人回味或发人深省之处。其意不在讥弹，只在让读者对别样的文化和生活有所认识。作为文化的载体，英语本身无疑已经为我们揭示了许多西方世界的历史、传统、世界观和思维方式，而众多短文中记述的种种真实事件更是让当今世界中其他民族的生活跃然纸上、如在目前。

作为中国人，我们已经拥有一种源远流长、辉煌灿烂的文化，但这并不妨碍我们以开放的胸襟去了解和借鉴其他民族对世界的认识和思索。立足自身文化、放眼地平线之外多元文化的绚烂繁花，其中的乐趣和收获绝不仅仅局限于语言方面。编者在每篇短文之后附上了自己的一点心得，正是希望能借此与读者诸君分享思维的乐趣，或有强作解人之处，诸君但可一笑置之。总之，编者希望本书不仅是学习英语的好材料，也是一本值得在闲暇时一读的有趣的书。

为方便读者阅读，本书为全文英汉对照。编者在翻译时虽广泛查证有关资料，力求准确无误，但由于文章题材多样、所涉背景知识繁杂，加之编者才力有限，倘有疏失与未尽之处，恳请各位不吝指正。

李家真

二零零五年四月一日

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看! 世界

第三辑

BEYOND
THE HORIZON III

李家真 编译

外语教学与研究出版社
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Spell-Check Can Make Writing Worse 拼写软件帮倒忙?

How might you drag a good writer's work down to the level of a lesser scribe? Try the spell-check button. A study at the University of Pittsburgh indicates spell-check software may level the playing field between people with differing levels of language skills, hampering the work of writers and editors who place too much trust in the software. In the study, 33 undergraduate students were asked to proofread a one-page business letter—half of them using Microsoft Word with its squiggly red and green lines underlining potential errors. The other half did it the old-fashioned way, using only their heads. Without grammar or spelling software, students with higher SAT* verbal scores made, on average, five errors, compared with 12.3 errors for students with lower scores. Using the software, students with higher verbal scores reading the same page made, on average, 16 errors, compared with 17 errors for students with lower scores. Dennis Galletta, a professor of information systems at the Katz Business School, said spell-checking software is so sophisticated that some have come to trust it too thoroughly. "It's not a software problem, it's a behavior problem," he said. Microsoft technical specialist Tim Pash said grammar and spelling technology is meant to help writers and editors, not solve all their problems. The study found the software helped students find and correct errors in the letter, but in some cases they also changed phrases or sentences flagged by the software as grammatically suspicious, even though they were correct.



* SAT: Scholastic Assessment Test 的简称, 即“学习水平评估考试”, 亦作 Scholastic Aptitude Test. 由美国大学委员会 (The College Board) 委托“教育考试服务机构” (Educational Testing Service) 主持进行。美国没有统一的大学入学考试, 各大学通常以 SAT 成绩作为录取标准。普通的 SAT 包括英文 (verbal) 和数学 (math) 两部分。

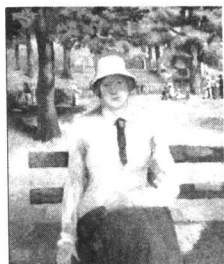
怎样可以将杰出作家的作品降低到劣等作者的水平? 点一下“拼写检查”键吧。匹兹堡大学所作的一项研究表明拼写检查软件会拉近不同的人的文字技巧上的差距, 妨碍那些对其过分信任的作者和编辑的工作。研究者们让33名大学生校对一份长1页的商业信函, 其中半数学生使用微软文字处理软件, 该软件会在可能有误的文字下面划出红色或绿色的波浪线; 另一半则使用传统的校对方式, 也就是靠自己的头脑来判断正误。在不使用语法及拼写软件的情况下, 那些 SAT 英文成绩较好的学生平均出五个错, 而成绩较差的学生平均出 12.3 个错。用了软件之后, 英文成绩较好的学生校读同一篇东西平均要出 16 个错, 而成绩较差的学生平均出 17 个错。凯茨商学院的信息系统教授邓尼斯·加莱塔说, 拼写检查软件的先进性使一些人对它达到了迷信的程度。“这不是软件问题, 而是(人的)行为问题。”微软的技术专家蒂姆·帕什说, 语法及拼写检查技术能为作者和编辑提供帮助, 但并非万应金丹。研究发现, 拼写检查软件能帮助学生发现并改正信函中的错误, 但学生们有时也会被其误导去改动那些被它标示为语法有问题的正确语句。



REMARKS: 的确是人的问题。其实我自己的得意文字下面就经常划着红红绿绿的波浪线, 只是我当它不存在而已。人在多数情况下还是比机器聪明的, 不是吗?

Unemployed Turn to TV Show to Win Jobs 上节目，赢工作

Germans competing in a new television gameshow will not be bidding to win a luxury car or exotic holiday. In a country where four million people are out of work, the prize is much more sought-after: a job. Two unemployed people will compete for one job contract in each show, and viewers will get to decide who they think is best suited to the post, said Marcus Wolter, program director at the Neun Live channel. "There might be two hairdressers for example, who have to show how well they treat customers and, of course, how well they can cut hair," he said. The new show, which will go on air in late autumn has triggered criticism from unions and social organizations. "Those who want to exploit the unemployed for visual ends are playing with the fears and hopes of people in a shameless and despicable manner," said Walter Hirrlinger, president of the VdK social federation. Germany's DGB trade union federation told the mass-circulation *Bild* newspaper finding jobs for the unemployed should rest with professionals and not a TV show. But Wolter said TV audiences were well-equipped to choose the better candidate without being employment experts: "If people can vote for their favorite song in the Eurovision song contest without having a music degree, why shouldn't they also vote in our show without being job experts?"



Unemployed Girl
by Malevich
马列维奇的《失业女孩》

德国一个新的电视游戏节目为参与者提供的奖品既不是豪华轿车，也不是国外旅行。在一个有400万失业人口的国家，节目提供的奖品要诱人得多：一份工作。“新直播频道”的节目负责人马库斯·沃特说，每一次节目中都会有两位失业者角逐同一份工作合同，由观众来决定他们心目中这一位置的适当人选。“举例来说，参加节目的可能是两个理发师，他们必须展示自己对顾客的服务有多好，当然，还有他们理发理得怎么样。”将在秋末播出的这档新节目已经招致了工会和一些社会组织的批评。VdK社会联盟主席沃尔特·赫林格说：“那些想从失业者身上榨取收视效果的人是在以一种无耻卑劣的方式玩弄人们的恐惧和希望。”德国的DGB工会联盟对发行量巨大的《图片报》说，应该依靠专业人员而不是电视节目来为失业者找工作。但沃特认为，不是就业专家的电视观众也有足够的能力选出更优秀的参选者：“如果没有音乐学位的人也可以在欧洲电视网的歌曲大赛中投票选出他们喜爱的歌曲，为什么不是就业专家的人就不能在我们的节目中投票呢？”



REMARKS: 在这个时代，也许真正的showtime已经来临了，没什么不能拿来show & sell了，但我觉得，还是主席先生说得有道理。

Doctors Advised to Stop Interrupting and Listen 请耐心等待

Doctors should keep quiet and let patients explain their problems instead of interrupting them, Swiss scientists said. Most patients can explain what is wrong with them in less than two minutes and many may even be swifter, according to Dr. Wolf Langewitz of University Hospital in Basle. But research from the United States has shown that doctors usually start talking after about 22 seconds. "Doctors do not risk being swamped by their patients' complaints if they listen until a patient indicates that his or her list of complaints is complete," Langewitz said in a report in the *British Medical Journal*. When he and his colleagues used a hidden stopwatch to time patients until they finished talking, the average time was 92 seconds, although elderly patients tended to take longer. "Even in a busy practice driven by time constraints and financial pressure, two minutes of listening should be possible and will be sufficient for nearly 80 percent of patients," Langewitz added.

