

英文便利通

中英妙语
双向通

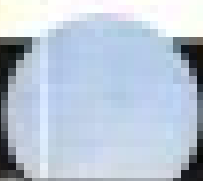
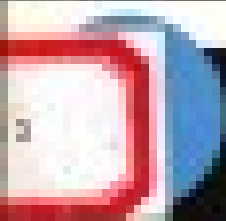
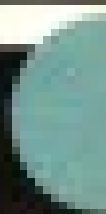
COMMON
CHINESE
EXPRESSIONS
RENDERED
INTO
AMERICAN
ENGLISH

黄希敏 主编

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● 原 版 序 ●

这可以说是我编得最辛苦但也最有趣的一本书了。

十年前任教时,遇见一位学生,问我“干脆”的英文怎么说,我当时没有很好的答案可以给他,他说他已经问了十多位英文老师,没有一位想得出来,其中有一位老师还很幽默地告诉他:“那就用dry and crispy吧!”此事激起了我极大的好奇,也了解到找出中文惯用语的英文相对词实为当务之急,由于自己长期居住美国,占地利之便,所以将力量集中在美语上。

大约从五年前开始,我一直在台湾出版的畅销书刊中圈选中文惯用语,一边委托当时在休斯顿工作的中国经贸部官员曾令同先生从国内的畅销书刊里寻找同亲性质的语句,因此这本书中的惯用语全是一个一个收集而来,并非抄录自任何字典或书籍。

收集得差不多的时候,我便与曾先生在每一则惯用语后面加上例句,接着请了两位美国英文系讲师,天天在一起作“脑力激荡”,这中间的过程是:我们将中文例句尽可能用美语翻译出来,然后让她们绞尽脑汁想出更道地的说法,其间往往需要反反复复解释好多次,而且要从许多不同的角度去解释,才总算让美国人了解该语句的风味及使用范畴,这样想出来的美语相对短语与句子“感觉”才对了。同时,双方也从中领略到文化之间的有趣差异,因此编著制作过程繁琐而冗长,可说是为了兴趣而“不计血本”,只希望对于中英文翻译界及教学界能有所助益。

在此之前,本书原已与美国一家书商谈妥出版,计划提供给在美国修习中文的学生使用,但之后因缘际会再度任教,便将稿件交予制作精致又有翻译专长的书林出

版公司处理,此后双方又在排版上费了不少功夫,因读者反应极佳,书林公司另外规划了袖珍版本系列,由其关系企业“简单出版有限公司”出版。

在此书编译的过程当中,出现了几个有趣的现象:

一、英文程度优秀的美国人之间也会对他们的母语有十分不同的意见,譬如我所聘请的两位美国英文硕士经常会互相批评,所以我只好再拿她们不同的意见去请教第三、第四甚至是第五位美国人,以求得“共识”。

二、有些片语,如“老几”的美语解释不能直接用在句子里,因此例句只能意译,不能直译。

三、某些句子虽有十分地道的美语相对表达法,但是字句迥异,我们把这一类列出了第二种翻译法,放在中括弧里。

四、最后一类是中文的特殊用法,由于文化上的差异,可怜的美国人想破了脑袋也想不出美语的相同用法来,就只好用比较直接的翻译了。

我一向重视“售后服务”,如今更由于E-mail的便利,可以在此欢迎读者将更多中文惯用语(难以用英文表达的)寄来,好让我继续这方面的工作,若有赐教,请寄:f10970@hotmail.com或由简单出版公司转交。

黄希敏



爱理不理 ài-lǐ-bù-lǐ

give someone the cold shoulder

★我不知怎么得罪她了，她见了我爱理不理的。

I have no idea what I did to offend her, but she gave me the cold shoulder.

暧昧 ài-mèi

giving mixed signals

★这家公司的态度暧昧，不知道到底会不会聘用我。

The company is giving me mixed signals about whether they want to hire me.

爱面子 ài-miàn-zi

overly sensitive

★你对她讲话要注意一点，她很爱面子的。

You've got to be careful in speaking to her because she's overly sensitive.

矮个子 ǎi-gè-zi

short person; shrimp; half-pint

★那个矮个子是我弟弟的朋友。

The shrimp is my little brother's friend.

碍手碍脚 ài-shǒu-ài-jiǎo

in the way; cause inconvenience

★厨房里人一多就碍手碍脚的。

Having many people in the kitchen gets in the way.

[Too many cooks spoil the stew]

碍眼 ài-yǎn

be an eyesore

★这东西放在这儿真碍眼，赶快拿走吧！

This thing is such an eyesore, get rid of it right away!

按理说 àn-lǐ-shuō

normally; as things should be

★按理说，他们五点前就应该来了。

Normally they should be here before five.

暗算 àn-suàn

stab...in the back; out to get...

★她感到公司里有人要暗算她。

She senses that people are out to get her at work.

B

巴不得 bā-bu-de

eagerly look forward to; cannot wait

★他巴不得立刻就回去工作。

He just can't wait to go back to work.

八成 bā-chéng

most likely; chances are (good that)

★我八成会通过大学入学考试的。

Chances are good that I will pass my college entrance exams.

八九不离十 bā-jiǔ-bù-lí-shí

more often than not; most of the time; usually

★他赛马下注总能八九不离十。

More often than not, he's right on target when he places bets on sports of kings.

巴掌大 bā-zhang-dà

as big as a cracker box

★这个房子不过巴掌大,睡这么多人行吗?

This house is about as big as a cracker box. Can so many people stay overnight?

白搭 bái-dā

1. *pointless; futile; not worthwhile*
2. *won't do a bit of good*

★1. 事情已经过去那么久了,再追究也是白搭。

Trying to get an appeal so long after the incident would be pointless.

★2. 和她谈这件事,白搭。

It won't do a bit of good to talk to her about this.

白眼 bái-yǎn

dirty look

★由于名声不好,他到处遭人白眼。

Because he has a bad reputation, people give him dirty looks wherever he goes.

摆架子 bǎi-jià-zi

put on airs

★别对我摆架子,我不吃那一套。

Don't put on airs with me. I don't buy it.

摆平 bǎi-píng

settle; resolve; reconcile

★他们之间的矛盾很深,事情永远摆不平。

Their conflicts are so deep that they will never reconcile.

百事通 bǎi-shì-tōng

have a wealth of information

★去问他,他是个百事通。

Just ask him. He has a wealth of information.

摆乌龙 bǎi-wū-lóng

mess things up

★我以为他会把这件事处理好的，没料到他摆了个乌龙。

I thought he was going to handle this well. I never expected him to mess things up.

半吊子 bàn-diào-zi

one who only dabbles in something

★别指望他能帮你修车，在汽车修理方面他是个半吊子。

Don't trust him to fix your car because he only dabbles in car repairs.

半路出家 bàn-lù-chū-jiā

only had a crash course in (a skill)

★我是半路出家做会计，所知有限。

I've only had a crash course in accounting, so my understanding of it is shaky.

搬弄是非者 bān-nòng-shì-fēi-zhě

tattletale

★他是个爱搬弄是非的人，老去老板那儿说别人如何如何。

He's a tattletale, always going to his boss as an informer on other employees.

半推半就 bàn-tuī-bàn-jiù

1. *play hard to get* 2. *feign resistance; make a show of declining*

★1.他最后半推半就地接受了这个职务。

He played hard to get, finally accepting the job at the last minute.

★2.她半推半就地收下了礼品。

After making a show of declining, she finally accepted the gift.

拌嘴 bàn-zuǐ

bicker

★怎么了？又和太太拌嘴了？

What's the matter? Bickering with your wife again?

包打听 bāo-dǎ-tīng

keep tabs on; be a spy

★这事别问我，我又不是你的包打听。

I'm not your spy so don't ask me to keep tabs on the situation for you.

包涵 bāo-han

excuse; forgive

★我的舞跳得不好，请多多包涵。

Please excuse my poor dancing.

保不齐 bǎo-bu-qí / 说不定 shuō-bu-dìng
chances are; the chances are good that

★保不齐会下雨。

Chances are, it's going to rain.

爆炒 bào-chǎo

media hype

★这部新电影在上映前就已被传媒爆炒了一番,所以一上映票房就非常好。

There was so much media hype before the release of this new movie that it became an instant success.

抱粗腿 bào-cū-tuǐ / **结交权贵** jié-jīāo-quán-guì

get in with the rich/powerful

★在这个公司里你必须抱粗腿才能得到升迁。

You have to get in with the powerful people in this company to get promoted.

暴跳如雷 bào-tiào-rú-léi

fly off the handle

★他一下子暴跳如雷,我们一定是触及他的痛处了。

We must have struck a raw nerve because he suddenly flew off the handle.

背黑锅 bēi-hēi-guō

be made a scapegoat; be unjustly blamed

★我不想背黑锅,我要公开事情的真相。

I don't want to be made a scapegoat. I want to reveal the truth.

杯水车薪 bēi-shuǐ-chē-xīn

a drop in the bucket; a finger in the dike

★受灾的人很多,这点救灾款只是杯水车薪。

The sum of this relief fund is just a drop in the bucket of what's needed for so many disaster victims.

本末倒置 běn-mò-dào-zhì

put the cart before the horse

★做事要有条理,不要本末倒置。

Do things systematically, don't put the cart before the horse.

毙 bì

1. *veto; shoot down* 2. *extremely; way (cool)*

★1. 委员会毙了那项新提议。

The new proposal was shot down by the committee.

★2. 她为宴会而买的那套衣服简直酷毙了。

The outfit she bought for the party was way cool.

避人耳目 bì-rén-ěr-mù

keep a low profile

★做这件事时,要尽量避人耳目。

While doing this, try to keep a low profile.

变卦 biàn-guà

do an about face

★他昨天还说会去的,今天就变卦了。

He said he would go yesterday, but today he does an about face.

蹩脚 bié-jiǎo

shabby; shoddy

★这件产品的做工很蹩脚。

The workmanship on this product is shoddy.

别具一格 bié-jù-yī-gé

a distinctive style; unique

★她房间的布置别具一格。

The decor in her house is unique.

病入膏肓 bìng-rù-gāo-huāng

as useless as kicking a dead horse

★它已经病入膏肓了,没治了。

It's as useless as kicking a dead horse.

剥削 bō-xuē

exploit

★一些雇主剥削非法移民。

Some employers exploit illegal immigrants.

捕风捉影 bǔ-fēng-zhuō-yǐng

gossip; make groundless accusations

★小报因捕风捉影造那个名人的谣而被起诉。

The tabloid was sued for making groundless accusations against the celebrity.

不把……当一回事 bù-bǎ...dāng-yī-huí-shì
trifle with

★他对你是很认真的,别不把他的感情当一回事。

He is very serious about you, do not trifle with his affections.

不揣冒昧 bù-chuǎi-mào-mèi
May I take the liberty to ...

★不揣冒昧向贵报提出一点建议,可以吧?

May I take the liberty to make a suggestion to your newspaper?

不登大雅之堂 bù-dēng-dà-yǎ-zhī-táng
not fit for refined tastes; unpresentable

★这首歌不登大雅之堂。

This song is not fit for refined tastes.

不对口味 bù-duì-kǒu-wèi
not to one's taste; not sit well with (the speaker)

★他的想法不大对我的口味。

His idea doesn't sit well with me.

不管三七二十一 bù-guǎn-sān-qī-èr-shí-yī
casting all caution to the wind; despite the consequences

★他不管三七二十一,携款潜逃了。

Despite the consequences, he absconded with the money.

不欢而散 bù-huān-ér-sàn

end on a sour note

★由于无法达成共识,最后他们不欢而散。

As they couldn't settle their disagreements, their relationship ended on a sour note.

不胫而走 bù-jìng-ér-zǒu

get around fast; spread like wildfire

★他要辞职的消息不胫而走。

The news of his intention to resign has gotten around fast.

不堪一击 bù-kān-yī-jī

can't hold water

★她的论文错误百出,不堪一击。

Her paper is so full of flaws that it can't hold water against the simplest argument.

不可开交 bù-kě-kāi-jiāo

covered in; awash in; flooded with; swamped with; drowned in

★我打扫房子忙得不可开交,这地方真脏极了。

I'm absolutely covered in housework; this place is filthy.

不可收拾 bù-kě-shōu-shi

spin out of control

★随意挥霍会使你的经济状况不可收拾。