

# 英语语言学 200问

许之所 邹智勇 编著  
刘升民 薛 睿



# 英语语言学 200问

许之所 邹智勇 编著  
刘升民 薛 睿

外语教学与研究出版社  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS  
北京 BEIJING

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语语言学 200 问 / 许之所等编著. — 北京: 外语教学与研究出版社, 2011.8

ISBN 978-7-5135-1237-4

I. ①英… II. ①许… III. ①英语—语言学 IV. ①H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2011) 第 176526 号

出 版 人: 蔡剑峰

责任编辑: 程 序

封面设计: 覃一彪

出版发行: 外语教学与研究出版社

社 址: 北京市西三环北路 19 号 (100089)

网 址: <http://www.fltrp.com>

印 刷: 北京联兴盛业印刷股份有限公司

开 本: 650×980 1/16

印 张: 10.25

版 次: 2011 年 10 月第 1 版 2011 年 10 月第 1 次印刷

书 号: ISBN 978-7-5135-1237-4

定 价: 26.90 元

\* \* \*

购书咨询: (010)88819929 电子邮箱: [club@fltrp.com](mailto:club@fltrp.com)

如有印刷、装订质量问题, 请与出版社联系

联系电话: (010)61207896 电子邮箱: [zhijian@fltrp.com](mailto:zhijian@fltrp.com)

制售盗版必究 举报查实奖励

版权保护办公室举报电话: (010)88817519

物料号: 212370001

# 前言

英语语言学是我国高等院校英语专业本科的必修课程，也是许多院校英语专业招收硕士研究生语言学方向的考试科目。然而该课程理论性较强，涉及的专业术语又特别多，意思艰涩，难以理解；教师感到有些部分很难讲透，而学生则对一些内容把握不准，这无疑给英语语言学的教学带来了相当大的难度，与此同时也给准备报考英语专业语言学方向研究生的考生的备考工作造成了许多障碍。为了解决这些问题，我们特组织人员编写了这本《英语语言学 200 问》。

本书的编者都是从事英语语言学教学多年的一线教师，是国家精品课程“英语语言学”团队的组成成员，十分清楚英语语言学的知识体系和知识脉络，熟稔其中的重点和难点之所在，还知晓重点和难点及一般内容的讲授技巧，在英语语言学教学方面有着丰富的经验，这为本书的编写打下了一个坚实的基础。

本书的特色首先是突出了重点和难点。作为一门专业基础学科，英语语言学内容浩瀚，包括语言的方方面面。本书虽然也囊括英语语言学的所有基本领域，但就每一个领域而言并没有将所有的细节和盘托出，而是采取“一点雨，一点湿”的方式，精心挑选每一个领域的重要知识点以及学生感觉困难的知识点进行详尽的叙述，对那些用处不大又很占篇幅并且易于理解的内容没有予以介绍，这些重点和难点串联起来就形成了该领域的知识主干线。其次，在编排模式上，本书摒弃了传统做法，另辟蹊径，采用的是提问的方式，这种较为新颖的模式不仅可以吸引读者的兴趣，也可以给他们带来清新的感觉。再者，本书共有 200 多个问题，每一问题都由三个部分组成：问题、回答和解析，每一个问题实质上就是一个知识重点或知识难点，问题和回答部分使用的是英语，而解析部分使用的则是中文；这种做法既可以使学生能正确地用英语来回答问题，在语言学考试，尤其

是在硕士研究生英语语言学这门课程的入学考试中获得好成绩，还可以帮助他们更好、更透彻地理解每一个知识点并将这些知识点连接起来，从而形成一个较为完整的英语语言学知识体系。

本书的编写基础是编者多年来的教学经验，其内容翔实，要点突出，通俗易懂，实用性强，既可以作为英语语言学教师的教学参考书，还可以作为英语专业学生、英语自学者及语言学爱好者的学习和复习资料。该书的面世能给教师和学习者双方带来一些实实在在的好处，能给他们的教学和学习提供较大的帮助。

本书在编写过程中参考了许多相关的著作和文献资料，我们在此向这些著作和文献资料的作者表示诚挚的谢意。

本书从酝酿到成稿历时两年整，两年黄卷青灯，个中辛劳自毋须赘言。但是由于水平有限，加之教学工作十分繁忙，本书恐难免挂一漏万，舛误之处还祈方家同仁不吝赐教。

编者

2010年8月

# Contents

## Chapter One Invitations to Linguistics

1

1. What are the major components of all languages? 1
2. What is language? 2
3. What is arbitrariness? Can you give some examples to illustrate non-arbitrariness or motivation from the perspectives of sound pattern, syntax and conventionality? 2
4. What is duality? Does the traffic light system have duality? 3
5. In what way is language resourceful? 4
6. What does displacement mean? 4
7. What are six primary factors of any speech event according to Jakobson? 5
8. What are three functions of Halliday's linguistic theory? 5
9. How should linguistics be defined? 5
10. How can descriptive approach be distinguished from prescriptive approach in language? 6
11. What is the difference between synchronic linguistics and diachronic linguistics? 6
12. What is the distinction between langue and parole? 7
13. What is the distinction between competence and performance? 8
14. What is linguistic potential? What is actual linguistic behavior? 9
15. In what way do langue, competence and linguistic potential agree? In what way do they differ? 9
16. How should the informative function of language be understood? 10
17. How should interpersonal function of language be explained? 11

18. What is performative function of language?	11
19. What is emotive function?	12
20. What is phatic communion?	12
21. How do you understand recreational function of language?	12
22. What is metalingual function?	13

## **Chapter Two Speech Sounds 14**

23. How do phonetics and phonology differ in their focus of study?	14
24. What is a phoneme?	14
25. How is a phone different from a phoneme?	15
26. How are allophones related to a phoneme?	15
27. What are distinctive features?	16
28. What is the difference between complementary distribution and free variation?	16
29. In what direction does assimilation occur?	17
30. What's the stress function in conveying meaning?	17
31. What are the features of tone?	17
32. What's intonation?	18
33. What are the main areas of phonetics?	18
34. Why did George Bernard Shaw say he could spell the word "fish" as "ghoti"? What can you learn from Shaw's little joke?	18
35. What is IPA?	19
36. What are English consonants and vowels?	19
37. What is voicing and how is it caused?	20
38. What kinds of factors are involved when describing the English consonants?	20
39. What criteria are used to classify the English vowels?	20
40. What's the function of the minimal pairs for English phonemes?	21
41. How is coarticulation different from assimilation?	21
42. What are broad transcription and narrow transcription?	22

**Chapter Three Lexicon****23**

43. What is the difference between word and lexeme? 23
44. How do the closed-class words differ from the open-class words? 24
45. What is the smallest functioning unit in the composition of words? 24
46. What is the distinction between a free morpheme and a bound morpheme? 24
47. What is the difference between the grammatical word and the lexical word? 25
48. How does root differ from stem? 26
49. What are the differences between an inflectional affix and a derivational affix? 26
50. What is inflection? 27
51. What are the characteristics of the endocentric compounds and the exocentric compounds? 27
52. How do you understand the transitional field between morphology and phonology? 28
53. What is dissimilation? 28
54. What are the allomorphs of the plural morpheme? 29
55. What is blending? 29
56. What process of borrowing does the English word “troublesome” belong to? 30
57. How did the word “lase” come into being? What’s its original form? 30
58. What are broadening and narrowing? 31
59. How do you understand meaning shift? 31
60. What is folk etymology? 32
61. What is analogical creation? 32
62. Why is class shift a special kind of derivation? 33

**Chapter Four From Word to Text****35**

63. What are syntactic relations? 35



64. What is positional relation?	35
65. What is relation of substitutability?	36
66. What is relation of co-occurrence?	36
67. How is relation of co-occurrence connected to positional relation and relation of substitutability?	37
68. What is grammatical construction?	37
69. What is constituent?	37
70. What is immediate constituent analysis (IC analysis)?	38
71. What is strength of IC analysis?	38
72. What is weakness of IC analysis?	39
73. What is endocentric construction?	39
74. What is exocentric construction?	40
75. What is coordination?	40
76. What is subordination?	41
77. What is category in syntax?	41
78. What is number?	41
79. What is gender?	42
80. What is case?	42
81. What is agreement?	42
82. What is recursiveness?	43
83. What is conjoining?	43
84. What is embedding?	43
85. What is cohesion?	44

<b>Chapter Five Meaning</b>	<b>45</b>
-----------------------------	-----------

86. What are seven types of meaning that were recognized by G. Leech?	45
87. What is the referential theory?	46
88. What is the semantic triangle?	46
89. What is the difference between sense and reference?	47
90. What is the difference between denotation and connotation?	48

91. What is synonymy?	48
92. What is antonymy?	49
93. What is hyponymy?	49
94. What is componential analysis?	50
95. What are three essential elements in Katzian dictionary in the integrated theory?	50
96. What are projection rules and selection restrictions?	51
97. What is a proposition?	53
98. What is propositional logic?	53
99. What is predicate logic?	55
100. What are universal quantifier and existential quantifier?	56
101. What is presupposition?	57
102. What is entailment?	57

<b>Chapter Six Language and Cognition</b>	<b>59</b>
---	-----------

103. What is cognition?	59
104. What is psycholinguistics?	59
105. What is language acquisition?	60
106. What are three phases in language comprehension?	60
107. What aspects does language production involve?	60
108. What is cognitive linguistics?	60
109. What is construal?	61
110. What are construal operations?	61
111. What is figure-ground alignment?	62
112. What are trajector and landmark?	63
113. What is categorization?	63
114. How does the classic theory differ from the prototype theory in defining a category?	63
115. What is basic level category?	64
116. What is image schema?	65

117. How many kinds of image schemas are there in cognitive linguistics?	66
118. What is conceptual metaphor?	66
119. What are three kinds of conceptual metaphors?	67
120. What is metonymy?	67
121. What is the blending theory?	68

## **Chapter Seven Language, Culture and Society 70**

122. What is sociolinguistics?	70
123. How should sociolinguistics be distinguished from linguistics?	70
124. What is the difference between sociolinguistics and sociology of language?	71
125. How is language related to culture?	71
126. What does speech community mean?	72
127. What is Firth's theory of context of situation?	72
128. How should "language as a semiotic system" be understood?	72
129. What is linguistic relativity?	73
130. What is linguistic determinism?	73
131. How should "memory" and "inference", and "concepts" and "propositions" be understood?	74
132. What is the distinction between cultural concepts and non-cultural concepts?	75
133. How should "prototype theory" be used to understand concepts?	76
134. How is language related to society?	77
135. How should "speech as a signal of social identity" be understood?	77
136. What is linguistic sexism? Give some examples to illustrate it.	78
137. Why do we need to teach culture in our language classroom?	79
138. How should register and dialect be distinguished?	80
139. What is communicative competence?	81
140. What is sociolinguistic study of society?	81
141. What is sociolinguistic study of language?	81

**Chapter Eight Language in Use****83**

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 142. What are constatives and performatives?  | 83 |
| 143. What are locutionary act, illocutionary act and perlocutionary act?  | 84 |
| 144. What are four maxims in the cooperative principle in the theory of conversational implicature by Herbert Paul Grice? | 84 |
| 145. How can the conversational implicature be generated?   | 85 |
| 146. What are four characteristics of implicature?  | 86 |
| 147. What is the principle of relevance?  | 87 |
| 148. What is ostensive communication?   | 88 |
| 149. What are three definitions of relevance?   | 88 |
| 150. What is presumption of optimal relevance?  | 89 |
| 151. What is Horn's Q-principle?  | 89 |
| 152. What is Horn's R-principle?  | 90 |
| 153. What is the difference between Q-principle and R-principle?  | 91 |
| 154. What is the Q-principle in Stephen Levinson's theory?  | 91 |
| 155. What is the I-principle in Stephen Levinson's theory?  | 92 |
| 156. What is the M-principle in Stephen Levinson's theory?  | 93 |

**Chapter Nine Language and Literature****95**

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 157. What is foregrounding in literary works?                  | 95 |
| 158. What is literal language and what is figurative language? | 95 |
| 159. What is simile in literature?                             | 96 |
| 160. What is metonymy in literature?                           | 96 |
| 161. What is synecdoche in literature?                         | 97 |
| 162. What is end rhyme?  | 97 |
| 163. What is internal rhyme?                                   | 97 |
| 164. What is alliteration?                                     | 97 |
| 165. What is assonance?  | 98 |
| 166. What is consonance?                                       | 98 |

167. What is reverse rhyme?	98
168. What is pararhyme?	99
169. What is iambic foot?	99
170. What is trochaic foot?	99
171. What is anapestic foot?	100
172. What is dactylic foot?	100
173. What is couplet?	100
174. What is quatrain?	101
175. What is blank verse?	101
176. What is free indirect speech?	101
177. What is stream of consciousness?	102

<b>Chapter Ten Language and Computer</b>	<b>104</b>
--	------------

178. What is computational linguistics?	104
179. What is computer literacy?	104
180. What is CALL?	105
181. What is programmed instruction?	105
182. What is LAN?	105
183. What is CD-ROM?	106
184. What is MT?	106
185. What is blog?	106
186. What is chatroom?	106
187. What is corpus?	107
188. What is corpus linguistics?	107
189. What is CMC?	107
190. What is concordance?	108
191. What is the basic difference between CAI and CAL in educational philosophy?	108
192. What are four phases in the course of CALL development?	109
193. What is the relation between MT and human translation?	110

194. What is the difference between blog and chatroom?	110
195. What is Chomsky's criticism and the revival of corpus?	111
196. What is the knowledge-based approach?	112

## **Chapter Eleven Linguistics and Foreign Language Teaching 113**

197. What is focus on form?	113
198. What is the input hypothesis?	114
199. What is interlanguage?	114
200. What is the discourse-based view of language teaching?	114
201. What are real-world tasks and pedagogical tasks?	115
202. What are the most important tasks for syllabus designers?	116
203. What is a structural syllabus?	116
204. The structural syllabus is often criticized. Do you think it has some merits as well?	117
205. What are the important features of a task as defined in a task-based syllabus?	118
206. What are non-language outcomes?	119
207. What is Contrastive Analysis?	119
208. What are the differences between errors and mistakes?	119
209. How does the use of a corpus contribute to language teaching?	120
210. Why should language teachers learn some knowledge of linguistics?	121
211. What is situational syllabus?	122
212. What is auraloral teaching method?	122
213. What is communicative syllabus?	122
214. What is notional-functional syllabus?	123

## **Chapter Twelve Theories and Schools of Modern Linguistics 124**

215. Why is Saussure hailed as the father of modern linguistics?	124
216. What is the Prague School?	125
217. What are the three important points of the Prague School?	126

218. What are the Prague School's most important contributions to modern linguistics?	126
219. What is Functional Sentence Perspective (FSP)?	127
220. What is the tradition of the London School?	127
221. What is Malinowski's idea about the context of situation?	128
222. What is Firth's idea about the context of situation?	128
223. What is Systemic-Functional Grammar?	129
224. How many processes are there in Systemic-Functional Grammar's transitivity and what are they?	129
225. What are three meta-functions in Systemic-Functional Grammar?	130
226. What are Boas and Sapir's contributions to modern linguistics?	131
227. What is the core idea in Bloomfield's theory?	132
228. What are the main ideas proposed by post-Bloomfieldian linguists?	133
229. What is innateness hypothesis?	134
230. What are phrase structure rules and transformational rules?	134
231. How can TG Grammar generate well-formed sentences instead of ill-formed ones?	134
232. What are the main features of TG Grammar?	135
233. How many stages has Chomsky's TG Grammar gone through?	135
234. What is case grammar?	136
235. What is generative semantics mainly about?	136

参考书目	138
------	-----

Glossary and Index	140
--------------------	-----

# Chapter One

## Invitations to Linguistics

语言学是研究语言的一门科学。本章主要对语言学这门学科做整体介绍和概述，重点讨论研究语言的目的、语言的定义特征、语言的功能、语言学的主要分支以及语言学的一些重要区分。其中，语言的定义特征涵盖任意性、二重性、创造性和移位性；语言的功能一般有信息功能、人际功能、施为功能、情感功能、寒暄功能、娱乐功能和元语言功能；语言的重要区分有描写与规定、共时与历时、语言与言语、语言能力与语言运用。

1. 问题: What are the major components of all languages?

回答: It is generally agreed that all languages should include five major components, namely, phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic components.

解析: 通常认为，语言学应该包括五个主要成分：音系、形态、句法、语义和语用。音系学研究支配语音分布和排列的规则以及音节的形式。形态学关心词的内在构造，研究意义的最小单位——词素和构词的过程。句法学研究产生和理解正确的句子所遵循的规则。句子的形式和结构受制于句法规则，这些规则规定了词语顺序，句子组织方式以及词之间、词类之间和其他句子成分之间的联系。语义学考察的是意义如何在语言中被编码；它不仅关心词作为词项的意义，还关心词的上下语言层面。语用学是在语境中研究意义，它研究特定场合下的特定话语，尤其注意不同的语言运用的社会语境如何影响语义的诠释。



2. 问题: What is language?

回答: Language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication.

解析: 语言是一种用于人类交际的任意的语音符号系统。首先, 语言是一个系统, 即语言的成分都是按照一定的规则组合在一起的。说语言是任意的, 是因为词和它所指的物体之间不存在什么内在的联系。对于相同的物体, 不同的语言使用不同的词语这样一个事实就说明了语言的任意性特点。譬如对“书”的表达, 英语是 book, 法语是 livre, 汉语是“书”。语言不过是一些符号, 它们与物体、行为及思想的联系是由习惯形成的。语言是有声音的, 这是因为对所有的语言而言, 不论它们的书写系统如何发达, 声音都是最主要的媒介, 而且书写系统的形成比口语形式晚得多。儿童首先习得口语然后才学会阅读和写作的事实也可以从侧面说明声音系统是语言重要的特征。定义中“人类的”这个词是为了说明语言是人类所特有的。

3. 问题: What is arbitrariness? Can you give some examples to illustrate non-arbitrariness or motivation from the perspectives of sound pattern, syntax and conventionality?

回答: Arbitrariness is one of the design features of human language, which refers to the fact that the forms of linguistic signs bear no natural relationship to their meaning. However, sometimes people think that language is non-arbitrary. For example, from the aspect of sound pattern, the sounds of some onomatopoeias in Chinese are like the sounds they describe, for example, 叮咚, 哗啦, 轰隆. From the aspect of syntax, the sentence meaning of “The boy is kicking the ball” is quite different from that of “The ball is kicking the boy”. From the aspect of conventionality, people usually say “All roads lead to Rome”, but people seldom say “All roads lead to Paris/London/New York” to express the same meaning.