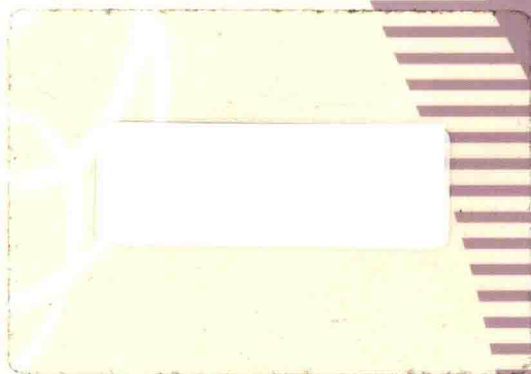


上海市高校 085 内涵发展专业建设资助项目

英美体育文学选读

YINMEI TIYU WENXUE XUANDU

陈 珊◎主编



北京体育大学出版社

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前言

体育文学是随着体育尤其是竞技体育的发展而逐步发展起来的。20 世纪美国的职业体育发展迅猛,随之体育文学也蓬勃发展起来。体育给人们带来的美妙体验都通过这些作家用生动形象传神的语言表达出来,让我们在阅读时又一次地感受到体育的魅力。例如,马克·吐温在他的文章“A Baseball Experiment”中对当时刚刚兴起的棒球赛描述了他的体验:“第一次公开赛当然吸引了 5 万的观众,它具有的乐趣值得人们去观看。赛场上每件事都是令人愉悦的,这是个美妙的春季,大自然也穿上了新衣。”同时,也涌现了许多优秀的体育文学作家,如,海明威、拉德纳等知名作家。他们用他们的笔触生动地描写了一个个体育英雄人物,感染了人们,激励了人们,也促进美国职业体育的发展。

正是这个原因,让我们萌发了编写《英美体育文学选读》的念头,希望通过阅读和欣赏优秀的体育文学作品,让我们在学习英语的同时领会体育对于我们的意义,体育的真谛之所在。在这本书中我们根据体育与社会的关系、体育文学的特点以及文学评论的理论将内容分为了 5 个部分:体育文学概念和发展;体育文化、历史和神话;体育英雄;体育与社会;体育精神。每个部分都包含一篇主题介绍,这一个部分主要介绍本章相关的内容,有些是与社会相关的,有些是与文学相关的。让读者在阅读作品之前对背景有一个大概的了解,利于对作品的理解和欣赏。每章包含四篇文学作品以及两篇补充阅读作品。作品是本书的核心,因此选择的标准一定程度上决定了教材的质量。在选择作品时,我们参考了大量的文献,在选择作品方面我们的原则是经典、全面。首先,根据作者的知名度、作品的影响力来选择经典的体育文学作品。其中,有入选美国 100 篇优秀体育文学作品的 *You know Me Al*,其作者拉德纳是美国知名体育文学作家;有获得过美国最优秀的体育作家奖项“the Red Smith Award”的 Arthur Worth “Bud” Collins 的文章 *Billie Jean King Evens the Score*;有大文豪海明威的第一部短篇小说 *My Old Man*;西方影响力较大的体育

文学作品 *The Loneliness of the Long-distance Runner*, 等等。其次, 我们也考虑了全面性。体裁的全面性, 有小说(长篇和短篇), 有诗歌, 有评论, 有新闻采访; 文体的全面性, 有议论文, 有说明文, 也有叙事文。题材的全面性, 有描写球队的、赛事的、运动员的, 还有球迷的、有种族歧视的、政治干扰的、性别歧视的。当然, 由于篇幅有限, 还有很多优秀的作品都还没能放入我们的书中, 这是我们的遗憾。

为了让读者在阅读本书时更好地理解和欣赏作品, 我们在每篇作品的前面有作者简介, 让读者能很快地把握作者的写作手法, 在作品阅读前有一篇简短的导读, 帮助读者很快地进入作品。在阅读中, 遇到一些与体育或文化背景相关的知识, 我们也作了注释以帮助读者更加准确地理解文本。在阅读之后, 我们提供了一些思考题, 帮助读者更好地理解作品并启发读者进行扩散性思考。最后我们提供了作品欣赏, 让读者进一步理解和欣赏作品的写作内容、技巧等。

在这里, 我们还要感谢上海体育学院教务处为本教材编写所提供的帮助, 感谢上海体育学院体育新闻传播与外语学院领导给予的大力支持。正是这些帮助和支持才能使我们顺利地完成教材的编写工作。

编者 2013 年秋
于澳洲昆士兰大学

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Unit One The Definition of Sport Literature

What is sport?

Sport, through history, has various definitions. From the perspective of traditional definition, at first, sports are physical activities. Second, sports are competitive activities. Sociologists realize that competitive activities have different social dynamics from cooperative or individualistic activities. Third, sports are institutionalized activities. Institutionalization is a sociological term referring to the process through which actions, relationships, and social arrangements become patterned or standardized over time and from one situation to another. Institutionalized activities have formal rules and organizational structures which guide people's actions from one situation to another. The fourth point in the definition of sports is that sports are activities played by people for internal and external rewards. This means that participation in sports involves a combination of two sets of motivations. One is based on the internal satisfactions associated with expression, spontaneity, and the pure joy of participation. The other motivation is based on external satisfactions associated with displaying physical skills in public and receiving approval, status, or material rewards in the process.

What is literature?

What is literature? Oxford Advanced Learner's English – Chinese Dictionary (2001) explains that they are writings that are valued as works of art, esp. fiction, drama and poet-

ry (as contrasted with technical books and journalism) are literature. Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2003) indicates that books, plays, poems, etc. that people think are important and good. Esther Lombardi points out that literature is a term used to describe written or spoken materials. The qualities of literature, broadly, are creative writing, reflecting experience, decoding of the author's message, effects to common people.

Firstly, broadly speaking, literature is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but the term is most commonly used to refer to works of the creative imagination, including works of poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction.

Then, literature reflects real experience. Literature represents a language or a people: culture and tradition. But, literature is more important than a purely historical or cultural artefact. Literature introduces us to new worlds of experience. We learn about books and literature; we enjoy the comedies and the tragedies of poems, stories, and plays; and we may even grow and evolve through our literary journey with books.

Third, it decodes the message from the author. Ultimately, we may discover meaning in literature by looking at what the author says and how he/she says it. We may interpret the author's message. In academic circles, this decoding of the text is often carried out through the use of literary theory, using a mythological, sociological, psychological, historical method, or other approaches.

Others, whatever critical paradigm we use to discuss and analyse literature, there is still an artistic quality to the works. Literature is important to us because it speaks to us, it is universal, and it affects us. Even when it is ugly, literature is beautiful.

Jim Meyer (1997) explains the quality the literature works should have as follows:

- Written texts
- marked by careful use of language, including features such as creative metaphors, well - turned phrases, elegant syntax, rhyme, alliteration, meter
- in a literary genre (poetry, prose fiction, or drama)
- read aesthetically
- intended by the author to be read aesthetically
- contain many weak applicatures (deliberately open in interpretation)

Sport and literature

The relationship between sport and literature is so complicated. At first, both of them are understood as social phenomena. Thus, they interact in ways in which lead us to move from one field to the other, and to generate new meanings.

Therefore, the relationship between sport and literature rests on complex networks of meaning. Literature may shape our perceptions and reactions to sport as much as sport may inform our ways of reading. Literature often conceptualises the place and role of sport in culture and society. The literary text elicits perceptions of historical transformations, an understanding of the ways in which an essential social, cultural and political phenomenon such as sport is appropriated and transformed. This means that the literary perspectives on sport can be varied.

As to the sport and the nation, literature can act as a powerful enabling presence. From the beginning of the twentieth century, serialised magazine stories and short novels focused on sports and athletes as the embodiment of values appropriate for an expanding imperial nation. To take Japan as an example, in order to encourage moral associations to be made between Western sport and masculinity in Japanese youth, literature about sport was actively published by Japanese media, and was primarily addressed to school boys. The literary text thus mediates the relationship between sport and society and fosters the creation of the myths of nation – the literary function of myth – making, and perhaps also of satire of these myths, is one that Henrik Meinander also insists on, when he looks at novels that concentrate on Finland's great lineage of long – distance runners.

When these two come together, we can make a judgement for a sport literature based on the criteria of literature. It firstly is a creative writing; it introduces the experience from the sport world, which might be a game, a player, a coach, or an athlete. It decodes a message about the attitude of author towards the game, or the sport hero. It is important for readers, for it affects readers' life, point of view about their living. It is beautiful when it describes the process of the playing or the game.

Since literature describes and clarifies a reality, sport comes from this reality which it reveals. The definition of sports literature is that it is a kind of literature that explores, ana-

lyses, and/or celebrates the role and influence of athletics in individuals' lives and society in general. In the terms of genre, it may include novels, poetry, fiction, full-length non-fiction, and shorter works of non-fiction, such as essay.

There are eight themes of sports in literature as follows: 1. Competition; 2. Endurance/determination; 3. Physical fitness; 4. Values/characters/sportsmanship; 5. Team spirit/unity/fellowship; 6. Appreciation/admiration/feraticism; 7. Sexism/gender equity; 8. Fictional stories about Athletes. In this book, the themes of sports have been divided four parts, covering the above discussed themes. They are culture, history and myth; heroes of sport; sport and society; and spirit of sport.

The development of sport literature

The development of sport literature could trace back to Ancient Greeks. Although Ancient Greeks were not the first to practise sport, they were distinguished among other ancient civilisations for devoting significant portions of their literary and artistic production to the subject. As its popularity grew, in later centuries sport became a staple theme in Greek literature. *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, the earliest extant complete pieces of Greek literature, which date to the late eighth/early seventh centuries BCE, contain extensive descriptions of athletic competitions. Starting in the late sixth century BCE, new literary genres dedicated entirely to sport began to emerge, a development that went hand in hand with the expansion of the practice of sport and the proliferation of the athletic contests conducted in every corner of the Greek World. For instance, the genre of epinician (victory) poetry consisted of lyric poems written on commission the aim of which was to celebrate the victory or victories of a particular athlete, usually in a prestigious athletic meeting. This genre of poetry was central in shaping Greek attitudes body. The epinician poetry genre flourished roughly from 520 to 450 BCE and its popularity among victors spread throughout the Greek-speaking world, including Athens.

Although Ancient Greeks created a literary genre to describe the joy brought by sport, the people's view about sport was still doubtful. This seriously affects the development of sport literature. Since people had not hold an agreement on the role of sport. In the late 1570s, John Northbrooke in his treatise was against dicing, dancing, plays, because they are

sinful. In contrary, Elyot, in his work the *Boke Named the Governour* (1531), argued that sport was physiologically beneficial to the commonwealth, and socially to the maintenance of the reigning class system. This book marked the beginning of a lively humanist tradition of English pro – sport literature.

Till to the early modern English, people held the point that sports would turn or be turned into war. Then sport gradually became a metaphor in the literature at that time. Shakespeare uses the term "sport", or one of its variants, several hundred times in his career. He uses the term to signify everything from diversion (‘A summer’s day will seem an hour but short, being wasted in such time – beguiling sport’) to amorous dalliance (‘She is sport for Jove’) to outdoor games like the hawking episode in *Henry VI*. This metaphor for war demonstrates the degree to which traditional notions of chivalric honor disintegrate into merely personal rivalries and struggles. Especially in *Henry VI*, Shakespeare had emphasized and exploited the similarities between sport and war. Theodor Meron remarks: "writing in the post – chivalric era, Shakespeare shows that wars are not only tragic and bloody, but also futile." This is similar in American literature. In America, Nathaniel Hawthorn, Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper, and Henry David Thoreau, had particular visions of play, game and sport. They transformed the motions of the hunt into rites that ideally would instruct the community and nurture the individual. They proved the vitality of sport as literary subject in America. They used the procedures of traditional ceremony to describe through irony and fancy the play of colonial America. Cooper and Thoreau crafted New World rituals out of sport in the settlements and wilderness. They identified the forms of play more individual, informal, rural and diffuse. They saw sport in a large pattern of play and gave it a wide number of connotations. For Hawthorne in *The Scarlet Letter*, sports were that "the great honest face of the people" indulged in. Irving, in his lexicon, stated sports were fights, frights, and frolics. Cooper and Thoreau attempted to portray sport as personal and outside community but with pointed reference to societal conduct. Therefore, the beginning of sport literature is not the real sport literature, in which they are the literature works with some elements of sport.

In the modern period, American literature in which sport plays a prominent part has grown steadily as a literary force. Equally, historians of sport in Britain have exhibited a similar disregard for the representation of sport in novels, poetry, and drama. Boxing, baseball and college football became American popular obsessions as spectatorial past

times. Then, an expending medium had grown apace with the development of organized sport. Third, the rise of organized sport in the 1870s occurred at the same time as the proliferation of popular literature in story papers and dime novels reflecting changing conditions in American national life. Jeffrey Hill (2006) explains that there are another further three reasons for this phenomenon. First, sport writing in America has traditionally been a more 'respectable' occupation, some distinguished national figures emerged such as Paul Gallico, Ring Lardner, Mailer, Hemingway; second, the much greater population of sports studies academics in the USA has enabled bodies to sustain a critical mass of support; third, the wide spread of media offers greater opportunities to reporters, commentators to become sport writers. The sports have been become the theme of the literature are varied, especially boxing, baseball and football. Sport heroism is the content of these sport literature, as Messenger exclaims. There are three kinds of sport hero in American sport literature: the popular sports hero, the school sports hero and the modern ritual sports hero. Messenger interprets that "contemporary American fiction has treated the sport spectacle with a full range of imaginative responses that illuminate cultural dilemmas with the arena."

The development of sport literature is the changing process of the attitude of people towards sport. The attitude has changed while sport literature has developed. The future of sport literature, as Messenger (1981) predicated, lies in three related directions. "First, the sports subject will still be the vehicle for intense inward experience. Second, it will still be the vehicle for intense examination of the organization of society, all the more so as sports world more centrally defines our popular culture and its group activities, telling us what and how we play. Finally, the play of fiction rises to meet the sport in fiction."

Why do we learn sport literature?

Sport literature is a kind of literature that explores, analyses, and/or celebrates the role and influence of athletics in individuals' lives and society in general. It is concerned with sport issues, organization, and sport change. Sport literature is the part of culture and society. It reveals sports in terms of their importance in people's lives and their connections with the major spheres of social life. Sport is in everywhere in our life. We watch football,