



英汉对照

英语沙龙

德兰 著

English Salon Reading Series

系 列 读 物

中国姑娘欧美行

A CHINESE GIRL GOES WEST

独在异乡为异客
海外学子遇知音



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内容提要：李丽是一位聪明活泼的姑娘，她在国内专修英语之后便设法出国进修。她入伦敦大学，后来又得机会去一趟美国。无论在北京，在布加勒斯特，在伦敦还是在纽约，她和外国人打交道时不但说一口标准的英语，而且表现得精明能干，对待各种问题都比较明智。读者如果想知道英语“smart”这个词的确切含义，就请看这本书吧！

作者简介

德兰，姓熊，我国享有盛名的英语语言学家和小说家。从小在英国长大，曾入牛津大学攻读英国文学，获硕士学位。新中国成立前夕回国，先后在北师大和外交部任教，常年从事对外事翻译和外交官的英语培训工作。英语和汉语都是她的母语。她习惯用英语思考与写作；德兰的英文作品文笔活泼，语言地道，趣味浓厚，深受我国英语学习者的喜爱。

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She Is A Smart Girl 她是个机灵的姑娘

Among the numerous people who applied for visas at the British Consul's Office in Beijing was a young lady by the name of Li Li. The first Chinese character Li was her family name and the second one was her given name the meaning of which was beauty.

"Was she beautiful, then?" some readers of this book may ask.

I am sorry to say: no, she was not. She was only pleasant-looking, but not beautiful.

到英国驻北京领事处申请签证的人还真不少，其中有一位叫李丽的姑娘。第一个汉字“李”是她的姓，第二个汉字“丽”是她的名，意思是美。

“那么，她长得很美吗？”也许有读者会问。

我很遗憾地说，不，她并不漂亮。她只是模样让人喜欢，但并不是很美。

Li Li had a slender figure and an intelligent face with a sweet smile, but she was by no means a beauty. However, she gave people a deep impression wherever she went.

"What was her character like?" you may ask again.

Well, if you have decided to read this book, you will find out the answer for yourself soon.

Now let us go on with the story of Li Li. She had applied for a British visa in the spring, and had been coming to the British Consul's Office now and again to inquire if it had been granted. The answer had been in the negative every time.

In the last six months, Li Li had tried to get in touch with the people at the office by telephone so as to save the trouble of coming all the way from one end of

李丽身材苗条，聪明的脸蛋上总是挂着甜甜的笑容，但她怎么说也不算是个美人。不过，无论她走到哪儿，总会给别人留下很深的印象。

“她的性格如何呢？”也许您还会问。

这个嘛，如果您决定了要看这本书的话，您很快就会自己找到答案的。

现在我们还是接着讲李丽的故事吧。她春天开始申请英国签证，以后就常来英国领事处打听签证是否获准。每次得到的回答都是否定的。

在过去的半年里，为了省去大老远地从城市这一头跑到那一头的麻烦，李丽试图通过电话与英国领事处取得联系，可

the city to the other, but she never got through¹. She knew very well what it meant--it only meant that the clerks of this office did not want to be disturbed by any telephone calls.

Our story begins on a hot day in midsummer. Li Li came to the British Consul's Office rather late in the afternoon on purpose, because there would be very few people there at this time of the day.

She was determined to give the British clerks a piece of her mind² this time, which would hardly be a proper thing to do when they had to attend to³ many other people.

When she marched into the office, to her surprise, there was no one there except an elderly clerk. A rare smile appeared on this Englishman's face..

"Good afternoon, Miss Li. I'm so glad to see you!"

是从来就没有打通过。她非常明白这其中的含意——这只能说明领事处的职员不想受到任何电话干扰。

我们这个故事的开始是在仲夏的一个大热天。这天李丽故意选在下午较晚的时候来英国领事处,因为每天这个时候那里就不会有多少人了。

这一次她决心要向英国领事处的职员发发牢骚;在他们还有许多其他人要接待的时候,这样做就会不大合适。

当她大踏步走进领事处时,她很惊讶地发现,那儿就剩下一位老职员了。这位英国人的脸上露出了少有的微笑。

"你好,李小姐。见到你我真高兴!"

Li Li just laughed.

"Oh, no, you aren't," she shook her head and said. "I've been here hundreds of times for the visa, so you couldn't possibly be glad to see me again."

"But I'm really glad to see you this time. I was just going to ring you up, you know. I was going to inform you the visa had been granted by the British Immigration Office at last."

"Really?! I can hardly believe my ears! Do you realize I've been waiting for it for nearly six months by now?"

"Actually that's not very long, compared with the time it took many other visa-apppliers. I told you at the very beginning that it might take a long time, didn't I?"

"Yes, you did. Now I see what you meant. This is British efficiency, I suppose?" Li Li asked with her

李丽只笑了笑。

"噢,不,你并不高兴,"她摇摇头说。"我为了签证已到这儿来过上百次了,所以你不可能会很高兴又见到我的。"

"不过这次我真的很高兴见到你。其实,我正准备给你打电话呢。我要告诉你:你的签证终于被英国移民局批准了。"

"真的?!我简直不相信我的耳朵!你意识到了吗?到现在为止我已经等了将近半年的时间了。"

"和许多其他申请签证的人相比,你等的其实并不很长。我在一开始就告诉过你,这需要很长的时间,对吗?"

"是的,你的确告诉过我。现在我明白你的意思了。我想这就是英国的办事效率吧?"

charming smile.

The elderly Englishman was a patriot after all. At the Chinese girl's accusation, he hastened to say:

"Please let's not put it this way, Miss Li! Shall we say it's the efficiency of the British Immigration Office?"

"All right, if you like," she agreed. "The trouble with your Immigration Office is they seem to think anyone who goes to Britain will stay put there."

"But, Miss Li, with so many immigrants in Britain already, the Immigration Office has got to take some precautions. I hope you'll understand."

He asked Li Li to sit down while he searched for her passport in his drawers.

"To be frank," she continued with what she wanted to say, "if I were

李丽笑咪咪地问道。

这位上了年纪的英国人毕竟是个爱国者,听了中国姑娘的这番责备后,他赶紧说:

"请别这么说嘛,李小姐!我们就说这是英国移民局的办事效率,好吗?"

"好吧,随你的便,"姑娘答应道。"你们移民局的问题就在于:他们好像认为所有去英国的人都会在那儿呆下去不走了。"

"可是李小姐,英国已经有这么多的移民,移民局不得不采取谨慎的态度。我希望你能够理解。"

他一边请李丽坐下,一边在他的抽屉里寻找她的护照。

"坦率地说,"她接着把想说的话说完,"假如我是那种想呆在

somebody who wanted to stay abroad for good, I would certainly not choose Britain."

"Why not? I should think England is a rather nice place to live in. We have mild weather there: It's not very cold in winter, and never too hot in summer."

"As far as I know, the living cost in Britain is rather high, while the living standard is not so high, compared with that in America, Switzerland, Sweden and many other Western countries."

"That, I must admit, is true."

"Besides, as everybody knows, you have bad weather in England. I hear the sun rarely shines there. Is it true?"

"Yes. It's because we have maritime climate in the British Isles. That can't be helped."

Now that Li Li knew the visa had been granted, she was not so anxious to see it.

国外过一辈子的人，我绝对不会选择英国。”

“为什么不呢？我倒觉得英国是个不错的居住地方。我们那儿的气候温和：冬天不很冷，夏天又不太热。”

“据我所知，英国的生活费用很高，而和美国、瑞士、瑞典以及其他西方国家相比，那里的生活水平却并不高。”

“我必须承认这是事实。”

“此外，众所周知，英国的天气很糟糕。我听说那里很少出太阳。这是真的吗？”

“这倒是真的。因为不列颠群岛是海洋性气候。那是没办法的。”

既然李丽知道签证已经获准了，她也就不急着看它。她

She went on with what she had wanted to say about Britain:

"If I wanted to have a good time, I wouldn't like to live in England either."

"In that case, you would go to New York instead of London, wouldn't you?"

"Yes, or Paris, or Venice, or Vienna, or any other exciting place."

The clerk was a man with a sense of humour. He had come across⁵ countless foreign students who applied for British visas, but had never met anyone running down⁶ Britain the way this Chinese girl was doing. He began to take great interest in her, and moved from his desk to the seat next to her's. He asked politely:

"What puzzles me now, my dear young lady, is why you should have applied for a British visa at all?"

接着上面关于英国的话题继续说:

"假如我想要出国玩玩,我也不想住在英国。"

"假如是那样的话,你就会去纽约,而不是伦敦,对吗?"

"对了,或者是巴黎,或者是威尼斯,或者是维也纳,或者是其令人感兴趣的地方。"

这位职员是个幽默的人。他接触过无数的申请英国签证的外国学生,但却从未遇到过像这位中国姑娘这样的把英国贬得这么低的人。他开始对她产生了兴趣,于是就从自己的办公桌移到姑娘对面的一个座位上坐下。他很客气地问道:

"那么我亲爱的小姐,令我百思不解的是:你究竟为什么要申请去英国的签证呢?"

She replied smiling, "The answer is quite simple: I happen to be a student of English. I was very fond of English lessons when I was a little girl, and I've been hoping to study English language in England ever since my school-days."

The elderly Englishman could not help laughing. He said, "If I may say so, Miss Li, you must have been a most ambitious girl."

"Yes, I was," said she seriously, "and I still am. When I graduated from college, I decided to try to get a scholarship so as to go to London University."

"I see. No wonder you speak such good English!"

"Thank you. Now you see why I must go to England even if it rained every-day there."

她笑着回答说：

“回答很简单，我正好是学英语专业的学生。我很小就非常喜欢英语课，而且从学生时代开始就一直希望能到英国去学习英语。”

英国老职员忍不住笑了。他说：“如果我可以这样说的话，那么你一定是很很有抱负的姑娘了。”

“是的，我过去就是，”她很认真地说，“现在依然如此。我大学毕业后就决心要努力争取得到奖学金，好上伦敦大学。”

“我明白了。怪不得你的英语讲得这么好！”

“谢谢。现在你明白为什么即使英国天天下雨，我还是非要去那儿不可的原因了吧。”

“Well, you could go to America or Canada for the same purpose, couldn't you? Why not, if I may ask?”

“The reason is very simple again: I just wouldn't like to learn American English, see? What's more, I don't want to speak with an American accent.”

“But nowadays American accent seems to have become a rather smart accent in the world, especially among the young people. Haven't you noticed it?”

For fun, Li Li suddenly began to speak American English, adopting typical west American accent, “Yea, I'm a smart girl speaking with a smart accent. I bet you're a smart guy, too, ain't you, Mr. Cowboy?”

The English clerk threw his head back and laughed heartily. Then he

“那么,你同样可以去美国或者加拿大学英语嘛,不是吗?我能问你为什么不去那儿吗?”

“这个原因也很简单:我只不过是不喜欢学美国英语罢了,明白吗?而且,我也不想说美国腔的英语。”

“不过美音如今已在世界上非常时髦,尤其是在年轻人当中。你注意到了吗?”

为了好玩,李丽突然开始说起了美国英语,她操着典型的美国西部口音:“是啊,我是个很时髦的姑娘,说话带着很时髦的口音。我想你也是个很时髦的家伙,对吗,牛仔先生?”

英国职员被逗得开心地仰首大笑起来。然后,他又几乎是耳语

told the Chinese girl almost in a whisper, "To tell you the truth, the American accent gives me pins and needles⁷ sometimes. The Americans seem to speak through their noses while we speak with our mouths."

She was glad to see that he was a man with a sense of humour, so she poked fun at⁸ him, "Do you really speak with your mouth?"

"Yes, of course. Why not?"

"I thought the English spoke with their tongues."

"With our tongues? That would be impossible. What a fantastic idea it is, Miss Li!"

"Do you know how this idea entered my head?"

"How would I know?"

"It's because the English people are so proud of the English tongue. Naturally I came to the conclusion that while the people

一般地对这位中国姑娘说：“实话告诉你吧，美国腔有时会让我起鸡皮疙瘩。美国人就好像是用鼻子说话，而我们是用嘴说话的。”

见他是个有幽默感的人，她很高兴，于是就和他开玩笑说：“你们真的是用嘴说话的吗？”

“当然是的。为什么不是呢？”

“我还以为英国人是用舌头说话呢。”

“用舌头说话？这是不可能的事情。李小姐，多么古怪的念头！”

“你知道我是怎么冒出这个念头来的吗？”

“我怎么知道呢？”

“这是因为英国人对英国英语感到如此骄傲，我很自然就得出结论，我们全世界的人都是用嘴说话

all over the world speak with our mouths, the English people speak with their tongues."

She giggled like a naughty little girl when she had finished her explanation.

He could not help chuckling, while marveling at her wit. He went back to his desk, and picked up her passport.

"I say," he remarked, "with your puns' and large vocabulary, you'll make a great linguist, to be sure."

He gave back her passport and showed her the page on which the visa was stamped.

While she was examining carefully the visa for which she had waited so long, another Chinese student came in. He took out from his briefcase some forms that he had been asked to fill in.

"Good afternoon!"

的，而英国人却是用他们的舌头说话的。”(tongue 有“舌头”和“语言”两个意思。——译注)

她解释完毕后，就像个调皮的女孩似的咯咯地笑了。

他忍不住轻轻地笑了，同时对这个姑娘的智慧感到惊讶。他回到自己的办公桌，拿起她的护照。

“我说，”他评价说，“凭你掌握的双关语和大量的词汇，你肯定会成为一名大语言学家。”

他交给她护照，翻开签证盖章的那页给她看。

就在她仔细地查看她等待了这么久的签证的时候，另一位中国学生走了进来。他从自己的公文包里拿出一些他被要求填写的表格。

“你好！”职员向他

said the clerk. "What can I do for you? You've been here recently, haven't you?"

"Yes, I was here only yesterday morning. My name is Sun Lin, you may not remember. My surname is spelt exactly like the English word 'sun,' meaning the sun in the sky. Do you remember?"

"Ah! I remember now, Mr. Sun." He pronounced the name as if it were the English word "sun" or "son."

Li Li tried to correct his pronunciation mistake, but in vain. The Englishman just could not say the Chinese word properly, no matter how hard he tried.

She had to give up in the end, and stood up to say to him, "I must go now. Goodbye! Thank you for your help during the last six months."

"Six months?!" Sun Lin exclaimed. "Good Heav-

打招呼。“我能为你干点什么吗?你最近来过这里,对吗?”

“没错,我昨天上午还来过这里呢。你也许不记得了,我叫孙林。我的姓拼写出来就和英文里表示天上的太阳的那个单词一模一样。你记得吗?”

“啊!我现在记起来了,孙先生。”他把“孙”字念得像英语单词“太阳”或者“儿子”的发音一样。

李丽试图纠正他的发音错误,但只是白费劲。无论这个英国人怎么努力,他就是念不好这个汉字。

她最后只得放弃,站起来对他说:“我现在该走了。再见!谢谢你在过去的半年里对我的帮助。”

“半年?!”孙林喊叫起来。“天哪!我也得