

英譯漢語成語詞典

黃省民譯

出版者 商務印書館香港分館
香港皇后大道中三十五號

印刷者 商務印書館香港印刷廠
香港九龍炮仗街七十五號

* 版權所有 *

1977年4月初版

1978年5月重印

FOREWORD

The principal purpose of this compilation is to facilitate foreign students studying or reading Chinese—particularly modern Chinese, meaning the Chinese spoken and written by the 800 million people.

In the past quarter of a century, the Chinese language has undergone certain changes. Because the social order and structure in China is changed, as well as her gradual progression from an agricultural country to an industrialised state, many new terminologies, new phrases, new usages, and new concepts have emerged. These are the modern living Chinese of today.

Along with these changes and transformation, some of the Chinese sayings also underwent certain changes and transformation. Some of them which were quite positive in meaning before 1949 now assume a shade of disrespect, or even derogation. Likewise,

some of the formerly negatives ones have now taken on positive meanings. It is small wonder that some foreign students who have spent many assiduous years studying Chinese but overlooked or neglected the modern Chinese, when confronted by the Chinese newspapers and the magazines, are quite bewildered.

The Chinese sayings in this book are found in the Chinese characters, with the current Hanyu Pinyin to give the proper pronunciation, and the four tones are denoted by the symbols of — / ∨ \ The pronunciation of the Chinese characters is also given in the Wade system, which is found bracketed behind the Hanyu Pinyin.

This book has a total collection of 3,943 Chinese sayings.

Samuel M. Wong Season

May 6th, 1975

目 錄

前 言.....	1
正 文	
A.....	1
B.....	4
C.....	24
D.....	41
E.....	54
F.....	56
G.....	67
H.....	81
J.....	95
K.....	115
L.....	120
M.....	131
N.....	141
O.....	145
P.....	146
Q.....	151
R.....	165
S.....	172

T.....	194
W.....	205
X.....	220
Y.....	236
Z.....	263

附：漢字筆畫索引

A

愛不釋手

ài bù shì shǒu (ai pu shih shou)
釋: *let go*. • *love it so much and won't let it go.*

愛財如命

ài cái rú mìng (ai ts'ai ju ming)
• *miserly to the extreme.*

愛莫能助

ài mò néng zhù (ai mo neng chu)
• *willing but powerless to assist*

愛屋及烏

ài wū jí wū (ai wu chi wu) 烏;
crow. 《尚書大傳·大戰》: “愛人者, 兼其屋上之烏”; “*Love a person and even love the crow on his house*”. Later: 愛屋及烏 means • *the love for a person is also extended to the people and the things related to him.*

哀莫大於心死

āi mò dà yú xīn sǐ (ai mo ta yü hsin szǔ) • *nothing sadder than despair.*

安邦定國

ān bāng dìng guó (an pang ting kuo) • *restore peace and order*

to a country

安步當車

ān bù dàng chē (an pu tang ch'ê)
安: *steady*. 步: *walking*. 當: *replace*. • *Originating from 《國策·齊策四》: “安步以當車”. • a steady walk replaces a ride in a car.*

安不忘危

ān bù wàng wēi (an pu wang wei) • *in peace, forget not danger.*

安分守己

ān fēn shǒu jǐ (an fēn shou chi)
• *obedient, honest, and observing one's obligation.*

安家落戶

ān jiā luò hù (an chia lo hu)
• *to settle down permanently in a new place.*

安居樂業

ān jū lè yè (an chū lê yeh) 安: *stable*. 居: *dwelling*. 樂: *happy*. 業: *occupation*. *Originating from 《漢書·貨殖列傳》: 各安其居而樂其業 • stability*

in dwelling and contentment in occupation.

安然無恙

ān rán wú yàng (an jan wu yang) 安然; *safe*. 恙; *sickness*.
• Originally: a person was safe from sickness. Today: generally refer to things unharmed.

安如泰山

ān rú tài shān (an ju t'ai shan)
安; *secure or firm*. • as secure as Mt. Taishan. Also known: 穩如泰山.

安身立命

ān shēn lì mìng (an shēn li ming) 安身; *living at a certain place*. • there is security and spiritual fulfilment in one's living.

安土重遷

ān tǔ zhòng qiān (an t'u chung ch'ien) 重; *give importance to*. • happy on one's own soil, and will not move away lightly.

安營扎寨

ān yíng zhā zhài (an ying cha chai) 安; *set up*. 營; *camp*. 寨; *stockade*. • to encamp and to erect a stockade.

安之若素

ān zhī ruò sù (an chih jo su)
安; *content*. 之; *pronoun for person or thing*. 若; *like*. 素; *all*

along. • coexisting contentedly all along, without noticing anything inappropriate.

按兵不動

àn bīng bù dòng (an ping pu tung) 按; *withhold*. • to withhold the troops from action (waiting for an opportunity).

按部就班

àn bù jiù bān (an pu chiu pan)
部、班; *category, order*. • to abide by a definite order and procedure. N.B. not to confuse 部 with 步.

按圖索驥

àn tú suǒ jì (an t'u so chi) 索; *find*. 驥; *good horse*. • looking for a good horse in accordance with a diagram. Originally: doing things according to convention. Now: to seek according to the clue.

暗箭傷人

àn jiàn shāng rén (an chien shang jên) 暗箭; *arrow shot from concealment*. • to harm others with underhanded means.

暗送秋波

àn sòng qiū bō (an sung ch'iu po) 秋波; *autumn ripples were formerly used to describe the eyes of a beautiful woman*.

• ogling; flirting.

暗無天日

àn wú tiān rì (an wu t'ien jih)

• darkness, generally referring
to society or country.

昂首闊步

áng shǒu kuò bù (ang shou k'uo

pu) 昂: high. 首: head. • to
stride forward with head high.

傲然屹立

ào rán yì lì (ao jan i li) 傲然:
unflinching. 屹立: standing
erectly. • unflinching, immova-
ble.

B

八面玲瓏

bā miàn líng lóng (pa mien ling lung) 玲瓏: *exquisiteness or intelligence. • capable of dealing with all types of people.*

拔苗助長

bá miáo zhù zhǎng (pa miao chu chang) *see* “揠苗助長”.

跋山涉水

bá shān shè shuǐ (pa shan shè shui) 跋山: *climb over mountains.* 涉水: *wade through rivers. • the difficulties of a long journey.*

白璧微瑕

bái bì wēi xiá (pai pi wei hsia) 璧: *an ancient jade piece that is flat and round with a hole in the centre.* 瑕: *flaw. • Literally: a minute flaw in the snow white jade. Figuratively: a good person or thing but with little short comings or defects.*

白髮蒼蒼

bái fà cāng cāng (pai fa ts'ang

ts'ang) • *snowy white hair.*

白圭之玷

bái guī zhī diàn (pai kuei chih tien) • *a flaw in the gem.*

白駒過隙

bái jū guò xì (pai chū kuo hsi) 駒: *colt.* 過: *passing through.* 隙: *crevice. • a colt dashing through a gap; time passes swiftly.*

白面書生

bái miàn shū shēng (pai mien shu shēng) • *inexperience youth; green horn.*

白手起家

bái shǒu qǐ jiā (pai shou ch'i chia) • *to start life with no help.*

白頭偕老

bái tóu xié lǎo (pai t'ou hsieh lao) • *growing old in conjugal happiness.*

白眼相看

bái yǎn xiāng kàn (pai yen hsiang k'an) • *to dispise.*

白雲蒼狗

bái yún cāng gǒu (pai yun ts'ang kou) • *the unexpected changing conditions of the time.*

百弊叢生

bǎi bì cóng shēng (pai pi ts'ung shēng) • *all sort of abuses arise.*

百步穿楊

bǎi bù chuān yáng (pai pu ch'uan yang) • *excellent in archery or in marksmanship.*

百尺竿頭，更進一步

bǎi chǐ gān tóu, gèng jìn yī bù (pai ch'ih kan t'ou, kēng chin i pu) • *not to be complacent, but to make further progress.*

百川歸海

bǎi chuān guī hǎi (pai ch'uan kuei hai) 川; rivers. Originating from 《文選·左思〈吳都賦〉》: “百川派別，歸海而會” • *all rivers must flow into the sea; popular support.*

百端待舉

bǎi duān dài jǔ (pai tuan tai chū) 端; items. 待; await. 舉; undertake. • *many things awaiting to be done.*

百發百中

bǎi fā bǎi zhòng (pai fa pai chung) • *accuracy in shooting; expert in anticipating events.*

百廢俱興

bǎi fèi jù xīng (pai fei chū

hsing) 俱; *entirely.* • *many things left in abeyance have now been attended to. Also known as 百廢俱舉.*

百感交集

bǎi gǎn jiāo jí (pai kan chiao tsi) • *overwhelmed by a flood of emotions.*

百花齊放

bǎi huā qí fàng (pai hua ch'i fang) • *Hundred flowers blossom; the various forms of the same content.*

百家爭鳴

bǎi jiā zhēng míng (pai chia chēng ming) 家; academic schools of thought. • *Originally referred to the academic polemics by the various schools of thought in the Warring States Period. Today, it means the contention of differing views.*

百孔千瘡

bǎi kǒng qiān chuāng (pai k'ung ch'ien ch'uang) • *defects all over; the question is serious; the destruction is severe. Also known as 千瘡百孔.*

百煉成鋼

bǎi liàn chéng gāng (pai lien ch'êng kang) • *becoming a firm and resolute man after*

a long period of tempering.

百年大計

bǎi nián dà jì (pai nien ta chi)
• *important plans and measures of long term interest.*

百年之後

bǎi nián zhī hòu (pai nien chih hou) • *after death.*

百思不解

bǎi sī bù jiě (pai szü pu chieh)
百思: *wracking the brains.* • *wracking the brains, but failing to comprehend.*

百聞不如一見

bǎi wén bù rú yī jiàn (pai wen pu ju i chien) 聞: *hear.* • *no matter how much is heard, it is never as good as seeing it once.*

百無禁忌

bǎi wú jīn jì (pai wu chin chi)
• *nothing to be superstitious about—no restrictions of any kind.*

百無聊賴

bǎi wú liáo lài (pai wu liao lai)
聊賴: *reliance.* • *everything is meaningless when lacking spiritual reliance.*

百依百順

bǎi yī bǎi shùn (pai i pai shun)
依: *accommodating.* • *accommodating everything done by*

others (derogatory).

百戰百勝

bǎi zhàn bǎi shèng (pai chan pai shèng) • *ever victorious, invincible.*

百折不撓

bǎi zhé bù náo (pai chē pu nao)
折: *failures.* 撓: *bend.* • *persistent inspite of failures.*

斑駁陸離

bān bó lù lí (pan po lu li) • *a motley of colours.*

班門弄斧

bān mén nòng fǔ (pan mēn nung fu) 班: *Lu Pan, a well known carpenter in ancient China.* • *Literally: welding an axe at Lu Pan's front door. Figuratively: trying to show off in front of those better than ourselves.*

半壁江山

bàn bì jiāng shān (pan pi Chiang shan) • *half the country.*

半斤八兩

bàn jīn bā liǎng (pan chin pa liang) 斤: *catty.* 兩: *tael.* *Formerly: 16 taels equal one Chinese catty. 8 taels = ½ catty. • there is no difference between the one and the other.*

半路出家

bàn lù chū jiā (pan lu ch'u chia)

出家: *to leave the family and take up religious dedication.* • *Literally: taking religious dedications not from small, but after the coming of age. Figuratively: not trained in a certain profession, but only took it up afterwards.*

半途而廢

bàn tú ér fèi (pan t'u êrh fei)
廢: *abandon; give up.* • *to abandon halfway.*

半推半就

bàn tuī bàn jiù (pan t'ui pan chiu) 推: *push away.* 就: *comply.* • *false pretense of declining.*

半信半疑

bàn xìn bàn yí (pan hsin pan i)
• *a mixture of credibility and doubt.*

包藏禍心

bāo cáng huò xīn (pao ts'ang huo hsin) 禍心: *intention of harming others.* • *harbouring evil intentions.*

包羅萬象

bāo luó wàn xiàng (pao lo wan hsiang) 包羅: *encompass.* 萬象: *all the scenes in the universe.* • *very rich in content, everything conceivable.*

飽經風霜

bǎo jīng fēng shuāng (pao ching fēng shuang) 飽: *full.* 風霜: *trials and tribulations of life.* • *experiencing a long period of trial and tribulation in life.*

飽食終日

bǎo shí zhōng rì (pao shih chung jih) 終日: *whole day.* • *just eating, but engaged in nothing serious.* “飽食終日” is often used with “無所用心”.

報仇雪恥

bào chóu xuě chǐ (pao ch'ou hsüeh ch'ih) 雪: *wash off.* 恥: *humiliation.* • *avenge and eliminate the humiliation.*

抱殘守缺

bào cán shǒu quē (pao ts'an shou ch'üeh) 缺 *also written as 闕* • *Literally: clinging on to old and dilapidated things. Figuratively: mentally conservative, adamant to new concepts.*

抱恨終天

bào hèn zhōng tiān (pao hên chung t'ien) 抱: *harbour.* 恨: *regret, sorrow.* 終天: *throughout one's life.* • *harbouring regret (or sorrow) throughout one's life.*

抱頭鼠竄

bào tóu shǔ cuàn (pao t'ou shu

ts'uan) 竄: *run*. 鼠竄: *run like a rat*. • *run helter skelter after receiving severe blows*.

抱薪救火

bào xīn jiù huǒ (pao hsin chiu huo) *Originating from 《史記·魏世家》: “譬猶抱薪救火, 薪不盡, 火不滅”. It means to take firewood to put out the fire, but if the firewood is not burnt through, the fire will not extinguish. • Today: employing erroneous methods to eradicate disaster, and causing it to spread further.*

暴風驟雨

bào fēng zhòu yǔ (pao fēng chou yǔ) 暴: *violent*. 驟: *swift*. • *tempest; coming on violently and swiftly*.

暴戾恣睢

bào lì zì suī (pao li tzū sui) 暴戾: *cruel*. 恣睢: *tyrannical*. *N.B. 戾 li not to be pronounced as lei. 睢 sui not to be confused with 睢 chū. • cruel and tyrannical.*

暴露無遺

bào lù wú yí (pao lu wu i) 遺: *left behind*. 無遺: *nothing left*. • *fully exposed*.

暴殄天物

bào tiǎn tiān wù (pao t'ien t'ien

wu) 殄: *to exterminate*. 暴殄: *destroy and exterminate*. 天物: *things on earth*. *Originating from 《尚書·武成》. • Formerly: to destroy everything on earth. Today: wasteful; spoiling things at will.*

暴跳如雷

bào tiào rú léi (pao t'iao ju lei) 暴: *anger*. 暴跳: *foot stamping during anger*. • *thundering out annoyance and anger*.

杯弓蛇影

bēi gōng shé yǐng (pei kung shé ying) • *highly suspicious*.

杯盤狼藉

bēi pán láng jí (pei pang lang chi) 狼藉: *scattered confusion*. • *the scattered confusion of cups, plates, etc., left on the table after a meal*.

杯水車薪

bēi shuǐ chē xī (pei shui ch'è hsin) 車薪: *a cartful of firewood*. • *Literally: using a cup of water to put out the fire on a cartful of firewood. Figuratively: insignificant, ineffective in solving a problem.*

卑躬屈膝

bēi gōng qū xī (pei kung ch'ü hsi) 卑: *low*. 卑躬: *to bend from the waist onward*. 屈膝:

kowtow. • spineless in character, and shamelessly trying to please. Also used as 卑躬屈節. 屈節: *compromising one's honour.*

悲憤填膺

bēi fèn tián yīng (pei fên t'ien ying) 膺: *chest. • filled with sorrow and wrath.*

悲歡離合

bēi huān lí hé (pei huan li hé) 悲: *sorrow.* 歡: *happiness.* 離: *partings.* 合: *reunions. • the various encounters one experiences in life.*

悲天憫人

bēi tiān mǐn rén (pei t'ien min jen) 天: *fate.* 悲天: *lamenting of fate.* 憫: *commiserate. • lamenting the tribulations in life and commiserating the sufferings of humanity.*

背道而馳

bèi dào ér chí (pei tao êrh ch'ih) 道: *road; direction.* 馳: *gallop. • galloping against the intended direction. Figuratively: the orientation and the aim of the two things are diametrically opposite.*

背水一戰

bèi shuǐ yī zhàn (pei shui i chan) 水: *river. • a last ditch stand*

(in battle).

背信棄義

bèi xìn qì yì (pei hsin ch'i i) 背: *violate.* 信: *trust.* 棄: *abandon.* 義: *righteousness. • violates promises and disregards righteousness.*

奔走相告

bēn zǒu xiāng gào (pên tsou hsiang kao) • *going around telling everybody.*

本末倒置

běn mò dào zhì (pên mo tao chih) 本: *root.* 末: *branches and leaves.* 置: *place. • confusing the important with the unimportant, the essential with the non-essential.*

逼上梁山

bī shàng liáng shān (pi shang liang shan) 梁山: *a place where Lin Ch'ung was forced to seek refuge, from "The Water Margin". • forced to rebel or do something, because of no alternative.*

比比皆是

bǐ bǐ jiē shì (pi pi chieh shih) 比比: *one after another; everywhere. • It is everywhere; numerous.*

比肩繼踵

bǐ jiān jì zhǒng (pi chien chi

chung) • *extremely crowded with people.*

必恭必敬

bì gōng bì jìng (pī kung pī ching) 必; *definite.* 恭; *modest and courteous.* 敬; *respectful.* • *very modest, courteous, and respectful (toward a person).*

必由之路

bì yóu zhī lù (pī yu chih lu) 必; *must.* 由; *pass by.* • *the road that must be taken. Figuratively; the laws which matter abides by.*

閉關鎖國

bì guān suǒ guó (pī kuan suo kuo) • *refuse communications with foreign countries. see “閉關自守”.*

閉關自守

bì guān zì shǒu (pī kuan tzu shou) 關; *pass, gate.* • *close the pass, and have nothing to do with people outside.*

閉門造車

bì mén zào chē (pī men tsao chē) • *attending to matters subjectively, divorced from reality.*

閉目塞聽

bì mù sè tīng (pī mu se t'ing) 塞; *blocked.* • *close one's eyes to see not and block one's ears*

to hear not. Figuratively: not coming into contact with things outside; divorced from reality.

畢恭畢敬

bì gōng bì jìng (pī kung pī ching) *see “必恭必敬”.*

畢其功於一役

bì qí gōng yú yī yì (pī ch'ì kung yü i i) 畢; *accomplish.* 功; *an undertaking.* 一役; *one action, one engagement* • *to accomplish an undertaking, which ought to be phased out, in one engagement.*

敝帚自珍

bì zhǒu zì zhēn (pī chou tzu chēn) 敝; *broken.* 珍; *to treasure.* • *Originally: “家有敝帚，享之千金” meaning to regard one's old broken broom as a treasure. Today: “敝帚自珍” means though the thing is not good, but it is still being treasured.*

弊絕風清

bì jué fēng qīng (pī chüeh fēng ch'ing) 弊; *malpractice, corruption.* 絕; *vanished.* 風; *current practice.* 清; *clean.* • *no more corruption and the social practices are very good.*

纂路藍縷