

汪福祥

汪福祥 北京第二外国语学院英语 系教授,研究生导师,《WBO现代 英语教程》系列教材主编。著有《奥 妙的人体语言》、《国际音标与语 音》、《英语写作技巧新编》、《英美 文化与英汉翻译》、《现代英语口语 表示法500例》、《现代英语习惯用 语500例》以及《心释人生》等三十 多种著作。主要论文有:《提高文科 研究生的三种能力》、《模糊逻辑模 型和交股模型的解析与重组》以及 《谈〈论语〉一书英译文中的问题》 等。现主要从事研究生"心理语言 学"和"翻译理论与实践"的教学 以及心理语言学模型理论的研究工 作。

1973年,我考入二外,毕业后留校任教。进校时,我是从零开始学起的,基础可想而知。今天,让我在《英语学习》这样一本有着众多读者的杂志上谈英语学习,心中有许许多多涉及英语学习的体会和想法,但因篇幅有限,我只能在最基础的层面上围绕两句话同大家谈谈我的看法。

我的第一句话是:"学一得一不如学一得十"。仅以单词的学习为例。我们知道,英语单词有"语体"和"语义"之分。就单词的语义而论,绝大多数单词都有范畴不等的语义网。以develop一词为例,在该词语义网的节点上,既有"发展"之义,也有"开发"、"研制"、"探索"等不同意思。即便是像 glad 这样一个普通的词,也能在诸如 I'm glad of... / I'm glad about... 以及 a glad hand / be greatly gladdened 等不同的语境中表示同一范畴中不同节点上的不同意思。这就意味着,学习一个词,特别是动词,既可"学一得一",也可"学一得十"。但"学一得一"的学生要想表达十种意思就必须掌握十个单词;而"学一得十"的学生则能通过一个单词去表达多种意思。后者的学习效果当然是事半功倍的。然而,很多学生似懂非懂地记了一大堆单词或短语,却表达不了多少思想内容。即使是大家所熟知的 nurse,在 Let no one nurse the hope of using it. 这样的一个语境中展现出来,很多学生也未必能理解该词在此的意指。出于此因,我主张学生能学会使用同一个词在不同的语境中展现不同的"精神"。这样,既能减轻单词量给学生造成的沉重负担,也能大幅度提高学生的语言质量。正可谓:Kill two birds with one stone。

我想说的第二句是:"博读千页书,精收一粒果"。前半句指"大量阅读 不同文体的原版材料以增强自己的悟性和语感"。但是,在大量阅读的同时 必须坚持这样一个原则:确保每天有具体的稳固收获,后半句表达的正是这 个意思。以 Since language is symbolic, and symbols are open to interpretation within certain limits, communication is fraught with the possibility of the listener's misunderstanding of the speaker's intention... 为例。其中的 is fraught with the possibility of... 这个短语就是值得精收的"一粒果"。实际上,英语浩瀚无 涯,即便是英语单词用法大王H.W. Fowler 也不能说已经精通英语,不必再 学。再者说,受过高等教育的美国人,其认知和记忆系统中已有的句子结构 原型也不过250个;普通美国人常用的词汇也不过3,000个。这个事实引发 了我的思考: 如果在"博览"原版材料的同时能确保每天有"一粒果"的收 成,那么很多学生那种"总没有长进"的感觉就会不复存在。切记: A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. 最后需要指出的是,单词的意思只能通过 语境才能展现出来,因此我建议大家:(1)把名词的练习和介词或形容词或 动词联系在一起(如: in consideration of ... / a noble mind / develop a new method), (2) 把某些形容词的练习和句子结构联系在一起(如: to be enthusiastic about... / to be envious of...), (3) 把动词的练习和宾语或搭配 联系在一起(如: consume a lot of time / deprive someone of...), (4) 把短 语或搭配用于短句之中(如:The daily cooking consumes a lot of her time...)。

如果大家能把kind, generous, thoughtful, cautious, selfish, cunning, cruel, vicious, greedy, inhuman 这十个形容词用 It's very + 形容词+ of +someone + to do... 的句式造句, 用来表示自己对周围人的评价, 相信就能从某个侧面体会到我所说的"学一得十"和"精收一粒果"的作用和功效了。

适合人人学习

英语的

本刊首创英语读物难度等级划分,它既有利于读者根据 自己的水平循序渐进地提高英语水平,又有助于学习者把握 自己的英语阅读进度,扩展有关知识。(B) (beginning) 级适 合于掌握近2000单词的高中学生及广大英语学习者。● (intermediate)级适合于拥有3000左右词汇的普通高校的低 年级学生或同等水平的英语学习者。⑥(college)级适合于大 学英语专业一二年级水平, 词汇量在4000至5000上下的学 习者。A (advanced)级为大学英语专业三四年级以上水平, 词汇量超过6000的英语学习者。

北京外国语大学 = 办

承 北京外国语大学英语系 外语教学与研究出版社

主 侯毅凌

龚 雁 李家真 副主编

编辑部主任 陶雪蕾

沈毅丁飞贺丹张微孟颖

封面设计 王 军

王军李 版式设计

编辑委员会(以下按姓氏笔划排列)

申雨平 李朋义 李家真 刘润清 吴 冰 吴古华 陈国华 沈 毅 杜学增 何其莘 金 莉 张 剑 周 燕 郭棲庆 侯毅凌 龚 雁 钟美荪 蒋祖康 楼光庆 蔡剑峰

顾问委员会(以下按姓氏笔划排列)

丁往道 刘承沛 危东亚 陈 琳 张中载 胡文仲 高厚並 冰 熊德輗

本刊编辑部通讯地址:

北京市西三环北路19号 (100089) 外研社大厦 《英语学习》编辑部

电话: (010) 68917570 传真: (010) 68917181 E-mail; ell@fltrp.com

本刊广告部诵讯地址:

北京市丰台区丰管路5号盛鑫嘉园1号楼105室(100071)

电话: (010) 83660083 13601129021

传真: (010) 83660090

发行业务: (010) 68917181 68917749

传真: (010) 68917181

全国各地邮局均可订阅 (邮发代号 2-447) 邮购请汇款至:

北京市西三环北路19号外研社期刊中心 (邮编100089) 汪曼庆 收

我刊部分内容可在以下网址查阅:

http://edu.sina.com.cn/es.html

http://www.beiwaionline.com/englishstudy

本刊如有印裝质量问题,请寄往:北京市西三环北路19号外研社期刊中心(100089)调换, 您将得到5元钱补偿。

CONTENTS

1958年创刊 总第378期 2003年第6期 本期责编:丁飞

the brave new world 缤纷世界/冰尘 编译

4 Wartime Wrecks Could Cause Ecological Disaster (战时沉 船、环境隐患) / Harry Potter Town Is Britain's Best (英国的 最佳居所) / Scotland — Aliens' Favorite Holiday Destination (外星人的度假胜地) / Divorce at Work Is Contagious? (离婚 的传染性) / Fundraiser Could Get You Divorced (奖品: 免费 离婚) / Indiana Jail Is for Sale (拍卖监狱) / Inventor Says No More Tears with Baby-Cry Gadget (一机在手, 不怕儿啼) / Lithuania Has Inmate Beauty Contest (女囚选美) / News for Redheads (红头发的特质)

under the spotlight 聚光灯下

- War Correspondent's Family: 10 a Dispatch from the Home Front 一位战地记者的妻子的心声 / 碧海 选注
- Sars a Personal Perspective 12 住在北京说 Sars / Sue Kay



tales of life 人生广角

- A Have You Heard What They've Saying about Gossip? 话说闲话 / 陶然 选注
- A Father's Heartfelt Words 26 大爱无言 / 越秀 选注

modern times 產登时代

- Are You a Leader? (II) 你是领导者吗?(下) / 水青 选注
- You Just Might Be a Workaholic 50 工作狂症候群 / 志莲 选注

outlook 瞭望台

- At Times Like These, Language Suffers Collateral Damage from Clusters of Euphemisms 战争的副产品: "委婉语" 漫天飞 / 秋叶 评注
- 18 **United Nations** 联合国/国华树春译注

dialogue channel 《对话》频道

Suicide Problem in China 中国自杀现象透析 / 逸云 整理编写

historical account of western economy 西方经济史话

The Iron Horse "铁马"的悲欢/付美榕编译

east-west corridor 东西走廊

《德臣报》(China Mail):中国英文报的寿星/叶向阳

classic prose 经典文选

60 桃花源记 / 东晋 陶渊明 A Tale of the Fountain of the Peach Blossom Spring / 罗经国译

62 Cocksure Women and Hensure Men 自信的女人与温驯的男人 / 王碧 译

corner of literature 文学角

translation workshop 汉玉精雕

44 海上 / 海燕 译注 On the Sea

educating Melissa 女生玛丽莎

◆ Chapter 4: Picking Classes 第四章:选课/张台萍选注

learning English through films 英语电影览胜

34 ● Simone 虚拟索女郎/宋云峰 编写

38 **● 好台词(6)**: from Sabrina / 杜子华 析

popular interests 流行趣味

52 "Still on My Brain" 念念不忘 / 朱艳 译析

● Dress Like Oscar's Celebrity Couples 像奥斯卡明星一样 / 曾谙 选注

speaking of which 非常知识

● Topic: Calories 真相大白卡路里 / 非予 编注

58 《圣经》撷珍(一)/钱峰 吴飞芬

easy readings 轻松读物

74 **③** A Story of the Rainbow 七彩虹的传说 / 玄机 选注

76 **③** Who Am I? 别问我是谁/景明 选注

learning aid 教与学

71 你问我答/何曾楣

72 Look What's Turning Purple **紫色流行,喜忧参半**/李品伟 讲评

practice in writing 习作园



(四川成都市 李福祥)在去年第九期《英语学习》的"编读往来"版块中得知,贵刊经过了国家级的检测评议,获得了2001年度"优秀期刊"的殊荣。作为贵刊的忠实读者,我感到十分高兴,谨致此信表示忠心的祝贺。我以为,这份"优秀期刊"的荣誉,来自你们高度的责任心、深厚的专业功底以及出色的编辑艺术,当然,也得自广大读者对你们的热心支持。

"编读往来"是作为读者与编辑沟通的桥梁和联系的纽 带而设立的。但因为它被安置在比较显眼的目录页的一个并 不太明显的地方,所以有时候性急的读者匆匆浏览目录后就 翻至内文,这样,"编读往来"就被忽略了。但细心的李福 祥老师发现了我们在这一"小小角落"中寥寥数笔的"宣 告",这使我们也和您一样——十分高兴。谢谢您对我们工 作的肯定, 但我们更赞同您后面所说的, 即广大读者对《英 语学习》长期的热心支持和真诚的期待是鞭策和激励我们不 断改进工作的最大动力。因此在这里,《英语学习》的全体 编辑想对所有读者说一声:谢谢。还有一个好消息要告诉大 家:在中国外语教学期刊质量检测中心进行的2002年度期 刊检测中,《英语学习》再一次获得了"优秀"的好成绩,而 且得分比去年还高。这一检测是由治学严谨、德高望重的中 外语言专家亲自审核的,有着严格的评定规则和缜密的操作 程序,因此《英语学习》能够连续两年获此殊荣实属不易。 今后我们将会再接再厉,在选稿、翻译、校对和版式等各个 方面严于律己,争取更上一层楼!

(河北石家庄市 侯雅坤) 我是一名初三的学生,虽然现在学习很紧张,可每一期的《英语学习》我都会认真地读一遍,虽然有许多单词、句子我不太理解,但对照着中文的翻译或注解就能够顺下来了。自从买了第一本《英语学习》(2002年11期),我就要求书摊儿的阿姨帮我把其余的几期都尽量找全。我很喜欢英语,可从没有一本英语杂志有这么大的魅力,这么吸引我。

侯雅坤同学,你好!你的来信显然强调了一个问题:降低杂志的难度,利于读者阅读和学习。相对一些全部中英对译的英语杂志来说,《英语学习》通刊翻译的文章比较有限,因此显得难度稍高。但文章有的翻译、有的加注释和有的纯英文正是本刊的特色,其目的是适合不同层次水平和不同阅读习惯的读者的多种需要,这种做法在更多的读者中间亦得到了认同。但同样对于英语初学者的建议,我们也非常重视。虽然像侯雅坤同学这样的读者们一边看着英文,一边对照中文翻译或注释来试图搞懂文章意思的刻苦态度着实令人敬佩,但显而易见,降低杂志整体难度,与读者的学习需要紧密结合的改革已刻不容缓。今后,我们力求做到:难度大的文章务必要翻译,不做翻译的文章注释一定要够全面;无中文参考的文章仅限制在"习作园"栏目内。

■冰尘 编译

战时沉船,环境隐患 Wartime Wrecks Could Cause Ecological Disaster

hipwrecks from the Second World War could cause catastrophic damage to the environment, scientists have warned. Oil spills from 1,080 ships on the Pacific floor could equate to the damage caused by the Exxon Valdez disaster in 19891. Researchers for the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme believe the greatest dangers are from sunken oil tankers which will continue to corrode. After a typhoon two years ago the USS2 Mississinewa, a fuel tanker sunk by a Japanese human torpedo in 1944, suffered a ruptured hull. The Mississinewa, located at Ulithi Atoll near the Philippines, could still contain millions of litres of oil, as could another tanker, the USS Neosho, which lies near Australia's Great Barrier Reef and was sunk in 1942. Trevor Gilbert, who advised the Programme, told New Scientist magazine: "With every year that passes, these vessels deteriorate more and the risk of significant oil release becomes more likely." Another adviser, Sefania Nawadra, said: "In tropical conditions, oil remains fluid even at depth. For example, the oil on the Mississinewa is as fluid as the day it came out of the refinery." The researchers, yet to receive funding for their work, have produced a map of the wrecks and hope governments will act on their work.



科学家们警告,二战时期的沉船可能对环境造成灾难性的破坏。从太平洋底1080艘沉船中漏出的油对环境的损害可与1989年"埃克森·瓦尔迪兹号"油轮泄漏事件相提并论。南太平洋地区环境项目的研究者们认为,最大的危险来自那些还在继续朽坏的油轮。美国燃油运

输船"密西西尼瓦号"于1944年被一枚日本"人体鱼雷"击沉,两年前的一次台风使它的船体出现了裂缝。"密西西尼瓦号"沉没在菲律宾附近的尤利斯环礁,船上可能还有数百万升油,1942年沉没在澳洲大堡礁附近的另一艘美国油轮"纽硕号"情况与此类似。这一项目顾问特鲁弗·吉尔伯特对《新科学家》杂志说:"这些沉船的状况逐年恶化,发生重大漏油事故的风险也越来越大。"另一位顾问瑟法尼亚·娜瓦德拉说:"在热带气候条件下,即使在深海中油也保持着流动性。举例来说,'密西西尼瓦号'上的油的流动性一如当初它们从炼油厂新鲜出炉之时。"目前还没有人为这些研究者的工作提供资金支持,他们已经制作了一份沉船分布图,并希望有关国家政府据此采取行动。

Remarks:这样的报道总让我觉得我们正走在自我毁灭的道路上——与核武器和生化武器带来的严重生态隐患相比,漏点油也只是小事一桩了。

英国的最佳居所

Harry Potter Town Is Britain's Best

The Dukes of Northumberland have known it for 700 years, but it is now official — the small Northumberland town of Alnwick is the best place to live in Britain. In a survey measuring quality of life, *Country Life* magazine chose Alnwick — home to the Dukes of Northumberland since 1309 — ahead of second-placed Midhurst in West Sussex and Cornwall's Fowey, which tied with Gloucestershire's Tetbury in third place. "It's just a

^{1. 1989}年3月24日,埃克森·瓦尔迪兹号(Exxon Valdez)油轮 搁浅并泄出267,000桶共1,100万加仑的油,油污进入阿拉斯加 威廉王子海峡,对环境造成严重破坏。此次意外是美国有史以来 最严重的漏油事件。

^{2.} USS: 美国船, United States Ship 的缩写。

beautiful place to live in," the 12th Duke of Northumberland said when asked what made the market town, population 8,000, so special. "There's fantastic scenery, good beaches, great fishing and the traffic is not as bad as London." The imposing presence of Alnwick castle — used as Hogwarts wizardry school in the Harry Potter films - also helped secure the town's victory. Despite the northeast's inclement climate — "the town scored no marks for that," said Country Life editor Clive Aslet — Alnwick also beat its southern rivals in its low crime rates, provision of affordable housing and a variety of local shops. "We've got one of the best second-hand bookshops in the country," said the Duke. The survey did not measure economic prosperity. According to Aslet, a mix of beauty and communal spirit was considered more important than income. "It's about quality of life and if you want that, then a high income doesn't matter," he



said. Alnwick is also just a 30minute drive from Newcastle. "If I drive half-an-hour from my London office I'm still stuck in the Edgware Road," said Aslet.

诺森伯兰公爵们在700年前就知道了这件事情,不 过它现在得到了正式认可——诺森伯兰郡的阿尼克小镇 是英国最适宜居住的地方。《田园生活》杂志举办了一次 关于生活质量的调查,将1309年以来历任诺森伯兰公爵 的家乡阿尼克选为英国的最佳居住地点,西萨塞克斯的 米德赫斯特名列第二,并列第三的是康沃尔郡的福伊和 格洛斯特郡的泰特伯里。在被问及是什么使这个8000人 的集镇如此不同凡响时,第12代诺森伯兰公爵说:"它就 是一处美丽的居所。这里有绝佳的风景、美丽的海滩和 上好的钓鱼场所,交通也不像伦敦那样糟糕。"壮丽的阿

尼克城堡——哈利·波特电影中的霍格维茨魔法学校就 是它——也为它的获胜助了一臂之力。尽管阿尼克小镇 所处的东北部气候恶劣——《田园生活》的编辑克里夫· 埃斯莱特说: "它在这上面得了零分。" ——它还是凭借 低犯罪率、相宜的房价以及种类齐全的商铺击败了南方 的对手。公爵说:"全国最好的二手书店有一个就在这 里。"调查没有涉及经济的繁荣程度。根据埃斯莱特的说 法,他们认为美景与公众信念的结合比收入水平更加重 要。他说:"调查着眼干生活质量以及你个人的期望,因 此高收入水平不算什么优势。"阿尼克离纽卡斯尔也只有 半小时的车程。埃斯莱特说:"要是我开车从伦敦的办公 室出发, 半小时后我还堵在埃奇韦尔路上。"

Remarks: 尽管有这样的结果, 相信这个小镇还是可以 保有先前的宁静——毕竟,对很多人来说,繁华与热闹的生 活才是"有质量的生活"。

外星人的度假胜地

Scotland — Aliens' Favorite Holiday Destination

I I ant to see a flying saucer? Then come to Scotland. The country — better known as the home of legendary Loch Ness monster — has the highest concentration of UFO sightings on the planet, according to figures released recently. Around 300 "Unidentified Flying Objects" are spotted in Scotland each year, the most per square kilometer and per head of population of anywhere in the world, figures compiled by Scotland's official tourist body found. VisitScotland said 0.004 UFOs were spotted for every square kilometer of Scotland — a rate four times as high as in France or Italy, this planet's other UFO hotspots. The 2,000 UFOs are spotted every year in the United States represent just 0.0002 sightings per square kilometer. "This confirms that Scotland is the nearest thing there is to the Costa del Sol* for aliens," a VisitScotland spokesman said. The figures' release coincided with what aficionados celebrate as International UFO

day, the anniversary of June 24, 1947. On that date, a U.S. air force pilot claimed to have spotted nine mysterious disc-shaped objects over the Cascade Mountains in Washington, leading to the term "flying saucer."

*Costa del Sol: 太阳海岸, 西班牙南部旅游胜地。

想看飞碟吗?来苏格兰吧。根据最近公布的数字,主要因传奇的尼斯湖怪兽而知名的苏格兰是我们星球上不明飞行物目击率最高的地区。苏格兰官方旅游机构编制的数据显示,在苏格兰每年大约有300宗不明飞行物目击事件,按平方公里或按人口平均的目击率均为全球之冠。"畅游苏格兰"宣称苏格兰的飞碟目击率达到了每

平方公里 0.004起,是另两个飞碟目击热点法国和意大利的4倍。而美国每年的2000 宗飞碟目击事件平均到每平方公里只有 0.0002起。"畅游苏格兰"的发言人说:"这证明了苏格兰最可能是外星人在地球上的度假胜地。"数字公布的这天正好是6月24日,这一天是飞碟迷们的国际飞碟日,



Highland stream in Scotland 苏格兰的高地溪流

是对1947年6月24日的周年纪念。在这一天,一个美国 空军飞行员声称在华盛顿的喀斯喀特山上空看到了9个 神秘的碟形物体,"飞碟"一词由此而生。

Remarks: 读过彭斯 (Robert Burns) 讴歌苏格兰的美妙诗篇,谁会不向往那里优美的高地风情? 何必弄这样的玄虚来倒人胃口呢?

离婚的传染性

Divorce at Work Is Contagious?

The likelihood that you will get divorced increases if several of your colleagues at work break up with their partners, Swedish tabloid *Aftonbladet* reported, quoting a sociological study. "The study shows that divorce is contagious,"

Aftonbladet said. This was more true for men than for women, according to sociologist Yvonne Aberg, who surveyed the marital records of 37,000 people at 1,500 places of work over a seven-year period. A wave of divorces at work can trigger another

wave of separations as those parting companies often find a new partner among their colleagues, the study said.

瑞典小报《今晚报》援引一篇社会学论文说,如果你的同事里有几位和伴侣分道扬镳,那么你自己离婚的可能性也会增大。该报说:"论文显示离婚具有传染性。"按社会学家伊沃尼·阿伯格的看法,这一点对



男人尤其适用。阿伯格在7年里调查了1500个工作场所中3万7千人的婚姻记录。论文指出,一轮办公室离婚浪潮会引发另一轮分居浪潮,因为婚姻解体的人们经常会在同事中寻找新的伴侣。

Remarks: 好像结婚也可以传染的,现代的"爱情"真是相见轻松别更易啊!

奖品: 免费离婚

Fundraiser Could Get You Divorced

A n Australian law firm has offered up a free divorce as a prize in a Red Cross auction to raise funds for victims of the Bali bombings. The divorce is just one of 100 prizes up for the auction to raise funds for the Australian Red Cross which is helping victims of the October 12 blasts on the Indonesian resort island that killed more than 180 people and wounded hundreds. Teena Gilbert, coorganizer of the charity auction at the Tracy Village Social and Sports Club in the northern city of Darwin, said the A\$1,000 (\$560) prize was being donated by a legal practice. "When my assistant first told me I thought, 'Oh God', I wouldn't like

my husband to see me bidding for a divorce," Gilbert told reporters. "We hope to raise a lot of money for Bali. It's a horrific tragedy and it's touched a lot of hearts." Law firm owner Vanessa Farmer told the Australian Broadcasting Corp she did not necessarily expect the highest bidder for the prize to want a divorce. "But I've indicated we're going to honor it," she said.

在红十字会举办的一次旨在为巴厘岛爆炸案受害者筹款的拍卖会上,澳大利亚一家律师事务所提供了一份特别的奖品:一场免费的离婚官司。(2002年)10月12日印尼度假胜地巴厘岛发生爆炸事件,180人死亡,数百人受伤。澳洲红十字会为帮助受害者举办了这次筹款拍卖,拍卖会上有100份奖品,免费离婚只是其中之一。此次慈善拍卖地点在澳洲北部城市达尔文的特蕾西乡村社交及运动俱乐部,组织者之一蒂娜·吉尔伯特称这一价值1000澳元(560美元)的奖品来自一家法律服务机构。"当助手刚告诉我这件事情时,我想:'噢,天啊!'我可不想让丈夫看见我竞买离婚,"吉尔伯特对记者说。"我们想为巴厘岛受害者等一大笔钱。这是场可怕的悲剧,触动了许多人的心。"律师事务所业主瓦内萨·法默尔对澳洲广播公司说,她并不认为出价最高的竞买者就一定希望离婚,"但我已经说了,我们会兑现承诺。"

Remarks: 离婚虽然不是必需品, 先买来备着也好。看看前一篇文章就知道了——就算你不想离, 万一被传染了呢?

拍卖监狱

Indiana Jail Is for Sale

Land plenty of locks on the doors? Porter County may have a deal for you, as county commissioners plan to sell the old Porter County Jail at auction. "A jail is obviously a very unusual real estate offering," said Steven L. Good, chief executive officer of Sheldon Good & Co. Auctions. Sheriff's officers and inmates are moving from the

30-year-old jail in downtown Valparaiso to a new jail, but demolishing the 35,272-square-foot jail could cost as much as \$300,000, county officials said. The minimum bid will be \$25,000, though Good said it was difficult to determine an asking price for the jail because so few are on the market. Paul Galanis, senior project manager at Good, said the four-story, brick-and-concrete building could be redeveloped as an office building or medical center, or the property could be used for a private prison.

想找一个有132个床位、门上有重重大锁、没有任何景色可看的安乐窝吗?波特县也许可以满足你的要求,县议会委员们计划拍卖老旧的波特县监狱。谢尔登·古德拍卖行首席执行官斯蒂文·L·古德说:"显然,监狱是一种非常特别的不动产拍品。"县府官员说,狱政人员和囚犯正准备从位于瓦尔帕莱索(印第安那州西北部城市——译者注)市中心的这座有30年历史的监狱迁往新的监狱,但摧毁这座占地35272平方英尺的监狱却需要花费30万美元巨资。这座监狱的拍卖底价是2万5千美元,尽管古德说给它定出一个合适的底价不太容易,因

为市场上同类拍品实在 是太少。古德拍卖行的 高级项目经理保罗·加 兰尼斯说,这座4层的 砖混建筑可以改建为办 公楼或医疗中心,也可 用作私人监狱。



Remarks: 其实改建成旅馆最好, 因为铁窗风味对喜欢新奇刺激的人们无疑颇具吸引力(北京有一家设计得类似监房的餐馆, 据说也风光了一阵)。

一机在手,不怕儿啼

Inventor Says No More Tears with Baby-Cry Gadget

A Spanish inventor, intrigued by his son's incessant crying, has designed a detector that

he says will tell harassed parents within 20 seconds if their baby is hungry, bored, tired, stressed or uncomfortable. Electronic engineer Pedro Monagas said the gadget called "Why Cry" would soon go on sale at pharmacies in Spain. "I started (studying) the different kinds of cries of my son. Then I continued on 100 babies," Monagas told a local radio station. He said he identified five distinct crying types, which the noise-sensitive gadget is able to recognize. The device, the size of a calculator and powered by batteries, has five faces on a screen on the back representing the possible reasons why a baby is crying. "When the baby cries, it sets off the Why Cry and in 20 seconds the little faces light up," Monagas said. The Catalan inventor, who plans to give a share of any profits to a baby charity, is already working on a more advanced model to "make the family environment a little easier."

儿子不停的哭闹促使一位 西班牙发明家设计了一种哭闹探 测器,据他说,这种装置能在20 秒内告诉穷于应付的父母孩子是 饿了、烦了、累了、紧张了还是 不舒服了。电子工程师佩德罗· 莫纳加斯说,这种名为"哭啥"的 装置很快就会在西班牙的药店里 上市。他对当地一家电台说:"我

从研究儿子的不同哭闹类型着手,然后又对100个婴孩 进行了研究。"莫纳加斯说,他识别出了5种不同的哭闹 类型, 而他发明的这种声敏装置能够分辨它们。这种计 算器大小的装置以电池为能源,背面有一个显示屏。显 示屏上的5张脸代表着可能引起婴儿哭闹的各种原因。莫 纳加斯说:"孩子的哭闹会触发'哭啥',显示屏上的小脸 在20秒之内就会亮起来。"这位加泰罗尼亚发明家打算 将一部分由此获得的利润捐给一家儿童慈善机构,目前 已开始研制更先进的换代产品以便"让家庭气氛轻松一 点"。

Remarks: 我想他的换代产品大概是能根据哭闹的不同 原因自动喂食和哄孩子的装置,这样家庭气氛就可以轻松得 像自动化养鸡场一样了。

女囚选美

Lithuania Has Inmate Beauty Contest

ove over Miss Universe, make room for Miss Captivity, a contest to pick the most attractive female inmate serving jail time in Lithuania. The organizer of the event, television producer Arunas Valinskas, announced that he finalized a deal with the Baltic country's sole female prison and already had accepted applications from 36 contestants. "We'll attempt to find beauty where you might think there is none," he said at a news conference. "The prisoners are, after all, women first and foremost." The prison, the Panevezys Penal Labor Colony, holds more than 1,000 inmates, including convicted murders. It's in the city of Panevezys, some 90 miles north of Vilnius, the capital of this nation. The competition, which organizers said was the first of its kind in Europe, will be shown live on the private LNK TV. Top Lithuanian fashion designers will make the contestants' clothes and local dignitaries would serve as the judges, selecting a winner based on "beauty and elegance," Valinskas said. In addition to what many might see as the dubious honor of being crowned Miss Captivity, the winner and runners-up will qualify for 10,000 litas (\$2,500) in prizes — though they'd only receive them after completing their jail terms. Prison officials said



participating detainees would be excused from working in the penitentiary's sewing factory during the week of the contest.

一边去,环球小姐,给"在押小姐"腾个地方一 立陶宛即将举办比赛以选出最有魅力的在押女犯。赛事 主办者、电视制片人阿朗纳斯·瓦林斯卡宣布他已经同 这个波罗的海国家惟一的女子监狱达成了协议, 并已接 受了36人的参赛申请。"我们想在人们认为美不存在的 地方找到美,"他在记者招待会上说。"不管怎样,这些 囚犯首先是女人。"帕尼维泽斯劳改营位于立陶宛首都维 尔纽斯以北大约90英里的帕尼维泽斯市, 里面关押着包 括谋杀犯在内的1000多名囚犯。主办者称这种比赛在欧 洲还是第一次,私人的LNK电视台将对此进行直播。瓦 林斯卡说, 立陶宛最优秀的时装设计师将为选手们设计 服装, 获胜者由当地名流根据"美丽及优雅"的标准选 出。除去"在押小姐"这一许多人眼里的暧昧荣誉外,获 胜者及亚军还将得到1万里特(2500美元)的奖金— 不过她们要到服刑期满后才能得到这笔钱。监狱官员说, 参赛的女囚在一周的比赛期间可以不到监狱的缝纫厂做 I.

Remarks: 因为她们"首先是女人", 所以应当享有"选美权"与"被选美权"——我们可以这样来理解主办者炒作之外的善意。

红头发的特质 News for Redheads

Redheads may actually have another trait that makes them stand out — sensitivity to pain, specialists reported. People with natural red hair need about 20 percent more anesthesia than people with other hair colors, they told a meeting of anesthesiologists. The unexpected finding not only suggests that redheads are more sensitive to pain, but offers insights into how anesthesia works in people. "Red hair is the first visible human trait, or phenotype, that is linked to anesthetic requirement," Dr. Edwin Liem of the University of Louisville in Kentucky said in a statement. "In a nutshell*, redheads are likely to experience more pain from a given stimulus and therefore require more



Young Redhead in an Evening Dress by Modigliani

意大利画家 莫迪里阿尼 的《穿晚装 的年轻红发 女子》 anesthesia to alleviate that pain." Liem said the finding is important news for specialists who monitor patients during surgery. "The art and science of

anesthesiology is choosing the right dose," he said.
"There is very little difference between the effective dose and the toxic dose of most anesthetics. Patients can awaken during surgery if they are given insufficient anesthesia or suffer cardiac and pulmonary complications when they are given too much." Scientists do not fully understand how anesthesia works, but the findings offers clues, as people with red hair have a certain genetic variant.

* in a nutshell: 简单地说,简而言之。

专家们说, (除去发色以外) 红头发的人也许还有一 个使他们卓然于群的特征——敏锐的痛感。他们在一次 麻醉学专家会议上说, 天然红发的人需要的麻醉剂量要 比其他发色的人多20%。这一意外发现不仅意味着红头 发的人对痛楚更敏感,而且让人们对麻醉剂对人的作用 有了更多的了解。"红发是第一个与麻醉剂量发生关联的 可见人体特性或称显型,"肯塔基州路易斯维尔大学的埃 德温·列姆博士在报告中说。"简单地说,在给定的刺激 条件下, 红头发的人会有更强的痛感, 因此需要更多的 麻醉剂来减轻痛苦。"列姆认为这一发现对负责在手术过 程中监控患者状况的专科医生来说十分重要。"麻醉学的 奥妙在于选择合适的剂量,"他说。"大多数麻醉剂的有 效剂量和中毒剂量之间只有细微的差别。如果剂量不足, 患者会在手术过程中醒来,而过多的麻醉剂会引起心肺 并发症。"科学家们还不完全了解麻醉剂的作用机理,而 这一发现为此提供了线索, 因为红头发的人具有一种特 定的遗传性变型。

Remarks:看来以后麻醉师在手术台上得先问一句:"染过头发没有?"

War Correspondent's Family:

By Amy MacKinnon

■碧海 选注

a Dispatch from



和平环境里的人们在屏幕上看到或在报纸上读到烽火硝烟的战 争场面,为其感慨喟叹、唏嘘不已时,往往想不起在那些录像、 图片和文字的后面,还有一类特殊的人。他们无畏危险与艰难, 主动走向战场, 感受炮火, 记录战争, 这, 就是战地记者。

- 1. war correspondent: 战地记 者; dispatch: (记者等发 往报纸或广播电台的)新 闻报道; home front: (战 时的)后方。
- 2. assignment: 委派,任务。
- 3. 我知道她们问这些问题其 实是暗示说, 比起家庭幸 福, 我的丈夫更关心自己 事业的发展。implication: 含意, 暗示; trajectory: (事物的)发展轨迹,起落。
- 4. 我理解这一点, 因为我自 己有时也会与同样的想法 作斗争。
- 5. reconcile oneself to: 甘心 于,安心于。
- 6. toll: (付出的)代价, (遭 受的) 损失; take a(或 its) toll: 造成损失 (或危害 等)。

y husband is on the front lines in Iraq. Not as a soldier, but as a reporter.

When I told my friends about his latest assignment2, each had the same reaction, "Did you tell him no? If he was my husband, I wouldn't let him go."

They remind me, as if I'd somehow forgotten, that he has left behind our three young children for weeks, perhaps months. Maybe, they whisper, forever. He'll be risking his life, they say, only for some news.

Is it worth it?

I understand the implication behind the question, that my husband is more concerned with the trajectory of his career than the welfare of his family.3 I understand the pity they feel for me because of the burden suddenly heaped on my shoulders to be a somewhat single mother to three children — 9, 7, and 5. I understand

because I've sometimes wrestled with the same thoughts.4

During the past several weeks, there have been moments I've found myself lying awake in the bleak hours before dawn, trying to reconcile myself to5 the belief that his professional goals as a journalist are compatible with our goals for our family. In those dark moments, only the glow of the computer screen alerting me to an e-mail from him chased away the shadows of doubt.

As difficult as this uncertain time apart has been for us, the toll6 it's taken on my children has been immeasurable.

My 5-year-old daughter devised a schedule to determine which of the children would keep me company in my empty bed at night. Whether it was her turn or not, I can usually wake to find her huddled against me. My 7-year-old son has many

the Home Front

-位战地记者的

妻子的心声

questions about the war and weapons. Though I've never allowed my children to watch the evening news, National Public Radio⁷ has been my constant companion, and his ears prick up at any mention of the war8, and he queries me about "when will Dad go home..." Most troubling of all, my 9-year-old daughter has said nothing. She has asked no questions, shed no tears, and she merely glances at the photo of her father prominently displayed on the page next to his articles each morning. And all three are probably the only kids at their schools who can find Iraq on a map.

Now that war has interrupted the flow of our e-mail, my only contact with my husband is via his articles in the Boston Herald9, a newspaper he has served for a decade. In an odd way, those articles written for thousands provide a more intimate

> connection to my husband than the e-mails he wrote

to me. I think it's

because, from a distance, it's somehow easier for him to reveal himself to

strangers than to the woman who aches for him.

In the end, when friends ask, "Is it worth it?" I can answer yes. He, like other reporters from other countries, is presenting us with the truth.

Each time we turn on our radios, click on our televisions, flip open our newspapers, we overlook the risks reporters take to bring us the news. We forget that a camera and tape recorder do not defend against bullets and land mines10. Perhaps it never occurred to us, as we watched how the battle was going on, that someone staved behind to film it.

It has often been said that journalists write the first drafts of history. In one of our last correspondences, I told him about my friends' comments. He responded with his usual eloquence11, "I'm not here to fight the war, just to report on the fighting."

So when my friends ask, I tell them it wasn't a matter of letting him go or making him stay. My husband just does what his career asks him to

- 7. National Public Radio: 即 NPR, 全国公共广播网。
- 8. 他一听 (广播中) 提到战 争, 耳朵就竖起来。
- 9. Boston Herald:《波士顿先 驱报》,美国具有一定影响 的报纸之一。
- 10. land mine: 地雷。
- 11. eloquence: 雄辩, 流利的 口才。



E在北京说 Sars

By Sue Kay ■飞渡 注

— a Personal Perspective

It has often been said that a little knowledge can be dangerous and so it would seem in relation to Sars. We have been told that there is a new disease which can be spread by contact with an affected person and which is responsible for 200 plus deaths worldwide.

This news has sent a wave of panic² through the world which to me seems way³ out of proportion. After all more people than that die on the roads every day, (how many in Beijing each day, I wonder) but no one suggests we return to horse drawn transport.

Now that the WHO is involved, we should assume that doctors all over the world are pooling⁴ their resources and knowledge to find a cure and prevention. As Sars is a new form of virus, I understand that it will probably mutate and as it does so it is likely to become weaker. Also, so far as we know, anyone unfortunate enough to catch the disease has a very much higher chance of recovery than not. So what is all the panic about?

Well I suppose the qualifying phrases in the above paragraph are a clue. When people don't really know, they tend to assume the worst. People worry and panic because they know that the hospitals are not likely to be able to cope with a mass influx of highly infectious patients yet they don't know how to save themselves or what to do should they become infected. More information is essential.

Worried people don't always behave rationally, as we found in Britain when mad cow disease appeared. The information has to be effective,

- 1. Sars;即Serious Acute Respiratory Syndrome,严重急性呼吸道综合 症(俗称"非典型肺炎"),由世 界卫生组织(WHO)于今年3月 15日正式定名。
- 2. panic: 惊慌, 恐慌。
- 3. way: <口>非常, 远远地。
- 4. pool: 把 集中一起用, 共用。

possible to do and very clear in order to be useful but — and it is a big but — people have to think rationally and respond sensibly to what they are told. Young children are often not given all the facts because they are unable to put it into context. If governments come clean⁵ and tell us all the information, then I believe adult people have both an individual and collective responsibility to make sensible decisions.

5. come clean: 说实话, 和盘托出。

One such decision could be to improve levels of hygiene. By doing so, we can reduce the spread and likelihood of infection from any disease.

6. whilst: =while.

Whilst⁶ spitting in the wide open spaces of a field or even a sports ground is unlikely to cause any problem, in confined urban areas it will spread germs. To many people spitting is a disgusting habit which is extremely offensive when it happens as well as when one comes across a patch of spit on pavements, in public toilets, shops and even classrooms. I actually saw someone the other day remove his mask in order to spit!

More alarming is the lack of use of handkerchiefs when sneezing or coughing. I know that a clean handkerchief is not part of a typical Asian's pocket contents, but it does seem that the use of tissues when coughing or sneezing could and should be made part of their behaviour. In order for the use of tissues to be effective, it would, of course, mean that the tissues must be disposed of safely by the user and not left lying about7 for other people to clean up.

7. lie about: 到处乱扔乱放。

Washing hands with soap and warm water before meals, after handling money and especially after using the toilet is part of everyday behaviour in all developed countries and is again especially important in towns and cities where people share many facilities. If the person who leaves the toilet before you with unwashed hands presses the door open on the same spot as you do, then you are likely to be infected with their germs.

Of course clean hands require that washrooms be fitted with soap dispensers8 and subsequently kept filled. Sadly, it seems that in China providing and replacing pot plants9 is more important than soap.

8. soap dispenser: 肥皂液机。

9. pot plant: 盆栽植物。

Just as rational behaviour on the roads (in the form of obeying the rules of the road), as well as consideration for others will reduce the likelihood of accidents, so rational behaviour (in the form of improved hygiene and consideration for others), as well as clear thinking about the realities of the situation will reduce the likelihood of infection from Sars.



Sue Kay is a former member of the Association of Speakers Clubs in Britain. She has lived in Beijing for 5 years and teaches English at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

°At Times Like These,

Language Suffers Collateral Damage from

Clusters of Euphemisms

By Philip Howard ■秋叶 评注

anguage also is a victim of war. It suffers collateral damage. Both "casualty" (any chance occurrence) and "collateral damage4" are modern euphemisms. War is a rearranger of language as well as of cities and bodies. That "rearrange" is a euphemism. It is unsurprising that an event as wild with "shock and awe5" should create euphemisms. We try to create a linguistic bath spa, where evil is dispelled⁶ by a dip in the waters of euphemism. Jargon7 clouds the truth and sedates8 the imagination. Its value is notorious in totalitarian9 countries, where the dictator tries to make murder and aggression

respectable by calling them "liquidation" and "liberation".

On the one hand, in the sandstorm of war, the poor bloody infantry (and pilots) need unmistakable orders to direct them precisely on to their correct targets. This is now done more accurately by computers and other high-tech kit12 than by subalterns¹³ directing their men's attention to bushy-top trees and churches with spires (not many in the desert), or galloping dispatch riders14 sending the Light Brigade to ride down the Valley of Death. On the other hand, governments need euphemism and sinewstiffening15 spin to persuade their

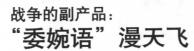
people to put up with the waste of war.

The first shot of this war was fired at "a target of opportunity16", believed by the CIA to be President Saddam Hussein and his sons in a bunker. This new jargon stands an old euphemism on its head. A target of opportunity originally meant random bombing. It was the common instruction to bomber crews in the Second World War who might fail to reach their assigned targets, but had to jettison¹⁷ their loads in order to get home and land with safety. For example, Len Deighton, Goodbye Mickey Mouse: "They

- 1. collateral: 附带的, 伴随的。
- 2. cluster: 串, 束, 簇。
- 3. euphemism:委婉说法。
- 4. collateral damage: 附带的损伤,此处为 "平民伤亡"的委婉说法。
- 5. "shock and awe": "震慑", 美军对巴格达 进行的最大规模轰炸的军事行动的名称。
- 6. dispel: 驱散。

- 7. jargon: (同一职业集团或社会集团所使用 因而在一般外人听来晦涩难懂的)行话, 黑话。
- 8. sedate: 使……镇静。
- 9. totalitarian:极权主义的。
- 10. liquidation: 清洗。
- 11. infantry: 步兵 (部队)。
- 12. kit: [军](士兵武器以外的) 装备。
- 13. subaltern: <英>陆军中尉。

- 14. galloping dispatch riders: 快马飞驰的通讯 员。
- 15. sinew-stiffening: 鼓舞士气的,加强力量的。
- 16."a target of opportunity": 美英联军在此次 对伊拉克的作战中所谓的针对伊拉克高层 的打击目标。
- 17. jettison: (故意不按指定目标) 扔下 (炸弹) 等。



bombed 'targets of opportunity' ... shutting your eyes, toggling18 the bombload, gaining height, and getting the hell out." You dropped your bombs at the first opportunity, irrespective of where they landed. The phrase's new meaning is directly to target a tantalising19 opportunity that has arisen unexpectedly. Go get Saddam and his sons skulking20 in the southern suburbs of Baghdad. "Decapitate21" the regime.

Nicknames for deadly weapons and WMDs (weapons of mass destruction) make them sound less terrible. Cruise, Scud, Tiny Tim, Honest John,

- 18. toggle: 用拨动式开关从飞机上投(炸弹)。
- 19. tantalising:逗引的,惹弄的。
- 20. skulk: 躲藏, 隐伏。
- 21. decapitate: 将……斩首。
- 22. Scud: 飞毛腿导弹; Tiny Tim: "小不点" 导弹: Honest John: 一种地对地战术火箭; Bloodhound: "大猎犬"导弹; Hound-dog: "猎狗"导弹; Davy Crockett: 一种导弹名; Exocet: 飞鱼导弹。
- 23. bunker-buster:一种专门打击地堡的巨型 炸弹。

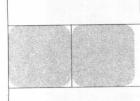
Bloodhound, Hound-dog, Davy Crockett, Exocet (French for flying-fish)22. In the modern wars of words, explicit names can be used to terrify: bunker-buster²³, microwave bomb, Tomahawk cruise missile24. Or to make sinister acronyms: Moab (massive ordnance air blast bomb)25. "Moab is my washpot: over Edom26 will I cast out my Scud." There is a taboo on naming nuclear weapons rather than high explosives. Nancy Mitford: "The French say they will soon have a Bomb." The euphemisms for nuclear weapons are the "ultimate deterrent27", or, as the French put it, "l'agent de dissuasion".

- 24. Tomahawk cruise missile: 战斧式巡航导弹。
- 25. Moab: 首字母缩写词, 指重型空爆炸弹; ordnance: 火炮。Moab又与《圣经·创世 记》中Lot之子摩押的名字相同。
- 26. Edom: 以东,《圣经》中雅各之兄;同时 又是位于死海之南的一个古代王国的名 称。政治家惯用一些牵强附会的典故来掩 盖战争的残酷或非正义性。
- 27. deterrent: 威慑。
- 28. Doodlebug: 嗡嗡弹, 指德国在第二次世 界大战中使用的"V"型飞弹。

Londoners euphemised the German flying bombs by ridiculing them as Doodlebugs28. Panorama, on BBC television, revived the old euphemism by nicknaming the cruise missile as "the Doomsday Doodlebug"29. Such a weapon, it was stated, has ten times the power of devastation as that of the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima. It can travel thousands of miles with remarkable accuracy. And it can be mass-produced. An American contributor, asked what effect such a weapon would have if dropped on London, won the rhubarb garland30 for euphemism: "It would ruin someone's day."

- 29. the Doomsday Doodlebug: 末日嗡嗡弹。
- 30. rhubarb garland: 由大黄制作的花环(指 价值不高的荣誉)。





31. canvass for votes: 拉选票。

32. noxious: 有害的。

33. surgical strikes: [军] 外科手术式打击(指迅速而准确的袭击,尤指空袭)。

34. bite the dust: "(战斗中) 受伤倒下或死亡"的委婉说法。

35. Briton: 布立吞人, (古代不列颠岛南部的凯尔特居民); task force: [军] 特遺部队, 特混舰队。公元84年,入侵不列颠的罗马人与当地的凯尔特人之间爆发了 Mons Graupius战役,当时的凯尔特人领袖Calgacus在战前说了这番话。这部分史实在古罗马历史学家塔西佗所著《历史》中有所记载。

36. Eumenides:[希神] 欧墨尼得斯, 即复仇三女神。

37. grim spirits: 阴森的鬼神。

38. Punch 'n' jab: 用拳猛击,这里指 用重武器猛烈打击。

39. It behoves us: 我们有必要(应当)。

40. cluster bomb: 榴霰弹, 子母弹。

"Traction" is the euphemism for canvassing for votes³¹ at the UN, among the U6 (undecided six) or the P5 (permanent five) members of the Security Council. An agent can be a taboo subject. Chemical warfare agent is a noxious³² poison. Surgical strikes³³ can be far from precise. To take out a city is to blast it to destruction. To retreat is "to retire to prepared positions".

Euphemism is as old as war. Homer's dying heroes bite the dust³⁴. The leader of the Britons against the task force of invading Romans said: "They create a desert and call it peace."³⁵ Euphemism, from the Greek, means "speaking politely". Examples are the Euxine, "friendly to voyagers" (ie, dangerous), and the Eumenides³⁶, "the kindly ones", a name which might please those grim spirits³⁷, imagined as winged-like bats and with snaky hair, and even pacify them. We create euphemisms to substitute a descriptive adjective for the name of something too alarming to be mentioned. Our ancestors were so frightened that they refused to utter the real name of the bear, and called him "the brown one" — German Bär and English bear.

"Punch 'n' jab³⁸" is the latest jargon of the war of words. It behoves us³⁹ to listen carefully to the cluster bombs⁴⁰ of language that explode around us. Behove is a very rare beast. Some say that it is extinct. ■



How can I help a

阅读感评

"9.11" 后美国军方用得最多的词是 "Anti-terrorism" 和 "pre-emptive strikes"。 Pre-emptive strike(先发制人的攻击) 给人的印象是,必须先攻击敌方以便制止其进攻,因此在道义上是无可厚非的,于是澳大利亚也随声附和,引来东南亚国家的一片抗议。最近,美国已经决定建立所谓的 "Pre-emptive strikes Brigade",扬言要在恐怖主义分子发动袭击前就把他们消灭。但人们注意到,"恐怖主义"已逐渐与"民族解放"混为一谈, "pre-emptive strikes"的目标已转向了 "消除异己"。看来,美国军界的 "euphemism" 充满着 "猫腻"。

3月20日美国向伊拉克开战那天,美国五角大楼(Pentagon)发言人说"We attacked a target of opportunity"。我注意到,当时 CNN 的主持人迷惑不解,马上连线请教其驻美国国防部的记者,几番询问后,才搞清"a target of opportunity"原来是"a target of the Iraqi leadership"的意思,即中国的古话,"擒贼先擒王"。在此次美伊冲突中,类似话语可谓漫天飞。当然,它们主要出自咄咄逼人的进攻一方——美方。现举例说明:

Clusters of Euphemisms anguage Suffers Collateral Damage Times Like These

美国总统布什在开战前承认未找到萨达姆的 "smoking gun", 指掌握确凿的证据, 即找到伊拉 克窝藏大规模杀伤性武器的确切地点; "smoke them out", "把敌人从洞里熏出来", 其实是要把 敌人炸死在地堡里; "ship of mercy", 指停泊在 海湾周边海域、用作战地医院的船只; "traction", "拉选票", 20世纪初开始的美国"金元外交"又 一次开足马力,但此次在联合国却碰了一鼻子灰, 没"买"到以联合国的名义向伊拉克开战的"许可 证": "moment of truth", "动真格的时刻", 即向 伊拉克动武的时候到了; "phasing out the roadmap of middle-east peace process", "制订中东地区和 平路线图",美国人在攻打伊拉克之前为了安抚阿 拉伯世界,就抛出了和平的诱饵(但美国人对中东 的和平许诺似乎从未兑现过),此类伎俩恰如 President Wilson动员美国人民参加一战时宣称的 "fighting a war to end all wars", 同时也应验了一 位法国外交家所言,谁把"和平"两字喊得震天响, 谁就很可能在准备战争; "Iraqi Freedom", 这是本 次美英联军对伊行动的代号(上次为Desert Storm);一次明目张胆赤裸裸的入侵(aggression) 居然像得到了伊拉克人的邀请, 硬把"occupation" 偷换成 "liberation", 看来布什的演讲撰稿人这几 个月会频频加薪; "friendly fire", 指自己人或友 军之间的误伤 (来自伊拉克的火力叫 "hostile fire"),两次海湾战争中,美国的主要盟友英国可 谓倒霉透顶,飞机、装甲车屡屡被美军击中,先后 总共"壮志未酬身先死"了的有好几十名; "pocket of resistance", "零星抵抗", 在战争报道中很有意 思,中国官方新闻报道说有激烈战斗的地方,美军 发言人一般称为"零星抵抗",不知是我们喜用 "overstatement", 还是美国人也学会英国绅士惯 用的 "understatement" 了; "collateral damage", "附带的损伤",即 "civilian casualties",其实,在 战争中平民的伤亡并不只是"附带的损伤",常常 是入侵方予以故意攻击意在造成敌国民众"shock and awe"的心理战, 当然这往往"死无对证", 最

终只有战胜一方才有资格设军事法庭判战败方为

"war criminals" 或 "criminals of anti-humanity",

"胜者为王,败者为寇"亘古未变; "action of

decapitation", "斩首行动", 指大规模轰炸伊拉克 的政府机构,以推翻其政府、扶持自己的傀儡-

其实这才是美国此次军事进攻的首要目的。

当然,一次既没有合法性又不人道的侵略 被堂而皇之地冠以"liberation"的名义,就不 是"委婉"二字可以涵盖的了。现在(写作本 文正值四月中旬)战争已进入尾声,伊拉克重 建即将开始,类似的所谓 "euphemism" (有时 是 "jargon") 肯定还会源源不断地继续被制造 出来。

其实,以上的表达法是各种语言里很常用 的辞格。有一本关于写作的书说它是"the substitution of a mild or vague expression for a harsh or unpleasant one"。英国作家 John Galsworthy 有一句很精辟的话, "In private I should merely call him a liar. In the Press you should use the words: 'Reckless disregard for truth' and in Parliament - that you regret he 'should have been so misinformed' ... " 其实, 不管是"不顾事实真相"还是"消息错误到令 人深感遗憾",都逃不脱这个人在撒谎的事实! 十七世纪法国沙龙那些贵夫人的"优雅语言" 也是这样拐弯抹角、不敢正视现实的。如她们 认为直说"眼睛"、"拿扇子来"、"裤子"太粗 俗,非要改口称它们为"心灵的镜子"、"把我 的和风拿来"、"服装的较低部分"。莫里哀在 《可笑的女才子》这出戏里对此有辛辣的讽刺。

同样那本关于写作的书还根据讲话人的身 份将euphemism予以分类,并给出了价值判断: "It is obvious that those euphemisms used by the ordinary people are meant to soften harsh reality, but those used by politicians may aim at deceiving the public"。如对照本次战争,显然此言极是! 一个拥有世界上绝大多数 WMD (大规模杀伤 性武器)的国家,因为一个他看不顺眼的人家 里备有几把卷了刃的菜刀,就一意孤行非要打 一场 "shock and awe"的战争, 还要让其国人 以及世人"有人的出人,有钱的出钱",高奏凯 歌为其壮行, 他除了厚着脸皮用大量的 "euphemism" 来 "clouds the truth and sedates the imagination"外,确实少有其他的招数了。 至于本次战争是丰富了英语语言还是糟蹋了她, 社会语言学家自然会有自己的判断。■