



英汉 修辞格比较

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一、Simile与明喻

Simile (明喻)一词来源于拉丁语Similis词, 其意为like。这是一种简单常用的修辞手法。它往往以两种不同的人或事物作比较, 明白地说出本体(subject或tenor)和喻体(reference或vehicle)两者之间在某一方面(形状外表、性质精神、心情性格、状态气质、动作方式、程度效果等)有相似之处。主要用比喻词语(indicator of resemblance)as, like, seem, as if, as though, such as 等来表示被比喻和比喻的相类关系。这种修辞手法鲜明生动, 感情强烈。比喻词语引出的为词组或句子, 多用作表语、状语, 亦可用作定语、宾语、补语或从句。明喻用得甚广, 以Shakespeare的Hamlet为例, 即有60处左右。明喻大致可分六类。

一、在形状外表方面相似。例如:

The irregular houses were like the broken exteriors of cliffs lining deep gulches and winding streams.

(O. Henry)

那些参差不齐的房屋好象起伏不平的悬崖峭壁, 排列在深沟峡谷和迂回曲折的河流旁。(欧·亨利)

例中的like-phrase用作表语。又如:

...he moved no more, unless to feed the furnace, but remained motionless as a statue (Ch. Dickens,

The Old Curiosity Shop)

……除了加煤，他不再动一动，好象雕像似地静止在那里。
(查·狄更斯：《古玩店》)

Out of the sleeves came strong bony wrists and hands
gnarled and knotted and hard as peach branches.

(J. Steinbeck, *The Red Pony*)

从袖子里伸出一双瘦骨嶙嶙的大手，象桃树枝一样，瘤节盘错，坚硬粗壮。
(约·斯坦培克：《红马驹》)

例中的as-phrase用作状语，这种比喻形象具体，寓意鲜明。再如：

Edgar ...How Wonderful

And dizzy'tis to cast one's eyes so low! ...

The fishermen that walk upon the beach

Appear like mice, ...

(Shakespeare, *King Lear*)

爱德伽……把眼睛一直望到这么低的地方，真是惊心眩目！……在海滩上走路的渔夫就像老鼠一样，……
(莎士比亚：《李尔王》)

It (the gate of the building) ...seemed to be the
entrance to a vast hive of six or seven floors.

(Th. Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*)

它(这种楼房的大门)……看起来就象一个有六、七层高的
巨大蜂巢的入口。
(西·德莱塞：《嘉莉妹妹》)

在汉语中，明喻也是一种本体、喻体和比喻词语(象、如、若、好比、如同、仿佛、一般、似、宛如等)都出现的修辞格式。例如：

那航船，就象一条大白鱼背着一群孩子在浪花里窜，连夜渔的几个老渔夫，也停了艇子，喝起采来。（鲁迅：《社戏》）

The ferry-boat seemed like a great white fish carrying a freight of children through the foam. Some of old fishermen who fished all night stopped their punts to cheer at the sight. (Lu Xun, *Village Opera*)

回乐峰前沙似雪，受降城外月如霜。不知何处吹芦管，一夜征人尽望乡。（李益：《夜上受降城闻笛》）

The sand below the border-mountain lies like snow
And the moon like frost beyond the city-wall,
And someone somewhere playing a flute,
Has made the soldiers homesick all night long.
(Li Yi, *On Hearing a Flute at Night*)

青梅如豆柳如眉，日长蝴蝶飞。（欧阳修：《阮郎归》）

Green plums have become as large as peas
Curved like women's brows are willow trees.
The days are longer; the weather, fair.
Butterflies are flying, here and there.

(Ouyang Xiu, *Ruanlanggui*)

……面若中秋之月，色如春晓之花，鬓若刀裁，眉如墨画，鼻若悬胆，睛若秋波，……

（曹雪芹：《红楼梦》第三回。简作红3，下同）

His face was as radiant as the mid-autumn moon,
his complexion fresh as spring flowers at dawn. The hair

above his temples was as sharply outlined as if cut with a knife. His eyebrows were as black as if painted with ink, his cheeks as red as peachblossom, his eyes as bright as autumn ripples.

(Cao Xueqin, *A Dream of Red Mansions*, Chapter 3)

作者一连用了六个明喻来描写贾宝玉的英俊外表，使读者有“如见其人”之感。再如：

我吃了一吓，赶忙抬起头，却见一个凸颧骨，薄嘴唇，五十岁上下的女人站在我面前，两手搭在髀间，没有系裙，张着两脚，正象一个画圈仪器里细脚伶仃的圆规。（鲁迅：《故乡》）

I looked up with a start, and saw a woman of about fifty with prominent cheekbones and thin lips standing in front of me, her hands on her hips, not wearing a skirt but with trousered legs apart, just like the compass in a box of geometrical instruments. (Lu Xun, *My Old Home*)

二、在性质精神方面相似。例如：

Fool Shalt see thy other daughter will use thee kindly, for though she's as like this as a crab is like an apple, yet I can tell what I can tell.

Lear What canst tell, boy?

Fool She will taste as like this as a crab does to a crab.

(Shakespeare, *King Lear*)

弄人 你到了你那另外一个女儿的地方，就可以知道她会待你多么好，因为虽然她跟这一个就像野苹果跟家苹果一样相像，可是我可以告诉你我所知道的事情。

李尔 你可以告诉我什么，孩子？

弄人 你一尝到她的滋味，就会知道她跟这一个完全相同，正像两只野苹果一般没有分别。 (莎士比亚：
《李尔王》)

李尔王不信宅心仁厚的幼女考狄利娅 (Cordelia) 的诚实言词，而轻信狡猾奸诈的长女高纳里尔 (Goneril) 和次女里根 (Regan) 的花言巧语，无保留地把土地平分给长女和次女。李尔王在受到高纳里尔的虐待后，又寄希望于里根。弄人深知两姊妹是一丘之貉，故有此一比。又如：

Polonius ...For Lord Hamlet...Ophelia,
Do not believe his vows, for they are brokers,
Not of that dye which their investments show,
But mere implorators of unholy suits,
Breathing like sanctified and pious bawds,
The better to beguile. ...

(Shakespeare, *Hamlet*)

波洛涅斯 ……对于哈姆莱特殿下……奥菲利娅，不要相信他的盟誓，它们不过是淫媒，内心的颜色和服装完全不一样，只晓得诱人干一些龌龊的勾当，正像道貌岸然大放厥辞的母猪，只求达到骗人的目的。…… (莎士比亚：《哈姆莱特》)

哈姆莱特爱上了御前大臣波洛涅斯的女儿奥菲利娅，波洛

涅斯告诫其女不要轻信哈姆莱特的盟誓，并严禁其与之交往。
又如：

Hamlet My fate cries out,
And makes each petty artery in this body
As hardy as the Nemean lion's nerve.

[Ghost beckons] (Ibid)

哈姆莱特 我的命运在高声呼喊，使我全身每一根
微细的血管都变得像怒狮的筋骨一样坚硬。 (鬼魂招手)
(同上)

例中的 as-phrase 作补语用。

Duke Senior...

Sweet are the uses of adversity,
Which like the toad, ugly and venomous,
Wears yet a precious jewel in his head; ...

(Shakespeare, *As You Like It*)

公爵 逆运也有它的好处，就像丑陋而有毒的蟾
蜍，它的头上却顶着一颗珍贵的宝石。 (莎士比亚：
《皆大欢喜》)

试与汉语作一比较。例如：

柔情似水，佳期如梦，忍顾鹊桥归路。两情若是久长时，
又岂在朝朝暮暮。 (秦观：《鹊桥仙》)

Their love is constant, as water is, in its flow.
Their lover's meeting is short, as sweet dreams go.
How she bears the sight of Magpie Bridge without a
tear,
Which marks their separation for another year!

Since their affection is something that endure.

Must they bill and coo as daily renewer?

(Qin Guan, *Queqiaoxian*) 又如;

山桃红花满上头, 蜀江春水拍山流。花红易衰似郎意, 水流无限似依愁。
(刘禹锡: 《竹枝词》)

Pink flowers over the hills, with beauty, glow;

Sichuan waters in spring, through gorges, flow.

Like those flowers, your love blossoms and withers fast.

Like water flowing on, grief will ever last.

(Liu Yuxi, *Zhuzhici*)

这首诗以鲜明的对比写男子的薄幸和女子的多情。当初郎给姑娘簪插满头的山桃花, 可不久就厌弃了她, 正如红花朝荣夕衰, 转瞬即逝, 而女子(依)的愁绪, 似江水长流不断, 缠绵无限。诗中比喻贴切鲜明, 韵味不尽。

三、在心情性格方面相似。例如:

Kent Who's here, beside foul weather?

Gentleman One minded like the weather, most
unquietly. (Shakespeare, *King Lear*)

肯特 除了恶劣的天气以外, 还有谁在这儿?

侍臣 一个心绪像这天气一样不安静的人。

(莎士比亚: 《李尔王》)

Though it was his first great venture, he was now
as cool as a cucumber.

(Dreiser, *The Financier*)

虽然这是他第一次的大冒险事业，但是他却非常冷静。

(德莱塞：《金融家》)

I grew by degrees cold as a stone, and then my courage sank. (Ch. Bronte, *Jane Eyre*)

我渐渐冷得像石头一样，于是我的勇气消沉了。

(夏·勃朗特：《简·爱》)

Beautiful and childlike was he,
Brave as man is, soft as woman,
Pliant as a wand of willow,
Stately as a deer with antlers.

(H. Longfellow, *The Song of Hiawatha*)

他秀美，且有赤子之心，

有男子的勇敢，女子的柔和，

象杨柳枝一样柔韧，

象有茸的鹿一样庄严。

(朗费罗：《哈依瓦莎之歌》)

A temper as mild as milk... (Hardy, *Far from the Madding Crowd*)

温和得象牛奶般的脾气…。 (哈代：《远离尘嚣》)

例中的as-phrase用作定语。

试与汉语作一比较。例如：

贾母听说，便答道：“我的儿(宝钗)！我如今老了，那里还巧什么？当日我象凤丫头这么大年纪，比他还来得呢？他如今虽说不如我，也就算好了，——比你姨娘(王夫人)强远了！你姨娘可怜见的，不大说话，和木头似的，公婆跟前就不

献好儿。凤儿嘴乖，怎么怨得人疼他。”（红35）

“I'm old and slow-witted now, child,” said the Lady Dowager. “But at Xifeng's age I outshone her. Still, even if she's not up to me she's way ahead of your aunt. Your aunt, poor thing, has no more to say than a block of wood and can't show herself to advantage to her elders. They can't help liking Xifeng for her clever tongue.”

四、在状态气质方面相似。例如：

The rush of the water, and the booming of the mill, bring a dreamy deafness, which seems to heighten the peacefulness of the scene. They are like a great curtain of sound, shutting one out from the world beyond.

(George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*)

水的激流声，磨坊的轰隆声，给人带来了一种迷迷茫茫的耳聋的感觉，更替这景色增加了恬静的气氛，就好象一幅用声浪组成的大帷幔，把人跟外面的世界隔离开来。（乔治·爱略特：《弗洛斯河上的磨坊》）

In the morning the dust hung like fog, and the sun was as red as ripe new blood. (J. Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*)

早上尘埃象雾一般笼罩着，太阳红得象浓厚的鲜血。

（斯坦培克：《愤怒的葡萄》）

汉语中也有这种表示状态的明喻，例如：

平林漠漠烟如织，寒山一带伤心碧。暝色入高楼，有人楼上愁。（李白：《菩萨蛮》）

The distant woods look like fabric, covered with
haze.

Hills and hills of a sombre green meet my gaze.
Nightfall has thrust into an upper room,
Where someone falls into anguish and Gloom.

(Li Bai, *Pusaman*)

闺中思妇登楼望远，平林如烟，暮烟浓密，寒山如带，不
见良人。又如：

She is like a narcissus trembling in the wind.

(O. Wilde)

她就象一株在风中摇曳的水仙花。 (奥·王尔
德)

O my Luve's like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June;
O my Luve's like the melodie,
That's sweetly play'd in tune.

(Robert Burns, *A Red, Red Rose*)

啊，我爱人象一朵红红的玫瑰，
它在六月里初开，
啊，我爱人象一支乐曲，
它美妙地演奏起来。

(罗伯特·彭斯：《一朵红红的玫瑰》)

这首抒情诗充分表现了作者对自己心上人的真情实感和深
情厚意，汉语中也有用花草树木来比喻人的。例如：

大太太一个侄女儿，宝姑娘一个妹妹，大奶奶两个妹妹，
象一把子四根水葱儿。 (红 49)

Lady Xing's niece, Miss Baochai's cousin and Madam Zhu's two cousins are as pretty as four fresh shallots, they really are.

邢夫人的侄女邢岫烟，薛宝钗的堂妹薛宝琴，贾珠之妻李纨的两个堂妹李纹、李绮，四人全都年轻美丽，明艳清新。

五、在动作方式方面相似。例如：

Rise, like lions after slumber,
In unvanquishable number,
Shake your chains to earth like dew,
Which in sleep had fall'n on you—
Ye are many—they are few.

(Shelley, *The Masque of Anarchy*)

象睡醒的群狮一样站起来吧，
你们的人数多得不可征服，
快摆脱你们的锁链，
象抖掉沉睡时落在身上的霜露：
你们是多数，他们是少数。

(雪莱：《给英国人民的歌》)

This made him roar like a thousand bulls.

(George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*)

这使得他象千牛怒吼般地咆哮起来。

(乔治·爱略特：《弗洛斯河上的磨坊》)

In the stock-exchange deals he had been as quick as
a flash at times.

(Dreiser, *The Financier*)

他有时候快如闪电般地处理着证券交易所的买卖。

(德莱塞:《金融家》)

She had no sooner done this, than off she was again, and there she stood once more, as brisk and busy as a bee... (Ch. Dickens, *Martin Chuzzlewit*)

刚把这桩事办完,就又跑开了;你瞧,她还就又在那儿站着,跟蜜蜂儿一样活泼,一样忙碌,…… (狄更斯:《马丁·瞿述伟》)

汉语中也有相同的表示动作方式的明喻。例如:

凤姐款步入会芳园中登仙阁灵前,一见棺材,那眼泪恰似断线之珠,滚将下来。 (红14)

Xifeng walked slowly through the Garden of Concentrated Fragrance to the Pavilion of Attained Immortality, where at the sight of the coffin, her tears fell like pearls from a broken string.

薛姨妈笑道:“你们只听凤丫头的咀,象倒了核桃车子似的,账也清楚,理也公道。” (红36)

“Just listen to her,” cried Aunt Xue with a laugh. “She rattles on like walnuts tipped out of a cart. But how clearly and fairly she puts everything.”

多少恨,昨夜梦魂中,还似旧时游上苑,车如流水马如龙,花月正春风。 (李煜:《忆江南·怀旧》)

How many cherished memories—

In the sweet dream I had last night!

As of old, in the Royal Park,

I took my leisure, treading light,

Horses trotting or cantering—

Vehicle traffic in fu'l swing—
Gorgeous flowers 'nder the moon—
In my homeland 'tis lovely spring!

(Li Yu, *Yijiangnan, Remembering Past Times*)

春日风和日丽，上苑百花盛开，香车行若流水，宝马矫若游龙，这种亡国前的帝王生活却只能在梦中相见，作者惆怅的心情溢于言表。

六、在程度效果方面相似。例如：

To me he was unweariedly kind and always glad to see me in the galley, which he kept as clear as a new pin...
(Stevenson, *Treasure Island*)

他对我的态度始终十分亲切，看见我到厨房里去总是很高兴。他把厨房收拾得干干净净…… (斯蒂文生：《金银岛》)

"Sam, be quiet," said Mr. Pickwick. "Dumb as a drum with a hole in it, sir," replied Sam.
(Ch. Dickens, *Pickwick Papers*)

“撒姆，不要吵。”匹克威克先生说。“先生，我一定象破鼓一样地一声不响。”撒姆答道。 (查·狄更斯：《匹克威克外传》)

破鼓不响，破锣不鸣，这种比喻生动活泼，幽默诙谐。又如：
They feared him like the plague; ... (Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*)

他们见到他就害怕，象碰到了瘟疫一样；…… (杰弗利·乔叟：《坎特伯雷故事集》)

佃户畏豺狼成性的管家若瘟疫，说明其仇恨程度之深。再如：

...he had given me the impression of absolute rigidity, as though he had swallowed a poker. (J. Conrad, *Chance*)

他给我的印象是，态度非常呆板僵硬，好象肚子里吞下了一根拨火棒似的。 (约·康拉德：《机会》)

Ghost ...

Sleeping within my orchard,
My custom always of the afternoon,
Upon my secure hour thy uncle stole,
With juice of cursed hebenon in a vial,
And in the porches of my ears did pour
The leperous distilment, whose effect
Holds such an enmity with blood of man
That swift as quicksilver it courses through
The natural gates and alleys of the body;
And with a sudden vigor it doth posset
And curd, like eager droppings into milk,
The thin and wholesome blood, so did it mine,
And a most instant tetter bark'd about,
Most lazar-like, with vile and loathsome crust,
All my smooth body.

(Shakespeare, *Hamlet*)

鬼魂

当我按照每天午后的惯例，在花园里睡觉的时候，你的叔