英语语法难题新探

(句法篇)

张鑫友 编著

NEW STUDY

OF POSERS

OF ENGLISH

GRAMMAR

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第十章 句 子

10.i 含蓄肯定意义句

在英语的肯定句中通常是不能出现完全否定词 not, no, never, none, no one, nothing, nobody 等和准否定词 scarcely, seldom, hardly, little, few 等的。但在实际应用中,我们却见到有些句子形式上是否定的,意义上却是肯定的,这种形式和意义相互矛盾的句子,我们统称为"含蓄肯定意义句 (implied affirmative sentences)",也可称为"表示肯定意义的否定句"。

A. 肯定意义含蓄在一些含 cannot 的句子中

a. 用 cannot help, cannot but, cannot help but 结构表示。这三个词组都可表示"不得不"、"必然"的意思,但用法上有所不同: cannot help 后须接动名词或名词, cannot but 和 cannot help but 后须接不带 to 的动词不定式。例如:

I cannot help admiring his courage. 我不得不佩服他的勇气。

One's world outlook cannot but come through in what one says and does. 一个人的世界观必然在他的言行中表现出来。

I can't help but feel sorry for him. 我不得不为他感到遗憾。

I can't but oppose this suggestion. 我只好反对这一建议。

有的语法学家反对用 cannot help but 词组,实际上这种表达法在美国的应用却屡见不鲜。

b. 用 cannot ··· too ···结构表示。这种结构意为"It is impossible to overdo ···" 或 "The more ···, the better", 因而表示肯定意义 "越……越好"。例如:

You cannot be too careful. (= You should be as careful as you can. / The more careful you can, the better it will be.) 你越仔细越好。/你无论怎样仔细也不为过分。

You cannot praise her too highly. 你怎么赞扬她都不嫌过分。

这里的 too 也可以换用 over, enough, sufficient, 或以 over 为前缴的动词。例如:

You cannot take enough (over/sufficient) care. 你越小心越好。

The importance of scientific study cannot be overvalued. 科学研究的重要性无论怎样估价也不为过分。

I can't thank you too much (enough). 我对你感激不尽。

I can't be thankful to his help enough. 我非常感激他的帮助。

c. 用 can't refrain from 或 can't keep from 表示。这两个词组也表示 "不得不"、"禁不住"的意思。例如:

I could not refrain from retorting to hear such a lie. 听到这种谎言,我不得不予以反驳。

He could n't keep from crying. 他禁不住哭了。

B. 肯定意义含蓄在"否定词十比较级"的结构中。例如: She could n't feel better. (=She felt best.) 她感到好极了。

Nothing is more humiliating than to look poor among a gathering of rich ladies. 在關太太们中间露出一副穷酸相是再难堪不过的了。

His mistakes in composition are no fewer than yours. 他作文中的错误和你的一样多。

They expect nothing less than a revolution.他们盼望的正是革命。
(nothing less than =exactly)

They expected solking more than a new type machine. 他们只期望一部新型机器而已。(nothing more than=only)

It costs not more than ten dollars. 价格至多10美元。

"否定词十比较级"构成的习语比较多,常见的还有 no

less than (同……一样, 不亚于), none the less (仍然), no worse than (同……一样好), no better than (同……一样糟), no more than (仅仅), not less than (至少), no sooner … than (一……就) 等。

在"否定词+so(as)+形容词(副词)+as"等结构中, 表示的也不是否定意义,而是表示强烈的肯定,即肯定的最 高级(详见4.18)。

- C. 肯定意义含蓄在"否定词十含否定意义词"的结构中
- a. 否定词同含否定意义的动词 deny, refuse, neglect, forget, fail 等连用可表示肯定意义。例如:

They do not deny that their work leaves much to be desired. 他们并不否认他们的工作是有许多缺点的。(即:他们承认他们的工作是有许多缺点的。)

We will never neglect our duties. 我们永远会尽我们的职责的。

We shall not fail to help you when necessary. 必要时,我们一定帮助你。

b. 否定词同含否定意义的形容词 ignorant, few, absent 等连用时,可表示肯定的意义。例如:

Perhaps you are not ignorant of the fact that science and technology have no class nature. 也许你们懂得科学技术是没有阶级性的这个事实。

There are few people who don't like to buy things made from plastics as substitutes, because they are less expensive than the same things made of metal. 有很多人喜欢买塑料做的东西作为替代品,因为它们比用金属制成的同样东西价钱要便宜些。

c. 否定词同含否定意义的副词 too 连用表示的是肯定意义。例如:

But this does not matter. As he has often remarked, one is never

too old to learn. 不过,这不要紧,诚如他常说的,活到老学到老。 The problem is not too complicated to be solved. 那问题并不是复杂得不能解决。(即:那问题虽复杂,但是可以解决的。)

This was too great an honour not to excite the envy of his rivals. 这是太大的光荣,不能不引起他的对手的妒忌。

Mr. Holmes was too wise not to see the tricks of the criminals. 霍尔姆斯先生如此精明,他不会看不出罪犯玩弄的花招。

d. 否定词同含否定意义的介词 without 连用表示肯定的意义。例如:

During four difficult years, the two Curies never made an experiment without weighing and boiling and measuring and calculating and thinking. 在艰苦的四年中,居里夫妇每次做实验,总要称重、煮沸、浸量、计算并思考。

There is no smoke without fire. 有烟必有火。

We believe, not without reason, that by the end of this century we shall have completely realized the four modernizations and kept up with the most advanced countries in the world in science and technology. 我们有理由相信,在本世纪以前一定能实现四个现代化,并在科学技术方面赶上世界上最先进的国家。

一否定词同介词 but, except 连用, 也表示肯定意义。例如:
Some oil wells produce solding but salt water, while others always remain dry. 有些油井只产盐水, 而另一些油井却总是干的。

The molecular formula C₈H₁₄ does not show anything except the total number of carbon and hydrogen atoms and hence is seldom used. 分子式 C₆H₁₄ 只表示碳原子和氢原子的总和, 因此很少使用。

e. 否定词同连词 until, till, before, unless, but (that) 等连用表示肯定的意义。其中 until, till, before 引导的是时间状语从句,常译为"直到……才", unless 引导的是条件从句,

but (that) 可分别引导名词从句、条件从句、结果从句或定语从句。例如:

It was not until the next day that I learned the truth. 直到第二天 我才明白事情的真相。

Draw not your bow before (till) your arrow is fixed. 箭投搭好, 先别拉弓。(即: 直到箭搭好了才能拉弓。)

You can never be successful, unless you work hard. 如果你不努力工作, 你就永远不能成功。(即: 你只有努力工作才能成功。)

I don't believe but (that) he will go to the film this evening. 我不能肯定他今晚不去看电影。(即:我想他今晚可能去看电影。)(but 引导实语从句)

I will not come late but that I am busy. 要是我不忙的话,我不会迟来的。(即:我要是忙的话,就会来迟的。)(but that 引导条件从句)

He never played with the children bui (that) a quarrel followed. 他同这些孩子玩时不会不发生争吵的。(即:他同这些孩子玩时总会发生争吵的。) (but that 引导结果从句)

There is no one but admires Dr. Bethune's spirit of internationalism. 没有一个人不敬佩白求恩大夫的国际主义精神。(but 引导 定语从句)

f. 否定词同含疑问意义的名词 doubt, question 等连用可表示肯定的意义。例如:

There is no doubt that we will succeed in desinging the project. 毫 无疑问, 我们能把这项工程设计出来。

There is no question that we will finish the work within two days. 我们有把握在两天内完成这项工作。

D. 肯定意义含蓄在否定词同否定词连用的句子中

这里讲的否定词同否定词连用,指的是完全否定词同准 否定词的连用,或完全否定词同完全否定词连用的情况。例 如:

It not seld om happens that what seems to be an insurmountable difficulty is easily overcome by a young worker who has learned physics and mathematics in a spare-time evening school. 这种事情常常发生在看起来好像是个无法克服的困难,却轻易地被一个曾在业余夜校学过物理和数学的青年工人所克服了。

It serves no little purpose to have continued public discussion of this 'ssue. 继续公开讨论这个问题是大有好处的。

Nobody does nothing. 没有人不干活。(即:人人都要干事的。)

E. 肯定意义含蓄在"否定词+带否定前缀的词"的句子中

这类句子是一种婉转的说法,表示说话人对自己表达出 来的意见在语气上尚不十分肯定。例如:

Sodium is never found uncombined in nature. 自然界从未发现不处于化合状态的钠。

We do not infrequently go abroad. 我们经常出国。

A radar screen is not unlike a television screen. 雷达荧光屏殿电视 荧光屏一样。

Apparently he was not displeased with my answer. 显然他对于我的回答是感到满意的。

- F. 否定词含蓄在起修辞作用的否定句子中
- a. 否定形式的疑问句通常表示十分强烈的肯定。例如:

Who among us has not dreamed of that? (= Everybody has dreamed of that.)我们中间有谁没有梦想过这个呢? (即:人人都梦想过这个。)

What has Tom not suffered? (=What Tom has suffered!) 有什么苦难汤姆没遭受过呢? (即:汤姆受过很多的苦难。)

Can't man change the world? 人难道不能改造世界吗? (即:人是可以改造世界的。)

Is no one going to defend me? 难道就没有人会为我辩护? (即:肯定会有人会为我辩护的。)

b. 否定形式的感叹句子有时表示强烈肯定意义。例如:

What nonsense would he not talk!什么胡话他不会说呀! (即:什么胡话他都能讲。)

Isn't that beautiful! 多么美丽呀!

A: You will help me with my lessons, won't you?你将帮我学习功课,是吗?

- B: Won't I! 当然咯! (即: 这用不着问。)
- c. 否定形式的句子在口语中有时表示有礼貌的请求。例如:

Won't you have a glass of coffee? 清喝杯咖啡吧。

Pass me that pencil, won't you? 劳驾, 把铅笔递给我。

- G. 肯定意义含蓄在某些否定形式的宾语从句中
- a. 在 whether, if 引导的否定形式的宾语从句中, 否定词则毫无意义, 均译作肯定的意义。例如:

I shouldn't wonder if it was n't the gin again. 哪怕是杜松子酒我也不会感到奇怪。

I asked him whether I could sol do anything for him. 我问他我是否可以为他做点什么。

I am writing to ask your help in seeing if the provisions of the agreement cannot be implemented in the next few weeks. 函请关照,注意协议条款是否可在今后几星期内实施。

b. not 作虚设否定词也可以用在由疑问代词或疑问副词引导的宾语从句中。例如:

How many feet, I wonder, had not trodden that path. 我不知道有多少人走过这条小路。

No one could say how soon he might not come to himself. 谁也不能断定他多久才会苏醒过来。

H. 肯定意义含蓄在某些带有否定词的习惯用语中

这类习语很多,常见的有 not half (非常), not half bad (相当好), not half good (雅好), as likely as not (很可能,或许), as soon as not (非常亲密地), as often as not (常常), not to mention/not to speak (此外还有), not a little (许多), no little (许多的), not slightly (很), worse than nothing (糟糕透顶), all to nothing (完全,十足地) nothing very much (平平常常), nothing if not (首先), apropos of nothing (突如其来的),等等。例如:

The novel is not half bad. 这部小说实在不错。

He'll forget all about it as likely as not. 他很可能把这一切都忘记了。

As often as not, he thinks before he speaks. 他常常三思而后言。 We don't like it a little. 我们很喜欢它。

He took so little pain over it. 他在这事上费了很多的力。

And he has carried his point all to nothing, as the Racing Gentlemen say. 借用一句赛马朋友喜欢讲的话,他完全达到了他的目的。

He was never precipitate; he was nothing if not discreet. 他从不鲁莽,他是一个极其谨慎的人。

上面举例说明的含蓄肯定意义句,有相当一部分属双重 **否定句,可以说,含蓄肯定意义**句几乎包括了所有的双重否 定结构。

10.2 否定转移及其歧义

京事此清看以不两句::::

You will not see all the animals all through the winter. 你不会在整个冬天都能看到所有动物的。

化乙基出国 葡萄田

All that glitters is not gold. 闪闪发光的东西并不都是金子章

显然,上面两句中的否定词 not 尽管从形式上看跟动词结合得很紧,但只要仔细体会一下就会发现,它们在意义上并不是否定谓语动词,而是分别否定状语和主语,即分别等于"You will see all the animals not all through the winter."和"Not all that glitters is gold."的含义。这种否定词与其否定对象之间分离了开来,否定目标游离甚远的否定现象叫做否定转移(transfered negation)。这种否定转移往往容易引起误解或歧义。如果是一个缺乏普通常识的英语学习者,他很可能会把以上两句误解为:"整个冬季人们将不会看到一切动物。"和"一切闪闪发光的都不是金子。"下面一句也可能会引起歧义:

I didn't go because I was afraid.

这一句可理解为 "I went not because I was afraid. (我不是因为害怕而去的。)",也可理解成是 "I didn't go, because I was afraid. (我因为害怕,所以没去。)"。具体怎样确定否定句的确切含义,读者得依据具体的语言环境或一定的上下文。现将常见诸现象简述如下。

A. 在否定状语时, 否定词 not 常常转移到谓语动词前。例如:

She had not been married many weeks when that man's younger brother saw her and was struck by her beauty. (=She had been married not many weeks when...)她结婚不到几个星期的时候,那个人的弟弟看到了她,并被她的美貌迷住了。(否定时间状语)

- Darwin had bot come to his conclusion quickly. (=Darwin had come to his conclusion not quickly.) 达尔文并不是匆忙地作出结
- 则出论、以'香定方式状涯')

He didn's Bette work by bus (=He went to work not by bus.) 信 不無公共宣帝上班。(否定方式状语) We don't make revolution for ourselves. (=We make revolution not for ourselves.) 我们干革命不是为了我们自己。(否定目的状语)

\$ 16 P - 18

This question is not found in the book. (= This question is found not in the book.) 这个问题不是在书本中可以找到的。(否定地 点状语)

但这并不是说,谓语动词前的否定词 not 只能否定其后的状语。除上述第一句和第二句分别根据普通知识和历史事实只能作一种解释外,后三句都有产生歧义的可能,即还可分别解释为:"他乘车不是去上班","我们为了自己就不会干革命的","在书本中,这个问题是不可能找到的"。如果要否定谓语,排除否定状语的歧义,我们可以采用将状语提前,并在其后打上逗号的办法加以处理。例如上面例句中的后三句,我们如果改成下面三句的形式,就排除了"否定转移"的歧义。

He, by bus, didn't go to work.

For ourselves, we don't make revolution.

In the book, this question is not found.

在含有 for three weeks, for two hours, for many years 等时段状语的句子中, 否定词 not 移到谓语动词前时, 介词 for 一定要省去, 这样, not 所否定的只能是状语了。试比较:

He has not studied Russian for two weeks. 他已经有两周投学习俄语了。(或:他学习俄语以来还不满两周。)

He has not studied Russian two weeks. 他学习俄语以来还不满两周。

在 not···because 句型结构中,否定词 not 尽管总是出现在主句谓语动词之前,而实际上有时它可能有两种解释:一种是否定转移,即形式上是否定主句,而实际意义上是否定

because 引导的原因状语从句;另一种解释是直接的否定,即直接否定主句中的谓语部分。试比较:

I didn't buy the watch because it was cheap. (=I bought the watch, not because it was cheap. / I didn't buy the watch, and the reason was its cheapness.) 我不是因为这块表便宜才买的。/我不买这块表,因为它太便宜了。

为了避免歧义,在口语中,若表示否定转移,其主句的谓语动词(如上句中的 buy)要读升调;若表示直接否定,其主句的谓语动词要读降调。在书面语中,若表示否定转移,除可 采用直接否定原因状语从句的方式外,还可用 "It is (was) …that…"强调句结构表示。若表示直接否定主句的谓语成分,可采用将 because 从句是前或在 because 从句之前用逗号分开的办法来排除其歧义。试比较:

I left home not because I was afraid of my father. / It was not because I was afraid of my father that I left home. 我不是因为害怕父亲才离开家的。

I didn't leave home, because I was afraid of my father. / Because I was afraid of my father, I didn't leave home. 我没有离家,因为我害怕 我父亲。

B. 在否定主语时, 否定词 not 往往转移到谓语动词前。例如:

All the answers are not right. (=Not all the answers are right.) 这一切回答未必全对。

Everyone is happy, but everyone does not know it. (=…but not everyone knows it.) 人人都是幸福的,可是这一点并不是人人都知道的。

Both of the boys are not clever. (=Not both of the boys are clever.) 并不是两个孩子都聪明。