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大连理工大学出版社 Dallan University of Technology Press

英語畅谈畅听美国文化

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《英语畅谈畅听美国文化》

一场精彩的跨文化之旅



"读万卷书,行万里路"一直是中国人所崇尚的认知模式。时至21世纪的今天,科技的迅猛发展,交通的无限便利,带来了时空紧缩,"万里路"的范围已悄然跨越两个半球,延伸到大洋彼岸。而美国,这个地大物博,人口众多,在经济、政治、科技、军事、娱乐等诸多领域均拥有巨大影响力的西方大国,无疑成为无数学子心向往之的梦想之地。然而,纵使技术的进步使天涯变为咫尺成为可能,但要想将可能变为现实,却还是需要诸多条件的。不是每个人都有机会和能力来一场说走就走的旅行,踏上那个独特的彼岸之国去一览究竟的。

那么,翻开这本书,就像是开始了一场精彩的跨境旅行,只不过这趟旅行并非 地理层面的,而是文化层面的。

提起美国,提起美国文化,很多人会脱口而出"自由女神像""星条旗""山姆大叔"……的确,随着各个领域国际交往的日益频繁,这个国度对多数中国人而言早已揭下神秘的面纱,不再那么遥远和陌生。

但是,要想真正领略美国文化的独特魅力确非易事,兼容并蓄的美国文化绝非自由女神像、山姆大叔所能简单概括,《英语畅谈畅听美国文化》能让你在旅行般轻松愉快的氛围中,悠然信步,去邂逅一个鲜活的、当下的、可触可感的美国。在这里,你可以知晓富有创新精神的美国何以能在科技上一直雄踞世界第一;教育原则上又是如何鼓励独立思考,尊重个性的。在这里,你可以了解创新文化孕育的科技圣地一一硅谷,参观民主与知识结合的象征——美国国会图书馆,玩转娱乐帝国迪斯尼。这趟旅行还能带你光顾美国人的餐桌,看看"山姆大叔"吃什么,以及美国人如何应对"肥胖"这一公共健康危机;更可以带你参加单身告别会,看看美国人结婚前夜的

疯狂:还有高中毕业舞会,那可是美国年轻人的成人礼:哦对了,你知道美国还有迎婴聚会吗,那是全女性的温馨派对。除此之外,你是否知道美国人是如何庆祝独立纪念日的?又是如何在圣诞节假日大采购中"购"并快乐着?……当然,这些只是本书所涉及的话题的一部分,还有更多未知的风景,等待你带着憧憬与好奇去探索。

本书选材均衡,力争全面。上述看似信手拈来的文化点滴,背后却是编者们选材上的全面考量,仔细均衡,才将美国文化浓缩为科技、教育、运动、生活、风俗、社会、娱乐、民族8个最有代表性的板块;又通过精心选编原版书籍、报刊杂志和网络最新资讯,展开了54个话题。本书既能带您了解历史,体验文化,又可让您领略风土人情,品评社会热点。

当然,旅行的意义不仅在于能认知他者,更在于能提升自我。如今我们同住地球村,每个人都迫切需要提高自己的跨文化交际能力。语言当然是跨文化交际的条件之一,同时很多交流需要建立在文化共识的基础之上。我们不仅要学习语言,也要花时间让自己与这门外语的文化环境同步。本书每个话题下面均设有中英对照的4个部分:文化视点画龙点睛,发人深省;情景对话和文化广场由对话到篇章,既相对独立又相互关联,语言由浅入深,循序渐进;难点解析直击有难度的词汇和语句,助你扫清理解的障碍。本书更有两位美国朋友共同把关,力争用最地道的美式英语描述最真实的美国文化。本书泛读之,可以了解美国文化;而置于案头时习之,则可使广大学子和英语爱好者语言精进,从语言和文化两个层面让读者进行一场精彩的跨文化之旅。

本书的编著完成,除了编者们的努力,也凝聚了Benjamin D.Watson和Gregory Maceda两位美国朋友,南开大学MTI硕士生导师葛亚军教授,大连理工大学出版社的张晓燕编辑,以及我的两位学生,东北林业大学英语语言文学专业的硕士研究生胡杨、朗爽的辛勤劳动,在此一并表示感谢。

美国英语丰富多彩,反映了美国文化的干姿百态。愿这本书能够帮助读者开启 一段精彩的跨文化之旅。

> 编者 2014年8月



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Technology Mecca Hatched by a Spirit of Innovation—Silicon Valley/创新文化孕育的科技"圣地"——硅谷

文化视点

Not every place can be Silicon Valley, but not every place has to be.

不是任何地方都可以成为硅谷,但也并不是每一个地方都要成为硅谷。

1 Situational Dialogue

情景对话

将所学的知识应用到一个实景会话中,在感受文化碰撞的同时,体会其在口语 表达中的实际用法。

[Jack and Lisa are talking about the technology Mecca in America—Silicon Valley.]

Lisa: Jack, what are you reading?

Jack: Oh, a book about Silicon Valley: Its origins, what it does and how it affects us.

Lisa: It is magical. Rapid growth, good jobs and rising income have led much of the world to seek to replicate its key elements. Walking around San Francisco, it's not hard to pick out the tech crowd: they seem to take special pride branding themselves.

Jack: The valley has been drawing top graduates from countries such as China and India, with post-1965 immigration liberalization and support for foreign

students. According to studies by UC Berkeley, more than half of today's Silicon Valley companies were founded by foreign-born entrepreneurs.

Lisa: But how did Silicon Valley do it?

Jack: Silicon Valley prospered because of



its ongoing ability to generate innovations.

Lisa: And top tier universities, preferably those with room to spare.

Jack: A top tier university is not only significant as a research center, but also as a networking hub, and a cultural behemoth.

Lisa: Stanford, the center of the technology universe, has continued to be Silicon Valley's engine for top talent and smart ideas. Hewlett-Packard, whose founders had graduated from Stanford, which then drew other top talent and emerging firms.

Jack: It has graduated more future tech-company CEOs than anywhere else in the world. Some of the biggest tech success stories — Google and Yahoo, to name only two — got their start when their founders were still Stanford graduate students.

Lisa: The Valley came to be in good part because the people there didn't have to pay attention to much else other than the work itself. Money flowed easily. Social problems seemed miles away.

Jack: And, most importantly, success created a virtuous cycle that led to more and more success.

【杰克和丽萨在谈论美国科技圣地——硅谷。】

丽萨: 杰克, 你在读什么呢?

杰克:哦,一本关于硅谷的书:它的起源、运作和对我们的影响。

丽萨: 硅谷是个奇迹。迅猛的发展、优质的工作以及不断增长的薪酬吸引了全世界那么多地方竞相学习它的成功之道。漫步在旧金山街头,一眼就能识别出哪些人是科技精英,因为他们的脸上似乎洋溢着一种特有的自豪。

杰克: 随着1965年以后移民政策的逐渐宽松和对外国留学生的支持, 硅谷 吸引了中国、印度等一些国家的顶尖毕业生。加州大学伯克利分院 的一些研究表明,如今硅谷的公司中有半数以上是由在国外的的企业家创办的。

丽萨: 可硅谷是怎么做到这一切的呢?

杰克: 硅谷的成功在于它持续的创新能力。

丽萨:还有一流的大学,而且最好是那些有自由空间的大学。

杰克: 一流的大学之所以重要不仅仅在于它是一个科研中心, 同时也是网络中心和文化巨擘。

丽萨:作为硅谷技术领域的中心,斯坦福大学一直就是硅谷那些顶尖人才和绝妙创意的动力源泉。惠普公司的创始人就毕业于斯坦福大学,与惠普创始人同一时期进入该校的还有一些其他的顶尖人才和逐渐脱颖而出的厂商。

杰克:斯坦福培养出的技术公司CEO要比世界上任何其他大学都多,其中的一些堪称成功的科技传奇。就拿其中的两例"谷歌"和"雅虎"来说,它们的创建者创办公司时还只是斯坦福大学的研究生。

丽萨: 硅谷之所以能成为一个好地方是因为,生活在那里的人们除了工作本身以外,不需要关注太多其他的事情。资金流动快速。社会问题好像远在千里之外。

杰克: 而且, 最重要的是, 一个领域的成功促成另一个领域的成功, 形成良性循环, 从而越来越成功。

2 Cultural Plaza

文化广场

尽情地读, 理解全文并感悟你所不知道的美国文化。

In Silicon Valley, the home for a technology start-up is humble garage surrounded by car parts and oil cans. It all started in 1938, when Bill Hewlett and Daye Packard chose a detached garage at 367 Addison Avenue in Palo Alto



to house their fledgling electronics business. The restored structure is now considered to be the official birthplace of Silicon Valley.

In the 1950s and 1960s, millions of Americans were moving from the Rust Belt to the Sun Belt, and from cities to suburbs. The Santa Clara Valley was exactly the sort of destination they desired — within commuting distance of a vibrant major city, San Francisco, but with plenty of open

land to build houses, highways, and office parks. The Valley boasted great weather, outdoor activities, good schools, and sought-after real estate. In 1971, journalist Hoefler coined the term "Silicon Valley". The name stuck.



Silicon Valley is the product of more than 60 years of massive investment of

public and private capital. The U.S. government was the Valley's first venture capitalist, seeding innovation through research grants and defense contracts during the first two decades of the Cold War. But the government only funded innovative activities. Then, by and large, it stepped aside and refrained from the research. Much of this money flowed to research universities, and Northern California was home to two of the best in the nation — Stanford and the University of California, Berkeley. In the 1970s, government contracts had dwindled, but new commercial opportunities opened up. And both old money and new came forward with start-up capital for Silicon Valley's high-tech enterprises.

While the Valley is sunny and inviting, everyone is there to win. They're probably not all about the money. A lot of people in the Valley are out to change the world, or at least try, which allows innovation to bubble from within.

在硅谷,技术创业的发祥地是一间充满汽车零件和油罐的简陋车库。一切始于1938年,当时,比尔·休利特和戴维·帕卡德选择在帕洛阿尔托的艾迪生大街367号一个独体车库里开展他们刚刚起步的电子业务。如今这幢已经翻修过的建筑被视为硅谷的正式诞生地。

20世纪50年代到60年代,数百万美国人从"铁锈地带"搬到"阳光地带",从城市迁往郊区。圣克拉拉谷刚好是他们梦寐以求的目的地——与充满生机的大城市旧金山不过是乘公交就可往返的距离;同时又有大量的空地可供修建房屋、高速公路和办公园区。而这里宜人的气候、各种户外活动、优良的学校、广受欢迎的地产也可引以为豪。1971年,新闻记者赫夫勒创造了"硅谷"一词,这个名字一直沿用到现在。

硅谷是风投资本家六十多年来大量公有资本和私人资本投入的产物。美国政府是硅谷的第一个风险资本家,在冷战的前二十年里通过科研补助金和国防合同播种了创新精神。但政府只为那些创新发明提供资金,然后就基本上退居一旁,不会对研究进行干涉。资金大部分流向研究型大学,而北加州拥有当时国内最好的科研学府中的两所——斯坦福大学和伯克利加利福尼亚大学。到了七十年代,政府的合同有所减少,但新的商机已拉开序幕。先期投入的和新投入的资金汇聚一处共同为硅谷高科技企业的启动奠定了资本基础。

尽管硅谷阳光明媚,颇为宜人,但人们还是为了成功才去那里。可能他们不全 是为了钱。硅谷很多人显然是想要改变世界,至少是心存改变世界的梦想,这一点使 他们内心深处充满对创新的渴望。

3 Difficulties Analysis

难点解析

- 1. liberalization n. 自由主义化; 放宽限制
- 2. behemoth n. [圣经]河马; 巨兽; 庞然大物
- 5. virtuous adj. 有效力的, 善良的, 有道德的
- 6. glitter vi. 闪闪发光, 闪烁, 闪光
- 7. Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard 惠普的创始人
- 8. Rust Belt 铁锈地带,指发达国家一些从前繁盛而现在衰落的地区;后文提到的阳光地带则指一些有发展潜力的新兴地区。
- 9. commute vi. (乘公共汽车、火车、汽车)等上下班往返,通勤,经常往返(于两地)
- 10. refrain vi. 节制, 避免, 制止
- 11. dwindle v. 缩小



Putting the Internet into Pockets—American Technology

Changing the World/将互联网装进口袋——改变世界的美国科技

"文化视点"

Steve Jobs has been named the second greatest innovator of all time, behind Thomas Edison, in the 2012 Lemelson-MIT Invention Index.

在2012年麻省理工学院莱梅尔逊创新排名中,史蒂夫·乔布斯位列托马斯·爱迪生之后,成为有史以来第二名最伟大的创新者。

1 Situational Dialogue

情景对话

将所学的知识应用到一个实景会话中,在感受文化碰撞的同时,体会其在口语 表达中的实际用法。

[Jack is reading Steve Jobs' 2005 Stanford Commencement Address.]

Jack: "Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish."

Lisa: Oh, you are reading Steve Jobs' 2005 Stanford Commencement Address.

Jack: Yes, Steve Jobs, former CEO of Apple Computer and of Pixar Animation Studios.

Lisa: A man putting the internet into pockets. The whole world is remembering him.

Jack: He didn't graduate from college. He dropped out of Reed College after the first 6 months.

Lisa: He started Apple in his parents garage when he was 20, and in 10 years, made Apple grow from just the two young men in a garage into



a \$2 billion company with over 4000 employees.

Jack: Then he got fired when he had just turned 30. But he still loved what he did, so he decided to start over.

Lisa: During the next five years, he started a company named NeXT, and another company named Pixar. Pixar went on to create the world's first computer animated feature film, *Toy Story*, and became the most successful animation studio in the world. In a remarkable turn of events, Apple bought NeXT, Mr. Jobs returned to Apple, and the technology they developed at NeXT is at the heart of Apple's current renaissance.

Jack: Thus we've seen watches, music players, radios, cell phones, address books, calendars, checkbooks, and even wallets combine into multi-function devices.

Lisa: Yes, a platform for us to conduct our business and personal lives with very few buttons like his clothing——only letting the graphics and icons simplify life's complexities.

Jack: Don't just touch your iPhone, feel it. Let your fingers flow over the glass instead of peck at it until you are one with it.

Lisa: He had a passion to change the world and the confidence to defy the odds, so he succeeded and changed the world in his own way.

【杰克在读史蒂夫・乔布斯在斯坦福大学2005年毕业典礼上的演讲。】

杰克: "求知若饥, 谦逊若愚。"

丽萨:哦,你在读史蒂夫·乔布斯在斯坦福大学2005年毕业典礼上的演讲。

杰克: 是的, 史蒂夫·乔布斯, 前苹果电脑公司以及皮克斯动画工作室的 执行总裁。

丽萨:一位把互联网装进口袋的人,全世界都在怀念他。

杰克: 他没有读完大学。只在里德学院读了六个月就休学了。

丽萨:二十岁时在父母的车库里开始了创办苹果(公司)的事业。十年间,乔布斯使苹果从只有两个年轻人的车库里的小公司发展成了一家员工超过4000人、市值超过20亿美元的大公司。

杰克: 然后在刚刚三十岁的时候他被苹果解雇了。但他仍爱着他所做的事