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内容提要

本书采取英汉对照的形式编写。精选了英美经典小说具有代表性的作品十几篇。每篇内容由作者简介、故事梗概、小说背景、结构与矛盾冲突、重大主题、主要人物分析、具体章节分析、思考题与论文题等几十环节组成。这些小说概括地反映了作者的主要思想、艺术特点和创作成果。真正做到了让学生在获得艺术享受的同时,又能对作者及其大致创作活动得到比较全面系统的了解。此外本书的小说部分兼顾了内容的趣味性和语言的优美流畅性,具有相当的可读性。是广大师生学习英语语言和外国文学,提高阅读欣赏水平不可多得的教学参考书。

前 言

随着我国高等教育的蓬勃发展,愈来愈多的大专院校的英语专业开设了英美文学课程。教育部新近修订的英语专业教学大纲指出:"文学课程的目的在于培养学生阅读、欣赏、理解英语文学原著的能力,掌握文学批评的基本知识和方法。通过阅读和分析英美文学作品,促进学生语言基本功和人文素质的提高,增强学生对西方文学及文化的了解。"为了达到这一目的,仅仅依靠有限的课时在课堂上讲解一些篇幅较短的作品或作品片段是远远不够的,还需要学生在课外大量阅读英美文学原著。为此英语专业教学大纲附录列出了学生需要阅读的英美文学作品书单,其中大部分是小说。

小说阅读是进行人文素质教育的最佳途径之一。小说讲述的是关于人的故事。通过阅读小说,可以扩大学生的视野,使他们了解人生的经历,懂得处身涉世的道理,帮助他们开拓全新的生活领域。同时,阅读小说还可让学生领略精妙的艺术世界,充实他们的心灵,丰富他们的精神,带给他们以人生的愉悦。一部好的小说,就是我们读者记忆中的一道风景。它不仅会使我们看到一段历史的原貌,一个人物的命运和人生历程,也会使我们得到美的陶冶和满足。小说里的人物,会成为我们心中的一个偶像、一个朋友、一个可以让我们为他(她)牵肠挂肚的人。这些人物的希望、理想、审美情趣,都或多或少地会影响我们,有时甚至会影响我们的一生。此外,小说的阅读还有助于培养我们的形象思维和创造性思维,因为作为篇幅宏大的小说,往往有较丰富的生活场景、错综复杂的故事情节和人物关系,阅读时要善于将抽象的文字在脑海中及时地转化成具体可感的形象,将分散的生活场景、细节整合起来,进而理解作品的内涵。在这个过程中,读者需要调动各种思维活动,尤其是想像和联想,扩大心灵空间,从而达到激发和锻炼形象思维和创造性思维的效果。

然而,英美原文小说在词汇应用、句子结构、表达方式、思维习惯等方面给中国学生都带来了不少的困难;如何深刻地理解英美原文小说的思想内涵,并欣赏其精湛的艺术技巧对中国学生来说更是一种严峻的挑战。为了帮助学生更好地理解英美原文小说,在较短的时间内掌握这些经典作品的精粹,我们特地组织教师编写了这部《英美经典小说赏析》。

本书一共收入了 12 位著名英美作家的 13 部经典小说,分别从作者简介、故事梗概、背景知识、主题思想、主旨象征、人物分析、章节点评、学习思考题等方面对这些名著进行了全面的介绍、解说与分析,从而引领读者登堂入室,由点及面,以最简便快捷的方法领略每一部著作的精华。

通过介绍和分析,我们希望一方面能为高校学生和广大英语爱好者打开一扇

2 英美经典小说货析

认识和了解英美原文小说的大门,激起他们热爱英美原文小说、阅读英美原文小说 的兴趣,另一方面,能为他们欣赏和阅读英美原文小说提供一些有效的方法指导。

本书采用英汉两种语言编写,其目的是为了满足广大英语学习者更好地理解 英美原文小说的需要。需要说明的是,汉语部分不是对英语内容的逐字逐句的翻 译,而是对英语内容的整理与编译。为了汉语表达的需要,编者在有些地方作了适 当的增加或删减。由于多人执笔,风格难以统一,各种错误也在所难免,谨请广大 读者批评指正。

> 张伯香 2005年3月

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Chapter I Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

1. An Introduction to the Author

- [1] Jane Austen was born on December 16, 1775, the seventh child of George Austen, rector of the parish at Steventon. Her father was a fine scholar with a good library. Her mother, Cassandra Leigh Austen, was the daughter of a patrician family. Among her siblings she had but one sister, Cassandra, with whom she kept in close contact her entire life. Her brothers entered a variety of professions: several joined the clergy, one was a banker, while several more spent time in the military. Although her family was neither noble nor wealthy, George Austen had a particular interest in education, even for his daughters. After a few years' schooling, Jane and her sister Cassandra continued their education at home, mainly through widely reading the books and materials available, and through those interesting discussions of their brothers and those young men their father had taken at their home as students. Jane acquired a thorough knowledge of English eighteenth-century literature.
- [2] Jane Austen published four novels anonymously during her lifetime: Sense and Sensibility (1811), Pride and Prejudice (1813), Mansfield Park (1814), and Emma (1815). Two novels, Northanger Abbey and Persuasion were published posthumously in 1817. These novels are prominent for her satiric depiction of English society and manners.
- [3] During Austen's life, however, only her immediate family knew of her authorship of these novels. At one point, she wrote behind a door that creaked when visitors approached; this warning allowed her to hide manuscripts before anyone could enter. Though publishing anonymously prevented her from acquiring an authorial reputation, it also enabled her to preserve her privacy at a time when English society associated a female's entrance into the public sphere with a reprehensible loss of femininity. Additionally, Austen may have sought anonymity because of the more general atmosphere of repression pervading her era. As the Napoleonic Wars (1800 1815) threatened the safety of monarchies throughout Europe, government censorship of literature proliferated.
- [4] The social milieu of Austen's Regency England was particularly stratified, and class divisions were rooted in family connections and wealth. In her work, Austen is often critical of the assumptions and prejudices of upper class England. She distinguishes between internal merit

2 英美经典小说赏析

(goodness of person) and external merit (rank and possessions). Though she frequently satirizes snobs, she also pokes fun at the poor breeding and misbehavior of those lower on the social scale. Nevertheless, Austen was in many ways a realist, and the England she depicts is one in which social mobility is limited and class-consciousness is strong.

- [5] Socially regimented ideas of appropriate behavior for each gender factored into Austen's work as well. While social advancement for young men lay in the military, church, or law, the chief method of self-improvement for women was the acquisition of wealth. Women could only accomplish this goal through successful marriage, which explains the ubiquity of matrimony as a goal and topic of conversation in Austen's writing.
- [6] Even so, critics often accuse Austen of portraying a limited world. As a clergyman's daughter, Austen would have done parish work and was certainly aware of the poor around her. However, she wrote about her own world, not theirs. The critiques she makes of class structure seem to include only the middle class and upper class; the lower classes, if they appear at all, are generally servants who seem perfectly pleased with their lot. This lack of interest in the lives of the poor may be a failure on Austen's part, but it should be understood as a failure shared by almost all of English society at the time.
- [7] In general, Austen occupies a curious position between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Her favorite writer, whom she often quotes in her novels, was Dr. Samuel Johnson, the great model of eighteenth-century classicism and reason. Austen's novels display an ambiguity about emotion and an appreciation for intelligence and natural beauty that aligns them with Romanticism. Unfortunately, the novels of Jane Austen were not so well received in her lifetime, but have since had steadily growing popularity, especially in the twentieth century. Jane Austen is now ranked among the truly great British novelists.
- [8] Jane Austen led a quiet, retired and uneventful life. She remained single her entire life. On July 8, 1817, she died in Winchester and was buried in the cathedral.

2. A Brief Summary of the Story

[1] Pride and Prejudice, published in 1813, is Jane Austen's earliest work, and in some senses also one of her most mature works. Austen began writing the novel in 1796 at the age of twenty-one, under the title First Impressions. The original version of the novel was probably in the form of an exchange of letters. Austen's father had offered the manuscript for publication in 1797, but the publishing company refused to even consider it. Shortly after completing First Impressions, Austen began writing Sense and Sensibility, which was not published until 1811. She also wrote some minor works during that time, which were later expanded into full novels. Between 1810 and 1812 Pride and Prejudice was rewritten for publication. While the original ideas of the novel come from a girl of 21, the final version has the literary and thematic maturity of a thirty-five year old woman who has spent years painstakingly drafting and revising. Pride and Prejudice is usually considered to be the most

18

popular of Austen's novels.

- [2] Pride and Prejudice is set primarily in the town of Hertfordshire, about 50 miles outside of London. The novel opens with a conversation at Longbourn, the Bennets' estate, about the arrival of Mr. Bingley, "a single man of large fortune," to Netherfield Park, a nearby estate. Mrs. Bennet, whose obsession is to find husbands for her daughters, sees Mr. Bingley as a potential suitor. Mr. and Mrs. Bennet have five children: Jane, Elizabeth, Mary, Kitty, and Lydia.
- [3] The Bennets' first acquaintance with Mr. Bingley and his companions is at the Meryton Ball. Mr. Bingley takes a liking to Jane and is judged by the townspeople to be perfectly amiable and agreeable. Mr. Bingley's friend Mr. Darcy, however, snubs Elizabeth and is considered to be proud and disagreeable because of his reserve and his refusal to dance. Bingley's sisters are judged to be amiable by Jane but Elizabeth finds them to be arrogant.
- [4] After further interactions, it becomes evident that Jane and Bingley have a preference for one another, although Bingley's partiality is more obvious than Jane's because she is universally cheerful and amiable. Charlotte Lucas, a close friend of Elizabeth with more pragmatic views on marriage, recommends that Jane make her regard for Bingley more obvious. At the same time, Mr. Darcy begins to admire Elizabeth, captivated by her fine eyes and lively wit.
- [5] When Jane is invited for dinner at Netherfield, Mrs. Bennet refuses to provide her with a carriage, hoping that because it is supposed to rain and Jane will be forced to spend the night. However, because Jane gets caught in the rain, she falls ill and is forced to stay at Netherfield until she recovers. Upon hearing that Jane is ill, Elizabeth walks to Netherfield in order to go nursing her sister. Bingley's sisters are scandalized that Elizabeth walked so far alone in the mud. Seeing that Jane would like Elizabeth to stay with her, Bingley's sisters invite Elizabeth to remain at Netherfield until Jane recovers.
- [6] During her stay at Netherfield, Elizabeth increasingly gains the admiration of Mr. Darcy. She is blind to his partiality, however, and continues to think him a most proud and haughty man because of the judgment she made of him when he snubbed her at the ball. Miss Bingley, who is obviously trying to gain the admiration of Mr. Darcy, is extremely jealous of Elizabeth and tries to prevent Mr. Darcy from admiring her by making rude references to the poor manners of Elizabeth's mother and younger sisters and to her lower class relatives. When Mrs. Bennet and her younger daughters come to visit Jane, Elizabeth is mortified by their foolishness and complete lack of manners. Bingley's admiration for Jane continues unabated and is evident in his genuine solicitude for her recovery. After Jane recovers, she returns home with Elizabeth.
- [7] A militia regiment is stationed at the nearby town of Meryton, where Mrs. Bennet's sister Mrs. Phillips lives. Mrs. Phillips is just as foolish as Mrs. Bennet. Lydia and Kitty love to go to Meryton to visit with their aunt and socialize with the militia's officers.
- [8] Mr. Collins, a cousin of Mr. Bennet who is in line to inherit Longbourn because the estate

4 英美经典小说赏析

has been entailed away from the female line, writes a letter stating his intention to visit. Mr. Collins is a clergyman, and his patroness, Lady Catherine de Bourgh (who is also Darcy's aunt), has suggested that he find a wife, and he hopes to lessen the hardship of the entailment by marrying one of Mr. Bennet's daughters. Mr. Collins is a silly man who speaks in long, pompous speeches and always has an air of solemn formality.

- [9] When the Bennet girls and Mr. Collins go for a walk to Meryton, they are introduced to an officer in the regiment named Mr. Wickham. They also run into Mr. Darcy, and when Darcy and Wickham meet both seem to be extremely uncomfortable. Mr. Wickham immediately shows a partiality for Elizabeth and they speak at length. Wickham tells Elizabeth that the reason for the mutual embarrassment when he and Darcy met is that Darcy's father had promised that Wickham, his godson, should be given a good living after his death, but that Darcy had failed to fulfill his father's dying wishes and had left Wickham to support himself. Elizabeth, already predisposed to think badly of Darcy, does not question Wickham's account. When Elizabeth tells Jane Wickham's story, Jane refuses to think badly of either Wickham or Darcy and assumes there must be some misunderstanding.
- [10] As promised, Bingley hosts a ball at Netherfield. He and Jane stay together the whole evening, and their mutual attachment becomes increasingly obvious. Mrs. Bennet speaks of their marriage as imminent over dinner, within earshot of Mr. Bingley's friend Mr. Darcy. Darcy asks Elizabeth to dance with her and she inadvertently accepts. She does not enjoy it and cannot understand why he asked her. Mr. Collins pays particularly close attention to Elizabeth at the ball, and even reserves the first two dances with her.
- [11] The next day Mr. Collins proposes to Elizabeth. She refuses him, and after a while Mr. Collins comes to understand that her refusal is sincere, not just a trick of female coquetry. Mrs. Bennet is extremely angry at Elizabeth for not accepting, but Mr. Bennet is glad. Mr. Collins shifts his attentions to Elizabeth's friend Charlotte Lucas. He proposes to Charlotte and she accepts. Elizabeth is disappointed in her friend for agreeing to marry such a silly man simply to obtain financial security.
- [12] Bingley goes to London for business and shortly after he leaves his sisters and Darcy go to London as well. He had planned to return quickly to Netherfield, but Caroline Bingley writes to Jane and tells her that Bingley will almost definitely not return for about six months. Caroline also tells Jane that the family hopes Bingley will marry Darcy's younger sister Georgiana and unite the fortunes of the two families. Jane is heartbroken, thinking that Bingley must not really be attached to her. Elizabeth thinks that Darcy and Bingley's sisters somehow managed to convince Bingley to stay in London rather than returning to Netherfield to propose to Jane.
- [13] Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner, Elizabeth's aunt and uncle, come to Longbourn to visit. They invite Jane to come and spend some time with them in London, hoping that the time away will help to cheer her up. Elizabeth also hopes that Jane will run into Bingley while in London. Mrs. Gardiner, after observing Elizabeth and Wickham together, warns Elizabeth against the