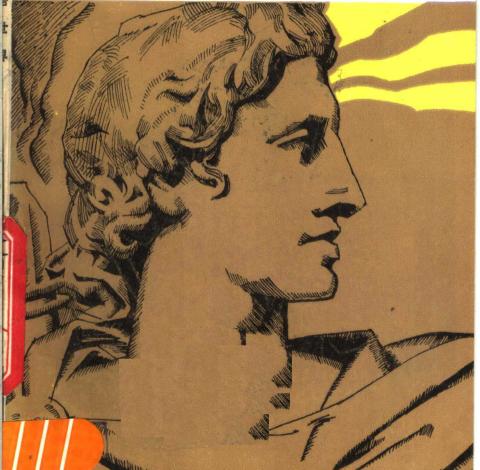
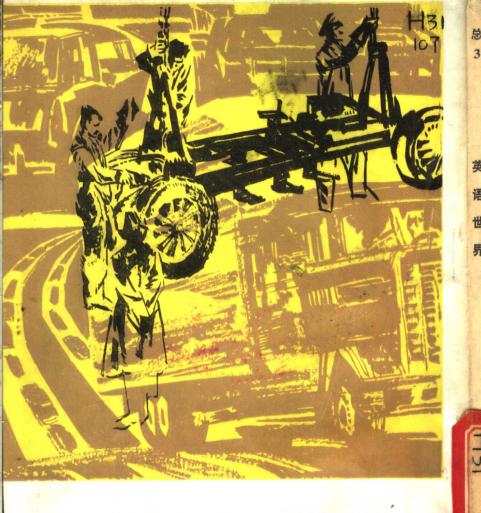
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• 识涂篇 •

谈 学 习 英 语 与 英 语 语 法 ——答复一封来信——

戴镏龄

你来信说要在语法上狠下工夫,阅读四五部英语语法书, 我不赞成你这样作。

从你附来的写作练习看,你的语法知识固然还差,但我同时发现你的词汇贫乏、表达方式单调,你对于许多习惯语用法不甚了了;而且,我从你的写作练习所获得的总印象是,表面上满纸英文字,实际上却不象英语——至少不是纯正的英语,许多句子结构是仿照汉语句子模型造出来的。

你大概有一定的自知之明,不满足于目前的水平,想继续深造,所以提出要攻语法。但攻语法对于你不是解决问题的关键。要解决问题,先须找出问题的真正所在。那么,什么是你的问题呢,即什么是你学习英语的主要毛病呢?我以为,一句话:感性知识太差。你读的听的英语太少。你对读过听过的英语能熟记的更少,而你对熟记的材料能彻底弄通并正确运用的就尤其少得可怜了。即以读而论,许多人读过一套三册至四册的教科书,读到后面的,忘掉前面的,对全套书的语言不曾循序渐进、稳扎稳打地弄懂,脑子里是一堆笼统零乱的语言现象。乍见面似曾相识,细问起来则往往张冠李戴。比如打仗,这些你曾读过的单词、片语和句子,对于你只是些杂凑起来的素无训练的乌合之众,当你挥动大笔驱使他们上降。

阵势还来不及摆成,就一定先四下溃逃,化成散兵游勇。这 就是你那满纸英文而并没有多少英语味道的作业。我说得可 能过分了些, 但基本事实是这样的。仍以打仗作个比喻。你 既然带兵,就得对每一个士兵的年龄、体质、性格等等有一 个最基本的概念。士兵中有以一技之长见称的,有具备特殊 本领的,也还有个性倔强的和爱调皮捣蛋的,这些你都必须区 别对待、在训练和使用上做到心中有数。同样、那些英语单 词、片语,和你的本族语的单词、片语不一样,你对它们很陌 生,其中有常用的和不常用的,有在句子结构中用法较为特殊 的,有只能在某些上下文中出现而不能随便搬家的,有的其意 义有所专指而不能泛用的、有的其意义纷歧繁复须加以划分 而不能混为一谈的,有适宜于某种场合或某一类人物的口吻 而不能随便任其闯入"禁区"的,如此等等。由此看来,这些单 词、片语也都有自己的脾气和特征、如同上面说的士兵一样。 我们要正确使用这些单词、片语,就得先了解它们,就是说要 摸清它们的脾气和特征, 当然, 也只能在一定的学 习阶段, 根据已接触过的语言现象。从最主要的方面一步一步地。在 有经验的老师指导下横漕那些必须掌握的最基本的脾气和特 征。大抵一部好的教科书会交代清楚甚至反 复 强 调 这 些 东 西。善于自学的人,总是虚心领会,逐步消化,收到很好的效 果。你现在应着力的正是这样的工夫: 大量接触适合自己程 度的语言材料,对其中一部分认真学习,力求融会贯通,读起 来上口,觉得那样表达的方式顺理成意,十分自然而不勉强, 也不牛碗,这样,你就对英语的基本格式初步有了一定的语言 感。不通过对语言材料的大量反复实践、就无从具有语言感。 在上面所说的扎实的不断练习的基础上, 再系统地学些

(转53页)

How to Get the Most Out of Reading

B. Franklin

To Miss Mary Stevenson

Craven Street [London]¹, May 17, 1760

I send my good girl² the books I mentioned to her last night. I beg her to accept them as a small mark of my esteem and friendship. They are written in the familiar, easy manner, for which the French are so remarkable, and afford a good deal of philosophic and practical knowledge, unembarrassed with³ the dry mathematics used by more exact reasoners, but which⁴ is apt to discourage young beginners.

[2] I would advise you to read with a pen in your hand, and enter in a little book short hints of what you find that is curious, or that may be useful; for this will be the best method of imprinting such particulars in your memory, where they will be ready, either for practice on some future occasion, if they are matters of utility, or at least to adorn and improve your conversation, if they are rather points of curiosity. And, as many of the terms of science are such as you cannot have met with in your common reading and may therefore be unacquainted with, I think it would be well for you to have a good dictionary at hand, to consult immediately when you meet with a word you do not comprehend the precise meaning of. This may at first seem troublesome and

・识途篇・

怎样阅读收获最大

[美]本·富兰克林 唐宝心 译

致玛丽・史蒂文森小姐:

了略表我的敬意和友情,我把昨夜提到的几本书送给我的好姑娘,请她收下,并把这几本书看作是代表我的敬意和友谊的一点小小的纪念。这几本书文字通俗流畅,法国作家最擅长于此;内容有许多富有哲理和实用价值的知识,而没有使用枯燥乏味的数学公式令人难以理解。推理比较精确的人有时使用数学公式,而这容易让年幼的初学者望而却步。

[2] 我劝你在阅读时手执一笔,遇到警句妙语或有用之处就在笔记本上记些要点,这是记忆此种细节的最好办法。它们有的是有用的知识,记在脑内,将来遇有机会,可以使用;有的虽然仅是奇思妙想,但至少也可以使你的言谈丰富多采。再者,许多科学名词平时阅读不易遇到,因此也不认识,我意你最好准备一本较好的词典在手边,每遇不甚了解其确切意义的单词可以立时查阅。开始时容或有些麻烦,且要打断阅读,但随着对这类单词日益熟悉,用

interrupting; but it is a trouble that will daily diminish, as you will daily find less and less occasion⁹ for your dictionary, as you become more acquainted with the terms; and in the meantime you will read with more satisfaction, because with more understanding.¹⁰

[3] When any point occurs, in which you would be glad to have further information than your book affords you, I beg you would not in the least apprehend that I should think it a trouble to receive and answer your questions.¹¹ It will be a pleasure and no trouble. For though I may not be able, out of my own little stock of knowledge, to afford you what you require, I can easily direct you to the books where it may most readily be found. Adieu, and believe me ever, my dear friend, yours affectionately,¹²

B. Franklin

--- rom Benjamin Franklin Reader

Notes

- 1. [London]: 此字用方括导表示 是编辑为读者阅读方便而加上 去的,原信中并无此字。 英文书 信的寄信地址及日期写在信纸 第一页的右上角,译文宜照汉语 格式移至信尾签名之后。
- 2. my good girl: 指的是收信人 Mary Stevenson (也就是 "you");用第三人称而不用第二 人称,是过去书面文体中表示客 气的手法,现在很少这样写信。 下面的 her 同此。
- 3. unembarrassed with ...: (宣译) 没有因为充斥着: 面显得累赘。

- but which...: which 从句修饰 mathematics, 在语法上与 used by more exact reasoners 平行, 意义上则相反,所以用 but连棒。
- 5. enter in a little book short hints of ... = enter short hints ... in a little book (把 的要点记在小本子上)。介词 of 的宾语,是名词从句 what you find, 而它又有两个限制性的定语从句,即 that is curious 和 that may be useful (你 发现有兴趣或可能有用的东西)。
- 6. Will bes 这个财态表示一种"新

词典的次数逐日减少,这种麻烦也就会与日俱减。 同时,因为理解增强,阅读必会更加津津有味。

[3] 若有问题,你希望多了解一些而在书上找不到,请写信给我,我会乐于接受你的问题并作出回答而不会感到麻烦,对此你千万不必有什么顾虑,因为那将是一种快乐而不是麻烦。虽然我知识浅薄,也许不能回答你所提出的问题,但我却不难介绍书籍给你,使你能立即从中找到答案。再见吧,亲爱的朋友,相信我永远是你挚爱的

本・富兰克林

1760年5月17日 于[伦敦]克雷文街

---译自《本杰明·富兰克林选集》

定",而不是简单的未来。

- if they are rather points of curiosity: rather 在这里作"毋 宁说","还不如说"讲,they 和前 面一样,指 short hints ...。
- 8. a word you do not comprehend the precise meaning of: word 后面是一个略去 which 的定语从句,相当于 a word the precise meaning of which you do not comprehend。
- 9. less and less occasion for ... (此处) = less and less need for
- 10. because with more understanding (省略句) = because you will read with more

understanding.

- 11. I beg you would not in the least apprehend that ... questions: 这是比较古老、陈旧的文体: "我请求你绝不要担心我会认为收到和回答你的问题是一种麻烦。"
- 12. Adieu, and believe me ever, my dear friend, yours affectionately: 这是古旧的结尾 信件的说法: adieu 是法语, 相 当于 goodbye; believe 之后用 了一个复合宾语me yours affectionately, 而 ever 又用于修饰 yours affectionately; my dear friend 是插入语。

"Nothing, but my heart!"

— In commemoration of the 120th anniversary of Tagore's birth

Zhao Puchu Translated by Zhu Jue

Half a century ago, one night,
From Beijing Tagore was to depart.
To bid him farewell,¹
Hundreds upon hundreds gathered,
Some with palms put together before their faces,
While others held him in embrace.²
Tears merged,³ accompanied by
Pouring rain and piercing wind.
"Have you left anything behind?"
Some one happened to ask.
Ringing, came Tagore's reply,
"Nothing, but my heart."⁴

Twenty years ago, tonight,
At New Delhi, I read you an elegy.
Lacking the luster of your elegant works,
Still, it conveyed what there was
In the bosom of a brother⁵
During those gloomy days,⁶
When tears merged, accompanied by
Pouring rain and piercing wind.
And this hour, tonight,
Again in my mind, occurs

[文苑]·诗。

"没有什么了,只是我的心!"

——为泰戈尔*诞辰一百二十周年作

赵朴初 祝珏 译

五十年前的一夕, 泰戈尔正离开北京, 许多人向他合掌,和他拥抱, 满天风雨和着泪儿倾。 "您有什么落(jà)下来没有?"*** 忽然有人问一声。 泰戈尔回答说: "没有什么了, 只是我的心。"

二十年前的今夕, 我曾在新德里为您朗读过祭文, 虽比不上您的美妙言词, 但努力表达了兄弟的心情, 无奈当时 满天风雨和着泪儿倾。 今夕啊, 我禁不住还想问。

^{*}秦戈尔(1861-1941),印度诗人,曾获 1913 年诺贝尔文学奖。

^{**}落: là, 东西忘记拿走。按原来的问答是英文:

[&]quot;Do you have anything left;"

[&]quot;Nothing, but my heart,"

This same question:

"Have you left anything behind?"

And your answer keeps ringing in my ear,

"Nothing, but my heart!7

Notes

- To bid him farewell: 为了向他告别。译诗需照顾英语的意义和节奏,不加这个词组,英译的意思就不明白。加了,对英译(现为十二行)的节奏也有补益。
- 2. Some with palms put together ... in embrace: 这两行中的 "Some with palms put together" 是一种"代词十介词词组" 的独立结构连 while 一从句整个独立结构对前面的主句 Hundreds upon hundreds gathered 提供了伴随的情况,可以说起着状语的作用。另外,原诗中"向他合掌,和他拥抱",英译时用some和 others 分别说明,比较符合英语习惯。
- 3. Tears merged: "泪水汇合在一起",这是句子主要部分; accompanied by pouring rain and piercing wind "伴随着急风暴雨",这是起状语作用的过去分词词组、修饰 merged,喻指人们的情感很强烈。注意: 原诗的第

- 三、四行,由于英译词意和节律的需要,安排成了六行。
- 4. Nothing, but my heart. 这个省略句,相当于 I have left behind nothing but my heart, 其中but 是介词,相当于except。"把自己的心留下来"是一句深情而富有诗意的话,印度著名诗人泰戈尔这话实际表达了中印人民的心是连在一起的。
- 5. Still, it conveyed ... brother: what there was in the bosom of a brother 指"兄弟心胸中所 蕴藏的(感情)", it 即为前面的 elegy (餐文)。
- 6. During those gloomy days: 指 二十年前的1961年,正是边境冲 突后中印邦交处于低潮的时候, 那种情况下在新德里纪念泰戈 尔,作者不胜感慨,"满天风雨和 着泪儿倾",别是一番滋味。
- 最后重复秦戈尔的这句话,是把他作为印度人民的象征,中印人民的友情定将永存。

注释: 陈文伯

"您有什么落(là)下来没有?" 我记起了您的回答: "没有什么了, 只是我的心!"

1981年5月

•杂 辑•

JOKE 笑话

READING

Mother asked her small daughter who was reading a book: "What are you reading, dear?"

"I don't know," answered the girl.

"You don't know? You were reading aloud, so you must know."

"I was reading aloud, Mummy, but I was not listening," the child explained.

读书

妈妈问正在读书的小女儿:"你在念什么书,亲爱的?"

- "我不知道,"女孩回答说。
- "你不知道?你刚才在朗读,你一定知道。"
- "我在朗读,妈妈,可是我并没有在听,"小孩解释说。

HOW TO AVOID FOOLISH OPINIONS

Bertrand Russell¹

T o avoid the various foolish opinions to which mankind is prone, 2 no superhuman genius is required. A few simple rules will keep you, not from all error, but from silly error.

[2] If the matter is one that can be settled by observation, make the observation yourself. Aristotle³ could have avoided the mistake of thinking that women have fewer teeth than men, by the simple device of asking Mrs Aristotle to keep her mouth open while he counted. He did not do so because he thought he knew. Thinking that you know when in fact you don't is a fatal mistake, to which we are all prone. I believe myself that hedgehogs eat black beetles, because I have been told that they do; but if I were writing a book on the habits of hedgehogs, I should not commit myself⁴ until I had seen one enjoying this unappetizing diet. Aristotle, however, was less cautious. Ancient and medieval authors knew all about unicorns and salamanders; not one of them thought it necessary to avoid dogmatic statements about them because he had never seen one of them.



如何避免愚蠢的见识

不有各种各样愚蠢的见识乃是人类的通病。要想避免这种通病,并不需要超人的天才。下面提供的几项简单原则,虽然不能保证你不犯任何错误,却可以保证你避免一些可笑的错误。

[2] 如果一个问题但凭观察就可以解决的话,就请您亲自观察一番。亚里士多德误以为妇女牙齿的数目比男人少。这种误错,他本来是可以避免的,而且办法很简单。他只消请他的夫人把咀张开亲自数一数就行了。但他却没有这样做,原因是他自以为是。自以为知道而实际上自己并不知道;这是我们人人都容易犯的一种致命错误。我自己就以为刺猬好吃油虫,理由无非是我听人这么讲过;但是如果我真的要动手写一部介绍刺猬习性的著作,我就不应该妄下断语,除非我亲自看见一只刺猬享用这种并不可口的美餐。然而亚里士多德却不够谨慎。古代和中古时代的著作家谈起麒麟和火蛇来头头是道;但是他们当中谁也没有觉得,既然自己从未见过任何麒麟和火蛇,那就必须避免武断。