A TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES

英语会话专集

张桂香 译

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中国展望出版社

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译者的话

最近访问美国归来的一位朋友向我们推荐《英语会话专集》一书。该书是以一位留美研究生在美学习和 生 活 为 背景,从几个方面编写的会话材料。全书共有三十六章,每章分为"词汇和短语"、"对话"和"文化背景"三个部分。

这本书的突出特点是,词汇丰富,会话生动活泼,对话部份采用了现代的地道的美国口语,介绍了美国的教育制度,社会风貌,社交礼节,风土人情和日常生活等。该书对于已经具有一定英语基础的同志提高英语会话水平,对于准备出国深造的留学生、研究生、专业学者以及外事工作者,同时对于大专院校的学生都是一本很有用的参考书。

为了便于读者学习和阅读,我们对个别内容和某些字句做了删改,并将对话部份译成中文。译文难免有不当和欠妥之处,敬请读者指正。

杨蓉春 马桂欣 一九八二年四月于北京

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1. LEARNING ENGLISH

学习英语

Part A

VOCABULARY AND EXPRESSIONS

词汇和短语

What keeps you so busy?

怎么那样忙呢?

lately

近来,最近。

a bit

有点儿。

get confused

弄不清楚; 搞糊涂了。

Test of English as a Foreign

Language (= TOEFL)

托福考试。

expression

表达方式, 短语。

complicated

复杂的。

awkward

不顺(口)的,不合适的,

别扭的。

people lose me in a con-

别人听不懂我讲什么。

versation

torture

折磨。

(Let's) take a break.

让我们休息一下吧!

at a distance

远处的。

near-sighted

近视。

far-sighted 远视。

1

contact lenses

wouldn't work for me

take your word for it

Ah-choo! (She sneezes)

(God) Bless you!

It's chilly (out).

chat

Just as you sav.

Let me fix some coffee for

you.

You take it black, right?

Make yourself at home.

I'll be right with you.

playing mah-jongg

to kill time

tutor

a bunch of

apply

boring

record player

tape recorder

record

tape

native voice

listening comprehension

隐形眼镜。

不适合我用。

相信你的话。

啊啾(她打喷涕)!

祝福你。

(外头)有点凉。

聊天。

好吧: 随你的便。

我去给你煮(冲)点咖啡。

你喝咖啡不放奶(连糖也不

搁)对吗?

别拘束啊! (就像在你自己

家里一样)!

我马上就来。

打麻将。

消磨时间。

家庭教师。

一大堆。

应用。

可厌的; 烦人的; 乏味的。

唱机。

录音机。

唱片。

录音带。

道地的腔调(纯正的口音)。

听力。

native tongue

本国语。

develop

扩充运用(启发性的训练)。

发音器官(声带、舌、口、

the muscles of speech or-

鼻腔)等。

gans

instrument

工具。

cultural background

文化背景。

intimately tied to

与……有密切的关连。

bound up with

与……有密切的关系。

differen developed in

在不同的地区发展。

master's degree (= M.A.;

硕士学位。

M. S.)

areas

dissertation

博士论文。

doctorate degree

博士学位。

How marvelous!

多好啊!

Hit the sack.

睡吧。

Capital idea!

好主意。

Take care (of yourself).

保重(等于再见)。

Part B DIALOGUE

话 对

Peter: What keeps you so busy lately?

彼得: 你近来怎么那么忙呢?

Mary: Studying English.

玛丽: 正在学英语。

Peter: What makes you study English so hard?

彼得: 你为什么这么努力学习英语呢?

Mary, you know I'm planning to go to the United States this coming summer if I'm lucky enough to be admitted to Miami University. I'm a bit nervous about my English.

玛丽: 你知道,我正计划今年夏天去美国,如果我很幸运能被迈阿密大学录取。我对我的英文有点忐忑不安。

Peter: Your English is very good.

彼得: 你的英文很好。

Mary: Thank you, but I'm afraid my pronunciation isn't accurate enough and that I might get confused.

玛丽. 谢谢,不过,我担心我的发音不够准确,我会弄糊涂的。

Peter: Don't worry about it. As an American, I understand you quite well. Besides, you've passed the Test of English as a Foreign Language.

彼得:别担心。作为一个美国人,我相当理解你。不过,你 已经通过了托福考试(英文作为外语的考试)。

Mary: Yes, I have passed the TOEFL but I still find the word order very difficult. Sometimes I know every word in an expression, but I don't know what it implies. Honestly, I understand very little.

玛丽: 是的,我已经通过了托福考试。不过,我仍觉得词序挺难的。有时我知道一个词组中每个词的意思,但不了解

它的含义。老实说,我知道得很少。

Peter: Yes, it is complicated. Sometimes the sentence structure is awkward for Chinese-speaking people.

彼得:是的,这是复杂的。有时句子的结构对讲中文的人来 说,挺别扭的。

Mary: You know, I'm embarrassed when people lose me in the middle of a conversation.

玛丽: 你知道当别人听不懂我讲什么的时候,我感到很难为情。

Peter: Relax, Mary. You shouldn't torture yourself.Let's take a break.

彼得:玛丽,放松点,别折磨自己。我们休息一会吧!

Mary: O.K., fine. Ten minutes.

玛丽:好,休息十分钟。

Peter: Ten minutes! Shall we take a walk to the swimming pool?

彼得:十分钟!我们朝游泳池那边走走吧?

Mary: Swimming pool? What do you intend to go there for?

玛丽:游泳池?去那干吗?

Peter: To get some fresh air. You need a rest and so do your eyes. You've been reading a lot lately.

彼得: 呼吸些新鲜空气。你需要休息,你的眼睛也需要休息。 最近你读了很多东西。

Mary: Oh yes, my eyes get tired easily. Sometimes after I read too much, I can't see things at a distance.

玛丽: 是的,我的眼睛很容易疲倦。有时,我看的东西太多,我就看不清远处的东西。

Peter: Have you checked with the doctor? You might be near-sighted.

彼得: 医生检查过吗? 你可能是近视。

Mary: You know, I would hate to have to wear glasses.

玛丽: 你知道,我不愿意戴眼镜。

Peter: These days a lot of people wear contact lenses. I'm slightly far-sighted, so I need glasses to read. Contact lenses wouldn't work for me.

彼得:近来,许多人戴隐形眼镜。我有点远视,所以我要戴眼镜看书,隐形眼镜对我不合适。

Mary: I'll take your word for it, Peter. I'll make an appointment with a doctor tomorrow. Ah-choo!

(She sneezes.)

玛丽: 彼得,我相信你的话。明天,我就与医生预约。啊啾! (她打喷涕)

Peter: Bless you!

彼得: 祝福你!

Mary: It's chilly out. Why don't we just stay home and have a little chat?

玛丽:外面有点凉。我们在家里聊聊好吗?

Peter: Just as you say.

彼得:好吧。

Mary: Let me fix some coffee for you. You take it black, right?

玛丽: 我去给你冲点咖啡。你喝咖啡不放奶,对吗?

Peter: Right.

彼得:是的。

Mary: Make yourself at home. I'll be right with you.

(Time passes.)

玛丽:别拘束啊!我马上就来。

Peter: So, tell me more.

彼得: 嗯, 多告诉我一些吧!

Mary: Well, it's funny. I used to study English for entertainment because I didn't have a special hobby, like playing mah-jongg, to kill time. Now I have a particular purpose for it.

玛丽: 咳,很有意思。因为我没有特别的爱好,我过去学英语是为了娱乐,象打麻将来消磨时间。现在我学习有了特别的目的。

Peter: So what's the problem?

彼得: 那,问题在哪儿呢?

Mary: The tutor assigned me a bunch of home work. She wants me to memorize all the phrases and expressions.

玛丽: 家庭教师给我留了一大堆家庭作业。她希望我记住所有的短语和词句。

Peter: She simply wants you to practice them over and over again until they are fixed in your mind.

彼得:她的确希望你一遍遍地练习,直到牢牢记住它们。

Mary: Yes, she said it is necessary to drill as much as possible and the more I apply it in real situations the more natural it will become. Drill is boring!

玛丽: 是的,她说,尽可能多练习是必要的。我在实践中应用得越多,就越感到自然。练习是令人讨厌的。

Peter: She is right.

彼得: 她是对的。

Mary: So, that's the problem. I need so much practice and I'm getting discouraged.

玛丽: 嗯,这就是问题所在。我需要做那么多的练习,我变得无信心了。

Peter: Actually, the fastest way to reach your goal would be to have a record player or a tape recorder.

彼得:实际上,为达到你的目标,最快的方法是有一架唱机 或录音机。

Mary: Why all of that?

玛丽: 为什么呢?

Peter: Well, the records or tapes have native voices and you can study them by listening again and again and imitating the sounds as many times as you wish.

彼得: 嗯,唱片或录音带可录下当地人的语调,你能一遍遍 地听着学,模仿语调,你愿意练习多少次就练多少次。

Mary: That's a good idea. That way I'm not only training my listening comprehension but also my speaking ability.

玛丽: 这是个好主意。那样不仅训练我的听力还训练我讲话 的能力。

Peter: Besides, since English is not your native tongue, you must develop the muscles of your speech organs to produce unfamiliar sounds. When you read, read aloud.

- 彼得,此外,既然英语不是你本国语,你必须运用你的发音 器官发出你不熟悉的声音。你读的时候,大声读。
- Mary: And the tutor also said that language is an instrument. People use it to express their ideas, thoughts, feelings, cae, and all these are determined by culture. When you understand the cultural background, you can better use the language.
- 玛丽: 家庭教师还说,语言是一种工具。人们用它表示他们的看法、思想、感情等等,所有这些都取决于文化。只有你懂得文化背景,你才能更好地使用语言。
- Peter: Yes, language is intimately tied to man's feelings and activities. It is bound up with nationality, religion, and the feeling of self. As groups of men developed in different areas of the world, each group created its own spoken language. However, the written language came about long after the spoken language was created.
- 彼得:是的,语言与人的感情和活动是密切关连的。它与民族、宗教和感情本身有密切的关系。人们在世界不同的地区发展,每个地区的人都创造了自己的口头语言。然而,书面语言是在口头语言创造很久以后才有的。

Mary: She said that, too.

玛丽:她也这样说。

Peter: She surely sounds like an expert.

彼得: 听起来, 她真象一位专家。

Mary: She is, I guess. She holds her master's degree in

Education and now she is doing research for her dissertation for her doctorate degree.

玛丽: 我想,她是位专家。她获有教育硕士学位,为获得博士学位,她现在正努力做博士论文。

Peter: How marvelous! You're certainly lucky to have her as your tutor.

彼得: 多好呀! 她做你的家庭教师,你当然很幸运了。

Mary: I'm glad to hear you say that.

玛丽: 听到你这么说,我很高兴。

Peter: I've enjoyed our talk but I have to leave now.

Why don't you hit the sack for an hour? It would do you good.

彼得:我很喜欢我们的谈话,不过,我现在得走了。你为什么不睡一小时呢?对你有好处。

Mary: Capital idea! However, I don't have time for a nap this afternoon.

玛丽: 好主意! 然而,今天下午我没时间睡午觉。

Peter: Well, take care.

彼得:好,保重(再见)。

Mary: Bye.

玛丽: 再见。

Part C CULTURAL BACKGROUND

文化背景

1. Oxford, Ohio: 俄亥俄州的牛津城(Oxford)是一个大

学城。城里有两所大学,其一为Miami州立大学,创校于一八〇九年,学生现约有一万三千人,其中以教育学院最著名。该校的足球队在美国相当出名,其体育系的毕业生多成为著名的足球教练,所以他们称 Miami University 为 football cradle,但此 Miami 非 Florida 海滩之 Miami。牛津的另一校为Western College,创校于一八五三年,为一贵族女校,学生约有六百人;该校注重国际文化背景的交流与其比较研究,故学生包括来自世界六十余国之多。以上两校只隔一条马路,四周有大树丛环绕,环境优美。该城在学校放假期间,电影院、饭馆等都关门休息。

- 2. Take it black。(此it指咖啡): 喝咖啡不加糖只加奶,或只加糖不加奶,或者两样东西都不加,有多种说法,甚至连美国人自己也弄不清楚。总之,说 Take it black时,咖啡里不是少掉糖,就是少掉奶,或两样都没加。
- 8. Hit the sack: "sack"一字原意为袋子,在世界大战时,军人为了行军临时住宿方便,美国士兵背上都有各人的保暖袋子,做得与人一般大小(美国入称睡袋)。袋上有一长拉链,人钻进去后,就把拉链拉上,只留头在外头,用这种袋子替代床(bed)。"Hit"是go to的意思,所以go to bed = Hit the sack。
- 4. Cultural Background,由于近日语言学者应教学的需要而从事于各国各地语言的比较研究,发现传统的英语教学失败的最大症结是在于学习过程中未能辅以文化背景。所以往往学上几年英语而徒劳无功,一讲就错,提起笔来又踌躇得不知如何下笔。文化背景对学习语言有重要的意义。