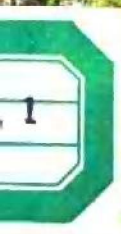


# 當代北美英語會話

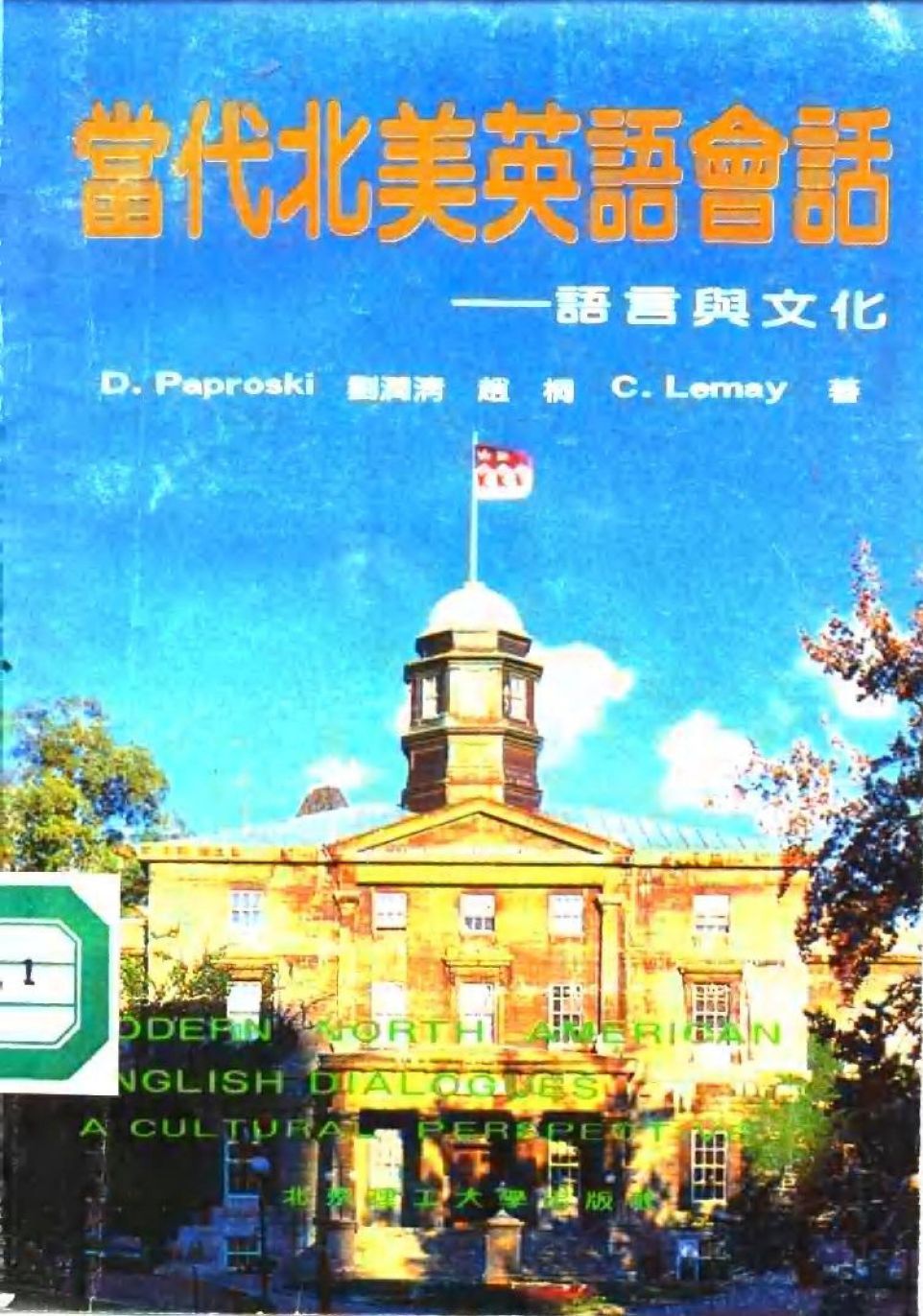
——語言與文化

D. Paproski 劉潤清 趙 桐 C. Lemay 著



MODERN NORTH AMERICAN  
ENGLISH DIALOGUES  
A CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

北京語言大學出版社



**Modern North American English Dialogues**

——A Cultural Perspective

**当代北美英语会话**

——语言与文化

[加]白达仁 [中]刘润清 著  
[中]赵 桐 [加]丽 梅

北京理工大学出版社

0013  
(京)新登字 149 号

## 内 容 简 介

本书作者用简明地道的英语写成会话,讲解语言与文化的关系,并说明中西文化之差异;书中有问有答,有讲解有实例;既有知识性,又有趣味性;图文并茂;不但容易上口,而且便于记忆。这些便是本书的主要特点。它是目前国内唯一的一本将语言与文化结合的会话教材。

全书共 15 个单元,每一单元有 5 个会话,各自侧重一个方面,贯穿全书,自成系统。学习各个对话,可以达到以下目的:(1) 练习使用日常会话用语、常用词语和特殊表达方式;(2) 了解西方文化、风俗习惯,更深刻地理解西方人说话时的含义;(3) 加强中西文化差异的意识,培养文化敏感性;(4) 学习用英语介绍中国文化的某些特点。总之,本书使读者可以学习地道的英语会话,又能初步了解西方文化,深刻认识中国文化,更好地用英语与西方人进行交际。

### 当代北美英语会话

#### ——语言与文化

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责任编辑 桂济世

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北京理工大学出版社出版

新华书店北京发行所发行 各地新华书店经售

国防科工委印刷厂印刷

\*

787×1092 毫米 32 开本 8.375 印张 167 千字

1992 年 3 月第一版 1992 年 3 月第一次印刷

ISBN 7-81013-481-7/H·41

印数: 1—13000 册

定价: 4.40 元

# 前言

本书不同于一般的英语会话手册。它不着重教授日常英语中的客套话，也不着重示范各种场合下的典型话语，而是重点介绍中西两种文化的差异。

为什么要编写这样的会话呢？原因很简单：语言是文化的载体；要想学好和用好一种外语，必须了解与这种语言有密切关系的文化。外语学习到一定阶段，文化知识有时起着关键性作用。比如说，发音不太好或单数第三人称少了-s，对方是可以谅解的；如果讲一口流利、准确的英语，但是违犯了西方的风俗习惯，对方就不太容易原谅了。试想，一个外国小伙子，在北京大街上遇到一位中国老人，用标准、流利的汉语问道：“老头儿，你今年几岁了？”那位老者不会高兴的。如果这个小伙子换一种说法问：“老人家，您今年高寿？”尽管他的汉语发音不好，结结巴巴地说出这句话来，老者会谅解他的。当然，语言与文化的关系远远比这个例子复杂得多。要读懂一部《红楼梦》，不知要有多少关于清朝末年的社会文化知识。同样，要看一部英语原著小说，对当时的社会文化一无所知，恐怕不会有深刻的理解。

我们在英语教学中和与西方人的接触中，深深感到文化因素在语言运用中的重要。D·Paproski（白达仁）先生和 C·Lemay（丽梅）女士是两位加拿大专家。他们在中国教书过程中和在台湾工作中，对中国文化有所了解，也深感中西两种文化的区别，以及因文化不同会造成的误解。于是，我们决定编写这样一本小书，用会话的方式来讲解语言与文化的关

系。我们认为，把最基本、最常见的文化差异收集起来，用简单的英语编成会话，有问有答，有讲解有实例，比长篇大论讲述，更有趣味性，更容易记忆，更容易上口，同时又学了英语。打下这样一个基础，对进一步了解西方文化，深刻认识中国文化，更好地用英语与西方人交际，都会有所裨益。

书中的会话是这样安排的：共 15 个单元，每个单元有 5 个会话。这 5 个会话各自侧重一个方面，贯穿全书，自成系统。这 5 个系统的内容，大致如下：

**会话 1：**中国留学生与外国学生的日常接触。加拿大学生达夫与台湾女士梅林在加拿大一所大学相遇，在学习和生活中产生了感情。由于文化差别，出现过误会和矛盾，几经周折，又言归于好，到中国、美国旅游之后，最后在台湾结成终身伴侣。

**会话 2：**关于中西两种文化的差异，涉及到的题目有：交男、女朋友，言谈举止，如何才算有礼貌，说话应直爽还是委婉，偏见问题，家庭问题，身势语的差别，以及在公共场合表露感情的问题。

**会话 3：**中国留学生感兴趣的西方生活习惯问题。如父母对子女的婚姻持何态度，离婚问题，大学生的生活，如何找工作，如何租房子，西方人听什么音乐，对孩子的教育，迷信问题，加拿大人与美国人的区别等。

**会话 4：**西方的风俗习惯，如名字和昵称，宗教问题，宗教节日，圣诞节，过生日，新年庆祝活动，感恩节，结婚仪式，体育运动，财产继承权等。

**会话 5：**日常生活会话：乘公共汽车，逛商店，超级市场，看医生，下餐馆，付房租，上班的路上，下班后的活动，招

待客人，野营等。

学习以上会话，大致可以达到以下目的：

1. 练习使用日常会话用语。
2. 练习使用常用的词、短语、成语或特殊表达方式。
3. 了解西方文化、风俗习惯，更深刻地理解西方人说话时的含义。
4. 加强文化中西差异的意识，培养文化敏感性。
5. 学习用英语介绍中国文化的某些特点。

本书适合大学本科二年级水平以上的英语学习者，对英语教师，外事工作者，出国进修人员，以及在中国工作或学习的西方人，都有参考价值。准备去讲英语国家留学的同志和在国内讲英语的公关小姐们，读一读此书，不会没有好处。

在编写过程中，曾在北京外国语学院英语系任教的 Herbert Gamberg 夫妇阅读过全书，并提出宝贵意见。台湾的何美君女士也曾给予很大帮助。我们在此向他们表示诚挚的谢意。

**编者**

1991年8月20日

于北京外国语学院

# INTRODUCTION

The special feature of this book is that it is designed to not only improve the spoken English of students within a North American context but should also improve the student's understanding of Western culture generally, and North American culture specifically.

The cultural dialogues are centred around the interaction of native Chinese with native North Americans. The dialogues are generally set up in such a way that the conversations reflect or explain various cultural dilemmas, misunderstandings, or novelties to the other person. Most of the dialogues involving a cultural difference are an explanation of the North American way of life given that the reader is most likely to be a native Chinese.

In addition, the authors have tried to maintain a realistic dialogue scenario. Scenarios such as those illustrated, are ones that would likely to be heard if a Chinese person was in fact confronted with a Westerner. As is well known, a textbook or written English often bears little similarity to spoken English. As you will see, while much of the conversation may not be grammatically correct, it is acceptable in spoken form. Textbook English in fact often sounds forced or "funny" when spoken.

It is hoped that by studying these dialogues the student will be able to learn useful, enduring idioms, in context, which are most

commonly heard in modern spoken English whether it be in North American, Britain, or Australia. Students of this book will therefore not only be able to converse in more fluid spoken English but will have a sound base from which to draw suitable conversations when talking to North American people. As such the book has multiple purposes:

1. to give practical sample dialogues in common use in North America,
2. to illustrate the use of common, enduring English idioms used in the English language,
3. to improve Chinese speakers' ability to use commonly used words and phrases,
4. to increase Chinese people's understanding of Western culture in general, and North America in particular,
5. and to show Chinese students how to notice cultural differences and how to explain Chinese customs and traditions to a Westerner.

The book itself is designed for intermediate or advanced students who have studied English in high school and/or have completed English courses in a post-secondary institution. The book is of especial, practical significance for students who wish to travel or study in an English-speaking country, or whose job requires dealing with foreign English speakers in their day-to-day work environment. The book will provide a solid foundation for integrating successfully with native English speakers both in terms of speaking with them and of understanding their cultural context. This ability is critically important in being able to function efficiently with



Western people and to appreciate their finer, sometimes subtle, points.

The organization of the book is such that each of the 15 units will be composed of five sections.

1. The first section of each unit will be a conversation between a Chinese girl and a Canadian boy who meet as classmates at a university in Canada. Their on-going relationship will take them from various points in Canada to America, mainland China, and finally to Taiwan province as their burgeoning relationship develops;
2. The second section of each unit will include some discussion specifically relating to cultural differences;
3. The third section will include dialogues between native speakers (and may at times include non-native speakers) which relate to topics of interest to Chinese students such as student life, work life, and North American views on love, sex, marriage, raising children, and divorce;
4. The fourth section will contain dialogues expressly related to North American customs and traditions;
5. The fifth section will include conversations regarding habits as they relate to daily life. This would include such things as shopping, going to a doctor, weekend activity, and meeting new people.

It is also sincerely hoped that this book can serve to enhance mutual understanding between the Western and Chinese cultures leading to greater and fuller communication.

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# CONTENTS

<b>UNIT ONE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Dialogue 1   The First Meeting	
Dialogue 2   On Being Direct	
Dialogue 3   Parents' Attitude Toward Their Child's Marriage	
Dialogue 4   About Names	
Dialogue 5   On the Bus	
<b>UNIT TWO .....</b>	<b>25</b>
Dialogue 1   On the Harbour Ferry	
Dialogue 2   On Being Polite	
Dialogue 3   A Job Interview	
Dialogue 4   At Church	
Dialogue 5   A Foreign Friend Comes to Visit	
<b>UNIT THREE .....</b>	<b>44</b>
Dialogue 1   A Day at University	
Dialogue 2   (a) About Independence	
(b) On Showing Affection in Public	
Dialogue 3   Candidate Acceptance	
Dialogue 4   About Halloween	
Dialogue 5   Shopping	
<b>UNIT FOUR .....</b>	<b>63</b>
Dialogue 1   Crisis After First Term	
Dialogue 2   On Adult Male Life	

Dialogue 3	First Day on the Job	
Dialogue 4	Religious Holidays	
Dialogue 5	At the Supermarket	
<b>UNIT FIVE</b>		<b>78</b>
Dialogue 1	Holidays in Alberta	
Dialogue 2	About Manners	
Dialogue 3	Stereotypes	
Dialogue 4	A Chinese Spending Christmas in Canada	
Dialogue 5	Getting the Monthly Bills	
<b>UNIT SIX</b>		<b>95</b>
Dialogue 1	A Trip to New York	
Dialogue 2	On Making Girlfriends	
Dialogue 3	On Divorce	
Dialogue 4	About Handshaking	
Dialogue 5	At the Doctor's	
<b>UNIT SEVEN</b>		<b>111</b>
Dialogue 1	Start of Second Year	
Dialogue 2	About Space	
Dialogue 3	Life of an American College Student	
Dialogue 4	College Sports Traditions	
Dialogue 5	Going Camping	
<b>UNIT EIGHT</b>		<b>125</b>
Dialogue 1	Relationship Crisis	
Dialogue 2	Privacy in Conversation	
Dialogue 3	At the Campus Housing Office	
Dialogue 4	More on College Traditions	
Dialogue 5	At McDonald's	

<b>UNIT NINE</b>	.....	140
Dialogue 1	Mending a Relationship	
Dialogue 2	About Prejudice	
Dialogue 3	Talking about Raising Children	
Dialogue 4	Tradition in Sports	
Dialogue 5	Getting to Work	
<b>UNIT TEN</b>	.....	156
Dialogue 1	Going to China	
Dialogue 2	About "Thank You"	
Dialogue 3	More on Raising Children	
Dialogue 4	A Birthday Tradition	
Dialogue 5	Gossiping at the Office	
<b>UNIT ELEVEN</b>	.....	171
Dialogue 1	At the Graduation Party	
Dialogue 2	On Compliments and Flirting	
Dialogue 3	Accents in English	
Dialogue 4	Getting Married	
Dialogue 5	Another Day at Office	
<b>UNIT TWELVE</b>	.....	188
Dialogue 1	A Call from Beijing to Montreal	
Dialogue 2	On the Family Crisis	
Dialogue 3	About Music	
Dialogue 4	New Year Traditions	
Dialogue 5	On a Saturday Morning	
<b>UNIT THIRTEEN</b>	.....	204
Dialogue 1	Meeting in China	
Dialogue 2	About Family	

- Dialogue 3 Talking about Associations
- Dialogue 4 Thanksgiving Day Tradition
- Dialogue 5 After Work

**UNIN FOURTEEN ..... 220**

- Dialogue 1 A Tour in China
- Dialogue 2 On Nonverbal Behaviour
- Dialogue 3 Differences between Canadians and Americans
- Dialogue 4 Talking about Allusions
- Dialogue 5 Going to a Pub

**UNIT FIFTEEN ..... 236**

- Dialogue 1 Ready to Marry
- Dialogue 2 On Euphemisms
- Dialogue 3 About Superstitions
- Dialogue 4 The Custom of Inheritance
- Dialogue 5 A Family Reunion Dinner

# UNIT ONE



## Dialogue 1 The First Meeting

*(Xu Meilin, A Chinese girl, meets Dave and Steven, two Canadian boys, at McGill University on orientation day<sup>①</sup>)*

Dave : Hi! How do you do?

Mei : Fine. Thank you.

Dave : My name is Dave Smith. What's yours?

Mei : Xu Meilin. My surname is Xu. It's nice to meet you.

Dave : It's nice to meet you too! If you don't mind my asking, where are you from?

Mei : I'm from Taiwan.

Dave : When did you arrive in Montreal?

Mei : Just yesterday. I arrived in Vancouver on a flight from Taipei and cleared customs<sup>②</sup> there. We had a five hour stopover before leaving for Montreal.

Dave : You must be tired. It is 2 : 00 p. m. Montreal time. What time is it now in Taipei?

Mei : 3 : 00 a. m. tomorrow morning!

Dave : Gee, it is surprising you look so fresh! Why don't I get you a hot dog from the grill and a cold beer to cool off.

Mei : You're very kind, but make it a coke. By the way what is a hot dog——it's a funny name.

Dave : Well, it can't be translated literally of course. It consists of a beef or pork sausage called a wiener which is put inside a bun. We usually eat it with mustard, relish, and onions. It's a common snack food.

Mei : I see. But what is mustard and relish?

Dave : Mustard is a yellow sauce with a tangy taste. It's used commonly on sandwiches. Relish is a sweet sauce made from green peppers and other spices. It's almost

exclusively eaten with hot dogs and hamburgers.

Mei : O. K. I'll try one.

Dave : I'll be right back.

(*Meanwhile*)

Steve : Hi. How do you do? My name is Steven.

Mei : I'm very well, thank you. It's nice to meet you. My name is Meilin.

Steve : You must be Chinese. Where are you from?

Mei : I'm from Taiwan.

Steve : Is this your first trip to Canada?

Mei : Yes. I've never been to a Western country. It's very exciting.

Steve : I felt the same way when I went to Europe. Even though I'm originally from Norway I have lived in Canada since I was 3 years old. Can I get you something from the barbecue? It's free today——our department is footing the bill. ③

Mei : Thank you, but someone else is getting me something. Here he is now.

Dave : Here you go. One hot dog and one coke.

Mei : Thank you. Dave, I'd like you to meet Steven.

Dave : (Shaking hands) Hi! How do you do, Steven?

Steve : Fine, but please call me Steve.

Dave : Sure. Where are you from, Steve?

Steve : Calgary——home of the 1988 Winter Olympics.

Dave : Well, I'm from Edmonton——Calgary's old sports rival. So what were you doing before you came to



Montreal?

Steve : I was working for an engineering company in Calgary. How about you two?

Mei : I was working in Taipei at Tamkang University's foreign affairs office.

Dave : I was working in a bank in Edmonton. Steve, by the way, I hear there's a harbour cruise tonight. Will you both be going?

Mei : Yes. I don't have any other plans.

Dave : Same here. Maybe we'll meet there again later.

Mei : That sounds great.

Steve : O. K. I'll see you guys later then.

All : Bye.

## Dialogue 2 On Being Direct

*(Yang and his friend Lin have just arrived in America from Beijing to study. They have been invited to the home of their friends John Johnson and Kathy Johnson. )*

*(The doorbell rings)*

John : Hi! Yang and Lin. Come on in.

Yang : Thanks. Should we take off our shoes?

John : Yes. It'll be more comfortable. Since nearly every room in our apartment has a carpet, we usually just