

第一章 形义相背

第一节 主动形式 被动意义

英语中的语态(voice)是一个语法范畴。它是表示动词的主语与该动词所表示的动作之间的一种动词形式，即它表示动作同行为主体和对象的关系。一般说来，主动语态表示主动意义，即主语是动作的执行者；被动语态表示被动意义，即主语是动作的承受者。但是，任何事物都有其特殊性。在英语中，语态形式与意义之间也存在着相互矛盾的现象。即主动语态表示被动的意义，被动语态表示主动的意义。语态的主动与被动是仅就动词而言的。除此以外，英语中还存在着大量的非动词主动结构或形式，同样具备了“主动形式，被动意义”这种异常的矛盾特征，本节对此也一并进行阐述。

1. 表示事物本质属性的一类不及物动词，通常可以用其主动语态表示被动意义。兹举例如下：

Your pen writes badly. 你的钢笔不好用。

This room cleans very easily. 这个房间很容易打扫。

The recorder doesn't play well. 这部录音机不好用。

The building has burnt down. 大楼被烧成了灰烬。

The damp match won't strike. 湿火柴擦不着。

Fish take best after rain. 雨后捕鱼最佳。

Nylon fabrics will not tear. 尼龙织品撕不破。

This metal cuts easily. 这种金属容易切割。

This cloth dyes readily. 这种布料容易染色。

In such hot weather meat won't keep long. 这样的大热天肉不易久放。

Clothes iron more easily when damp. 衣服潮湿更好熨。

This pipe doesn't draw well. 这只管子不好拉。

I am afraid this scene doesn't photograph well. 恐怕这风景不好拍摄。

This cake doesn't break. 这种蛋糕不容易弄破。

Such houses rent easily. 这样的房屋容易出租。

This play acts well. 这剧很好上演。

The story told well. 这故事流传很广。

The mud will brush off when it dries. 泥干了就容易擦磨掉了。

This piece of cloth will cut up into three suits. 这块布料将裁成三套衣服。

I supposed that my letter had miscarried. 我想我的信被误投了。

A porcelain sink cleans easily. 瓷制的洗涤槽易擦洗。

Your speech reads well. 你的讲演(读得)不错。

The room filled rapidly. 房间很快就挤满了人。

The middle house won't let. 中间这幢房子不出租。

These figures don't add up. 这些数字加不起来。

London does not compare with Paris. 伦敦不能与巴黎相比。

Meat cooks better if you deal with it slowly. 肉若慢慢烧会

烧得更好。

Mind your hat, or it will blow into the river. 当心你的帽子，不然会刮到河里去。

This sentence divides into two parts—the noun phrase and the verb phrase. 这个句子可分为两部分——名词短语和动词短语。

The gate won't lock. 大门锁不上。

The lid of this box can open easily. 这只箱子的盖子容易打开。

The door of your house doesn't shut. 你家的门关不上。

Your book sells well. 你的书很畅销。

This jacket is so dirty that it doesn't wash easily. 这件夹克太脏了，不容易洗。

This new type of truck drives well. 这种新型卡车很好驾驶。

Hard food hardly digests. 坚硬的食物难以消化。

This cloth will wear well. 这料子耐穿。

The picture won't colour well. 这幅画不好上色。

These bags carry easily. 这些袋子易携带。

The potatoes peel easily. 土豆很好剥皮。

The car rides smoothly. 这车坐起来很平稳。

以上例句从外在结构上看，具备如下特征：

(1) 通常带有必具性状语(obligatory adverbial)以表示这种事物所具备的内在特性(性能)。如：

This book sells well. 这书很畅销。

These clothes don't wash easily. 这些衣服不易洗。

In hot weather meat won't keep long. 热天肉食不能久放。

Hard food hardly digests. 坚硬的食物难以消化。

(2)否定结构中通常用 won't, don't, 如:

This material won't wear. 这种料子不耐穿。

The house in the middle won't let. 中间这座房子不出租。

This cake doesn't break easily. 这蛋糕不易破碎。

These articles don't translate easily. 这些文章不好翻译。

从句子意义上看,这类句子的主语通常是由表示事物的名词充当的,而且这种事物总要具有某种内在特质。也就是说,只有当主语具备了这种特性,可以促进,妨碍或阻止谓语动词所表示的概念时,才具备使用这种主动形式表达被动意义结构的可能性。如:Clothes iron easily when damp. 说明衣服在潮湿的情况下具有柔软容易变形等特点,因此容易熨烙。

可能有的读者会提出,上述例句(情况)是不是只能使用主动形式而不能用被动形式?对于这个问题,我们的观点是:两种语态均可以使用。但是,假如用了被动语态,那么句意将发生很大变化。如:His novels don't sell. 根本不等于 His novels are not sold. 前者意味着他的小说有某种内在因素,影响其销路,表明他的小说肯定不属于畅销书之列。这种解释可以适用于以上各种情况。在此种结构中,原本是及物动词,则在使用时呈现出不及物的用法。句子的主语既兼了动作的施事者,又兼了动作的行为的受事者。His novels don't sell. 表明书的本身不具备畅销的潜在质量,并没有考虑还有别的施事者。其正确性不难得以证明,只要在每个句子中添上一个带 by 的附加成分,就不得不将原句改为被动式了:His novels don't sell. — His novels are not sold by book-sellers. 他的书书商卖不出去。试比较:

The door opened. (门开了。) — The door was opened by Mr Smith. (门被史密斯先生打开了。)

She doesn't photograph well. (她不上相。) — She was not photographed well yesterday. (她昨天照得不好。)

The gate won't lock. (大门锁不上。) — The gate won't be locked until ten tonight. (大门直到晚上十一点钟才锁。)

2. 某些系动词如：feel, taste, smell, sound, look, seem, prove 等，与形容词连用时，通常也以主动形式表示被动的意义。例如：

Stone feels rough, but glass smooth. 石头摸起来感到粗糙，而玻璃则有光滑之感。

Honey tastes sweet. 蜜尝起来很甜。

Everything looks different to her. 在她看来，一切都不同了。

These ideas may seem strange to you. 这些观点在你看来可能很奇怪。

They all looked vigorous and vital. 他们看上去都充满活力。

His conclusion certainly sounded reasonable. 他的结论听起来当然有道理。

This method proved highly effective. 这个方法被证明是高效的。

此外，某些不及物动词，如：wear, blow, eat, drink, smoke, cut, wash 等，后面可以接形容词，以表示这个动词的结果或方式，也有主动形式表示被动语态的用法：

The carpet has worn thin. 地毯磨得很薄了。

The door blew open. 门被吹开了。

The cakes eat short and crisp. 这蛋糕吃起来松脆鲜美。

The soup drinks delicious, but rather salty. 这粥喝起来味道不错，可有点咸了。

Does your tobacco smoke hot ? 您的烟草抽起来感到辣嘴吗？

The beef cuts tender. 这牛肉切起来很嫩。

All the clothes washed clean. 所有的衣服都洗干净了。

除形容词外，有些系动词后接介词短语或名词也可以主动形式表示被动意义。

It looks like rain. 天看起来像要下雨。

This liquid tastes like wine. 这种液体尝起来像是酒。

It smells like garlic. 它闻起来像是大蒜的味道。

This feels like glass. 这东西摸起来像是玻璃。

His voice sounds like yours. 他的声音听起来像你的一样。

It seems like snow. 天看上去像要下雪了。

Everything seems in the muddle. 一切看起来处在混乱中。

He proved a true friend. 他被证明是真正的朋友。

She doesn't look her age. 她看上去不像她的年龄。

This seems a serious matter. 这看起来是件严重的事情。

It appears a good idea. 它看来是个好主意。

综上所述，英语中为数不少的系动词，当后面跟有一定的表语时，往往以其主动形式表示与句子主语的被动关系。在这类用法中，这个动词是决不能使用被动语态的，例如：

Stone feels rough.

× Stone is felt rough.

3. 某些动词的-ing 形式用在 verb to be 后，以其主动形

式表示被动意义。例如：

The rice was cooking. 大米在煮着。

The cakes were baking on the hearth. 蛋糕在炉上烘烤着。

I have no idea what is doing in literature now. 我对现在文学研究的情况一无所知。

A big shark was hauling on board. 一条大鲨鱼正在甲板上拖着。

This game is constantly playing. 这种游戏现在常玩。

This plan is working out successfully. 这个计划在成功地制订着。

The week's rent was owing. 本周的租金还欠着。

My bedroom was filling up. 我的卧室被人挤满了。

The magazines are binding now. 杂志正在装订中。

Baskets have been carrying all day. 篮子总是整天携带的。

Preparations are making for the meeting. 开会的准备工作正在做着。

The books were publishing. 书正在出版中。

My MS (=manuscript) is now copying. 我的稿件正在抄写中。

The house is building. 房子正在建造着。

The trumpets are sounding/blowing. 喇叭在吹着。

Guns are firing. 枪炮在射击。

The drums are beating. 鼓在敲。

Their task is finishing. 他们的任务接近完成了。

These cows are milking. 这些奶牛正在挤奶。

The film is showing now. 电影正在上演中。

这种 be + v-ing 非谓语动词形式表示被动含义的用法，

并不是包括所有动词。属于这种习惯用法的，在现代英语中大致分为如下三种类型：

(1)某些关于烹调的日常用语。The dinner is cooking.

The tea is brewing.

The cakes are baking.

The breakfast is preparing.

(2)某些行业的技术用语。

The book is printing.

The periodicals are binding now.

The papers are copying.

The guns are firing.

The film is showing.

‘ The theatre is’ buildig.

(3)与日常生活关系密切的用语：。

Nothing is doing now.

The week’s rent was still owing.

The piano has been a long time mending.

This game is constantly playing.

4. 作定语用的动词不定式以其主动形式表示与被修饰词的被动关系。这种现象在当代英语中普遍存在着。其语法特征是，语意上往往带有情态意义，时间上往往带有将来意义。不定式作定语主要修饰句子的主语、宾语和表语。现分别叙述这三种类型。

(1)不定式修饰主语 在此结构中，以“ There + be + to do sth. ” 为代表。

There is no time to lose.

没时间可浪费了。

There was plenty to do; cattle to feed, the garden to tend .
the house closets to finish.

有许多事情要做：牛需要喂，花园需要整理，房内壁厨要完工。

There are three children to look after.

有三个孩子需要照顾。

Are there any more letters to post?

还有没有信要寄发？

There is much to do today.

今天有许多事情要做。

The first thing to do is to ask him for help.

需要做的第一件事就是请他帮忙。

The greatest thing to remember is this. **需要记住的最重要的事情就是这个。**

A house to let in this district is no help to people. **在这一地区出租房屋对人们无益。**

以上数例中，修饰主语的不定式在形式上是主动的，但与被修饰语的关系则是被动的。

(2)不定式修饰宾语 在此结构中,以‘ have sth. to do ’为代表。

He is a poor man and has no money to spend. **他很穷,没有钱花。**

Do you have anything to say for yourself ? **你为自己还有什么话可说吗？**

I have good news to tell you. **我有好消息告诉你。**

Most people have some similar experience to remember. **多数人都有一些类似的经历要记在脑中。**

I've got my wife and little boy to take care of. 我有妻子和孩子需要照料。

I'll get a book to read during the vacation. 我要弄本书在假期时阅读。

You must find something to do while you wait there. 在那儿等待时你应该找点事做。

Please give some advice to follow. 请提些必须遵循的忠告。

He will show you the right path to take. 他会给你指出应采取的正确道路。

以上数例说明，修饰宾语的不定式在形式上是主动的，但与被修饰语的关系则是被动的。此外，不定式的逻辑主语（施事者）则一般是句子的主语，但有时是另一成分。如：He will show you the right path to take. (take 的逻辑主语是 you 而不是 he)

(3)不定式修饰表语。

He is not a man to fool. 他可不是一个能愚弄得了的人。

Smith can't have been an easy man to help. 史密斯不可能是一个乐意接受帮忙的人。

These are my little children to bring up. 这是我需要哺育的孩子。

What I want to know is what to do next. 我想知道的就是，下一步该干什么。

It is nothig to care. 那不值得在意。

This is an effective step to take. 这是要采取的一个有效的步骤。

如何解释上述‘不定式主动形式被动意义’这个现象 我

们可以不可以将不定式改为被动语态？对此有必要作如下解释：在不少情况下，主动形式和被动形式均可使用。主动语态重点在于动作本身，而被动语态则把重点移到动作的对象。如：There were nets to mend and mount, lobster pots to tar, wood to chop and stack, tomato stakes to be splintered. 这一句中，用 nets to mend and mount, lobster pots to tar, wood to chop and stack，把不定式当作主体的行为。换句话说，仿佛这是农民在考虑他将要做什么事，就像说：I'll have to mend and mount my nets, to tar some lobster pots. 等等。然而，用 tomato stakes to be splintered，是从番茄棚插条方面来考虑要做什么事的，即番茄棚插条将接受怎样的动作。简言之，主动不定式说明动作的施事，而被动不定式则说明要做的动作的对象。下面我们试从结构上作些分析以说明这种情况：

There is no time to lose. (= We must lose no time.)

Remember there is a wall to climb. (= You will have to climb a wall.)

It is not a place to visit by night. (= It is not a place which one should visit by night.)

That is something to know. (= That is something one should know.)

反之，当不考虑施事，而只考虑动作所影响的对象或动作所起作用的对象（即一般所谓动词的宾语）时，就用被动式。如：

There is no time to be lost. (= No time must be lost.)

There is some work to be done. (There is some work that must be done.)

动词不定式作定语而且使用主动结构的现象大量地存在

于当代英语中，为了从根本上解释这个问题，我们不妨在否定式前加上一个逻辑主语进行印证。任何主动形式的不定式前均可加上一个 *for sb.* 来表示其动作的施事者。如：

These are my little children for me to bring up.

He will show you the right path for you to take.

There is no time for us to lose. 然而被动式的不定式前则不能加上任何逻辑主语。不可说：

× *I have some problems for me to be settled.*

× *There is a meeting for us to be held.*

× *Please give him some food for him to be eatend.*

5. 与形容词连用，表示结果的不定式，也具备主动形式表示被动意义的语法特征，句子的主语即是动词不定式逻辑上的宾语。其模式为：“*Subject + be + adj. + infinitive.*”例如：

John is easy to deceive. 约翰很容易被骗。

His house was difficult to find. 他家很难找。

John 和 *his house* 分别为句子的主语，而又分别充当了动词不定式 *deceive* 和 *find* 意义上的宾语。为了说明主语是不定式动作的受事者（意义上的宾语），我们不妨将这类句子转换一下，请注意观察：

(1) 不定式作主语：

To deceive John is easy.

To find his house was difficult.

(2) 用引导词 *it*：

It is easy to deceive John.

It was difficult to find his house.

(3) 若形容词有相应的副词形式，也可以用被动式表示：

John is easily deceived. 用不定式的主动形式表示被动意义，表现在这种结构上关键在于跟不定式连用的这个形容词。英语中并非所有的形容词都有此种用法，只是部分而已。现将这类形容词例举如下：

The box is heavy to lift. 这只箱很艰难提起。

Is this water fit to drink? 这水适合饮用吗？

The river is narrow to sail up. 这河太窄了难以航行（行船）。

That picture is beautiful to look at. 那幅画看起来很漂亮（很好看）。

The coffee is bitter to taste. 这咖啡尝起来有苦味。

They are both attractive. 它们两个都引人注目。

This car is expensive to overhaul. 这部车子要彻底检修费用太高了。

Frog's legs are nice to eat. 田鸡腿很好吃。

Biographies are often interesting to read. 传记读起来常常是很有趣的。

Dirty water is nasty to drink. 脏水喝起来令人作呕。

A tractor is useful to have on farm. 拖拉机在农场上很有用。

Mary is pleasant to talk to. 跟玛丽谈话是愉快的。

This lake is dangerous to swim in. 这个湖游泳有危险。

The main street is usually busy to cross. 大街通常很拥挤，不易穿过。

This old dress is rather odd to wear in this district. 这种旧服装在这个地区穿显得有点古怪。

The furniture will be light to move. 这家俱搬动起来很轻

便。

The forest was thick to walk through. 森林茂密难以穿过。

The question is hard to answer. 这个问题难以回答。

This map is clear to study. 这地图看起来很清楚（一目了然）。

The grass is very smooth to walk on. 在这草地上行走很平滑。

The scene is very exciting to see. 这景致看上去很令人心旷神怡。

Chairs are comfortable to sit on. 椅子坐起来舒服。

This word is not easy to explain. 这个词不容易解释。

That film was very funny to see. 那个电影很滑稽可笑。

The story of her sufferings was painful to listen to. 她的苦难经历听起来令人痛心。

This door is impossible to open. 这门不可能打开。

The story of his adventures was fascinating to listen to. 他的冒险经历听起来惊心动魄。

Large bags are not convenient (inconvenient) to carry when you go shopping. 买东西时拎着较大的包不方便。

Old cars are cheap to buy. 买旧车很便宜。

Your book is amusing to read. 你写的书读起来逗人发笑。

These things are unimportant to do. 做这些事情不重要。

This problem is very important to discuss. 讨论这个问题是非常重要的。

That drawing of yours is awful (terrible , horrible) to look at. 你画的那幅画难看极了。

The film was boring to watch. 这部影片看起来叫人扫兴。

Your speech is very simple to read. 你的讲演稿读起来很简单。

Decaying food is not good to eat. 腐烂的食物吃了没有好处。

Your cakes are good to eat. 你做的蛋糕好吃。

He is strange to understand. 他简直不可思议。

The ice was thin to walk on. 冰薄得难以行走。

These words are not proper (improper) to use here. 这些词用在这里不合适。

对于不定式与形容词连用时以其主动形式表示被动意义，以上列举了常见的一些句子。为了理解句子主语是不定式逻辑上（或意义上）的宾语，一般可以转换为不定式作主语的情况。

例如：Mary is easy to teach. 这一句可以转换成 To teach Mary is easy. 或 It is easy to teach Mary.

在一定的上下文中，上述不定式结构不仅主动形式表示被动意义，而且这个不定式还带有否定意味。例如：

This river is narrow to sail up. 这河太窄了，难以航行。

That box is heavy to carry. 那箱子很重不易搬运。

The main street is usually too busy to cross. 大街通常很拥挤，难以通行。

The ice was thin to walk on. 冰薄难以行走。

这时，我们可以用含有否定意义的“too...to...”结构进行替代：

This river is too narrow to sail up.

That box is too heavy to carry.

The main street is usually too busy to cross.

The ice was too thin to walk on.

若无否定意义，我们则用其相反的结构“be + adj. + enough + inf.”进行替代。例如：

This word is easy enough to explain.

(c. f. This word is too difficult to explain.)

Old cars are cheap enough to buy.

(c. f. Old cars are too expensive to buy.)

Your cakes are good enough to eat.

(c. f. Your cakes are too bad to eat.)

Your speech is simple enough to read.

(c. f. Your speech is too complicated to read.)综观上述问题，我们可以从结构形式上作如下结论：

主动形式的动词不定式与一定的形容词连用时，其表示的动作意义与主语的关系是被动的。这种被动关系一般可通过句式转换得以验证。(例如：This word is easy to explain. = It is easy to explain this word. = This word is easily explained.)

此外，“be + adj. + enough + inf.”句式和“be + too + adj. + inf.”句式则典型代表了上述结构的意义特征，可以分别表示主语与不定式被动关系下的肯定意味和否定意味。

在“be + adj. + enough + inf.”中，不定式之所以能够用主动形式表示与主语的被动关系，是因为说话者没有把句子主语考虑为不定式的主语，而其真正的主语（即不定式动作的发出者）已经省略不说。我们在不定式之前不妨添上这个已经省去了逻辑主语，来强调出不定式动作的发出者。例如：

This question is difficult for me to understand.

The river is narrow for big ships to sail up.

The furniture will be heavy for the girls to move.

That job is easy for a child to do.

6. 动词不定式 to blame, to seek, to let, to compare 等在句子中作表语时, 其主动形式表示被动意义。例如:

The house is to let. 房子出租。

It is you, not I that is to blame. 是你而不是我应受到责备。

The cause is not far to seek. 原因不难找到。

A better way is yet to seek. 还得找一种更好的方法。

Who is to blame in this matter ? 这件事谁应受到责备?

In this matter he seems to be in no way to blame. 在这种事上, 他决没有什么责任。

The flat is to let for 15 yuan a month. 这套公寓房间要出租, 每月租金 15 元。

She is not to compare to him in diligence. 在勤勉方面, 她不能与他相比。

An imitation of the best authors is not to compare with a good original. 模仿优秀作家的作品是不能与原作相比的。

What's to pay? 要付多少钱?

7. 主动形式的动名词表示被动意义。

英语中, 有些动词或介词结构, 要求动名词作其宾语。这时, 句子的主语与动名词表示的动作之间的关系是被动的。然而动名词的形式却是主动的。现分述如下:

(1) 在及物动词 need, want, require, deserve, bear, merit, stand, repay 等后面的动名词, 主动形式表示被动意义。

Your hair needs cutting, as it is too long. 你的头发太长了, 需要剪了。

The room wants cleaning. 这房间需要打扫。