

序

中国的英语翻译教学历史悠久,从 1862 年京师同文馆之时算起已经走过了将近一个半世纪的风雨路程。在这期间,通过几代人辛勤的劳动和创造性的工作,翻译事业蓬勃发展,翻译质量不断提高。

翻译是语际间语言单位所含信息的等值转换,所包含的主要原则是,准确地理解和确切地表达。准确地理解是对原文作出全面的、准确的领悟。确切地表达是以合乎规范而流畅的译语传达出原文所蕴涵的信息。其中准确地理解是第一位的,确切地表达是第二位的。而阅读可以扩充词汇量,可以摄入语言和文化信息,可以提高语言的敏感性和语言运用的适切性,因此,提高阅读能力是达到准确地理解和确切地表达的基础,是做好翻译工作的关键。

放在我案头的这本《英语阅读精解》是“上海市英语高级口译资格证书考试”应试培训指定教材《高级阅读教材》(第二版)的配套参考教材,由吴建国先生主编,该书有以下一些主要特点。首先,本书提供了与原文内容有关的必要的背景知识和文化信息,这有利于拓宽知识面,加深对原文的理解。众所周知,语言与文化是密不可分的,语言蕴涵着文化信息,文化信息反映在语言之中。因此,学习语言必须学习该语言的文化知识。本书在这方面所作的努力是值得推崇的。其次,课文详解和问题解答为读者解决了难点,指出了重点,以利读者顺利地读懂课文、掌握语言点。再次,阅读理解练习有助于读者验证所学,检验自己对所学的相关知识和掌握的阅读技能的应用情况,培养和提高应试能力。最后,本书最大的特色是提供了课文的参考译文。读者在使用的过程中,可以对照原文,仔细把玩英汉语之间的表达差异,了解它们的异同,从而提高阅读理解能力和口笔头表达能力,达到从整体上提高语言能力的目的。

本书会使英语学习达到事半功倍的效果。相信它会受到广大读者的喜爱。

王建华

2002 年 8 月

编者的话

本书是为了满足“上海市英语高级口译资格证书考试”应试培训中的实际教学和学习需要而编写的,是应试培训推荐教材《高级阅读教程》(第二版)的配套参考教材,可供担任培训教学的教师和参加培训的学员使用,也可供使用《高级阅读教程》(第二版)的英语学习者使用。

众所周知,语言是一种技能,没有足够的摄入量便很难产生语感,而没有语感是不可能从整体上掌握一门语言的。因此,阅读在外语学习中的作用是十分明显的。阅读对于增强语感,扩充知识面和词汇量,培养口、笔头表达能力,乃至提高口、笔译水平,都具有重要的意义。对于英语环境并不十分充分的中国大多数英语学习者来说,阅读便是一个最切实可行、最简便有效的提高英语综合能力的手段。在学习英语的过程中,阅读能力是一个坚实的基础,可有力推动其他语言能力的提高。就英、汉这两种语言的本质特征而言,不同之处当然居多,但作为交流思想的工具,相通之处也必定不少。通过阅读,学习者便可探究和把握其中的奥妙,以促进双语能力的提高。就英、汉口译实践而言,译员是否具有良好的语感、足够的词汇量和对英、汉两种语言的段落语句熟巧处理的能力,往往决定了其口译质量的高低。译员的口译能力往往就体现在其对各种语言能力的综合运用上。译员在口译实践中对各种语体、各种风格的材料的处理速度和准确程度,往往也与其阅读量的大小密切相关。从这个意义上说,扩充阅读量、提高阅读能力和阅读速度,必然有助于从整体上提高译员的语言能力和综合素质。由此可见,阅读的作用是十分重要、不可替代的。它与口译能力的培养和口译水平的提高密不可分。

阅读是读者和作者相互作用、相互影响的交流、渗透的过程。读者的积极参与是提高阅读理解能力和阅读速度的前提。读者可以通过阅读来扩充词汇量,摄入语言和文化信息,并结合自己的阅读体验和生活经历,对作者的观点、文章的要点以及具体的细节加以分析、评判,得出明确的结论,从而提高阅读理解能力和口、笔头表达的逻辑思维能力,达到从整体上提高英语语言能力的目的。

本书的编写即以上述观点为导向,以《高级阅读教程》为素材,对课文中的重点、难点和较复杂的语言现象进行了细致的分析、解释和点评,以期能帮助读者消除语言上的障碍、减少阅读活动中的负面影响,正确掌握生词、习语和惯用法,正确理解原文,进而达到有效的学习目的。为此,本书的整体布局分为五大板块,即:I. Information Related to the Text,提供了与原文每一篇阅读篇章的内容相关的背景知识和文化信息,用于拓宽知识面,加深对原文的理解。II. Detailed Study to the Text 为本书的重点内容之一,用于详细讲解原文中的各个语言难点、习语用法、词语扩展、难句释疑,以及语篇分析。有关难句和例句并附有中文译文,目的是为了便于读者对原文的学习和掌握。III. Answers to the Related Questions 对原课文后所附问题作出了回答,能给读者以启发。IV. Reading Assignments 是专设项目,用于测试学习者对相关知识的掌握和有关阅读技能的应用情况,培养和提高学习者的应试能力。所有习题的答案均附在书后,供读者参考。V. Translation Versions 是本书最具特色的重点内容,也是本书编者奉献给读者的一份较有价值的礼物。读者可在阅读英语原文的过程中,参照本书所提供的中文译文,对比把玩,以检验自己的阅读理解能力,提高英汉翻译的水平。此外,参考译文,也有助于读者轻松进入英语原文,积极参与双语思维活动,排除在理解原文过程中的语言障碍,从而达到事半功倍的效果。

此外,不同的学习方法会产生不同的学习效果,语言学习尤其如此。目前英语学习者普遍存在的问题一是阅读量偏少;二是阅读方法有偏颇,值得引起重视。学习者应摆正词汇与内容的关系,把重点放在阅读理解上。词汇在阅读活动中是有相当重要的作用,但它是为理解服务的。在很多情况下,句子或文章难懂并非源于生词,而是缺乏对上下文乃至全文内容的总体把握所致。随着阅读量的增大和理解力的提高,词汇自然也就记住了。突破词汇难关的决定因素在于培养一种分析能力,可根据内容判断出某个词在句子中应有的逻辑意义,而孤立地记忆词汇的释义不是根本的出路。一般而言,只要理解了全文或全句的大意,词义自然就显现了。必须克服每逢生词就查字典的习惯,因为,一来它会破坏阅读的连续性;二来会导致忽略文章的内容,见木不见林。任何词都有两层意义:一是在词典中的释义,这是该词的基本意思,是泛指,没有语境;二是在实际使用时的具体意义,是其基本释义的引申,包含隐喻,两者不尽相同。如果仅是简

单地把前者放进具体的句子里,常常会发现解释不通。所以,遇到生词,应首先看其所在段落的大意,运用个人储备的知识和具备的分析能力来确定其词义,掌握主动,这样才能真正达到学会“用”词、用“活”词的目的。本书在编写上也体现了这一理念。从考试的角度说,实际测试所使用的材料难度并不太大,应试者出错往往是由于总体理解力不强所致。因而在培训中还应进一步扩充阅读量,不断增强阅读理解能力、提高阅读速度。相信本书对担任教学培训的教师和参加培训的学员都会有所帮助和启发。本书在编写过程中得到了有关专家、学者的支持、鼓励和指导,笔者谨代表本书全体编写人员向他们致以诚挚的谢意。书中存在不足或差错,祈望同行专家和广大学员批评、指正。

吴建国

2002 年 8 月

使用说明

本书强调读者、编者以及文本之间的相互作用和相互影响,从培养学员阅读理解能力出发,经过为期约 16 周的培训,使学员的英语综合语言能力得到明显的提高,并且能大体掌握阅读理解的若干基本技巧和有关语言技能,为参加考试或从事一般性英、汉口译工作做好铺垫和准备。

《高级阅读精解》全书共有 16 个单元,每单元分四个部分,即:1)相关背景知识介绍;2)课文详解;3)问题解答;4)阅读理解练习。学员和自学者在使用本书时,可根据实际情况灵活掌握,有所侧重,变通处理,以期达到预定的目标。教师也可根据需要,适量补充一些诸如翻译类的练习。每单元所提供的阅读理解练习也可用于集中强化训练,由使用者根据自身的实际情况自行决定。

本书最具特色的内容之一,是为每篇阅读课文都配备了中文参考译文。从翻译的角度说,这些译文的质量都较高,基本达到了准确、流畅、优美的标准,也在一定程度上反映了本书编者的学识水平和对读者高度负责的态度。从学习的角度说,读者可通过本书所提供的中文参考译文,加深对英语原文的理解,减少在阅读英语原文过程中的障碍,并可学得一些翻译的方法和技巧。翻译本无定论。同样一句英语原文完全可以有数种不同的中文表达形式。因此,读者尽可积极参与,评头论足,发表高见,以便提高英、汉两种语言的表达能力和逻辑思维能力,从而收到良好的学习效果。这样,编写本书的目的也就达到了。

阅读教学一直是英语教学和研究领域普遍关注和极为重视的环节。编者希望各位同行勇于探索,探索出阅读教学的新途径,同时也欢迎使用本书的教师和学员对本书提出批评和建议,以便我们在今后的教材编写和阅读教学中加以改进和提高。

编 者

2002 年 8 月

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Lesson 1

Reading A Can I Grow a New Brain?

I. Information Related to the Text

1. Neuroscience — the branch of learning relating to the study of nerves or nervous system
2. Tufts University — an independent comprehensive university established in 1852, located in Medford, Massachusetts, famous for its biotechnological and medical studies.
3. Harvard University — the oldest university of the U. S. A. , at Cambridge, Massachusetts, founded in 1636 and named after its first benefactor, John Harvard (1607~1638), a nonconformist minister born in England. It consists of Harvard College for men, graduate schools and research institutes. Radcliffe is the associated women's college.
4. Rockefeller University — a university known for its medical research, established in 1901, endowed by John Davison Rockefeller, an American industrialist and philanthropist who acquired a near — monopoly of oil refining in the U. S. A.
5. Princeton University — one of the oldest and most famous universities, located in Princeton, New Jersey, U. S. A. , founded in 1746 as a private university. It consists of Princeton College, graduate schools and research centers. It shares facilities with the Institute for Advanced Study.

II. Detailed Study to the Text

1. let alone — allow to be, leave something undisturbed or unchanged, or

not to mention

e. g. He is gentle as a lamb when he is let alone.

Englishmen themselves, let alone foreigners, are often uncertain what is slang and what isn't.

Why don't you let the child alone when he is not feeling well?

2. wag — a humorous or jocular or witty person (说话风趣或能言善辩的人), the word here refers to the mischievous philosophers

e. g. He is a bit of a wag. 他是一个说话相当风趣的人。

3. take a dive — (slang) 1) take an act of pretending to be knocked down or out

e. g. He took a dive in the fourth round.

2) fall rapidly

e. g. His optimism about the situation took a dive.

4. theoretical musings — ideas or results coming from one's deep thinking theoretically

5. rule something out — dismiss from consideration or make impossible or preclude or prevent

e. g. The police have ruled out murder in the case of the girl's death.

The motor noise ruled out the conversation.

6. mine *v.* — to dig into or extract from or to process for obtaining a natural constituent or for the purpose of obtaining items of use or value

e. g. to mine the archives for detailed information

The first step in preparing for many such negotiations is mining the critical information from different resources.

7. come/draw to a close — finish gradually, come to an end

e. g. The summer vacation is drawing to a close.

8. mass-produce — (from mass-production), produce in large quantities, especially by machinery and division of labor or through special ways

9. nick — cut or chip on the edge or surface of wood, metal, china, etc.

e. g. He nicked his chin while shaving.

10. at a rate of — at a speed of

e. g. The train was going at a (or the) rate of fifty miles an hour.

11. on the ground(s) of — because of, for the reason that, by reason of
on the ground(s) that — because
e. g. He wishes to resign on the ground of failing health (= on the ground that his health is failing).
12. give rise to — be the cause of, be the reason for, suggest, cause
e. g. His queer behavior gave rise to the fear that he was becoming insane.
13. harness — to control and utilize
e. g. to harness a river 治河
to harness the limitless power of the sun
14. team up (with) — to join in a common task
e. g. The farmers teamed up to get the crops in.
15. home in on — to move toward a certain place by following a signal or marker 遵循
e. g. The airplane homed in on the radio beacon. 飞机遵循着导航台信号下降。
The ship homed in on the lights of New York Harbo .
16. so to speak — to say it in this way 可以说
e. g. John was, so to speak, the leader of the club but he was officially only the club's secretary.
17. be flush with — be fresh, full of, glowing, bright with, be well supplied with, abundant
e. g. He is always flush with his money.
The river is flush with its banks.
18. take/follow sb's cue — follow/accept sb's suggestion or signal or motion to begin or enter 按某人指点行事
e. g. Being a stranger, he took his cue from the actions of the natives.

III. Answers to the Related Questions

1. Why does one want to be donor instead of the recipient in a brain-transplant operation?

Because one's current body could be physically parted but one's brain is
此为试读, 需要完整PDF请访问: www.ertongbo.com

so important a thinking organ that no one wants to separate it from one's being. Through brain-transplant, one can still remain functioning by means of another body.

2. What does Dr Evan Snyder say about the future of a human-brain transplant?

Human-brain transplant, at least human-brain-cell transplant will be made possible in the future although it is too complex a matter to deal with by now or in 20 years.

3. How are the results of brain-cell transplant involved in the treatment of Parkinson's disease?

The results of brain-cell transplant in the treatment of Parkinson's disease are the mixed ones with the ethically charged issue of mining aborted fetuses being overcome, and with the improvement of the mobility of many of the patients as well.

4. Why cannot this kind of treatment be popular?

Because for each patient, cells from as many as 15 fetuses must be harvested and transplanted almost immediately.

5. What is the discovery about the fetal brain?

The fetal brain contains master cells (neural stem cells) that can grow into any kind of brain cell.

6. What was the traditional training most physicians received about the adult brain?

They were taught that the adult brain is rigid, that its nerve cells, or neurons, could never regenerate themselves. Therefore, when something bad happened to the brain, it did not repair itself.

7. What step did Snyder make in overturning the dogma of the rigid brain?

He assumed that the source of the brain's apparent plasticity was not at the level of the single cell and through experiment on mice, he found out the existence of the brain stem cells that could repair brain injuries.

8. Who are the two leading scientists that led to the overturning of the convention of neuroscience?

Snyder and Gage.

9. According to Snyder, which is better, being the recipient or the donor? Why?

It is better to be the recipient than the donor because in the brain-cell transplants, the cells will take their cue from the host that houses them rather than remember their past lives.

Reading B Will We Still Eat Meat?

I. Information Related to the Text

1. Los Angeles — a city in SW California, on the Pacific, the 2nd largest city in the U. S. A. , having absorbed many adjacent townships, an important industrial center and port, with several well-known universities.
2. the Amazon — a river in South America, rising in the Peruvian Andes and flowing east through North Brazil to the Atlantic, in volume, the largest river in the world, length: over 6,440 km (4,000 miles). Area of basin: over 5,827,500 sq. km (2,250,000 sq. miles)
3. the World Health Organization — an agency of the United Nations, established in 1948 with headquarters in Geneva, responsible for coordinating international health activities, aiding governments in improving health services.
4. Thanksgiving Day — an annual day of holiday celebrated in thanksgiving to God on the 4th Thursday of November in the United States, and on the 2nd Monday of October in Canada.
5. Utah — a state of the western U. S. A. in the Great Basin and the Rocky Mtns. Capital: Salt Lake City.

II. Detailed Study to the Text

1. per capita — of or for each person (literally, according to heads)
e. g. the richest nation per capita 按人口平均最富有的国家
a per capita gross national product 人均国民生产总值

per capita consumption 人均消费

2. degenerative illness — disease resulting from declining or deteriorating of the functional qualities 变性疾病,指伴随年老或器官衰退而发生的疾病,如动脉硬化等
3. pass up — to refuse or reject; to let something go by
e. g. Mary passed up the dessert because she was on a diet.
John was offered a good job in California, but he passed it up because he didn't want to move.
4. megafarms — mega-, a combining form, meaning “very large”, “bigger than most of its kind”
e. g. megacity 特大型城市
megapark 特大公园
megaministry 特别庞大的政府部门
megatanker 超级油轮
5. tropical rain forest — 热带雨林
6. make room for — leave space or area for something else
e. g. There were already three people sitting on the sofa, but I tried to make room for her.
They made room on the shelf for some more books.
7. flesh — (here means) the flesh of any animal as food; meat; especially, meat other than fish or fowl
8. genetically modified organisms — organisms with their genes modified or changed or transformed
9. counterintuitive — running counter to intuition; not consistent with what one knows or perceives intuitively 反直觉的,与直觉不一致的
e. g. Some complex systems are counterintuitive. They behave in ways opposite to what most people expect. 一些复杂系统往往是反直觉的,它们的行为方式与多数人预料的恰恰相反。

III. Answers to the Related Questions

1. What improvement might be indicated when the consumption of meat is increasing?

It might be the rise of the people being well-off from poverty.

2. What are the reasons for the writer to persuade us to eat less meat?

The increasing consumption of meat will lead to the deterioration of the hugely inefficient use of freshwater and land, heavy pollution from livestock feces, rising rates of cardiovascular disease and other degenerative illness, and spreading destruction of the forests on which much of our planets' life depends.

3. What measure does the writer suggest to cut down the consumption of meat?

The measure the writer suggests is to resort to vegetable and grain sources which can provide the protein needed.

4. How harmful livestock waste could be to human beings?

It may cause memory loss, confusion and acute skin burning in people exposed to contaminated water.

5. What negative result was caused in shifting from wildland hunting and gathering to systematic herding and farming?

The natural or ecological balances were changed or destroyed and there would be no longer the large area of wildland necessary to sustain a top-predator species.

6. What vision does the writer hold about eating meat at the end of the new century?

The mass-produced animal flesh, and its unsustainable costs to human and environmental health will be over and people can forget about eating animals and get the intrinsic satisfactions of a diverse plant-based diet.

Reading C Can We Make Garbage Disappear?

I. Information Related to the Text

1. California — a state on the W. coast of the U. S. A. ; the third largest state in area and the largest in population; Capital: Sacramento. Important cities: Los Angeles, San Francisco, etc. Abbrevs: CA. ,

Cal. , Calif.

2. Denmark — a kingdom in N. Europe, between the Baltic and the North Sea, consists of the mainland of Jutland and about 100 inhabited islands. Language: Danish. Religion: chiefly Lutheran. Currency: krone. Capital: Copenhagen.

II. Detailed Study to the Text

1. heave-ho — 1) a sailor's cry, as when hoisting anchor
2) dismissal, as from employment (Here in this context it means "discharge of the garbage".)
2. Cheerios boxes — empty boxes of drinking of all kinds (cheerio = cheery + o, meaning a drinking toast)
3. benign — mild; gentle; not much threatening to life or health
e. g. a benign climate 温和的气候
A benign tumor can usually be cured. 良性肿瘤通常都能治愈。
4. ecosystem — a system made up of a group of living organisms and its physical environment, and the relationship between them 生态系统
e. g. An ecosystem includes such factors as food supply, weather, and natural enemies. 生态系统包括食物供给、气候以及生物体的天敌等诸因素。
5. tap into — make a connection to
e. g. to tap into other revenue sources to make up the deficit. 开辟其他税收来源以弥补赤字。
to tap into the latent force 挖掘潜力
to tap into the western technology 着手利用西方技术
6. spawn — produce or engender
e. g. The computer is spawning an electronics revolution.
Bureaucracy spawns many rules that complicate our life. 官僚主义产生了许多使我们生活复杂化的条条框框。
His sudden resignation spawned many rumors.
7. an army of — a large number of
e. g. an army of microcomputers

an army of the unemployed 失业大军

8. momentum — driving power or strength

e. g. The style prevails and picks up momentum.

The campaign began to gather/lose momentum. 运动的势头开始增大/减弱。

The conference will develop a momentum that will overcome the obstacles. 会议将产生克服障碍的动力。

9. nanotechnology — the technology of manufacturing and measuring objects of microscopically small size 纳米技术

e. g. Nanotechnology deals with objects that are between 0.1 and 100 nanometers in size.

10. from scratch — from the very beginning

e. g. They started their business from scratch. 他们白手起家办企业。

He began to learn French from scratch. 他从头开始学法语。

11. bottom-up — 自下而上

12. make headway — make progress or advancement

e. g. Little headway has been made in educational reform so far.

The ship could make no headway against the strong wind and tide.

13. the period at the end of this sentence — “period” here is a punctuation mark.

14. translate — to change or convert into another form or medium

e. g. to translate ideas into action

to translate phonetic symbols into sounds

15. telecommute — follow the practice of working at home using a computer and sending complete work to one's employer or company by telecommunications 电信办公, 指利用计算机在家中工作, 依靠电讯系统, 将完成的工作传送给公司或雇主。

16. put value on — to consider or evaluate the worth or the degree of worth of a thing in money or goods at a certain time; to estimate the quality of a thing according to which it is thought of as being more or less desirable, useful, important, etc. 估价