

名校大学生英语习作系列

Model Compositions by
Students of Peking University

北京大学
英语专业学生优秀作文选

孔宪倬 主编

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《北京大学英语专业学生优秀作文选》

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A Note from the Selection Committee

An English essay contest was held among the undergraduate English majors of Peking University July 2001 on a voluntary basis. The Selection Committee, of four Chinese professors and two American professors, received an enthusiastic submission of essays written specifically for this contest. The basic criteria agreed upon by the Committee gave priority to inspiring ideas and interesting content of the essay; the fluency and correct usage of the English language was also considered to be an important standard. In order to be fair to the participants, they were classified into three groups—freshman, sophomore, and the upper class of juniors and seniors. After careful reading and rounds of detailed discussions of every essay, the Committee reached its consensus on the publication list.

The Committee also called on the students for more papers to be included in this collection, again on a voluntary basis. So apart from the contest essays, papers that students have written either for the courses they took or on some particular subjects that appealed to them constitute part of this collection.

序 言

北京大学外国语学院英语系学生写作成绩的集成《北京大学英语专业学生优秀作文选》的出版,是一件值得提倡的举措。编辑和发表学生的作文是全世界语文教学中可见的普遍现象。我在芝加哥念书和后来去该地区讲学时都得到过那里英语系赠与的学生作文选集,而教写作和负责编这些集子的美国教师们对学生习作成绩的欣喜和自豪更是溢于言表。和世界各国大学一样,北京大学英语语言文学学科作为全国重点学科,一贯强调人文关怀,重视写作,并且有举行作文比赛和收编学生论文的传统。

50年代末当我进入北京大学西语系时,朱光潜、冯至、杨周翰、赵萝蕤等先生还健在。在五年学制的课程设置中西语系十分重视学生的笔头功力训练。从三年级起,就有较多的阅读和写作练习。四年级末设有一个学年论文,规模与要求同五年级的毕业论文相似。所以,学生在毕业前除了日常的作文和翻译训练外,还要完成两篇规范化的、有相当长度的学术性文章。我记得 四年级写学年论文时我选择了狄更斯的《远大的前程》,由吴柱存教授指导。 五年级的毕业论文我写的是哈代的《苔丝》,师从哈代专家和翻译家张恩裕先生。那是我后来长达三、四十年的英语文学教学和研究生涯的起步。初次写论文,这其中的摸索、困惑及最后成功的喜悦是我终身难忘的。

当时的论文范围很宽,可以做文学题目,也可以做研究语法和

语言现象的题目(现在意义上的语言学各学派在那时还没有成为中国大学里教授的课程),还有的同学做名著翻译。总之,老师们各显其能,文章完成后学生们人人都有长足的进步。毕业论文一般不要求答辩,但是在我毕业那年,系里搞了一次答辩示范。现在的外交部副部长李肇星先生被选为答辩的学生,我记得他的毕业论文写的是狄更斯的《美国札记》(The American Notes)。在当时,这是个新鲜的经验,每个到场观摩的同学都体验了一下答辩的现场。

除了写大论文外,还要特别提及的是五年级开设的两门对加强学生笔头能力十分有效的课程:一门是张恩裕先生任教的高级翻译课,另一门是吴兴华先生教授的作文课。北大不同于北外和许多外语院校,我们的高级翻译课文学性很强,不做多少外交和政治性的翻译训练。张先生身着蓝布长袍,长髯垂及领口,完全不是“西洋”模样。他选的翻译内容难度极大,比如把哈代的《还乡》第一章开头几页译成中文,或把柳宗元的《小石潭记》中的几段译成英文。每次我们都要查阅许多字典,参考有关资料才能完成作业,而张先生归还作业时几乎满篇都是他朱笔批改的墨迹。我们就是这样从中英文对比互译中跌爬过来的,回想起来真是获益匪浅。

吴兴华教授是燕京大学有名的才子,其英文之好甚得校长司徒雷登的褒奖。1957年他不幸被划为右派分子,但恰恰在我们念高年级时他摘了帽子,回到教学岗位上。我始终认为这是我们这一届学生学习生活中最幸运的一件事。他的作文课留给学生极大的写作自由和发挥想象能力的余地。有时他命题,我们作文;有时他选出优秀的文学范文或散文,要我们取其格式或意境做模仿习作。作文因此变成了对语言、风格和想像力的不断挑战。我们有的写寓言、童话,有的把中国古诗的意境用英文散文写出来,有的描述五一劳动节在颐和园举行的盛大游园活动,也有的像鲁迅先生写人力车夫那样从身边见闻和小事来评论社会现象。同翻译作业类似,文章发还时往

往满篇皆红,但不等于成绩就低。吴兴华先生不但改语法、词汇等基本错误,也不仅仅纠正中文式英文,而是用优美、地道的英文修改我们的文字,把作文往美文的高度上拔。因此每次细读先生归还的作文时真是一种享受,常有茅塞顿开之感。为了他展示给我们的英文的美丽和巨大的表达潜力,为了他在我们心中唤醒的对英语语言和文学的终身热爱,我们这些有幸上过吴兴华教授作文课的学生将永远纪念他。

改革开放以来,北京大学外语教学生机勃勃,对外交流频繁,出国深造和请进专家等举措大大地提高了英语系的教学水平,我们也更有条件来加强和深化写作课教学,使学生的笔头能力更上一层楼。这方面的成果可以从学生论文质量提高上看起来。但近八年来,我们还大力支持和鼓励学生办英文报刊,《八分之一》这份英文小报就是一个极说明问题的例子。它的刊名取自美国作家海明威的名句,每期由学生轮流任编辑,选稿、征文、设计版面并修改英文。文章议题宽泛,形式多样,包括介绍和评论英美体育、音乐、绘画、民俗、宗教、影视节目的短文,也有严肃认真的文学评论和文本解读尝试,还有学生自己创作的诗歌、小品和散文等等,其中有不少内容和质量兼优的作品。

几十年来,加强学生写作训练已成为北京大学英语系的一条不言而喻的原则,它也是我们办学的特点。目前,我国需要大量的口笔语翻译。但随着世界变小,改革开放深入,我们会需要更多的高层次外语人才。这种人才不仅是工具型的,还应该具备较高的文化素质、欣赏品味和洞察世界的能力。这些能力所需要的知识必须首先靠高年级的文学、语言学和文化课程来输送给学生。然而在大量的阅读和吸收之后如何顺利和深入地进行口笔语表达和进行交流就不只是简单的口语句型训练能够解决的问题了。此中的关键是学生能否用英语进行叙述性和分析性的连贯思维,而要达到这种连贯思维

的最重要手段之一就是加强写作训练。北京大学英语系从来就把训练语言技能和培养全面发展的高层次人才的目标紧密地结合在一起。一个只能运用熟练英语解决日常生活上与外国人沟通中的困难的学生充其量只是一个工具，他/她的英语能力可归入英美学校专门培养外国人的“存活英语”(Survival English)这一类，那是英语为母语的国家把非英语国家当作“他者”对待而设计出来的一套语言教学内容、方法和规范，其中笔头写作居于极次要的地位。作为北京大学的英语系，我们应立足于把教学逐步向英美大学中教授他们自己以英语语言文学为专业的学生的方法和课程设置看齐。这就意味着本科低年级要开设分量相当大的写作训练课；在高级，甚至硕士研究生阶段仍然需要分成“说明文写作”、“应用文写作”、“文学创作写作”以及“学术论文写作”等不同课程来训练学生高层次的思维和写作能力。这样培养出来的学生才是伸缩性强、潜力大、知识和能力全面的世界性人才。如果出国学习，他们可以进入任何西方大学深造，与英美学生比肩前进；如果选择在国内报效祖国，他们就将成为21世纪强大中国的各个阵线上通晓西方语言、文化和思想的骨干力量。以这一点为共识，北大英语系将继续加强和改进英语习作教学，鼓励学生多读多写，培养英语的语感，以把握英语的丰富表达和严谨逻辑。这册学生作文选集的出版就是我们整体目标的一个环节。环节虽小，但意义重大。为此，我祝贺做出这个成绩的教师和学生，并期望见到更优秀的习作成果。

刘意青^{*}

2001年11月

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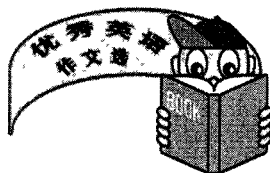
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第一部分

记叙文

姓名：朱岩岩

学号：09938017



A Woman's Sacrifices

I felt quite sad when I opened the door. The room was small and dark and the smell was not very pleasant. On the table, lunch was still hot and on the bed lay my grandma. She was extremely pale. Half of her body was not able to move. It pained me to see her suffering. My dear granny, she had been so healthy that she used to go to the market herself with a heavy basket in her hand and she used to buy all kinds of vegetables and cook delicious food for me. But there she lay, skin and bone. When I greeted her, she just murmured and I guessed that she was trying to call my name.

She didn't do anything remarkable during her life, but I think she is the heroine of my family.

She was born into the old society and unfortunately into a poor family. As the eldest child in the family, she had to take up the responsibility of taking care of her younger sisters and brothers. Unlike other women, she didn't have her feet bound and wrapped like dumplings because wrapped feet were not convenient when she did the farming or went a long way to buy and sell goods, and a more important reason is that her parents didn't think she was so important as

to trouble them with this “trivia”. She was not considered pretty because of her big feet but she had no complaints. She did all kinds of chores to help the family. She tried her best to make money so that her youngest brother could go to school. She was uneducated, but her brother finished his high school and got quite a good job. For her youngest brother, she sacrificed her own education.

Like other young girls, she had imagined her own white horse and prince and had dreamed of romantic love. But when she got old enough to get married, a man she had never met came to her family and said he wanted to offer two bags of rice and some money in exchange for her. Considering that her parents had suffered from poverty for most of their life, she agreed. For her parents, she sacrificed her love.

When history took on a new look, the Chinese people's fate was completely changed. The poor became the masters of the country and the rich lost their estates. Unluckily, the young man who paid for my grandma became poverty-stricken. My poor grandma lost her comfortable life. Then five children were born one by one and five children died one after another, because of hunger! How grievous it was for a young mother to see her children die!

A few years later, when their financial condition was improved a little, my grandma gave birth to another six children—two daughters and four sons. In order to pay for the children's education, she bought no cosmetics, no beautiful clothes and ate cheap vegetables every day. She worked in the spring when the wind was heavy, in the summer when the sun was burning, in the autumn when the weather was quite cool and in the winter when the temperature had dropped to

the freezing point. Her hands became as rough as the dry and flawed fields and her face was tanned and lost its luster. For her children, she sacrificed her youth and beauty.

When her children had all grown up and had found good jobs with promising futures, she lost her husband. Her sons and daughters gave her plenty of money and wanted her to enjoy the rest of her life, but she insisted on helping them bring up her grandsons and granddaughters. Before I went to high school, I used to go to my grandma's house for lunch. She loved us and was proud of every progress we made in our studies. I often saw her sitting under the shade of a phoenix tree, talking about her "outstanding" grandchildren with the neighbors. At that time, her eyes were shining with pride and her face smiled into a flower! With the money her children gave her every month, she could have lived more comfortably, but she spent much of the money buying toys and fruits for us and was always ready to offer a little "scholarship" when we got full marks. For her grandchildren, she sacrificed a more comfortable life.

What else can be more important to a young girl but education, to a young woman, love, to a young lady, beauty, to an old woman, a comfortable life? My grandma's answer was quite simple: most important were her youngest brother, her parents, her children and her grandchildren! In a word, she sacrificed for her family, for people she loved most! I admire her for her courage to face the hardship, for her determination to send her children for education, for her selfless love for her posterity and, the most important of all—for her readiness to sacrifice!

Now, she is laid up in bed, quiet and lonely. She knows that her

life is coming to an end, but she is still struggling against the terrible illness. Standing in the dark small room, I recollected a child's voice: "Granny, when I grow up, I will make a lot of money and first of all, I will buy a big color TV for you!" —This was my promise. "OK, my dear, I will wait for your TV!" —This was my grandma's.

