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Pagina 63 Snowball version 1

我的老师是中国的名人。
他的书法很好，是文字学大师。
他的老大是大学生，学文学，书法也很好。

他的老二是中学生，书法不怎么样。

没人说他汉字写得好看。
不过，他的语文很好。
他好看小人书，小说，汉语也说得很好。

在中国，小学生人人都学书法。
我的看法是：中国书法好看，不好学。

My teacher is a famous person in China.
His calligraphy is good; he is a master in philology.
His eldest child is a university student, studying literature; he is also good in calligraphy.
His second child is a secondary school student, his calligraphy is not great.
No one says he does calligraphy well.
But he is good in languages.
He loves to read comic strips, novels, and he also speaks Chinese well.
In China, all primary students learn calligraphy.
My opinion is: Chinese calligraphy is beautiful, not easy to learn.

Pagina 93 Snowball version 2

有一天，我去日本东京看一个很有名的作家。
那个作家，看样子是西方人。
他说他们国家是一个王国，
在地中海，国王是黑人。
他们国家人口不多，有不少火山。
男人的想法，作法和女人不一样。
生日的时候，男的喜欢买酒杯，女的喜欢卖茶花。

男的去图书馆看书，女的在家看书。
女人生孩子的时候，男人去卖花生，
大人，小孩儿都来喝喜酒。
他们国家天上没有飞机，地上没有火车，

工人们冬天不工作，老人都想去中国。

他们那儿外国东西不贵，
可是人们不喜欢买外国东西，喜欢买本国的。

大家都很爱国。

One day, I went to Tokyo, Japan to see a famous writer.
That writer looks like a Westerner.
He says that their country is a kingdom,
It is in the Mediterranean, the king is a black man.
Their country has a small population, has many volcanoes.
The thoughts and deeds of men are different from women's
When there is a birthday, the men like to buy wine glasses, the women like to buy camellia flower.
The men go read in a library, the women read at home.
When a woman is giving birth, the man go buy peanuts, adults and children all come to a feast.
In their country, there is no plane in the sky and no train on the ground.
The workers do not work in winter, all old folks want to go to China.
In their country, foreign goods are not expensive, but the people do not like to buy foreign goods, they like to buy local goods.
They are all very patriotic.

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Pagina 127 snowball 3

我的朋友是画家。
他和我一样大，都是虎年生的。

他画儿画得很好，也很有学问。
他会中文，汉字也认识不少。
他的中文是自学的。
有一天，我在西湖看见他正在画画儿。
他一边画画儿，一边还说中文。
行人看了都说，他画的国画很好看。

我朋友听了说：“哪里，哪里”。
我想，一个西方人中国画儿画得这么好是不多的。

My friend is a painter.
He is the same age as I, we are both born in the year of the tiger.
He paints very well, and also very well educated.
He knows Chinese, and also knows quite a lot of characters.
He learned Chinese on his own.
Once, I saw him painting at the Westlake.
He was speaking Chinese while painting.
The passers-by looked and all said that the traditional Chinese paintings he painted were very beautiful.
After hearing that he replied: "not at all, not at all"
I think it's rare that a Westerner can paint traditional Chinese painting that well.

阿姆斯特丹中文学校

我不知道中国画和西方画有什么不同，

I don't know the different between Chinese and Western paintings.

只知道在画法上不一样。

I only know that the techniques are different.

中国画儿很好看。

Chinese paintings are beautiful.

几年以前，我在学报上看见过几张他的画儿。

A couple of years ago, I saw his paintings in a school journal.

一张画的是黄河，一张画的是老虎和山。

One had the Yellow River as the subject, the other was a tiger and a mountain.

画儿上有他的名字“道家”两个字。

On the painting was his name in two characters 'Dao jia'. (the Taoist school)

我听说他用“道家”作他的中国名字。

I heard that he uses 'the Taoist school' as his Chinese name.

这一点，他和我一样，我们都喜欢道家。

Regarding this, he is the same as I; we both like the Taoist school.

可能我们都想做有学问，有知识的人吧？

Probably we both like to be well educated and knowledgeable?

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昨天我的一个同事刚从国外得了学位回来。

Yesterday, one of my colleagues just returned from abroad after having received an academic degree.

今天他请我和我爱人，还有几位有地位的朋友去一家饭馆吃饭。

Today, he invites my spouse and I, and a few friends of status to dine in a restaurant.

听说这家饭馆不错，有不少名菜。

I heard this restaurant is pretty good and has many famous dishes.

饭馆离火车站不远，在一个十字路口东边。

The restaurant is not far from the train station, next to a junction to the Eastern side.

我们到的时候，我看见我们学院的院长，法院的院长，院长太太都来了。

When we arrived, we saw the head of our institute, the head of the law institute and his wife.

有两位先生和一位女士我不认识。

We do not know two men and a woman.

我朋友说，一位是他的房东，一位是学电子的，那位女士是房东太太，她是医生。

My friend tells that one is his landlord and one is studying electronic, the woman is the wife of his landlord, she is a doctor.

今天是喜事，我们先喝了点儿酒和汽水。

Today is a happy event, we had alcohol and soft drinks.

喝酒的时候，大家都和我朋友干杯。

When drinking, everyone toasts to my friend.

后来，我们点菜。

Afterwards, we ordered the dishes.

我点了一份儿火鸡大菜，我爱人点了一份儿鱼子和一份儿田鸡。

I ordered a Western style turkey dish; my spouse ordered a dish of fish roe and a dish of frog.

院长点的是水牛肉，他太太点的是水饺。

It is water buffalo meat that the head of the institute ordered, his wife order dumplings.

医生不喜欢吃肉，点的是米饭和生菜。

The doctor doesn't like to eat meat, she ordered rice and lettuce.

知识分子在一块儿吃饭喜欢说话，一边吃，一边说，吃得很慢。

Intellectuals like to chat when they eat, they talk while they eat, eating very slowly.

吃完饭以后，我们到他家坐了坐。他住的不是楼房，是一个院子。

After the meal, we went to his place for a visit. He doesn't live in an apartment building but a courtyard.

他的书房很大。从他的书房可以看到大海和日出。他住的房子不错。

His study is big. From his study one could see the sea and sunrise. His house is pretty nice.

看来，我的这位同事在国外很能干。

From the look of things, this colleague of mine was very capable while abroad.

Pagina 194 Snowball 5

我认为音乐家和语言学家有这样几点区别:

In my opinion musicians and linguists are different in the following ways:

- 一, 音乐家的父母多是商人, 语言学家的父母多是知识分子。
The parents of musicians are mostly business, those of linguists are intellectuals.
- 二, 音乐家没有知心朋友, 语言学家朋友很多。
Musicians have no intimate friends, linguists have many friends.
- 三, 音乐家长得好看的多, 语言学家长得好看的少。
Musicians look much better, linguists are rarely good looking.
- 四, 音乐家休息的时候喜欢去公园, 语言学家喜欢去市场和书店。
When resting, musicians like to go to a park, linguists like to go to markets and bookstores.
- 五, 音乐家喜欢生物, 语言学家爱文物。
Musicians like living things, linguist like artifacts.
- 六, 音乐家不用笔名, 语言学家笔名很多。
Musicians do not use pseudonyms, linguists have many pseudonyms.
- 七, 音乐家喜欢吃公鸡, 语言学家喜欢吃母鸡。
Musicians like to eat roosters, linguists like to eat hens.
- 八, 音乐家都是天才, 语言学家口才(eloquence)很好。
All musicians are genius, linguist are good speakers.
- 九, 音乐家晚上爱吃水果, 语言学家爱吃点心。
Musicians love to eat fruits in the evenings, linguists love to eat dim sum.
- 十, 音乐家开会时发言不长, 语言学家常常爱用文言。
Musicians give short speeches during a meeting, linguists often use classical Chinese.
- 十一, 音乐家爱在家里打电话, 语言学家喜欢用公用电话。
Musicians love to call from home, linguists like to use public phone.
- 十二, 音乐家说话很和气, 语言学家说话要看对象。
Musicians speak politely, linguists choose his audience when they speak.
- 十三, 音乐家小气的多, 语言学家大方的多。
Most musicians are stingy, most linguists are generous.
- 十四, 音乐家不喜欢听鸡叫, 语言学家觉得鸡叫是音乐。我的看法, 你同意吗?
Musicians do not like the crow of a chicken, musicians think that is music. My opinion, do you agree?

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给男朋友的信

亲爱的文平:

你好! 好久没有收到你的信了。你最近怎么样?

Hello! I have not received your mail for a long time. How are you getting on?

身体好吗? 我现在天天在想你。你想我吗?

How's your health? I miss you everyday now. Do you miss me?

你快把我忘了吧? 为什么不给我来信呢? 难道是生病了吗?

You have almost forgotten me, haven't you! Why don't you write? Could you have fallen sick?

三年以前, 我认识你的时候, 你很年轻, 刚刚出国回来。

3 years ago, when I got to know you, you were very young and just returned from abroad.

我在校园门口问你一些信息学方面的问题, 因为我听过你的课。

At the school gate I asked you some questions about information science, because I attended your lessons before.

虽然你讲课的时候有点儿黑龙江口音, 可是我觉得你讲得很有水平, 很认真。

Though you carry a Heilongjiang accent when you spoke, (but) I found that the lecture was of high standard, and very serious.

那天, 你开始跟我说话的时候还有点儿不好意思呢。

That day, you were even a little shy when you started to talk to me!

阿姆斯特丹中文学校

当然，过了一会儿就自然多了。后来，是你主动找了我几次。

Of course, after a while it became much more natural. Afterwards, it was you who took the initiative and visited me several times.

一次是给我讲电脑。当时，我觉得你的脑子就跟电脑一样。

Once you gave me a talk about computer. Then, I thought your brain was just like a computer.

一次是给我讲成语。你讲的两个成语是“一心一意”和“三心两意”。

Once you gave me a talk about Chinese idioms. The two idioms you talked about were 'whole heartedly' and 'in two minds'

你说做事要一心一意，不能三心两意。

You said one must do things whole heartedly and cannot be in two minds.

不知怎的，现在我一听到这两个成语，就想起你。

I have no idea why I immediately think of you whenever I hear of these two idioms.

一次是讲李白，你说你最喜欢李白。

Once you talked about the poet Libai. You said you like him the most.

还有一次是你给我唱民歌。你唱的民歌真动人，真好听。

Yet another time you sang for me folk songs, the folk songs you sang were very moving, and sounded really good.

看来，你还是一个歌唱家呢。从那以后，我就爱上了你。

It seems that, beside all other talents, you are a great vocalist! From then on, I fell in love with you.

真的，当时我时刻想跟你在一起，坐在你身旁，听你讲知心话。

Honestly, I wanted to be with you every moment then, to sit beside you, and to listen to your heart-to-heart talk.

最让我难忘的是前年秋天。有一天，我们一起去去看一个外国动画片。

What is most unforgettable for me is the autumn two years ago. One day, we went together to see a foreign animation film.

回来的时候，下雨了。我忘了带雨衣，着凉了。

On the way home, it rained. I forgot to bring my raincoat and caught a cold.

你跟我一起去医院看病，去药房买药。

You went with me to the hospital and to buy medicine from a pharmacy.

我没有带钱包，是你拿钱买的药。我生病的那几天，你天天骑自行车来看我。

I didn't bring my wallet; it was you who paid for the medicine. The couple of days when I was sick, you came to visit me everyday by bicycle.

有时在我这儿吃点儿便饭，很晚才回家。当时，我真有点儿心疼你。

Sometimes you ate a simple meal at my place and returned home very late. Then, I really felt a little sorry for you.

去年新年的时候，我收到了你的明信片 and 一张唱片。

Last year during the New Year, I received a postcard and a record from you.

明信片上写着：“给我的意中人”。看到这几个字，我高兴得不知怎么好。

On the postcard was written 'to my beloved'. After reading these words, I was so happy that I was at a loss what do.

亲爱的，我们在机场分手的时候，

My dear, when we were saying goodbye at the airport,

你说：“我是讲信用的，你一定等着我。我得了学位，就马上回来。”

You said: 'I am thrustworthy, you must wait for me. Once I get my degree, I will return immediately'

我没忘你的话。我在等你，时刻在等着你，等着你早一天回来。

I have not forgotten your words. I am waiting for you, waiting for you every moment, waiting for you to return soon.

祝你万事如意！

May all your wishes come true!

你的心上人 园园

Your sweetheart Yuan Yuan

1996年9月3日于北大 in Beijing University

Snowball translation can be downloaded from our school website:

www.ChineseSchoolAmsterdam.nl/homework.htm