
9.12 Wáng Xuéyīng

Wáng Xuéyīng shì Lín Měi de hào péngyou. Tā shēng zài Nánjīng, kěshì yīnwèi tā fùmǔ shì Shàoxīng rén suǒyǐ Zhōngguó rén yě shuō Shàoxīng shì tā de lǎojiā. Shàoxīng zài nǎr? Shàoxīng zài Zhèjiāng, lí Hángzhōu hěn jìn, lí Shànghǎi yě bù yuǎn. Shàoxīnghuà tīngqǐlai hěn xiàng Shànghǎihuà. Shàoxīng zuì yǒumíng de tèchǎn shì Shàoxīngjiǔ, nà shì yì zhǒng mǐjiǔ. Hē-guo de rén dōu shuō Shàoxīng jiǔ hēqǐlai hěn tián.

Wáng Xuéyīng yīnwèi shēng zài Nánjīng, suǒyǐ yě kěyǐ shuō shì Nánjīng rén. Nánjīng zài Jiāngsū, zài Cháng Jiāng biān shàng. Nánjīng nèi ge chéngshì bú dà yě bù xiǎo, bǐjiào ānjìng. Rénkǒu dàgài shì sān-sìbǎiwàn. Nǐ kěnéng xiǎng zhīdao Nánjīng wèishénme jiào ‘Nánjīng’? Shi zhèi yàng de: ‘Jīng’ shì shǒudū de yìsi. Nánjīng shì nánbiānr de shǒudū. Xiànzài de shǒudū shì Běijīng, kěshì yìqián Nánjīng yě zuò-guo shǒudū. Suǒyǐ Nánjīng fùjìn de gǔjī hěn duō! Nǐ yīnggāi qù kànkàn, hěn yǒu yìsi!

Wáng Xuéyīng, xiàng Lín Měi yíyàng, yě jiāoshū. Tā jiāo Zhōngguó wénxué, Zhōngguó xiàndài wénxué. Nǐ xiǎng liǎojiě Zhōngguó zuì yǒumíng de xiàndài zuòjiā, nà nǐ kěyǐ qǐngjiào tā. Tā duì Lǚ Xùn, Lǎo Shě, Dīng Líng, Shěn Cóngwén, děngděng nèi xiē yǒumíng de xiàndài zuòjiā dōu hěn yǒu yánjiū!

Wáng Xuéyīng 1986 nián céng zài Yīngguó líu-guo xué, tā Yīngwén jiǎng+de hěn hǎo. Tīng, shuō, dú, xiě dōu xíng. Tā yě zhīdao yìdiǎnr guānyú Měiguó hé Ōuzhōu de shìqing. Tā shuō tā shì Zhōngguó rén, dāngrán zuì xǐhuān chī Zhōngguó cài, kěshì tā yě xǐhuan chī wàiguó cài, xiàng Fǎguó de, Yìdài de, Měiguó de. Měiguó de kuàicān tā yě xǐhuan, xiàng hànbaobāo, règǒu, pǐsābǐng! Tā shuō tā zhīdao kuàicān duì shēntǐ bù hǎo, kěshì yīnwèi hěn hǎochī, tā háishi hěn xǐhuan chī. Tā de kànfǎ shì xiǎng chī shénme jiu chī shénme, zhǐ yào nǐ bù chī tài duō. Nǐ juéde tā zhèiyàng shuō yǒu dàolǐ ma?

Notes

lǎojiā (or gùxiāng)	‘home of origin’; in the Chinese view you are from the place that your ancestors came from.
tèchǎn	N ‘local specialties (special-product)’; cf. tèsè, tèbié.
tián	SV ‘sweet’ but here, ‘smooth’.
Cháng Jiāng	(‘long river’), the Yangtze River.
kěnéng	Adv ‘possibly; probably; maybe’; cf. <u>dàgài</u> , <u>yěxǔ</u>
shǒudū	N ‘capital city’ of a country; provincial capital is <u>shǒufǔ</u> .
zuò-guo	‘has done’ in the sense of ‘has taken the part of; has been’.
gǔjī	‘(ancient-remains)’
liǎojiě	V ‘get acquainted with; understand’
xiàndài	SV ‘modern; current’
zuòjiā	N ‘author (do/write-expert)’
qǐngjiào	‘(request-instruction)’, used deferentially to ask for instruction from a superior; note the falling tone of <u>jiào</u> ; cf. <u>jiàoshòu</u> .
duì ... yǒu yánjiū	‘to be well informed about (to have knowledge of ...)’.
liúxué	VO or V ‘to study abroad (remain-study)’. Notice the position of <u>guo</u> : <u>liú-guó xué</u> ‘have [at some time] studied abroad’. Some people treat <u>liúxué</u> as a compound verb and place the <u>guo</u> after <u>xué</u> : <u>liúxué-guo yì nián</u> .
guānyú	‘about; concerning’, here introducing the object <u>shìqǐng</u> ‘things’.
zhǐ yào	Literally ‘only want’, but the corresponding English expression is ‘as long as; provided that’: <u>Zhǐ yào duì shēntǐ hǎo, wǒ kěyǐ chī</u> . ‘So long as it’s good for me, I can eat [it]’.
yǒu dàolǐ	SV ‘make sense; be rational; right’; the negative is <u>méi<you> dàolǐ</u> .

Exercise 9.

Answer the following questions about the story:

1. Qǐng nǐ tántan lǎojiā shì shénme yìsi.
2. Shàoxīng rén shuō de huà zěnmeyàng?
3. Shàoxīng zuì yǒumíng de chǎnpǐn shì shénme? Wèidào zěnmeyàng?
4. Nánjīng rénkǒu dàgài shì duōshao?
5. Nánjīng wèishénme jiào Nánjīng?
6. Hái yǒu shénme chéngshì yě zuò-guo shǒudū?
7. Wáng Xuéyīng duì shénme hěn yǒu yánjiū?
8. Xiǎng liǎojiě Zhōngguó yǒumíng de zuòjiā kěyǐ qǐngjiào shéi?
9. Wáng Xuéyīng Yīngyǔ jiǎng+de hěn hǎo; wèishénme?
10. Guānyú chī kuàicān nǐ de kànfǎ shì shénme?

9.13 Patterns with duì

Constructions involving the CV duì are reviewed here:

- a) Duì ... hǎo: ‘good for [your] ...’

Yǒu rén shuō niúnǎi duì shēntǐ hǎo.

Tīngshuō niúnǎi duì pífū hǎo; xiāngjiāo duì nǎozǐ hǎo.

- b) Duì ... yǒu ~ gǎn xìngqǔ ‘be interested in...’

Duì xià wéiqí gǎn xìngqǔ ma?

Are [you] interested in playing ‘go’?

Hěn gǎn xìngqǔ, dànshì duì xiàngqí gèng yǒu xìngqǔ.

[I]’m very interested, but I’m even more interested in chess.

Wǒ cóng xiǎo duì huàhuàr yǒu xìngqǔ.

I’ve been interested in painting since I was small.

Tīngshuō Qīngcháo de Kāngxī huángdì duì tiānwén fēicháng gǎn xìngqǔ.

I heard that Emperor Kangxi of the Qīng was very interested in astronomy.

Notes

xià wéiqí	VO	play go (‘play’ encircling-chess)
xiàngqí	N	chess (elephant-chess)
huàhuàr	VO	to paint; draw (paint-paintings)
huángdì	N	emperor
tiānwén<xué> N	N	astronomy (heaven-inscriptions)

c) Dui ... yǒu yánjiū ‘be informed about’.

Tā duì Zhōngguó de xiàndài lìshǐ
hěn yǒu yánjiū.

She’s very well informed about
modern Chinese history.

9.14 Interjections

Interjections are conventionalized carriers of emotion, typically providing context for a following sentence; cf. English: aha (recognition), yikes (surprise and fear), whoopee (happiness). Interjections sometimes employ sounds outside the regular linguistic system, such as the English alveolar clicks, conventionally spelled *tsk tsk* or *tut tut* (disapproval).

Few textbooks – or grammars of Chinese – have much to say about interjections. Chao’s grammar (1967) is exceptional in devoting some five pages to the topic. Interjections are quite frequent in informal speech, and need to be considered. A good place to look for them in written form is comics and advertisements (though you will have to conduct a survey of native speakers to see how the interjections are actually pronounced). Here is an example from the label of a bottle of a popular brand of fruit drink:

Shuǐjīng Pútáo – (嗯) hǎo hē!
‘Crystal Grape, -- (ng, mm?), delicious!’

The character 嗯 contains the ‘phonetic element’ 恩 ēn, but the interjection is probably pronounced mm in this context.

Though they may occur elsewhere, interjections in Chinese are more frequent in initial position – or rather, prior position; though they often have a fixed intonation, it is not quite the same as the pitch and contour of the regular tones. The following list is very tentative; you should add to it or amend it as you observe Chinese speaking.

Ā	<i>Mild interest;</i> Ā, hěn yǒu yìsi.
Á	<i>Surprise</i> Á, yòu lái le! ‘What – you again?’
Āi	<i>resignation; darn; alas</i> Āi, zhēn kěxī.
Āiyā	<i>Impatience; frustration</i>
Āiyō ~ yō	<i>surprise; discomfort; yikes!</i>
E	<i>agreement; Yeh, right on.</i>

Hà	<i>satisfaction; Ha!</i>
Hài	<i>disapproval</i>
Ng ~ M ~ ùhn (falling)	<i>weak assent; acknowledgement; uh-huh</i>
Ng ~ e	<i>hesitation; cf. English 'uh'.</i>
O	Oh, I see.
Ó	<i>surprise; huh?</i>
Q<i>	<i>contempt; for shame!</i>
Wèi ~ wài	hello [telephoning; calling out to someone]



Aiyo, Jīn Gāng lái la! 'Yikes, King Kong's coming!' [Advertisement, Shanghai, 2006]

9.15 On apologies

In 2001 a US spy plane, flying near to the coast of China, was involved in a collision with a Chinese jet that was shadowing it. The Chinese pilot was killed, and the US plane was badly damaged and had to land on Hainan Island. A poorly planned response from the US side led the Chinese leaders to demand a formal apology. The Americans were only willing to express regret. Professor Leo Ou-fan Lee of Harvard wrote a short article on the issue of the apology that was printed in the Boston Globe. It is reproduced in part here:

“Two days ago, US Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said the United States was ‘sorry’ for the apparent loss of a Chinese pilot's life following the April 1 collision between a US spy plane and a Chinese fighter jet, but Powell said the United States would not apologize for the accident, because it believes it is not at

fault... The Chinese language has several words for apology, noted Leo Ou-fan Lee, a professor of Chinese literature at Harvard University. China is demanding that the United States give ‘zhèngshì dàoqiàn’, ‘a formal apology’ that acknowledges that the speaker is extremely sorry for having done something wrong that harmed the listener. A softer alternative is ‘bàoqiàn’, which means ‘deep and sincere regret’ or to be ‘apologetic’. Bush's expression of ‘regret’ last week for the loss of the pilot translates as the milder ‘yíhàn’, which implies that the speaker is not at fault.” [Indira A.R. Lakshmanan, in the *Boston Globe*, April 11, 2001, page A24]

The side panel to the article listed six degrees of ‘sorry’, with the first as most sorry; the word-for-word glosses have been added to the original.

dàoqiàn	apologize (declare-deficiency)
bàoqiàn	feel sorry (embrace-deficiency)
yíhàn	feel regret; be sorry
nánguò	feel grieved (difficult-pass over)
duìbuqǐ	have failed you (face-not-worthy)
bù hǎoyìsi	be embarrassed (not good-sense)

Usage

V.	Duìbuqǐ, xiàng nín dàoqiàn!	Sorry, I apologize to you.
V.	Hěn bàoqiàn!	[I]’m very sorry!
SV.	Duì zhèi jiàn shìqing, wǒ juéde hěn/tèbié yíhàn.	I feel very; especially sorry about this.
SV	Hěn nánguò!	[I]’m very sad; upset.
	Duìbuqǐ.	Sorry / excuse [me].
SV	Bù hǎo yìsi!	[I]’m very sorry; embarrassed.

9.16 Highlights

Definitions	Lǎoshī shì zài xuéxiào jiāoshū de <rén>.
DE	Tā pángbiānr de nèi wèi shì shéi?
Clothes	chuántǒng de yīfu; chuān / dài / jì
Bargaining	tǎojià-huánjià; duì wǒ lái shuō
V-zhe	Zhàn-zhe shūfu. Zài shāfa shàng zuò-zhe ne. shǒu lǐ ná-zhe yí ge qiáng Mén kāi-zhe ne. Zhuōzi shàng fàng-zhe jǐ zhāng míngpiàn. Tā ná-zhe huà huíjiā le.
zhèng zài	Tā zhèngzài xǐzǎo ne.
zhèng ... zhe	Zhèng xià-zhe yǔ ne.
zài V	Tā zài xiěxìn ne.

V-zhe vs zài V	Tā shuì-zhe ne. Tā zài shuìjiào ne.
Temples	sìmiào; gōngdiàn; shén
Colors	Shénme yánsè de chē zuì liúxíng?
Made of	Shì shítou zuò de.
bǎ	Qǐng bǎ mén dǎkāi. / Wǒ yǐjīng bǎ tā dǎkāi le.
VV-O-lai	náqǐ bǐ lai
VVs	jībuzhù; kāibukāi; bānzǒu; zuòxià; mǎibuqǐ; nábuliǎo
V-qǐlai	Shuōqǐlai róngyì, zuòqǐlai nán.
More slowly	Qǐng shuō màn yìdiǎnr.
V-dào/gěi/zài	Kāi dào nǎr? Jì gěi shéi? Fàng zài nǎlǐ?
Verbs in series	Mǎi yì běn shū gěi tā zěnmeyàng?
VOO – but...	jiāo tā Zhōngwén; but mài gěi tā yì běn; mǎi yì běn gěi tā
Home	lǎojiā; gùxiāng
about	guānyú shénme? / guānyú Měiguó xiàndài de lishǐ
Duì	duì ... yǒu xìngqū; duì ... yǒu yánjiū

9.17 Rhymes and rhythms

1. Xīnnián láidào

Now another rhyme about the traditional lunar new year:

Xīnnián láidào,
rénrén huānxiào,
gūniáng yào huā(r),
xiǎozi yào pào,

New-year come-arrive,
people happy-laugh,
young+girls want flowers
young+boys want firecrackers

*lǎo tàitai yào kuài dà niángāo,
lǎotóu yào dǐng xīn zhān mào!*

*old ladies want piece New Year's cake
old men want [M] new felt hat!*

The nián of niángāo can mean ‘sticky’ (characterizing the glutinous rice flour used to make the new year cake) or ‘year’, that is the lunar new year – the time of its eating. Fireworks in general are usually called yànhuǒ or huāhuǒ (flower-fire); firecrackers (which come in braided strings, like whips or lashes, and explode like burning bamboo) are biānpào (lash-cannon) or bàozhú (explode-bamboo); the verb is fàng ‘put’, but here, ‘set off’.

2. Advice for healthy living

Qǐ+de zǎo,
Rise+DE early

shuì+de hǎo,
sleep+DE well,

qī fēn bǎo,
7 parts full [70%]

cháng pǎopǎo;
frequently run,

duō xiàoxiào,
a lot laugh

mò fánǎo,
don't worry,

tiāntiān máng,
every-day be-busy

yǒng bù lǎo.
forever not age

Rì xíng wǔqiān bù, <i>day walk 5000 paces</i>	>	yè mián qī xiǎoshí, <i>night sleep 7 hours</i>
yǐnshí bù yú liàng <i>drink-food not exceed amount</i>	>	zuò xī yào jūnhéng <i>do rest need proper-amount</i>
xīn zhōng cháng xǐlè <i>heart in always happy</i>	>	kǒutóu wú yuàn shēng <i>in-words not complain tone</i>
ài rén rú ài jǐ <i>love others as love self</i>	>	zhù rén jìn zhōngchéng. <i>help people utmost sincerely.</i>

etc.

An excerpt from a longer rhyme containing advice for healthy living, distributed on sheets of paper at a Chinese temple in Rangoon (Burma). The rhyme seems to have been inspired by a genre represented best by the ‘Household Maxims’ (Zhìjiā Géyán) of Zhū Yòngchún (traditionally romanized as Chu Yongshun [sic]), 1617 – 1689, that are often found in editions of the Chinese almanac. The latter, written in classical style, has a less perky rhythm. It starts off:

Límíng jí qǐ, Sǎsǎo tǐngchú yào nèi wài zhěngqí.	Dawn then rise, sprinkle-sweep outer-porch make inside-and-outside neat.
Jí hūn biàn xī, guānsuǒ mén hù, bì qīnzì jiǎndiǎn.	When evening [comes] then rest, close-and-lock doors, must oneself check-carefully.



Healthy living, Shanghai subway.

3. 东方红 Dōngfāng Hóng

The East is Red is a paen to Mao Zedong and the Chinese Communist Party, put to the melody of a Shaanxi folksong. Despite its content, the song remains well known, and symphonic, choral and heavy metal rock versions can be found on the web.

Lyrics (cí 词) by Lǐ Yǒuyuán (李有源); tune (biānqū 编曲) by Huàn Zhī (焕之).

1.

东方红太阳升,
Dōngfāng hóng, tàiyang shēng,

A fairly literal translation:
The East is Red, the sun rises,

中国出了个毛泽东;
Zhōngguó chū liǎo [yí] ge Máo Zédōng;
[liǎo = reading pronunciation]

China appears LE a Mao Zedong;

他为人民谋幸福,
he for the-people work-for happiness,

tā wèi rénmin mǒu xìngfú,

忽儿嘿哟,
hū ér hēi yōu,

<refrain>

他是人民大救星。
tā shì rénmin dà jiùxīng.

he is the-people's savior (big saving-star).

2.

毛主席爱人民,
Máo zhǔxí ài rénmin,
他是我们的带路人;
tā shì wǒmen de dàilùrén;
为了建设新中国,
wèiliǎo jiànshè xīn Zhōngguó,
忽儿嘿哟,
hū ér hēi yōu,
领导我们向前进。
língdǎo wǒmen xiàng qiánjìn.

Chairman Mao loves the people,
he is our guide (guide-road-person);
in-order-to establish new China,
<refrain>
lead us to advance (forward-enter).

3.

共产党像太阳，
Gòngchǎndǎng xiàng tàiyang,
照到哪里哪里亮；
zhàodào nǎlǐ, nǎlǐ liàng;
哪里有了共产党，
nǎlǐ yǒu liǎo gòngchǎndǎng
忽儿嘿哟，
hū ér hēi yōu,
哪里人民得解放。
nǎlǐ rénmin dé jiěfàng!

The-Communist-Party is like the sun,
where it shines, there is brightness;
wherever there-is LE a CCP,
<refrain>
there the-people obtain liberation!



Monument to the Communist Party in front of an apartment block, Shanghai [2006]