

值得正視的

中國郵報的舛誤

簡學文

中國郵報 (China Post) 是國內兩家英文報紙之一。早就聽說臺灣的英文報紙，是世界上英文報錯誤最多的報紙，因此平時偶而也特別注意一下，果然發現 China Post 常常有英文文法的錯誤。好幾次都把錯誤的部份勾出來，準備寄給報社負責人，希望他們努力改進。由於「多一事不如少一事」的想法，始終都沒有把這些剪報寄出。

看完去年十二月十九日「中國郵報」的國內版新聞（第十二頁）後，我覺得不能再沉默下去了。理由之一是：錯誤連篇，文法、修辭、排版……樣樣都有，第十二頁筆者統計下來就有三、四十個錯誤（我的標準不是很嚴，不然的話，總數可能更多）；理由之二是：很多讀者，尤其是學生和失學的社會青年，靠讀 China Post 或 China News 來學英文，如今 China Post 這麼糟糕，如果沒有人挺身出來說幾句難聽的話，長此以往，不知有多少人受害。教書的人不敬業，人家說誤人子弟；被誤的對象通常是一兩班到六七班不等，總人數還不算太多。報紙的影響可就不同了。我不知道 China Post 有多少讀者，但總不會少於五千吧，如果它的國內版新聞每天都像十二月十九日那樣的誤人，一天誤五千，十天五萬……真不敢再數下去。

以下就從三方面來討論：

(一)文法修辭上的錯誤：

1. Presided over by Y.S.Lin, Chairman of the Chinese National Federation of Industry, Chen Chi-ching, Chairman of the Chinese Federation of Commerce, and Kao Chen-fu, Chairman of the Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce, more than 400 executives and……took part in the symposium.

這一句話是修辭學上最忌的 dangling participle (或 dangling modifier)，也是我們學習英文的最容易犯的毛病。主要子句 more than 400 executives……應改成 the symposium was participated in by more than 400 executives and……

2. Strengthening unity and the adoption of positive measures……應改成 Strengthening unity and adopting positive measures……，以求 parallelism。
3. Further beefing-up of technical know how and improve quality in production. know how 中間應加個 hyphen, improve 應為 improving 顯係疏忽。
4. A U. S. organization larger than the Exchange Association set up according to the "Japanese Formula" will be established in Taipei to substitute the present U.S. Embassy after……

這句的 substitute 後面要加個介詞 for, 或改用 replace, 或 take the place of。

5. A newly initiated movement urging people to donate money for national defense was attributed to lowered anti-American sentiment.

這一句，作者意思是說，反美情緒降低歸因於愛國捐獻之發起；但是他所用的 attribute……to 用錯了。根據 The New American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, attribute 意思是：to regard or assign as belonging to or resulting from someone or something, 簡單的說，是「把某種事實歸於某種原因」，因此 attribute 的後面應該是一種事實，to 的後面是造成這種事實的原因。例如：「他把失敗歸咎於判斷錯誤」，要譯成：He attributed his failure to poor judgment (也可說成：His failure was attributed (或 attributable) to poor

judgement)。現在讓我們來看看原文：lowered anti-American sentiment 是「事情的結果」，按照前述的道理，不能放在 to 的後面。簡言之，這句話是「倒果爲因」。正確的說法如下：1) Lowered anti-American sentiments were attributed to a newly initiated movement urging people to donate money for national defense; 2) Lowered anti-American sentiment was attributable to a; 3) We might attribute lowered anti-American sentiments to a newly initiated movement

其實這句話根本不必用 attribute.....to 的說法，把原文的 was attributed to 改成 was partly responsible for (加個 partly 比較客觀，新聞報導力求客觀不是嗎？) 就可以了：A newly initiated movement urging people to donate money for national defense was partly responsible for lowered anti-American sentiments.

6. A famous singer, Chang Li-min yesterday sent a NT\$323,000 check to the Taiwan Television Enterprise 這一句的冠詞 a 應改爲 an，因爲 NT 的 N[en] 第一個音是母音之故也。類似的例子有：an 18-day extension, an 11-man team。這種錯誤是學英文的人士要特別注意的，稍不留心，就會犯錯。報館的 copy reader 沒有把這種錯誤看出來，顯然不够稱職。

7. The center replied that the women should accompany her mother to the center so they could discuss the matter.

women 當爲 woman 之誤，so 的用法在此不正確，以下幾個都可以：so that, in order that, 或單用 that 也可，不能用 so。

8. Some senior members of the Central Committee

and Central Advisory Council of the ruling Kuomintang party, suggested yesterday new measures including a party reform and the stepping up of national defense power after U.S. President Carter sold the people and government of the Republic of China down the river in establishing formal ties with the Communist China regime.

這句的 the ruling Kuomintang party 中的 party 應該刪去，party 後面的逗點也是多餘。in establishing formal ties……中的 in 改成 by 比較好。sold the people and Government of the Republic of China down the river 這一句話是美國一個評論家（或議員）評論卡特與中共建交的話，記者引用這句話，應該加個 quotation 才是。

9. The retired serviceman said he believed that Chinese must stand on their own feet……

這一句的 believed 應改為 believes，因為這個 retired serviceman 相信的事實應該不變，所以用現在式才正確。

10. In the relationship with the United States, Sun said the traditional friendship between the people of the Republic of China and …… is still exist and be further developed.

這一句錯得太離譜了，is still exist 應改為 still exists, and be further developed 也不通，be 的前面要加 will。

11. He reported that the nation's present foreign reserve amounted to over US\$6 billion and the Gross National Product this year will reach……

既然說 present（現在，目前），動詞怎麼選用過去式 amounted to? Gross National Product 不必大寫，縮寫用法才要大寫成 GNP。

12. Even the U. S. suspend its diplomatic tie with the Republic of China, it will not……

此句的 suspend 要加 “s”, tie 也要加 “s”。

13. Students, who form a majority of the demonstrators, focused their attention on the donation activities.

這一句的 a majority of 要改成 the majority of。

以上文法，修辭上的錯誤只舉其犖犖大者，其他一些小問題就不提了。

(二)用字 (Diction) 的錯誤或不當：

1. Retired serviceman Meng Fang-yi will send his son Meng Hsiang-Kuo to the military school to support the country.

這句話的 to support 不妥，建議改成 to help defend。

2. KMT party members also spoke of strengthening national unity, enforcing law and order and establishing new economic measures to keep the economy growing……

這句話的 establishing “new economic” measures 語意有問題。作者的意思大概是「採取新的經濟措施」，果如是，establishing 就要改成 taking 或 adopting, establishing ……measures 是不通的英文。建議多查查一本有關英文 collocations 的字典。

3. A meeting to discuss problems relative to relations between the Republic of China and the United States was held yesterday……

to discuss problems relative to relations 建議改成 to discuss problems concerning (或 regarding) the relations……。relative to relations 不管看起來或聽起來都很 awkward，有那麼多的字可以用（用 on the relations 也可以），為什麼偏偏選用 relative to? 顯示作者用字不够慎

重。

(二)無心的錯誤或手民誤植：

1) The trade between these two countries will be continued and I believed our economic will……

our economic 的 economic 顯係 economy 之誤。

2) The government will also……to maintain a steady economic grow.

grow 應改爲 growth。

3) The title of the organization has not been decided upon, but naming the organization the "Asian-American Services Corp." will not done.

will not done 當是 will not do 之誤。

4) The TFIT suspended its scheduled year-end party gave money usually slated for employees to the government.

這一句錯得太不像話了，搞了半天才發現原來 gave 的前面漏了 "and"。這麼一個重要的字漏了，根本叫人讀不下去。

5) A wide ranges of topics was discussed on the two countries' relations on cultural, trade, commerce and investment.

ranges 應改爲 range; cultural 改爲 culture。

6) Sun's report covered the future measures that the Executive Yuan will take in the fields of defense, economics and foreign affairs after……

economics 顯係 economic 之誤。

7) He added the government will continue to promote its political constructions, to improve the people's living standard and welfare and protect human rights in the home affairs.

這句話的末尾 protect human rights 的前面應加個 to。

除了以上的錯誤外，好幾個標題也有小疵：

1. NT\$102,010 donated to govt' for national defense.
govt' 的 apostrophe 標錯位置，應為 gov't，顯係手民誤植。
2. Capital Hill mission due for diplomatic 'switch'
Capital 應改為 Capitol。

以上這些偌大的標題竟然還出錯，可見校對的工夫太差。

筆者寫這篇文章並不是雞蛋裏挑骨頭，而是懷着沉重的心情，嘆一些人士不敬業的態度，有感而發的。希望 China Post 有關人員好好檢討，以「聞過則喜」的胸襟來接納雅見。更希望編輯部能不惜重金禮聘稱職的 copy reader，來改正或潤飾一些明顯的錯誤英文。文章好壞，各人看法不同，比較難找到客觀的標準；但是一些最基本的文法、修辭規則總要遵循。真不希望再聽到有人說，××報是世界上英文報錯誤最多的報紙。

譯評

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45元

翻譯，有人貶之為「謀殺」，有人譽之為「創造」……

那麼，譯者是「文化殺手」呢？還是「文化媒妁」？

本書計收 T·A、胡汝森、張時、黃文範等精彩翻譯評論近二十篇，歡迎電話或郵撥訂書，八折優待本刊讀者。

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