

SHANTOU BEAT



ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER
英 语 语 言 中 心

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September, 2018

English Language Center, Shantou University

Shantou Beat would be an open platform for you to embark on your

English learning

Writing ability:

In ShantouBeat, we write articles and published them on newspapers and on wechat public account.

Spoken+Reading abilities:

We do have Reading Club as a good platform for you to practice your spoken English by expressing yourself in English and learn more. Also, your reading ability would be enhanced by reading the material in preparation for reading club.

Listening ability:

Activities (e.g. reading club) we hold would involve international teachers. Come and enjoy the native English pronunciation.



A glance of "Steps of the holding of ShantouBeat

Reading Club"

Step one:

Discussion on topics for the reading club.
(Diversity+Acceptance+Sparkling ideas and thoughts)

Different members have different thoughts and opinions. We do learn from thoughts and ideas shared among us.

Step two:

Prepare reading material for the picked topic.
During the preparation, you may read a lot so as to choose good reading material for the participants. Reading ability would then be naturally enhanced.

Step three:

Host/ Group leaders for the reading club.
You will lead the sharing and discussion about the topics. By that, ability of public speaking and of handling conversation among a group of people would get practiced.

Want to know and learn? Join us and explore by yourself!



A Dreamlike Solitude

It has been over half a century when Gabriel Garcia Márquez finished his literary masterpiece *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. How can it be such an enduring work? Numerous themes were given to the book such as a book of loneliness and a book of the human condition. However, just because the book deals with the human condition, it doesn't mean that the book is great.

The greatest point of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* lies in its narrative pattern which carries on Kafka's and at the same time, he started his own style as well. In my view, a great book, not like many other good book, is always preferred for its special narrative mode, which attracts others to imitate. And there are two standards to evaluate if

the book is great or not: 1. Breaking new ground. For example, Kafka's narrative pattern changed from realism into another bran-new mode by the time he wrote *The Metamorphosis*. And the modernist styles such as the stream of consciousness, black humor and The Theatre of the Absurd all started from Kafka. 2. Assembles the characteristics. For example, the creation of the romanticism is pushed to the summit by Hugo and the realism is brought out to the most extend by Balzac and Tolstoy.

Obviously, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* does not belong to the first category. This narrative pattern is similar to Kafka (the reason about this has been said in the book named *Discovery of a novel* written by Yan Lianke), the author of *The Metamorphosis*,

whose narrative mode and narrative strategies both are zero cause and effect which means it only tells a result without saying anything about the process.

However, the greatest feature of Márquez's magical realism is semi causality. That is the asymmetry of cause and effect, just like a very small cause leading to an enormous effect or a big cause leading to a tiny effect. So the commonplace between this two narrative patterns is that they both unify the dream and the reality perfectly. In other words, such as insect-changing human in the novel of Kafka, and the beauty flying in the sky in the novel of Márquez, all these plots are unreasonable, go against our common sense or conflict with our real life experience. All

those things are a combination of dream and reality in the context of literature. It's a dreamlike expression, or a mode of thinking.

This expression is shown in a description for Remedios, my favorite character in his book who is as beautiful as a flower. (At this time Márquez struggled to describe the scene in which Remedios is flying through the sky) He thought it is too difficult to make the big living guy fly to the sky. Márquez racked his brain and several months later he came up with a great idea:

"Don't you feel well?" she asked her.

Remedios the Beauty, who was clutching the sheet by the other end, gave a pitying smile.

"Quite the opposite," she said, "I never felt better."

She had just finished saying it when Fernanda felt a delicate wind of light pull the sheets out of her hands and open them up wide. Amaranta felt a mysterious trembling in the lace on her petticoats and she tried to grasp the sheet so that she would not fall down at the instant in which Remedios the Beauty began to rise. Úrsula, almost blind at the time, was the only person who was sufficiently

calm to identify the nature of that determined wind and she left the sheets to the mercy of the light as she watched Remedios the Beauty waving good-bye in the midst of the flapping sheets that rose up with her, abandoning with her the environment of beetles and dahlias and passing through the air with her as four o'clock in the afternoon came to an end, and they were lost forever with her in the upper atmosphere where not even the highest-flying birds of memory could reach her.

(From *One Hundred Years of Solitude* written by Gabriel José de la Concordia García Márquez)

At last, Remedios flew away by a gust of wind with the sheet in her hand when she was drying the sheet.

In my view, only Márquez can write such an unbelievable but graceful plot. In the novel world, countless people fly up, but there's no one like her, who can be that sexy and pure when she's flying. The beauty, the white sheet and a gust of wind are all natural and unescapable, but it only comes out by accident. When Márquez was recalling the time he wrote the book, he said, "Finally, I let her fly."

So, back to the conclusion of the commonplace between Kafka's pattern

and Márquez's pattern, what we figure out in this comparison is that making the conception involving the opposite connotations blend together faultlessly is the new part of Kafka's mode created by Márquez, the dreamlike expression named semi causality. That is Márquez, who use a dreamlike expression creating new literary soil in *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, makes difference in his authorship and makes a book great.

By 17 Computer Science, Jennifer Liu

Column:

Literature



Les Bleus Revel

in Winning Their Second World Cup



The 2018 World Cup in Russia has come to an end this hot summer. After scoring a 4-2 victory over Croatia in the final win, the French players stayed on the pitch for several more minutes, reveling in the happy ending, shouting and singing. And I'm convinced that this very exciting moment would be frozen in most people's memories of the 2018 World Cup.

There is no doubt that this victory is of great significance to Les Bleus and all French people, because they eventually lifted the World Cup again, after experiencing countless setbacks and trials. In 1998, Les Bleus won the first World Cup in the team's history at the FIFA World Cup on its home soil. In the next four World Cup, Les Bleus made four attempts to win a second trophy, yet with four failures. It is interesting to note that Didier Deschamps, who won the Cup as captain in 1998, is now the team's head coach.

In fact, when Les Bleus beat Uruguay, becoming the first team to reach the semifinals, some fans told themselves silently in their hearts that what they

expected was going to happen, because their performance both offensively and defensively was terrific in the previous games. Besides, they were also favored by Lady Luck. In the opening game against Australia, France relied on their opponent's own goal, scoring three points in the last minute, and they also became the first team in World Cup history to rely on video referees for penalties.

It is noteworthy that we can see that there are many black players in Les Bleus. But it is well known that France belongs to Western Europe and is supposed to be mostly white. What on earth caused the Les Bleus to become the "black team" called jokingly? In fact, the reason is very simple, which has a lot to do with the French colonies. And after the second war, France relaxed its immigration policy. The Africans naturally immigrated to relatively developed France. The black population of France increased suddenly, and the black babies were accordingly increased. According to statistics, 15 of the 23-man squad for France in the World Cup are from 11 different

African countries, and 65 percent of them are of African descent.

On July 15, 2018, local time, to celebrate France's victory in the World Cup again after 20 years, the Louvre posted on twitter a portrait of the Mona Lisa with the French national team jersey, with the caption saying "congratulations to France on winning the 2018 World Cup". The report also said the Arc de Triomphe was circulating pictures of the national team players, and the Eiffel Tower was lit up in the colors of the French flag.

The French people can't control the joy of their hearts, as Benjamin Pavard, the fullback of the Les Bleus, explained, "The party is only getting started. This is just the beginning: we're going to savour this win for four years!"

By 17 Global Law, June Chen

Column:
Sports





Puning Yingge Dance, a Valuable Cultural Relic and Spirit

Whenever talking about the traditional culture and customs of my hometown with my friends, I always introduce them to a very popular and well-respected folk dance, the Puning Yingge dance. Such a wonderful custom is that each year our village will hold a yingge dance performance to celebrate the coming of new year during the Spring Festival. Besides, it is considered as a great way to drive all the bad luck away and bring the fortune to the village. Growing up in Puning, I am very proud of this brilliant cultural relic.

According to records, Puning Yingge dance has a history of more than 400 years. During the reign of Qianlong, people in Puning Hantang created this dance based on the story of Outlaws of the Marsh which is one of the four classical Chinese novels. Puning Yingge used to be a leisure sport for farmers to alleviate fatigue and strengthen their bodies. With time, it has become an influential intangible cultural relic. As a saying goes, Ansai Waist Drum in the north and Puning yingge dance in the south.

Although the style of Yingge dance is various, the main content of the performance is similar. Before the dance, performers should make special paintings on their

faces and wear unique costumes according to the heroes of Outlaws of the Marsh. For instance, if someone plays the role of Li Kui, he should make some black paintings on his face and wear black costume. When the performers are ready, they will begin to dance and rap two small sticks by their hands. In the meantime, some performers would play the drums following the rhythm of the dance. At this time, all the dancers would try their best to play an exciting folk story for the audience. What impresses me most is the inspiring sound of the sticks and drums and the charming dance of the performers.

However, with the further development of village economy, there are more and more severe problems appearing in the inheritance of Puning Yingge dance. At present, many old Yingge dancers couldn't find right apprentices to inherit their Yingge dance skills. Besides, most young people are not interested in Yingge dance due to the unappealing storyline. It is an established fact that the Yingge dance has disappeared in some villages. It is high time that we should take some measures to protect this traditional culture exhibition. To start with, the government should give more support

to the Yingge dance performance. More importantly, inheritors should spare no efforts to create new things to enrich the content of the Yingge dance. I am convinced that if people can take active parts in the activities held for the inheritance and development of the Yingge dance, the dance would likely be recognized and become popular and celebrated all over the world.

I still remember how shocked I was when I first watched the Yingge dance. At that time I was an innocent little boy who would come out quickly when hearing the performance's cheerful sound in the streets. I would even imitate the performers by beating two sticks together making the audience burst into laughter. In my eyes, the Yingge dance is not only a valuable cultural festival in Puning but also a permanent spirit of heroism, persistence and unity. It is worthy for every Chinese to protect such a splendid custom.

**By 17 Electronic Information Engineering,
Winser Xu**

Column:
Culture

Mr. Li's Charming Smile



Long before I became a student of STU, I had been dreaming of catching sight of Mr. Li Ka-Shing personally. Honestly speaking, what attracts and impresses me most is not his suits and vigorous bodyguards around him but his charming smile. In fact, Mr. Li's smile has been deemed to be symbolic of him.

Since I am merely an ordinary sophomore in STU, I don't think I am qualified to comment on such an honorable entrepreneur and philanthropist. Nonetheless, I will attempt to show respect for him and express my heartfelt gratitude for his dedication to STU by sharing part of my understanding of his smile.

On June 28th, 2018, as a member of Perstare College, I was privileged to welcome him to STU. Mr. Li, the great benefactor and spiritual leader of STU, was given an enthusiastic welcome when he walked with a slow but steady step, waving pleasantly. As usual, he beamed a warm smile at the students, which seemed he regards them as his grandchildren. Mr.

Li is widely admired for persevering in returning to STU and attending the annual commencement for 17 years even if he is an extremely busy entrepreneur of advanced years.

Mr. Li has contributed to the development of STU for nearly 40 years, and ultimately, this year he formally announced that he would retire as the honorary chairman of STU, handing over the mission of promoting reforms in education to Richard Li, his second son, as well as the Li Ka-Shing Foundation, "his third son." Accordingly, whether Mr. Li continues to participate in the commencement of STU or not, all his perpetual contributions to STU are bound to go down in history and be engraved in people's memory.

Looking back on Mr. Li's inspiring words, I gained a better understanding of his radiant smile.

In 2009, Mr. Li delivered a speech whose topic was *The Life of Transcending Dreams*. He said, "I still remember that it (STU) was simply a paddy field 30 years ago, but now

it is your sunny smiles and confident faces that indicate my decision was entirely right then." Partially due to his difficult childhood experiences, he places emphasis on the development of the education system and the healthcare system. In his sight, education is the footstone of progress, dignity and wisdom. Knowledge can significantly alter destinies, which is the purpose of education. For this reason, he considers his support for STU to be a commitment which goes beyond his life limit. That's why Mr. Li always beams with satisfaction the moment he returns to STU to meet the students.

Apart from this, he smiles all the time as he has the ability to do others favors, repaying his hometown and society. As he put it during the speech for STU in 2016, "please bear in mind that having the ability to help others is a blessing." With great insights into the word "blessing," he expresses a deep sense of gratitude toward people for their love for him. "Recollecting various difficult past events, I feel that nothing is easy. However, I never heave a sigh, instead,

I am happy all along, for I spare no efforts to serve the community heart and soul as a person, an entrepreneur,” he said. It is undeniable that there are masses of the wealthy worldwide, but not everyone smiles on his or her hometown and society like Mr. Li.

Another reason why I am fascinated by Mr. Li’s kind smile is that it expresses what kind of person I should be. “Looking up, looking down,” that is Mr. Li’s motto. Its essence is not the denotations of 4 words but more profound meanings. The dictum presumably dates back to one of his speeches for STU in 2004 whose topic was *The Art of Dedication* and is associated with a sculpture in front of the library in STU, which is not only the symbol of STU but the embodiment of the

motto. “The small person,” who symbolizes the self, may fulfil his or her dream by looking up to and learning from “the Giant.” “The Giant” may achieve higher goals, for instance, contribute to our society and help work toward a brighter future, by “looking down at” “small persons.” As Mr. Li says, it is crucial to be humble, courteous and modest. “Being humble functions as recovery and encouragements; a wise but modest person is a generous problem solver who is competent to face up to complications or burdens in the long term, realizing that their own view is not the only effective and feasible choice; the courteous ones tend to show curiosity about everything and hold enlightened ideas,” he says. In my view, Mr. Li often smiles courteously in public, which

supports his motto.

Although he is nicknamed “Superman Li,” which mainly speaks highly of his commercial success, I tend to appreciate his personal charisma, learnedness, sophistication but amiability. For Mr. Li Ka-Shing, “students’ smiling faces and their love for me is my permanent inspiration every time I go back to STU.” For me, similarly, Mr. Li’s charming smile is my eternal encouragement.

By 17 Global law, Janice Tsang

Column:

Figure



Two pictures of this article are taken by Joey Lu.

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2018

Shantou BEAT

recruiting new

POSITION:	INTERVIEW TIME:	
Writer	9.9 p.m./9.10/9.11	
Editor		
Publicity Member	INTERVIEW PLACE:	
(We take turns at Reading Club!)	EAC (789楼中国银行楼上) & 图书馆研讨室 (扫描了解具体时间)	

Poster Designer: Jennifer Liu