Hong Zhang

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English 1101-657: Composition I

Instructor: Nick Obradovich

A job fair has changed my life

Somebody tells me that the life is strings of unexpected encounters. Maybe a unique accident will completely change you life. That is absolutely correct. I became a professional TV reporter because of a job fair.

Fifteen years ago, I graduated from the university and became a translator. I had been in a big factory for tow years. My job was to translate one or two files from English to Chinese in a month. It was too easy for me. Every day I had nothing to do. When I came into my office, I often drunk a cup of tea, read a piece of newspaper, talked about homework and gossip with work colleagues and went home. At that time, I thought I was wasting my life. I did not know what I should do.

One Saturday morning, like most of my day-off, my friend and I walked on the street and did some shopping. When we passed by the city’s gymnasium, someone was setting off firecrackers. That meant a businessman opened a new store and was holding the opening ceremony. There was a job fair. What was the job fair? We did not know. It was a new thing and there is the first one in our city. We did not see so many recruiters and job-seekers in the same place. How did these recruiter find the person that they wanted at first glance? We did not answer this question at that age. We by curiosity, and eventually went into the fair with many people.

“There's too many people in this place, and there's about to be someone more.”My friend told me. “There were so many different positions, too.” I said. Yes, we saw someone recruited salesmen, someone needed an accountant, someone was looking for tow secretaries. Everyone was pushed himself to the front of exhibition position and handed his resume to the recruiter.

Suddenly, I found a post which wrote that Hunan TV Station was looking for news reporters. They did not request the candidate had studied news. I wanted to try but I did not bring any certificates, such as graduate certificate, The Certificate of Proficiency in English and so on. What could I do? Should I give up? I asked myself and my friend the same question. My friend told me that we should go home. “No, I should try. This is a chance.” I told her.

I picked up a candidate list and filled with it. I wrote the column of the introduction myself not only in Chinese but also in English.

There were three recruiters sitting in the front of this exhibition position’s table. I noticed one of them was special. He wore a cup on his head which had a sign of “Hunan TV Station” and a white jacket vast with more than six pockets which was a symbol of “CCTV ” in his right chest. The other two recruiters were busy to collect the job-seekers’ resume and place the good ones in the review pile. He was free and just told the others to do something. I thought he should be a leader. I pushed forward the crowd and stand in front of him.

I was nervous. My heart beat more rapidly than normal may, and my legs were shaking, but I still opened my mouth and said, “I am sorry. Today I do not bring any certificates because I do not know there is a job fair in this place today. I just doing some shopping and pass by. Although my major is English in my university and today I don’t bring any certificates, but I try to prove my words that is true. Please look at my candidate list. I filled in English too. If you like, I can translate any article from English to Chinese or from Chinese to English…”

“We do not need a translator.” He interrupted me. He looked my up and down for a minute, but I thought it should be half an hour. Then he asked me, “why do you come here?”

I took a deep breath then exhale in order to calm down myself. Then I answered, “I want to try another life even if I will meet many challenges or troubles. Now I am working in a big company but my workload is too light. I do not think the young people should live like this. On the other hand, I want to be a reporter. Find out the truth and tell the public. Do you think this is not a great temptation for me? ”

After one or two minutes passed, he smiled and said, “my name is Tang Weiming. I am the producer of this program which is recruited today. You are the first candidate who dares to talk with me. Now I can give you a chance. If you pass this test, you can work with us.”

I knew producer Tang would give me an interview immediately. I was so excited. After I said goodbye to my friend, I followed him to the office, the news center of Hunan TV Station.

This was my first time to come in a TV station. There were more than thirty persons in a big office. There were a row of TV sets hanging in the middle of the office. I could see tow connected transparent glass floor windows in front of the office. There was a news studio behind one of these transparent glasses, a recording studio behind another one. In that news studio, four persons were using a lot of different machines. In another studio-recording studio, someone was moving the lights over an anchorwoman, someone was adjusting the camera before her, the anchorwoman was practicing and reading the news release. Suddenly, someone rushed to the door of the studio from another office and said, “Headline News is coming. Headline News is coming.” This busy ambience attracted me deeply.

Producer Tang gave me the headlines of today’s news and said, “Translate into English. This news will begin in five minutes. I hope we can see these English headlines.” I had no idea about this order at that moment. Not scared, not nervous, not excited. I just knew that I must obey it. I walked into the news studio and found a technical staff. At the same time, I had finished the translation work. When the staff asked me what color the headlines should use. I did not know how to answer it. Producer Tang was standing behind me. He said, “Tell him your decision.” I did not know at all! I started to think about it. Original color of the headline is khaki, but the background color is navy blue. En, I did not feel good. I could not see these headlines very clearly for this color. I think I should change it. “Please change the color of these headlines. I need white.”I said affirmatively.

When we finished, the news began. Then I relaxed and had a kind of felt like sitting down on the ground. I saw Producer Tang smiled. He said, “I think I should give you a month probationary period. Maybe you are a good or excellent reporter.”

Yes, I have been a good reporter for ten years. I was a executive editor of Noon News. I reported various themes of news, even including Wenchuan earthquake and Beijing Olympic Games. I reported in different place, such as Tibet and Malaysia. This all started because I attended a job fair. As I said in the beginning, strings of unexpected encounters mark my life. I believe that chance has guided me — jolted me sometimes — onto paths I wouldn't have chosen but needed to follow, whether I knew it or not. Chance encounters have led me across continents and into unanticipated worlds. It is important that you should take the chance.