3.25**蛋学长外**刊精读|语言:咿呀学语与临终遗言



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Language: The babble and the beyond

语言: 咿呀学语与临终遗言

Bye Bye I Love You.

拜拜, 我爱你

【1】BABIES COME into the world seeking out comfort, so their first word is often "mama". It is easy to say and reflects the bond of mother and child. Meanwhile those leaving this world often make a philosophical statement, reveal a long-hidden truth or even utter a witticism. "Either those curtains go or I do," Oscar Wilde supposedly said on his deathbed. 婴儿来到世间,首先寻找的是温暖与安慰,因此他们的第一句话往往是"妈妈"。这个词简单易懂,承载着母子间深厚的情感组带。而那些即将告别这个世界的人,则常常会留下一番富有哲理的言语,揭露一个久违的真相,或是吐露一句幽默之辞。据说,奥斯卡·王尔德(Oscar Wilde)在临终时曾打趣道:"要么这窗帘走,要么我走。"

[2] All this, including Wilde's quip, is dubious, argues Michael Erard, an American journalist who has written several books about language. In "Bye Bye I Love You" he dismantles many long-held beliefs

中文导读

拜拜, 我爱你

babble /ˈbæb(ə)l/ v. 含混不清地说; (水流过石块)潺潺作响; 含糊不清地说; 嘀里嘟噜地说 n. 胡言乱语; 含混不清的话; 嘈杂的人声; (幼儿)咿呀学语声 I heard the **babble** of many voices.我到许多乱哄哄的说话声。

1

seeking /si:k/ v.寻找,寻求,谋求,争取,(向人)请求seek的现在分词 We are earnestly **seeking** after the truth.我们热切地追求真理。

philosophical /ˌfiləˈsəfikəl/ adj.哲学的,达观的,处乱不惊的 The teacher couldn't answer t hephilosophical problem.老师不能解答这个哲学问题。

statement /'stertm(ə)nt/ n.陈述,声明,报表,说法,报告,说明,表白,表态,结算单,清单,评估报告,(文字)陈述,表述vt.(英国)对儿童进行特殊教育评估认定 I was surprised at his **statement**.我对他的陈述感到很意外。

reveal /rɪ'vi:l/ v.揭示,显示,透露,显出,露出,展示n.启示,窗侧壁,门侧,(汽车的)窗框 I have no guilty secret to reveal. 我没有问心有愧的秘密可言。

hidden /ˈhɪdn/ adj.隐藏的,难以看见(或发现)的,(地方)隐秘的v.藏,隐蔽,躲避,隐匿,遮住,遮挡hide的过去分词n.(观看野生动物的)隐蔽处,毛皮,(困境中的)生命 They must be hidden among the trees.他们准是藏在树林里了。

utter /'ʌtə/ vt.说,出声,讲adj.彻底的,完全的,十足的 He uttered a few commonplaces about peace.他泛泛地谈了几句关于和平的话。

witticism /'wɪtɪsɪz(ə)m/ n. 俏皮话;妙语;诙谐语 His witticism was as sharp as a marble. 他的打趣话十分枯燥无味

curtains /'kə:tənz/ n.窗帘,(舞台上的)幕,幕布,帷幕,帘,(遮隔房间的)帷幔,幔,床帷curtain的复数 These sunproof **curtains** will not fade .这些耐晒的窗帘不褪色。

deathbed /'deθbed/ n.临终床adj.临终时做的 The **deathbed** struggles of the enemies can only hasten their own doom. 敌人的垂死挣扎只能加速他们的灭亡。

2

quip /kwɪp/ n.俏皮话,妙语v.讲俏皮话,讥讽,嘲弄,打趣 to make a **quip**.说俏皮话

dubious /'dju:biəs/ adj.怀疑,无把握,拿不准,可疑的,不可信的,靠不住的,不诚实的,不确定的,不一定好的 He uses some **dubious** shifts to get money.他用一些可疑的手段去赚钱。

utterances /ˈʌtərənsɪz/ n.用言语的表达,说话,话语,言论 utterance的复数

expectant /ik'spekt(ə)nt/ adj.期待的,预期的,期望的,未来的(母亲、父亲、父母)n.[数]期望值,期待着,候选人

about utterances at both the beginning and end of life.

He finds first and last words to be similar in many
ways—such as how they are created by expectant
listeners as much as by their speakers.Panda Foreign
Magazine Intensive Reading:Respect for Originality,
Piracy Must Be Punished

美国记者迈克尔·埃拉德(Michael Erard)曾著有多部语言相关书籍,他认为,包括王尔德那句俏皮话在内的所有这些说法都颇值得怀疑。在他的著作《拜拜,我爱你》中,他颠覆了许多长期以来关于人生初始与终结时言语的固有看法。他发现,人生的第一句话和最后一句话在诸多方面存在相似之处,比如,它们的形成不仅取决于说话者自身,还深受倾听者的期待影响。

【3】 Sounds like mama and dada or papa **recur** in many of the world's words for "mother" and "father". But about as many parental words lack these common sounds; in some languages the word for "mother" features rare **consonants** that children master only later. "Mama" is what Mr Erard calls a "**cultural** first word", **fussed** over by those who have learned to look out for it or even **elicit** it from little ones.

在世界各地的语言中,"mother (妈妈)"和"father (爸爸)"的发音常常与"mama"、"dada"或"papa"相似。

然而,同样有许多表示父母的词汇并不包含这些常见的音节。在一些语言中,"mother"一词甚至包含了孩子较晚才能掌握的罕见辅音。埃拉德(Mr. Erard)将"妈妈"称为一种"文化意义上的第一句话",因为大人们往往会刻意关注它,甚至主动引导婴儿说出这个词。

[4] Things are very different elsewhere. Among the Beng people of Ivory Coast, a baby is not **supposed** to **utter** his first word too **precociously**. To do so is a bad

Mother eyed Jim with an eager, **expectant** smile.母亲带着殷切期望的微笑注视着吉姆。

3

recur /rɪ'kɜː/ vi.重现,再发生,反复出现 Old memories constantly **recur**red to him.往事经常浮现在他的脑海里。

consonants / 'konsənənts/ n.辅音,辅音字母(如b、c、d、f等)consonant的复数

cultural /'kʌltʃ(ə)r(ə)l/ adj.文化的,与文化有关的,与艺术、文学、音乐等有关的

fussed /fʌst/ adj.(不)关心的,(不)在意的v.瞎忙一气,过分 关心(枝节小事),(为小事)烦恼,忧虑fuss的过去分词和过 去式 She **fussed** about, unable to hide her impatience.她 激动不安, 无法掩饰她的急躁。

elicit /r'lɪsɪt/ vt.引起,引出,诱出,探出 The police **elicit**ed a confession from him.警察诱他招了供。

4

supposed /sə'pəvzd/ adj.误以为的,误信的,所谓的v.(根据所知)认为,推断,料想,假定,假设,设想,(婉转表达)我看,要我说,要不suppose的过去分词和过去式 Colorfast garments are not **supposed** to run.不掉色的衣服应该不渗色的

precociously /prɪˈkəʊʃəslɪ/ adj.早熟的

omen //əomən/ n.预兆,征兆,前兆 They laughed about their miscue, but it was a bad **omen**.他们笑着面对他们的失误,但是对于湖人而言,这成了一个不好的预兆。

involving /m'vɒlvɪŋ/ v.包含,需要,使成为必然部分(或结果),牵涉,牵连,影响,(使)参加,加入involve的现在分词 It all sounds terribly involved and complicated.这事听起来非常错综复杂。

cosmic /ˈkɒzmɪk/ adj.宇宙的,巨大且重要的 He will feel **cosmic** of limpidity and lucidity, feel know no bounds of world with amiability.他会感觉到宇宙的清澄与明朗,感到世界的无边际与可爱。

compensation /kompen'seɪʃ(ə)n/ n.(对不利局面的)补偿,赔偿,补偿(或赔偿)物,(尤指)赔偿金,补偿金,使坏的情况变好的事物

expected /iks'pektid/ adj.预料的,预期的v.预料,预期,预计,等待,期待,盼望,要求,指望expect的过去分词和过去式 I expect not.; I don't expect so.我认为不会。

defiant /dɪˈfaɪənt/ adj.公然违抗的,反抗的,挑衅的 she was in **defiant** mood.她是在寻衅。

5

industrialised /in'dastrialaiz/ v. (使)工业化; 建立产业体系,实现工业化(industrialise 的过去式及过去分词,industrialise 等于 industrialize) adj. 工业化的 We have industrialised our food production. 我们已经使食品生产工业化。

societies /səˈsaɪətiz/ n.社会(共同遵守一定的习俗、法律等的特定群体),社团,协会,学会society的复数

omen, involving a "cosmic rebalancing", and a grandparent might die in compensation. Among speakers of Tayap in Papua New Guinea babies are expected to be defiant; people listen out for "oki" and "aiata", meaning "I'm getting out of here" and "stop it". A similar belief holds among Samoans, for whom "tae" is expected to be many babies' first word, short for "ai tae" ("eat shit").

在世界的其他地方,情况却大相径庭。在科特迪瓦的贝格族人中,婴儿不宜过早开口说出第一个词,否则会被视为不祥之兆,预示着"宇宙间的平衡将被打破",甚至可能导致一位祖父母离世作为代价。而在巴布亚新几内亚讲塔亚普语的人群里,婴儿则被期望表现出一种叛逆精神,人们会仔细倾听他们是否说出"oki"和"aiata",这两个词的意思分别是"我要离开这里"和"住手"。萨摩亚人也有着类似的观念,他们期待婴儿的第一个词是"tae",这是"ai tae"("吃屎")的简称。

[5] In industrialised societies early linguistic

development is big business. Unusual and varied early words are meant to be a sign of a gifted child who will reap the rewards of being brainy later on. Baby books encouraging parents to report on their children's first words made their appearance in the late 19th century along with an increasingly professional, managerial approach to parenting—child-rearing as optimisation. Rich-world parents are thus keen to elicit speech from their children as early as they can.

在工业化社会,婴幼儿的语言发展已成为一个庞大的产业。孩子早期说出不同寻常、丰富多样的词汇,被视为天赋异禀的标志,预示着他们将来会因智慧而获得丰厚回报。19世纪末,随着育儿方式日益专业化、管理化,即把抚养孩子视为一种优化过程,一类鼓励父母记录孩子首词的育儿书籍也应运而生。因

linguistic /lm/gwistik/ adj.语言的,语言学的 The secretary had diplomas in both education and linguistics. 秘书取得了教育学和语言学的两种毕业文凭。

varied /veərid/ adj.多种多样的,不同的,变化的,多变的,各种各样的,形形色色的,不相同的v.(大小、形状等)相异,不同,有别,(根据情况)变化,改变,变更,(略做)改变vary的过去分词和过去式 Chinese commodities available for export are varied.中国可供出口的商品种类繁多。

gifted /ˈgɪftɪd/ adj.有天才的,有天赋的,天资聪慧的,具有(令人愉快的东西) The **gifted** author wrote one smash after another.这个天才作家创作了一篇又一篇轰动一时的作品。

reap /riːp/ v.取得(成果),收获,收割(庄稼) "As you sow, so will you **reap**.""种瓜得瓜,种豆得豆。"

rewards /ri'wo:d/ n.奖励,回报,报酬,赏格,悬赏金v.奖励, 奖赏,给以报酬reward的第三人称单数和复数 They are rewarded in pay,power and perquisites.作为报偿,他们得到了钱、权力和额外收益。

brainy /'bremi/ adj. 十分聪明的 a **brainy** discussion.一 场机智讨论。

encouraging /eŋ'kʌrɪdʒɪŋ/ adj.令人鼓舞的,振奋人心的,给人希望的v.支持,鼓励,激励,鼓动,劝告,怂恿,促进,助长,刺激encourage的现在分词 Jack threw in the odd encouraging comment.杰克难得加了一句鼓励的话。

appearance /əˈpɪər(ə)ns/ n.外貌,外观,外表,(尤指突然的) 抵达,到来,起源,出现,首次使用,公开露面,出版 Do not judge according to the **appearance**.不要从事物的外表来判断。

managerial /mænə'dʒi:rɪəl/ adj.经理的,管理的 He also thought of his managerial position.他又想到了他的经理的职位。

parenting /'peərəntɪŋ/ n.养育,抚养,教养 Industry is the parent of success.勤奋是成功之母。

rearing /ˈriərin/ n.抚养,养育,培养,饲养v.抚养,养育,培养,饲养,用后腿直立rear的现在分词 Nigel was born and reared in Bath.奈杰尔在巴斯出生并长大成人。

optimisation /ˌɒptɪmaɪˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/ n.最优化; 最佳化; 优化系统

6

industrialisation /in,dastrialai'zeifən/ n. 工业化;产业化;工业化时代 Textiles are a good bet for a country bent on industrialisation 纺织业对于致力于工业化的国家来说是个比较稳妥的产业。

advances /əd'va:nsiz/ n.(尤指武装部队的)前进,行进,进步,进展,预付款v.(为了进攻、威胁等)前进,行进,(知识、技术等)发展,进步,促进,推动advance的第三人称单数和复数 The army advanced to meet the enemy.军队前进迎敌。

protracted /pro'træktɪd/ adj.持久的,拖延的,延长的 The war was protracted for four years.战争拖延了四年。
accidents /ˈæksɪdənts/ n.(交通)事故,意外遭遇,不测事件,意外,偶然的事accident的复数

catastrophic /ˌkætəˈstrofik/ adj.灾难性的,引起灾害的,糟糕的,不成功的 Be certain that you are not underinsured against catastrophic illness.一定要为大病办理充足的保险

此,在富裕国家,父母们都热衷于尽早地引导孩子开口说话。

[6] Mr Erard is not the first to point out that industrialisation has changed not only childhood, but old age, too. Medical advances in wealthy countries have led to more protracted declines and deaths at older ages; in earlier centuries, violence, accidents and catastrophic illnesses claimed many young, otherwise healthy people.Panda Foreign Magazine Intensive Reading:Respect for Originality, Piracy Must Be Punished

埃拉德先生并非首个指出工业化不仅影响了童年,也改变了老年生活的人。在富裕国家,医疗技术的进步使得老年人的衰老过程延长,死亡年龄推迟;而在过去的几个世纪,许多年轻、原本健康的人往往因战争、意外事故或致命疾病而英年早逝。

[7] That has had an effect on last words. Popular culture has conditioned loved ones to expect some final truth or profundity in the last utterance of the dying. But moments of sudden lucidity, with clear, meaningful and memorable last words, are very much the exception in those who die today (and offer reason to be sceptical of many of the famous last words collected in anthologies). By far the most common process by which people die in the modern rich world is a slow breakdown of physical and mental faculties, "neurochemical commotion" that gradually robs people of the ability to say anything at all.

工业化对临终遗言也产生了影响。流行文化使得亲人们总期待 在垂危之人的最后一句话中,能听到一些终极的真理或深刻的 见解。然而,在当今,那些临终前突然神志清醒,说出清晰、 有意义且令人难忘的遗言的情况,其实是非常少见的(这也 **claimed** /klermd/ v. 要求(拥有);声称;宣称;索取;认领;断言;索要 claim的过去分词和过去式 The country claimed sovereignty over the island. 那个国家声称对该岛拥有主权。

7

conditioned /kən'dɪʃənd/ v.训练,使习惯于,使适应,对... 具有重要影响,影响(某事发生的方式),保持(头发或皮肤等的)健康,养护condition的过去分词和过去式 The gift to the boy is **conditioned** on his good marks.那孩子得到礼物的条件是取得好成绩。

profundity /prəˈfʌndəti/ n.深度,(理解或处理问题的)深刻性,彻底性,巨大,严重,强大,深奥的话,意味深长的话He impressed his audience by the **profundity** of his knowledge.他知识渊博给听众留下了深刻印象。

moments /'moment/ n.片刻,瞬间,准确时刻,正是时候,时机,机遇,时光,做某事的时刻moment的复数 For a moment shock held her immobile.有那么一会儿她惊讶得不能动弹。

lucidity /lju:'sidəti/ n. 明朗,清晰,透明 He will feel cosmic of limpidity and lucidity, feel know no bounds of world with amiability.他会感觉到宇宙的清澄与明朗,感到世界的无边际与可爱。

meaningful /mi:nmfol/ adj.严肃的,重要的,重大的,意味深长的,意在言外的,意义明显的,易于理解的 The crickets stridulated their everlasting monotonous meaningful note.蟋蟀发出了它们持久的,单调而有意思的调子。

memorable /'mem(ə)rəb(ə)l/ adj.值得纪念的,难忘的 This was indeed the most memorable day of my life.这的确是我一生中最值得怀念的日子。

sceptical /'skeptikəl/ adj.怀疑的

breakdown /'breikdaon/ n.崩溃,(车辆或机器的)故障, 损坏,(关系的)破裂,(讨论、系统的)失败,数字细目,分类,分 解 Our car had a **breakdown** on the motorway.我们的汽 车在高速公路上抛锚了。

neurochemical /,njuərəu'kemikəl/ n. 影响神经系统的化学物质 Conclusions. These findings indicate the role of plasma CGRP and possibly galanin as a systemic neurochemical signature of pain states in patients with LDH.降钙素基因相关肽和促生长激素神经肽可以作为LDH患者疼痛的神经化学指标。

commotion /kə'məʊʃ(ə)n/ n.骚乱,骚动,(突然发生的)喧闹 They made a **commotion** by yelling at each other in the theatre.他们在剧院里相互争吵,引起了一阵骚乱。

gradually /ˈ grædjʊəlɪ/ adv.逐步地,逐渐地,渐进地 People are gradually awakening to their rights.人们正逐渐意识到自己的权利。

8

verbal /'vɜːb(ə)l/ adj.文字的,言语的,词语的,口头(而非书面)的,动词的n.口供,非限定动词,同"verbal noun" They cross verbal swords with each other.他们彼此唇枪舌剑地交锋。

resembling /rrˈzemblɪŋ/ v.看起来像,显得像,像resemble 的现在分词

reverse /rɪ'vɜːs/ v.颠倒,彻底转变,使完全相反,撤销,废除(决定、法律等),使反转,使次序颠倒,交换(位置或功

让我们有理由对那些选集中收录的许多所谓"著名遗言"持怀疑态度)。在现代富裕国家,人们最常见的死亡方式,是身心机能的缓慢衰退,这种"神经化学的紊乱"会逐渐剥夺人们说话的能力。

【8】Indeed, in another link between first and last words, Mr Erard argues that dying people lose their verbal faculties in a way resembling the child's language learning but in reverse. Though language acquisition is well studied, language attrition is not. Mr Erard is elegiac as he describes glances, hand squeezes and gestures, and the sometimes upsetting cries, moans and delirious talk that are often the final communication of the dying. This is why some cultures—many Hindus and Muslims among them—prepare and practise declarations for the moment of death long before it arrives. (Christians once did so, too.)

实际上,埃拉德先生提出了第一句话和最后一句话之间的另一个有趣联系: 垂死之人丧失语言能力的过程,就像儿童学习语言的过程一样,只是顺序完全相反。虽然语言习得已经得到了深入的研究,但语言的逐渐丧失却并非如此

埃拉德先生带着悲怆之情,细腻地描绘着那些垂死之人的眼神 交汇、紧握的双手、肢体的示意,还有那些时而令人揪心的哭 声、痛苦的呻吟以及神志不清时的胡言乱语,而这些常常成为 他们最后的交流方式。这也解释了为什么在某些文化中(如 许多印度教徒和穆斯林的传统),人们会在生前就练习并准 备好临终时的祷告或遗言。基督徒过去也曾有类似的习俗。

[9] A book ending with so much death may sound like a hard read. Instead, it is a beautiful and even strangely comforting one, with Mr Erard as a pensive, patient guide. (He is training to be an end-of-

能),承认错误,(使)倒退行驶,打对方付费的电话n.相反的情况(或事物),后面,背面,反面,倒挡,损失adj.相反的,反面的,反向的,背面的,后面的 The driver bumped the kerb while reversing.司机倒车时撞到了路边石。

acquisition /ˌækwɪˈzɪʃ(ə)n/ n.(知识、技能等的)获得,得到,(多指贵重的)购得物,购置物,收购的公司,购置的产业,购置,收购 He is a valuable **acquisition** to the team.他是球队中一个不可多的(新)队员。

attrition /ə'trɪʃ(ə)n/ n.损耗,(尤指给敌人造成的)削弱,消耗 They're trying to stop the **attrition** of their rights.他们正竭力制止他们的权利的削减。

elegiac / elr'dʒaɪək/ adj.挽歌的,伤感的,哀悼的n.挽歌对句; 一连串的对句; 排律诗

glances /gla:ns/ v.浏览,扫视,瞥一眼,粗略地看,匆匆一看 n.一瞥(glance 的复数形式)glance的第三人称单数 He stole a sidelong glance at the young woman sitting next to him on the train.在火车上他偷偷地瞟一眼坐在身旁的年轻女子。

gestures /ˈdʒɛstʃə/ n.手势,姿势,示意动作,(表明感情或意图的)姿态,表示v.做手势,用手势表示,用动作示意gesture 的第三人称单数和复数 Maggie was touched by the kind gesture.这种善意的表示打动了玛吉。

upsetting /ʌp/setɪŋ/ adj.令人心烦意乱的,令人不快(或忧虑、苦恼)的v.使烦恼,使心烦意乱,使生气,打乱,搅乱,使(肠胃)不适upset的现在分词 [as adj. upsetting]a painful and upsetting divorce.痛苦恼人的离婚。

moans /moun/ v.呻吟,抱怨,呼啸,发出萧萧声n.呻吟声,抱怨,(尤指风的)呼啸声,萧萧声moan的第三人称单数和复数 A moan escaped the badly wounded soldier.那个重伤员不禁呻吟了一声。

delirious /dr'llrrəs/ adj.精神错乱的,极度亢奋的,语无伦次的(常由发烧引起),特别愉快的外刊精读,制作不易,尊重原

communication /kəmju:nɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ n.表达,交流,交际,传递,通信,交通联系,信息,书信,电话 Intersatellite laser communication is the best way to solve bottleneck intersatellite communication.卫星激光通信是解决星间通信"瓶颈"的最佳方法。

practise /'præktɪs/ v.练习,实习,训练,经常做,养成...的习惯,从事(医务工作、法律专业等),执业 They were forced to **practise** cannibalism in order to survive.他们被迫人吃人以求活下去。

declarations /ˌdɛkləˈreɪʃənz/ n.公告,宣告,宣言,声明(书),宣布,表白,宣称,申报(单)declaration的复数 The opening speeches sounded more like declarations of war than offerings of peace.那些开幕辞听起来更像宣战书而不是和平倡议。

9

strangely /'streind ʒli/ adv.奇怪地,不可思议地,异常地 She found his voice **strangely** comforting .不知为何,她 觉得他声音让人感觉安慰。

comforting /ˈk ʌmfətɪŋ/ adj.令人安慰的v.安慰,抚慰,宽慰comfort的现在分词 She found his voice strangely **comforting** .不知为何,她觉得他的声音让人感觉安慰。

pensive /'pensiv/ adj.沉思的,忧伤的,忧戚的 He became so pensive that she didn't like to break into his thought.他

life doula.) The end must come; unrealistic **expectations** about final messages need not.

一本以诸多死亡场景作为结尾的书,听起来或许让人难以卒 读。然而,实际上这本书却美得动人,甚至带来了一种奇异的 慰藉,埃拉德先生就像一位沉思而耐心的引路人。(他目前 正在接受临终陪护员的培训。)生命的终点终将到来,但对 临终遗言抱有不切实际的期待,却是大可不必的。

今日词汇 code [kəud] n. 密码、代码、电码; 法典; 道德准则、行为规范 考研出现次数: 10 考频: ★★ 考点回顾 翻译真题例句:

[例] But his primary task is not to think about the moral code, which governs his activity, any more than a businessman is expected to dedicate his energies to an exploration of rules of conduct in business

[译] 但是,普通科学家的首要任务并不是思考支配其行为的道德规范,正如我们并不指望商人把精力用于探究商业行为准则一样。(2006年英语一翻译64题)

完形考点真题例句: [例] The justices must address doubts about the court's legitimacy by making themselves accountable to the code of conduct. (2012英语一完型) [译]法官必须通过以身作则来打消外界对于法庭合法性的怀

②长难句

原文: All this, including Wilde's quip, is dubious, argues Michael Erard, an American journalist who has written several books about language.

分析: 这个句子的主语是 "Michael Erard",他是一位美国记者,作为句子的行为主体提出了一个观点。谓语动词 "argues"表示他在陈述或论断某件事情。 宾语部分是一个从句,即"All this, including Wilde's quip, is dubious" 这个从句详细说明了Michael Erard所论断的内容。在这个从句中,"All this"作为主语,表示"所有这一切","including Wilde's quip"是修饰主语的介词短语,而 "is dubious"则作为系动词和表语,描述 了"All this"的性质是"可疑的"。 译文: 美国记者迈克尔·埃拉德 (Michael Erard) 曾著有多部语言相关书籍,他认为,包括王尔德那句俏皮话在内的所有这些说法 都颇值得怀疑。

原文: But moments of sudden lucidity, with clear, meaningful and memorable last words, are very much the exception in those who die today (and offer reason to be sceptical of many of the famous last words collected in anthologies).

陷入沉思之中,她不想打断他思路。

guide /gaɪd/ vt.指导,指引,给某人领路(或导游),影响(某人 的行为),(向某人)解释,阐明,搀扶(某人朝...方向)走n.指 南,导游,向导,手册,指导者,有指导意义的事物,女童子军 The guide has some acquaintance with Italian.导游懂得 一点意大利语。

unrealistic /ˌʌnrɪə'lɪstɪk/ adj.不切实际,不实事求是的 We never cherish any **unrealistic** fancies about those desperate criminals.我们对那些亡命的罪犯从来不抱任何 不切实际的幻想。

expectations / ɛkspɛkˈteɪʃənz/ n.预料,预期,期待,希望,盼 望,期望,指望expectation的复数

①短语

1.原文: BABIES COME into the world seeking out comfort, so their first word is

often "mama".

词典: seek out寻找并找到

例句: Children seek out regularities and

rules in acquiring language.

儿童在学习语言过程中会找出 各种规律和规则。

2.原文: such as how they are created by expectant listeners as much as by their speakers

词典: as much as与……一样多; 和……一样喜欢;几乎但并非完全

例句: Temperatures can fluctuate by as much as 10 degrees.

温差可达10度之多。 3.原文: "Mama" is what Mr Erard calls a "cultural first word", fussed over by those who have learned to look out for it or

even elicit it from little ones.

词典: fuss over过分关注 例句: Auntie Hilda and Uncle Jack couldn't fuss over them enough.

希尔达婶婶和杰克叔叔再宠爱 他们不过了。

4.原文: and a grandparent might die in compensation

词典: in compensation作为补偿

例句: She was awarded \$5,000 in compensation for unfair dismissal.

她因不公平的解雇获得了\$5000

的补偿。

5.原文: Unusual and varied early words are meant to be a sign of a gifted child who will reap the rewards of being brainy later on.

词典: later on稍后

例句: I hate to rush you but I have another appointment later on.

我真不想催你,但我稍后还有 个约会。

6.原文: Rich-world parents are thus keen to elicit speech from their children as early as they can.

分析: 这个句子的主语是"moments of sudden 指的是"突然变得神志清醒的时 刻"。主语后面跟着一个介词短语"with clear, meaningful and memorable last words"作为定 语,进一步描述这些清醒时刻的特点,即伴 有清晰、有意义且令人难忘的遗言。are是系 动词,the exception是表语,表示这些时刻是 非常罕见的例外情况。最后,括号内的部分 "(and offer reason to be sceptical of many of the famous last words collected in anthologies)"是 一个并列的谓语成分,由"and"连接,说明这种罕见情况还提供了对许多选集中收录的所谓"著名遗言"持怀疑态度的理由。 译文: 然而, 在当今, 那些临终前突然神志 清醒,说出清晰、有意义且令人难忘的遗言的情况,其实是非常少见的(这也让我们有理由对那些选集中收录的许多所谓"著名遗 言"持怀疑态度)。

③写作技巧

He finds first and last words to be similar in many ways—such as how they are created by expectant listeners as much as by their speakers. 他发现,人生的第一句话和最后一句话在诸多方面存在相似之处,比如,它们的形成同 样受到倾听者的期待和说话者本人的共同影

在这个句子中,"as much as"这个短语起到了强调对比双方平等或相似程度的作用。它表 示"和……一样多/同样地",在这里用来强调 "first and last words"(第一句话和最后一句 话) 不仅由说话者创造, 也同样由期待的听 众所塑造或影响。 例句:

She loves reading books as much as she loves watching movies.

她喜欢看书,就像她喜欢看电影一样。

He contributes to the project as much as anyone else on the team.

他对项目的贡献和团队中的其他人一样多。 The success of the event depended as much on the planning as it did on the execution.

活动的成功既取决于计划,也同样取决于执 行。

④背景知识 奥斯卡·王尔德(Oscar Wilde)是19世纪英国(实际为爱尔 兰,时由英国统治)最伟大的作家与艺术家之一,以为他 特的剧作、诗歌、童话和小说闻名于世。他是唯美主义独 特的剧作、主张"为艺术而艺术",认为艺术的唯一目的就是 造美,与社会伦理道德无关。王尔德的作品以其词藻华的 立意新颖和观点鲜明者。他的长篇小说《重遇来的画 像》被誉为唯美主义的代表作,探讨了美、罪弱强鬼。 像》被誉为唯美主义的代表作,探讨了美、罪弱强鬼。《理 想丈夫》等也广受赞誉,展现了唯美主义的独特魅力。此 想丈夫》等也广受赞誉,展现了作家社会现实的担判。 好,王尔德还是一位杰出的重理和世代然以其卓越 话,每篇和生经历了许多波折,但他依然以其卓越的才华和独 特的艺术风格,在文学史上留下了浓墨重彩的一笔。

词典: keen to热衷于……

例句: Most managements are keen to avoid strikes.

大多数经营者都很希望避免罢 工的发生。

7. 原文: That has had an effect on last words.

词典: have an effect on对…有影 响;对……起作用,产生效果

例句: Does television have an effect on children's behaviour? 电视对孩子的行为有影响吗?

8. 原文: "neurochemical commotion" that gradually robs people of the ability to say anything at all.

词典: rob of抢夺,剥夺

例句: She knew they would rob her of the car.

她知道他们会抢劫她的车。 原文: Mr Erard argues that dying people lose their verbal faculties in a way resembling the child's language learning but in reverse.

词典: in reverse相反; 向后

例句: The secret number is my phone number in reverse.

这个密码是我的电话号码的逆 序排列。

⑤段落大意

- □ 【1】婴语成因:婴儿因求慰藉,首词常为"妈妈",临终者常留哲理、诙谐之语 妈",临终者常留哲理、诙谐之语 【2】质疑观点:埃拉德质疑相关说法,其书颠覆 对人生始终言语的看法,点明始终言语受说者、听者影响
- 【3】语词异同:世界语言"爸妈"发音有同有异,"mama"被称"文化首词"
- 【4】特殊习俗:不同文化中,婴儿首词的出现及

- 【4】特殊习俗:不同文化中,婴儿首词的出现及含义各有特殊习俗与寓意 【5】育幼商机:工业化社会,早期语言发展成商业,育儿书出现,富裕国家父母盼孩子早开口【6】工业变革:埃拉德称工业化改变童年与老年,医疗进步使老年人衰老死亡进程不同以往【7】遗言实情:工业化影响临终遗言,人们期待深刻遗言,但如今临终清醒留遗言少见,常见因身心衰退失语言能力 【8】语言逆回:垂死之人失语言能力似儿童学语逆过程,埃拉德描述其临终交流,解释部分文化准备临终宣言的缘由 【9】书籍评价:以死亡结尾的这本书读来美好尉
- 【9】书籍评价: 以死亡结尾的这本书读来美好慰