小微专题之可能性

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1 基础

1.1 likely

可能性,我们熟悉的有 likely, be more/less likely to do. 但其实他的名词 likelihood 也很有搞头,可以作无灵主语,让句式灵动,重点突出。

likelihood: 可能性,句型: there is every likelihood that/there is little likelihood that…很有可能,就用 every 修饰,很少就是 little。that 后引出同位语。这个就是无灵主语的应用,名词作主语(抽象事物),在这里句子的重心是 likelihood。

例句: there is every likelihood that he will run for president next year. 他明年很有可能 竞选总统。当然,除了用 that 引出同位语,of 也可以引出同位语。不过有个要注意的是,of 后如果人的话,就用所有格 (his,her), 如果是事物的话,就直接原形/普通格。这么说有点抽象,看看例句,谙熟谙熟,就会自然使用了。

1:there is little likelihood of **his** attending the wedding.

2:there is every likelihood of the prophecy failing. 预言很有可能失准

同理,我们之前常说的 very likely,名词化即为 in all likelihood. 很多类似的词组都可以转化,我们可以看看:

very probably=in all probability, very eagerly=in all eagerness, very sincerely=in all sincereness, very frankly=in all frankness, very honestly=in all honest. 1 基础 2

所以 in all likelihood 你可以尝试到写作中去,作状语。譬如: In all likelihood, we are headed for war. 战争很有可能爆发

1.2 odds

1.2.1 odds

进入第二个词 odds 可能性,困难,逆境。当然,现在我们要讲的是 odd 它的可能性,几率,概率这个意思。基本句型: the odds are (that)... 这里的 odds 是 可能性, the odds are (that) you are going to fail. 或用 of 引出同位语: the odds of things happening are a little slimmer 事情发生的概率极低,你看嘛,slim 就是微小,渺茫,slimmer 是更进一步,在+a little 一修饰,其实就如同 slimmest。

the odds 后面也可以加上 against (不利于), in favor of (有利于)。the odds are against sb. 就可以理解成:某人胜算(希望等)不大,当然,不同语境下的翻译略有不同。让我们看看吧:

- 1: The odds are against such hopes being realized. 实现这些希望的可能性很小。
- 2: For now, though, the odds are against the protesters. 就目前情况来说,形势还是对抗议者不利。

再来看下一个,你会怎么翻译(其中的 the odds against…)She has shown me that even when all the odds are against you, you need to fight and stand up for what you believe.

很明显,这里的 the odds against you 理解为:困难重重。其实也是可能性很小转化而来的语义。更进一步延伸,我们就可以把 odd 另外的意思:困难,逆境拿出来讲了,因为你会发现,句式是相通的,意思只不过根据语境的需要,稍转化了一下。下面我就顺着这个"困难,逆境"的意思讲下去,(你可以根据自己的理解程度,进行摄取。完全可以先把前面的掌握好,再来阅读学习)。

odd 还可以表示逆境,困境。上文提到的基础句型,换一个语境,就可以表示困难重重。 不过,还有一些相关表达,也值得关注。当我们想表示尽管困难重重,但仍然做成了某事,就 可以说 despite the odds/against all (the) odds, xxx. 看看几个例子。

- 1: NBA 巨星, 勒布朗詹姆斯在 2016 年逆转勇士夺冠后, 他就在强调 "against all the odds, against all the odds…"
- 2: Those who, despite the odds, make it into elite universities often feel socially isolated. 那些排除万难,最终进入顶尖大学的人往往感到孤立无援。
- 3: 比如尽管困难重重,我们还是实现了全面小康,这就可以说 China has accomplished the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects against all odds/despite all odds.

1 基础 3

4: Despite the odds being stacked against it, many watchers say Tokyo did a fine job hosting, and the Paralympic flag is now passed to Paris. 尽管此次东京残奥会逆境重重,但许多观察员都表示,东京举办的很成功,国际残奥委会会旗目前已交接给巴黎。

5: He shows the greater pluck the more the odds are against him. 困难越大,她所展现的勇气阅读(特地挑的这个句子,也是侧面让我们回忆起比较级主句在前,从句在后的情况,the odds are against him 是从句,先翻译后面)

此外,为方便很好的理解,在这里我把 against, in favor of 以及类似的修饰语进一步给大家解析一下,巩固理解。

1.2.2 against

Against, 表反对, 对抗 that is against the law。那是违法的。Are most people against the proposal? 多数人都反对这项提议吗?

1.2.3 in favor of

in favor of 表示有利,赞成。Favor 表示好易或帮助,表示对人或事物的支持或善意,口语中 do sb a favor 就是一个常用语,表示帮某人一个忙: Can you do me a favor and pick up my children today? I am asking you to do me a favor. Can you do me a favor to proofread my resume before I send it out to the human resources department?(你能否帮我一个忙,在我把简历送往人力资源部前帮我校对一下吗)

作动词也常见,如: the company's CEO clearly favored the new marketing strategy over the old one. 公司的首席执行官显然更倾向于新的市场营销策略而非旧的。

in favor of sth 就是 in support of sth。譬如: was he in favor of the death penalty? 他赞成死刑吗 All those in favor of the motion, please raise your hands. 所有支持该动议的人请举手。故,the odds are in favor of/against his winning.

进一步, there are heavy odds in favor of his being married this year. 如果想说,阿根廷队很难赢,there are overwhelming odds against Argentinean victory.

所以句型是: there are heavy/overwhelming odds in favor of/against

1.3 chance

可能性别忘了 chances, 基本句型: one's chances of doing…/the chances that…are good /high, are small /slight/remote.(The chances of/that… 同理)

造句: 他赢得比赛的可能性很小, his chances of winning the game are remote/the chances that he will win the game are slight./the chances of his winning the game are small. 总结一

2 深化 4

下这个可能性, likelihood, odds chances, 以及他们的句型 (可能性大/小,对…有利/不利),我们也可以看到名词化,无灵主语 句子主次(重心前置)等若干意识的运用体现。

1.4 hope

hope 也可以表示可能性,看看例句:

- 1: there is little hope of improvement in his condition 他的情况基本不可能有所改善(当然这个 condition 也可以是表示疾病,那要结合上下文了)
- 2: There's still a faint hope that the two sides will reach an agreement. 双方还是有一 丝可能去达成协议。(hope 可数不可数都可以,我们可以用具体的例子去记,比如这句话的 a still faint hope)。
- 3: It was rush hour, and there was no hope of getting a seat. 交通高峰期根本抢不到座位。
- 4: Is there any hope of getting financial support for the project? 我们有没有可能获得这个项目的资金扶持?
 - 5: Is there any hope that she will change her mind? 她有希望去改变主意吗?

其实这个 hope 表示希望,可能性基本是融通的,有希望也就是有可能性嘛。我同时联想到了 a silver lining, 谚语: "Every cloud has a silver lining." 黑暗中仍有一线光明,就是一丝希望。类似的,a glimmer /ray/glimpse of hope 也都常见,这里暂时先不赘述。

2 深化

odd(s) 相关表达。在刚才的基础句型上,如何使其更生动?有两个大的角度。

- 1:增加生动的形容词。
- 2: 用生动的动词替换 be 动词。

2.1 增加生动的形容词

先来讲解第一种方式,基础句型: the odds are against/in favor of ···我们可以在 against/in favor of 前+例如 heavy, overwhelmingly。例句:

- 1: there are overwhelming odds against Argentinean victory. 阿根廷队很难赢。
- 2: there are heavy odds in favor of his being married this year. 他今年很可能不结婚。

除了类似于 heavily, overwhelmingly, sharply 等,我还推荐 stacked,这也很形象。其实 stack 就是摞起来,过去分词 stacked 当形容词用,本质和 heavily 等修饰功能是一样的。

2 深化 5

看几个搭配, The odds/cards are stacked against/in favor of sb/sth, (这个 cards 也可以替换 odds, cards, 从玩牌的角度来理解就行, 筹码多/少自然就有利/不利。)

2.2 用生动的动词替换 be 动词

第二种方式生动的动词就更精巧了。就是对 there are odds 中 are (be) 动词的替换。be 动词,"是"这个语义很广泛,稀松平常,如果我们进行窄化,换成其他恰当、生动的,会使整个句子更有画面感,更能能体现作者的情感,好似拎出了主语 odd(s),更有立体感。我们来看几个例子。

2.2.1 skew

skew 的意思是倾斜。odd 朝哪里哪里倾斜,画面感是不是立刻凸显了? skew against/in favor of, towards 我们先单独看一看 skew 的相关例句.

- 1: The university quota system also skews sharply against rural students, who are allocated far fewer admissions spots than their urban peers. 大学招生名额分配制度也严重向城市学生 倾斜,农村学生的录取名额比城市学生少得多。
- 2: Poorer people in many countries suffer。disadvantages in education, but in China such problems are magnified by government spending on schools that is heavily skewed in favour of cities. 许多国家的穷人在教育方面处于劣势,但在中国,由于政府对学校的投入严重向城市倾斜,这些问 题被放大了。(学有余力的同学亦可关注这个例句中的 suffer disadvantages, 我们之前详解过 suffer,遭受某种痛苦,故使用 suffer disadvantages 可以让读者深刻感觉到他们在真切地受到这种不利条件的影响,这也与我们选用精确动词的思想契合)。我们完全可以把他放到基础句型中,前面也可加一些修饰语 the odds skew sharply against…。相信大家很容易就能理解。

2.2.2 weigh on

除了 skew,还有了一个词觉得也适合:weigh on。我是从一个例句中观察到这个词,后结合对这个词的解析,觉得适合,我把分析过程附录在这,一起来体会吧。例句:Tighter liquidity could also weigh on investment.weigh on: 意思是 "to make someone feel worried and upset"。可以是:weigh on sb/sth 比如 I'm sure there's something weighing on his mind.我肯定他有心事。所以,weigh on,或 weigh heavily on,(可加形容词,形容词也可以参考上文的替换),属于不利的语义范畴。其实也很形象啊,the odds weigh heavily on…好想 odds 是一个个沉重的砝码,压了上来。

3 实践

6

3 实践

我们以新概念 3 第 36 课中的一个句子为例,用诠释文章 (paraphrase) 的方法,运用上文的关键知识 odd, chance, hope 等,简单进行句子灵活度表达。

原句: She thought that is was still a chance in a million that she might be right. 她认为还有百万分之一的可能性,即她(的这种猜想)是正确的。

可以先依着 chance 改写: she thought there was the remotest/slightest chance that…

可以用 hope 改写成: she thought there was still a faint hope/a silver lining/a glimmer of hope (等等,都可以用上去) that…

用 odd 改写: she thought there is still an odd that…

当然,不一定要依着原文"很少的可能性",你也可以说"她认为····有很大的可能性/很有可能"运用什么上面的知识,去改写阐述。这里就提供一个简单的范例,大家平时在阅读/写作过程中,要善于联想,努力把知识不断运用,这样就会熟练。

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