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中文基本功

第274期

《紅樓夢》既不是用北京話寫成 但也不必懷疑作者「推廣粵語」

二月二十三日晚上，香港電台《講東講西》講的是香港文學，提到《紅樓夢》這部古典小說。這一晚的嘉賓主張，寫小說要避免方言，以防有人看不懂。他與主持人都認為，學寫小說，要先讀《紅樓夢》。這使我想起了「《紅樓夢》用北京話寫成」之說。

用北京話寫《紅樓夢》？根本是個笑話。持此論者，深受西方語言學說影響，追求「言文一致」，自不免將言文混淆，因而對《紅樓夢》的語言多所誤解。《紅樓夢》的白話文，與通常視為標準的，所謂「人人看懂」的白話文有多少差距，卻與《西遊記》、《儒林外史》的白話文同屬一類，都使用了大量方言。其中有一大批，常見於粵語，而北京人不用甚至不懂。你既反對以方言入文，又要先看《紅樓夢》才下筆，這就顯得十分矛盾。

在粵語中，歡喜、緊要、齊整三個詞，在《紅樓夢》中常見。內地的語言學家，幾乎一致地認為這是普通話中喜歡、要緊、整齊三詞的顛倒。

在《紅樓夢》中，每用到粵語的利害、多謝、故此、當堂、使錢、將就、想頭、裏頭、即刻、心實、舊年、下作、挨近、多得、縱壞、雷劈、粗重、鼻塞、寒毛……不用普通話的厲害、謝謝、因此、當堂、花錢、遷就、想法、裏面、立刻、心灰、去年、下流、貼近、多虧、寵壞、雷打、笨重、鼻塞、汗毛……

此外，《紅樓夢》不用往時而用舊日，不用有空而用得閑，不用顧慮而用避忌，不用整天而用成日，不用碰到而用撞見，不用記憶而用耳性，不用爆竹而用炮仗……似乎是捨京腔而用粵語。

你看到上述情況，是否懷疑《紅樓夢》作者在「推廣粵語」呢？

其實，上述粵語詞明、清時期全國通用，所以《西遊記》、《儒林外史》和《紅樓夢》都普遍應用。今天嫌它們是「方言」而不許入文，固然是枉讀《紅樓夢》，而且是脫離現實！

容若

通識新世代

放眼天下

五星級英文



How to write a ghost story (8)

黑楊 (yeung@harkyeung.com)

Is this just a ghost story?

I am telling the readers my trips in the past. It is also about travelling.

Have you read travel literature?

In Asia, the haunted hotels are usually the five-star ones.

It is logical: ghosts like to stay in nice places. It is not a question whether they have to pay for the accommodation. It is a question whether they are welcome to stay there by the people, just like people in Greenland do.

In Hong Kong, there are ceremonies to 'help the ghosts on their journeys'. It is believed that ghosts are on their ways to a very happy world or back to this world in the form of another newborn. If a ghost stays somewhere in this world, that means the ghost has got stuck, either because of a lack of resources for the journey or because it has had something unsettled in the last life. The ceremonies to help them are colourful, filling the space with sound, chanting and warmth, with all sorts of offering and the burning of paper money. In the area I live, Hong Kong SoHo, such ceremony is performed every year.

In London, I had stayed in a student hall that was said to be haunted. The square had been bombed during World War II, with some residents being killed. Someone told me that the student hall was once a hotel which was so well-known for its ghosts that its business turned bad. The building was eventually converted to a student hall. A Japanese student, after hearing that the hall was haunted, told me she was followed by a ghost.

I did not know that, she said, but I noticed something funny happened to me from time to time. For example, the television would suddenly stop working and strange images would appear on the screen. I met a monk later and studied with him. He told me that my grandaunt's ghost was always with me. The monk told me to offer her some water.

世「數」社經

美國醫改耗資1萬億美元

美國總統奧巴馬的醫改方案，終於在眾議院以7票之差險勝。其醫改方案方向是減低醫療福利開支，並透過全民就購買醫療保險的保險公司徵收營業稅，間接增加稅收，一方面是抵銷醫改涉及的9400億美元開支，以及減少醫療福利引起的財赤。

美國醫改帶來的影響深遠。最迫切要解決是保險公司會面臨嚴格的監管要求，整個保險業的系統及制度將有翻天覆地的改變，除非保險商不爭取成為新醫保的服務提供者；其次在醫療開支是否能如期削減，達到減赤的效果，蓋整個醫改耗資達1萬億美元，倘醫保未能帶來盈餘，1萬億美元將付諸東流。奧巴馬政府執行醫改，必會在行政方面作出配合，加上政府要補貼窮人買醫保，整個計劃要順利執行，相關部門大規模改組在所難免；其三是醫保的融資方法以及掛牌上市的保險公司的股價會因醫改落實令投資者和基金公司對保險股有不同的部署。

香港的醫改在2000年提出，目標是削減公共醫療開支，透過融資方案，有效加強公私營醫療機構合作；可惜自2008年提出的強醫金後，香港醫改方向仍未有寸進。

專業教育培訓顧問 呂康

Further deliberations needed over resumption of HOS

Secretary for Transport and Housing of the SAR Government Eva Cheng Yu-wah yesterday disclosed that the Housing Authority would put all 4,000 remaining Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) apartments on the market at one go in June. The Housing Society will also sell all the remaining 800 Sandwich Class Housing Scheme (SCHS) flats.

In other words, in coming months, there will be some 5,000 HOS and SCHS flats available on the market for potential buyers. This is no doubt like some "cooling ointment" for the "fever" in the current overheated market for small- and medium-sized apartments.

Right now, the property market has been **heating up** so irrationally that everyone is deeply concerned. There is panic particularly in the market for so-called home starters with potential buyers fearing they may no longer be able to afford them. Some young people's plans to buy homes with their limited budgets are ruined. Some parents, who are worried that their sons may not be able to get married without their own flats, are rushing to buy up small units with all of their lifetime savings. In such circumstances, and with some exaggeration by a few media outlets, the overheated property market no longer remains a pure market or economic problem. It is likely to evolve into a social problem, intensifying conflicts and antagonisms. The consequences could be very serious.

Therefore, while remaining prudent and careful not to directly intervene in the property market, the government is making such a move as putting 5,000 HOS and SCHS flats **for sale** at one go. This would be like pouring some water down to cool the market, to let people **calm down** and pause for breath. This certainly has a positive effect. As a matter of fact, these remaining HOS and SCHS flats would anyway have had to be put on the market sooner or later. Now, to help stabilize the market, putting them all on the market at one go is much more effective than selling them in batches. In this way, the government can also make clear its aim of caring for the people's welfare.

However, putting the remaining 5,000 flats for sale at one go will only meet an urgent need but will not solve the long-term problem. In future, ensuring the sustainable and healthy development of Hong Kong's property market, maintaining a balance between a free market and looking after the public's interests, including how the government as the "market regulator" would properly play its role and fulfill its duties, will remain difficult problems that cannot be easily solved. Right now, an issue being fiercely debated is whether the government should resume building HOS flats to re-enter the market.

This issue seems quite complicated and subtle. First of all, is resuming building HOS flats the magic remedy or the only way to **cope with** the difficulties facing ordinary citizens, especially young people, when buying homes? There should be reservations in the answer to this question. This involves various issues of principle, such as the reasonable use of public funds, the relationship between living in and buying housing as a value-saving investment, and what proper social functions a public housing policy should have. If HOS is regarded as an instrument to moderate housing prices and used whenever there is a need to, then this obviously is not the original intention of the Home Ownership Scheme and should not be used as such by a responsible government.

五千單位解燃眉 復建宜從長計議

社評

特區政府運輸及房屋局局長鄭汝樺昨日透露，房委會轄下尚餘的四千個居屋單位將於六月間「一次過」推出發售，而房屋協會所剩的八百多個夾屋「貨尾」，也將一同全部推出應市。

也就是說，未來數月間，將有接近五千個居屋及夾屋單位投放入市場供買家選擇，這對近日升溫已升得「發高燒」的中小型樓市來說，無疑是一服「清涼劑」。

眼前，樓市的不正常升溫已到了人人「心所謂危」的地步，特別是所謂的「上車盤」，更出現唯恐「無車可上」的恐慌性現象，一些年輕人置業大計被打亂，預算全失；部分為人父母者擔心兒子將來有層樓就有老婆，不惜盡傾紅籌仔「老本」也要先「搶」進一個小單位……在此情況下，加上個別傳媒「撥火」渲染，樓市過熱已經不再純粹是一個市場問題或經濟問題，而是有可能會激化矛盾、增添怨氣，演化為一個社會問題，後果可以是嚴峻的。

因此，特區政府在對全面介入樓市仍持審慎態度的同時，首先行出這一步棋，把近五千個單位一次過推出淋一下水、降一降溫，讓已經躁動不安的人心可以定一定神、回一回氣，效果絕對是正面的。事實是該批居屋、夾屋貨尾單位，本來早晚也要推出市場，與其「斬件式」的不溫不火，倒不如來一記「重拳出擊」，如此不僅可起緩解市場之效，政府關注民生的用心也可以為市民大眾所得見。

然而，五千居屋、夾屋貨尾單位一齊推售，解的只是燃眉而非長遠。未來如何可以令到本港樓市持續、健康發展，如何可以



房協月初推出將軍澳夾屋疊軒貨尾單位，吸引不少市民輪候參觀示範單位

在確保市場自由和市民利益之間取得平衡，包括政府這名「市場監管者」如何找準角色、盡職責，仍然是一個不易解決的難題，而當前爭議熱點，就是政府是否應該復建居屋、重入市場。

對有關議題，情況看來是相當複雜以至微妙的。首先，所謂復建居屋，是否就是解決小市民特別是年輕人置業難的必由之路或萬應靈丹？答案應該是有保留的。這裡面涉及到公帑的合理運用、居住與置業投資保值的關係，以及公共房屋政策應有的社會功能等多項原則問題，把居屋當成是壓抑樓價的工具，在有「需要」時就拿出來揮舞一番，顯然並非「居者有其屋」政策的原意，也非負責任政府所應為。

而不少論者已指出，本港樓市問題的根源在土地供應。多年前，政府為穩定樓價而推出「勾地」辦法，且嚴加設限，土地不易被勾出，以至造成過去數年間各類型樓宇的建成數量增長緩慢或下降，發展商手上可供謀劃的土地也不多。因此，當前面對市民置業安居的訴求，加上樓按息低、「熱錢」流入的新局面，只有從增加土地供應入手，才是確保供應的治本之道。

眼前，居住問題已被提升到關乎社會和諧穩定發展的高度，所謂「安得廣廈千萬間，大庇天下寒士盡開顏」，特區政府在有關問題上必須拿出更積極主動、更負責任的態度，深入了解市民的感受和需要，切實研究樓宇存在的各種問題，準確掌握各種資料數據，合理回應各種批評和訴求，包括是否復建居屋，施政穩定性的因素必須考慮，政策不能僵化，但同樣不能朝令夕改。五千單位大舉推出，應可為政府爭取到從長計議、謀定而後動的空間和時間。

2010/03/16 大公報社評

大學畢業生買樓 首期要儲13年

通識記憶體

數據顯示，在香港要買入一個200萬港元的單位，如果以七成按揭計算，需要60萬元作首期。假設一名剛畢業的大學生月薪1萬元，每月儲蓄4000元，也需13年才儲夠首期，之後還有樓價的七成需要供款。

不過，本港樓價自2003年沙士後一路爬升，直達「天價」水平。2009年開盤的西半山干德道「天匯」，以呎價6.3萬元開賣，其中68樓A室複式戶，更以驚天價4.39億元售出，呎價高達71,280元，成為全球最貴分層住宅。單是屋內的169平方呎冷氣機房，已值1180萬元，足以購買尖沙嘴九龍站凱旋門細單位；全屋85平方呎的窗台也值逾600萬元，夠買天水圍嘉湖山莊4個單位。

據稱，太古城、嘉湖山莊的個別樓層售價已超越1997年樓市高峰，連元朗新盤呎價也要5000元，促使市民轉投公屋市場。但去年至今，幾千億熱錢流入香港，樓股熾熱，炒家除了炒賣私人樓宇，也大掃居屋，連公共屋邨也不放過，一個多月來出現7宗百萬元公屋短炒成交。新界北區公屋，過去半年樓價已升逾40%，升幅遠高於私人樓宇的30%。

相比之下，香港房屋協會3月初推出的將軍澳夾屋疊軒呎價460個貨尾單位，平均呎價僅3000元，相當於市值七七折定價，單位售價介乎130萬至280萬元，買家最高可獲九成按揭，且首次接受單身人士申請，條件為月入不超過19500元、資產限額為60萬元。