



《紅樓夢》既不是用北京話寫成 但也不必懷疑作者「推廣粵語」

《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「《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,與通常視爲標準的,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 粤語,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

在粤語中, 歡喜、緊要、齊整 三個詞,在《紅樓夢》中常見。內 地的語言學家,幾乎一致地認爲這 是普通話中喜歡、要緊、整齊三詞

Is this just a ghost story?

Have you read travel literature?

ceremony is performed every year.

some water.

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、 當場、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、鼻堵、

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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…… 似乎是捨京腔而用粤語

你看到上述情況,是否懷疑 《紅樓夢》作者在「推廣粵語」

其實,上述粤語詞明、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!



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

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.

Many analysts have pointed out that the crux of the problem with Hong Kong's property market lies in the supply of land. Some years ago, to stabilize housing prices, the government introduced the so-called Application List system for land sales and set strict restrictions. Under the system, it has not been easy to get a land lot off the Application List for public bidding. As a result, housing of various types on sale or under construction has grown slowly or even dropped in past few years. And property developers do not have enough land for development either. Therefore, in face of growing demand by citizens for homes plus low mortgage interest rates and an inflow of "hot money", the only way to tackle the problem is to ensure sufficient housing supply by increasing the availability of land.

Right now, the problem of housing has been elevated to political heights, impinging on social harmony, stability and development. An ancient poem says, 'I wish I can have thousands of houses, to shelter all poor scholars under Heaven who then can smile in joy.' On the problem of housing, the SAR Government must take a more proactive and responsible attitude. It must make efforts to know and understand what people really think and want, and to make a down-on-earth study of various problems with the property market so as to gather accurate information and data. The government must also respond rationally and reasonably to all kinds of criticisms and appeals including those on the issue of whether HOS should be resumed. The factor of stability of governance must be taken into consideration. Government policies must not remain rigid, but they must not be changed too quickly and too often either. The launch of 5,000 flats for sale should gain some space and time for the government to give the matter further thought and take action after careful consideration and deliberation.

WORDS AND USAGE:

1 In other words (idiom) - Expressed in a different way; that

Examples: 1."I don't think this is the right job for you, Tom." "In other words, you want me to leave. Is that it?" 2. He became, in other words, a great hero.

2 Heat up, heat sth up (phrasal verb) - To become warm or hot; to make something warm or hot.

Examples: 1. The pipes will expand as they heat up. 2 We can heat up the soup in the microwave.

③ For sale (idiom) - Available to be bought, especially from

Examples: 1."Is this painting for sale?" "I'm sorry, it's not for sale." 2. They have put their house up for sale.

4 Calm down, calm sb down (phrasal verb) - To stop feeling upset, angry or excited; to stop someone feeling this way.

Examples: 1. There is nothing we can do to calm her down. 2. He'll have calmed down in the morning.

5 Cope with sth or sb (phrasal verb) – To manage to deal with someone or something; to endure someone or something.

Examples: 1. I don't think I can cope with any more trouble.

2. I can't cope with your being late for work anymore.

區政府運輸及房屋局局長鄭汝樺 昨日透露,房委會轄下尙餘的四 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

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 「淸涼劑|

眼前,樓市的不正常升溫已到了人 「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;部分爲人父母者擔心

兒子將來冇層樓就冇老婆,不惜盡傾紅簿仔「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,演化爲一個社會問題,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愼態度的同時,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 温,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」的不慍不火,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 爲市民大衆所得見

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 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、克盡職責,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,政府爲穩定樓價而推出「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,切實研究樓市存在的各種問題,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,應可爲政府爭取到從長計議、謀定而後動的空 2010/03/16 大公報社評

房協月初推出將軍澳夾屋叠翠軒貨尾單 位,吸引不少市民輪候參觀示範單位

How to write a ghost story (8)

It is logical: ghosts like to stay in nice places. It is not a question whether they have

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

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

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

to pay for the accommodation. It is a question whether they are welcome to stay

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

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

there by the people, just like people in Greenland do.

美國醫改耗資1萬億美元

美國總統奧巴馬的醫改方案,終於在衆議院以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 取成爲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

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,成爲全球最貴分層住宅。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

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叠翠軒逾 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,條件爲月入不超過19500元、資產限額爲60