

漢

中文基本功

第288期

Democratic Party becomes moderate but no wiser

Editorial

高句麗這個古國名稱按古音要讀成高俱離

四月廿九日下午六時卅分，有線電視新聞報道，提到上海世博北韓館（按：即朝鮮民主主義人民共和國展覽館）有介紹高句麗的歷史，主播把句字讀成字句的句，把麗字讀成美麗的麗。我相信香港人十居其九不知讀錯。

後來，為了防止麗字同美麗的麗字混淆，並將其類化，以句是駒的本字，乃將麗加馬旁而寫成驪，寫成高句驪。後來出乎音韻學家意料，高句驪縮略成高麗之後，人們竟照字面讀，不受高句驪這個古名的讀音束縛。但如果碰到書中有高句驪這個古名，又會依古音讀成高俱離。

讀錯，值得原諒。我們這一輩人，要到大學研究歷史、研究古音才知道高句麗這個古地名（也是古國名），三個字中有兩個字，我們會讀錯。翻《晉書》，讀江統的《從戎論》，讀到句麗一詞。句麗就是高句麗，是地跨中（國）朝（鮮）邊境的一個國家。依《晉書音義》，句不讀字句的句，麗不讀美麗的麗，上一字，讀「古候反，又音俱」，下一字「音離」。古候反，就是用「古」字的聲母配「候」字的韻母去讀。依《晉書音義》，句麗要讀高俱離或高俱離。這樣，高句麗，就要讀成高俱離或高俱離了。

說也奇怪，何以人們單把高句麗（驪）讀成高俱離而不讀高句麗呢？答案上面已經透露：句是駒的本字，人們習慣了從古，不加馬旁，但心中有駒。妙在包括《康熙字典》等古今字典，高句麗標讀高句麗，一般人也就把字讀高句麗。只是音韻學家根據漢字源流，尊重歷史，例必教人把高句麗（驪）讀成高俱離。這是音韻學的專門知識，讀大學乃至研究院，若不修此專科，無從得知，所以我開頭就敢說香港人十居其九不知了。

容若

通識新世代

放眼天下

Walking into the office building of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong SAR yesterday morning, Democratic Party Chairman Albert Ho Chun-yan, Vice Chairwoman Emily Lau Wai-hing and lawmaker Cheung Man-kwong met and talked with Deputy Director Li Gang for more than two hours. The discussions were frank. Each side explained its position and principles, and there were occasionally arguments between them. After the meeting, Deputy Director Li Gang and the three Democratic Party representatives separately held press conferences to brief the public about their talks. This meeting was a political "ice breaker" that was hard to come by. The holding of the meeting and the issues discussed are of significance to the future evolution and development of Hong Kong's political system and the political environment. Therefore, this was a development the Hong Kong public was delighted to see.

The Democratic Party is the "largest party" in the opposition camp, holding nine seats in the Legislative Council (Legco). The Democratic Party is a veteran in Hong Kong's political arena. Its predecessor was the United Democrats of Hong Kong during British colonial rule before 1997. After its merger with Meeting Point, it was renamed Democratic Party. For a long time in the past, the Democratic Party as leader of the opposition camp used to adopt a considerably radical line and, as such, had been criticized by public opinion as "anti-China" and "opposition for the sake of opposition". They, however, had taken "pride" in this approach, regarding it as the only correct way to "resist the communist party with democracy" and to "strive for universal suffrage" in Hong Kong. During that period, the Democratic Party had even severely attacked other political parties as "surrendering", "trying to ask a tiger for its hide" or "betraying democracy" and "kowtowing to Beijing", when the latter took a pragmatic, "criticism plus dialogue" approach towards Beijing and the SAR Government.

This was because the ideas of the Democratic Party at that time were very out of date, based on the "Cold War thinking". It had also over-estimated its power and misjudged the situation after Hong Kong's return to the Motherland, believing that being "radical" and "in opposition" to be the short-cut to attaining a certain goal. However, following such a line invariably brought them up against a brick wall and loss of popular support. The road of "opposition for opposition's sake" taken by the Democratic Party became increasingly narrower. Having learned lessons one after another, they have "awakened" and become "practical". In regards to the political reforms for the 2012 elections, they began to adjust their position, taking the "moderate" road to sharply demarcate themselves from the illegal and unconstitutional "referendum in five geographical constituencies". Refusing to take part in any of the activities related to the campaign, the Democratic Party, instead, formed the Alliance for Universal Suffrage with other members of the opposition camp, quite pro-actively sought to communicate with the SAR and Central governments on political reforms. As a result, they are regarded as the "moderate faction" in the opposition camp or "the moderate opposition".

Such a change of position is affirmed and welcomed by the Central and SAR Governments and mainstream public opinion in Hong Kong. In fact, the Central and SAR Governments always approve of and welcome communication and exchange of views -

on the basis of the Basic Law and within the framework of the establishment - with people from various sectors, political parties and organizations in Hong Kong on issues related to political development in the SAR. In this way all useful ideas can be absorbed, collective wisdom drawn, consensus reached and differences narrowed, so as to promote the steady progress of political development in Hong Kong to eventually attain the ultimate goal of electing the Chief Executive and Legco by universal suffrage as set out in the Basic Law. The "referendum in five geographical constituencies" launched by the Civic Party and the League of Social Democrats is illegal and unconstitutional. By doing so they abandoned the framework of the rule of law and violated principles of the Basic Law, carrying on "anarchist" and "unlawful" activities outside the established system. Such malpractice is completely undesirable. As it was not led by the Civic Party and the League of Social Democrats this time, the Democratic Party has thus taken a correct step towards rational communication.

However, the change in approach does not mean the Democratic Party has changed its stance on political reforms in Hong Kong. Nor does it mean they can really see clearly the road Hong Kong should take in political reforms on the way to universal suffrage, and really know how to face up to realities and start from Hong Kong's actual circumstances. They are still deeply mired in misconceptions formed in past years, as seen from some of the viewpoints they have insisted upon during their talks with Deputy Director Li Gang. They still want to have the result of a "one-sided victory". They don't know that a "one-sided victory" means "loss-loss". Moderate as they may become, they still lack wisdom.

25 May 2010

WORDS AND USAGE:

① Brief (verb) - To give someone instructions or preparatory information.

Examples: 1. We have already been briefed about what the job would entail. 2. The President was briefed about progress in the negotiations.

② Come by sth (phrasal verb) - To manage to get something, to receive something by chance.

Examples: 1. For fresh university graduates, jobs are hard to come by these days. 2. Information about the company was not easy to come by.

③ For the sake of sth, for sth's sake (idiom) - Because of, or for the purpose of something.

Examples: 1. You are only arguing for the sake of argument. 2. He bought a house in the countryside for the sake of his wife's health.

④ Take pride in sth/sb (idiom) - To feel proud about something or somebody.

Examples: 1. If you don't take professional pride in your work, you are probably in the wrong job. 2. She takes great pride in her son.

⑤ Out of date (idiom) - Not modern; not including the latest information.

Examples: 1. This map is out of date. 2. I'm afraid you've been using an out-of-date catalogue.

社評

雖示「溫和」仍欠明智

民主黨主席何俊仁、副主席劉慧卿及張文光，昨天上午走進中央政府駐香港特別行政區聯絡辦公室大樓，和中聯辦副主任李剛等就香港政制發展問題進行了兩個多小時的晤談。晤談氣氛坦率，雙方闡述了各自的立場和原則，間中也有爭論。之後，李剛副主任和民主黨的三位晤談人士各自召開記者會，向公眾披露晤談情況。這是一次難得的政治「破題」，其說明的問題和對今後香港政制的沿革發展及政治生態環境的變化都很有意義。因此，這是香港公眾樂意見到的事情。

民主黨是香港反對派中的「第一大黨」，在立法會現有九議席。民主黨政壇資格甚老，一九九七年前的港英政府時期，它是「港同盟」，後與「匯點」合併，組成民主黨。過去很長一段時間，民主黨作為反對派的「龍頭老大」推行的是一條相當激進的路線，被輿論批評為「逢中必反」、「為反對而反對」。然而他們卻以此「為榮」，認為這是在香港「民主抗共」、「爭取普選」的唯一正確做法。那時有一些政黨對北京和特區政府採取「又傾又砌」的務實態度，還被民主黨大加鞭撻，認為「投降路線」，是「與虎謀皮」，甚至給人家扣上一頂「出賣民主」、「向北京叩頭」的大帽子。

之所以如此，是因為民主黨那時的觀念非常落伍陳舊，屬於「冷戰思維」，而且過高估計自己的力量，錯誤地看待香港回歸後的形勢，以為自己的「激進」、「狂反」必可一蹴而就達到某種目標。然而，這種做法連連碰壁，且大失民心，他們的「為反對而反對」的激進路子越走越窄。經過一系列的教訓，他們不得不「清醒」和「務實」起來，在這次有關二〇一二年政改方案問題上，他們開始調整方針，走「溫和」的路子，與「違法違憲」的「五區公投」、「劃清界線」，不參加「公投」活動，和反對派其他人士組成「終極普選大聯盟」，頗為積極主動的要求與特區政府及中央「溝通」政改問題。於是，他們被稱為反對派中的「溫和派」或「溫和的反對派」。

對此，中央、特區政府和香港主流民意是表示肯定和歡迎的。事實上，中央和特區政府從來認同和歡迎在法制框架下，在遵循《基本法》的基礎上，在體制範圍內就香港的政制發展問題



中聯辦副主任李剛（右排中）會晤民主黨主席何俊仁（左排中）等，就政改問題初步交換意見

和香港各界人士、黨派團體進行溝通，交流意見，集思廣益，凝聚共識，縮小分歧，推動香港政制穩步向前發展，最終達到《基本法》規定的「雙普選」目標。像公、社黨搞的「五區公投」違法違憲，跳脫法制框架，違背《基本法》的原則，在體制外大搞「無政府主義」、「無法無天」，就是完全不可取的。民主黨今次沒有被公、社黨牽着鼻子走，也就邁出了理性溝通的正確一步。

不過，方式的轉變不代表民主黨在香港政改問題上的立場觀點有轉變，不代表他們真能認清在香港推行政改、實現普選應該走一條什麼樣的路，應該面對怎樣的現實，怎樣從香港的實際情況出發。從他們和李剛副主任的晤談時堅持的一些觀點來看，他們仍在很深的誤區之中，仍在多年形成的妄念之中。他們還是想要一個「獨贏」的結果，他們不知道只想「獨贏」只會「雙輸」；他們雖然「溫和」了，但並不明智。

2010/05/25 大公報社評

立會通過政改方案 最少需30票

通識記憶體

2012年的政改方案若要獲立法會通過，須獲最少30票支持。所謂「泛民主派」手握23票，建制派則持26票。

民主黨是現時香港立法會第二大政黨。目前立法會60名議員中，民主黨約佔25人，當中以民主黨人數最多，獨佔9席，其次是發起「5區辭職，變相公投」的公民黨及社民連，分別佔5席及3席。建制派席位最多的是民主建港協進聯盟，獨佔10席，香港工會聯合會和自由黨分別佔4席及3席，非正式政黨中專業會議和經濟動力，各有4席。

5月24日，中央政府駐港聯絡辦副主任李剛與民主黨3名議員就香港政制改革問題晤談。此次會面被視為歷史性的「破冰之旅」。這是1989年「六四」事件發生後，首次有民主派成員與中

聯辦高層正式會面。民主黨在會面期間，向中央政府提交的立場書包括5大條件，其中3項包括2012年後的選舉安排：取消功能組別；2017年的特首提名門檻，不會高於2007年的門檻，1200人的特首提名委員會應加入所有民選區議員；2016年的立法會選舉只增加直選議席，取消分組點票。若中央政府接納上述訴求，2012年的政改方案中，6個區議員功能組別由區議員提名，便由全港1人1票選出；取消區議會委任制，2012年的特首選委會加入400多名民選區議員，保持提名人數不多於150。



五星級英文



A Different Form of Writing (4)

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It is important to learn more words, but it is more important to learn how to use them. Some people like to train their word sense by doing crossword puzzles.

There is another way: writing poems. Not only because there are not so many words to handle, but because the beauty of poems comes from both the meaning and the form. Choosing the right word is a funny exercise.

Here I will put in the history of the street (St. Giles) I am depicting: who lived there in the past? What kind of trade took place? Who is doing business there now?

The Bridge outside the Catholic Cathedral

- A bridge outside the Catholic Cathedral
Arcs on red roofs and copper chimneys
A homeless man, drawing a Celtic symbol
A couple hugging on a rainbow
For some reasons, on St. Giles, it's always refreshing
Food aroma, perhaps, the waffle, the croissant
Founder of Norwich Hospital, Rigby, here, once grew cress
Fans of fertility plants and the French Revolution
A gallery display window, like a draft of a novel
An oil depicting a cobbled street at night
A wooden doll, painted shawls, glass beads
Art school graduate of Norwich, the owner said, from Belarus

- Finished and unfinished works, a symphony
Full of threads entangled and passion seduced
Flowing down to Willow Lane, from the studio
For a time, local textiles were welcomed in Siberia



世「數」社經

內地綠豆漲價300%

內地綠豆價格自去年每斤3元人民幣漲價到現時11元，部分零售地區更貴到12元，內地民眾謂綠豆貴過豬肉。

江西省南昌市綠豆零售價自去年5月3.3元到今年2月的5元，及至今年5月1日升到9.2元，到5月7日賣12.9元，綠豆價一年內漲價幾達300%，竟像股票市場的興風作浪。

市場人士分析漲價原因是雜糧產業在內地未有規模化，而且產量低，生產成本相對高，加上其他糧食產品價格帶頭上漲，農田負責人權衡輕重，轉種其他糧食，令到綠豆種植面積大減，供求開始失衡；加上正值5月氣溫驟升，綠豆乃消

暑食糧，市場需求進一步增加，引致進一步供求失衡，價格飆升；另一方面，有個別經營者搵快錢，惡意囤積，以賺「飆升」之差价。

本周一國家發改委宣布將聯同多個部門，打擊游資炒作農產品價格。發改委察覺市場游資充裕，他們若將目標投向農產品將令到價格不合理，民不聊生。

鑑於主要食糧及雜糧價格上漲，發改委為了提高價格的調控能力，會向城鄉低收入民眾發放臨時價格補貼；同一時間，亦會積極運用價格調節基金以及設立副食品生產基地和市場的體系作為調控農產品價格飆升的藥方。專業教育培訓顧問 呂康