

摘錄自3月25日香港《文匯 報》:今年政府工作報告首次提 出「發放育兒補貼」,國家衞健 委表示, 國家層面正在起草育兒

補貼的操作方案。據不完全統計,今年以來已 有23個省份在不同層級探索實施生育補貼制

專家表示,國家推動發放育兒補貼,以現金 資助形式釋放構建生育友好型社會的強烈信 號。期待國家育兒補貼操作方案盡快推出,形 成全國統一的補貼標準、資金來源和發放方 式,為各地制定具體政策提供指導,同時鼓勵 生育需要系統性育兒政策支持,後續仍需更多 普惠性、兜底性政策激勵。

2024年人口自然增長率大約為-0.1‰。內地 每年的出生人口數亦連續下降多年,2024年 出生人口954萬人,較2023年增加52萬人, 終結了連續7年下降。2024年出生人口回升, 國家統計局將原因歸結於生育意願累積、生育 支持政策落實以及龍年生肖偏好等因素。

不過,統計局同時指出,內地育齡婦女特別 是生育旺盛期育齡婦女仍在減少,對下階段出 生人口依然存在影響。

「從某種意義上講,發放育兒補貼有利於提 振中國經濟。」專家認為,人口問題與中國經



圖為內蒙古呼和浩特市婦幼保健院內,護士 幫助新生兒家庭申請育兒補貼。 資料圖片

濟總量密切相關。當前內地人口總量和結構都 存在問題,比如男性比女性多3,000多萬,人 口總量呈萎縮趨勢。這種人口結構不利於經濟 持續增長,要在經濟發展中,有意識地優化和 調整人口結構。

此外,老齡化使人口結構問題加劇,少子化 導致未來參與經濟活動的總人口減少,經濟活 動收縮。因此,適時推出育兒補貼非常重要 通過這種貨幣補貼的方式,構建生育友好的社 會氛圍和政策環境,優化經濟增長空間。

「中國曾執行嚴格的一孩政策,積累了發放 一孩補助的豐富經驗,所以推行這些補貼政 策,操作難度不會太大。」專家提議,應探索 建立由財政支持、資金來源多元化的育兒補貼



制度,並向重點區域和重點人群傾斜。可考慮 按季度或每兩個月發放一次。每年審核家庭養 育孩子的狀況,補貼可一直延續到孩子12歲 甚至18歳

另外,不少育齡女性指出,生孩子不光要考 慮生育成本,還要考慮養育成本、教育成本和 醫療成本等,這些成本居高不下,必然會限制 很多人的生育意願。

專家建議,除向1歲至12歲甚至18歲孩子 的家庭發放育兒補貼外,還應給予父母較長時 間的育兒假。當家中有8歲以下兒童時,父母 可以採用彈性工作時間,平衡家庭與工作。此 外,一定的教育、醫療補助也有助於減輕育兒

Experts Call for Standardized Childcare Subsidies



This year's government work report proposed for the first time to "provide childcare subsidies", and the National Health Commission

(NHC) has indicated that it is drafting an operational plan for childcare subsidies at the national level. According to incomplete statistics, 23 provinces have already explored implementing a maternity subsidy system at different levels this year.

According to experts, the state's promotion of childcare subsidies is a strong signal in the form of money to build a birth-friendly society.

We look forward to launching the national operational plan for childcare subsidies as soon as possible to form a unified national standard for the subsidy, its funding source, and payment method and provide guidance for localities in formulating specific policies. At the same time, encouraging childbearing requires the support of systematic childbearing policies, and there is still a need for more inclusive and bottom-up policies to promote childbearing.

The natural population growth rate in 2024 will be around -0.1 per thousand. The number of births on the Mainland has been declining for many years, but in 2024, there will be 9.54 million births, an increase of 0.52 million compared to 2023, ending seven consecutive years of decline. Two thousand twenty-four births will rebound, and the National Bureau of Sta-

tistics (NBS) attributed the rebound to factors such as the accumulation of fertility intentions, the implementation of childbearing policies, and a preference for the Chinese zodiac sign of the Year of the Dragon.

However, the Bureau also pointed out that the number of women of childbearing age in the Mainland, especially those in the prime of childbearing, is still decreasing, impacting the number of births in the next stage.

"In a sense, subsidizing childcare will help boost China's economy." Experts believe that the population issue is closely related to the total volume of China's economy. Currently, there are problems with the total size and structure of the mainland population, such as there are more than 30 million males than females, and the total population is shrinking. Such a population structure is not conducive to sustained economic growth. It is necessary to optimize and adjust the population structure consciously during economic development.

In addition, ageing has aggravated the problem of population structure, and childlessness has led to a decrease in the total population participating in economic activities in the future and a contraction of financial activities. Therefore, it is very important to introduce childcare subsidies in a timely manner to build a birth-friendly social atmosphere and policy environment and optimize the room for economic growth through this kind of monetary

"China has accumulated rich experience in granting one-child subsidies due to its strict one-child policy, so it will not be too difficult to implement these subsidy policies." Experts believe that establishing a subsidy system for childcare that is financially supported by various funding sources should be explored and tilted toward key regions and populations. Consideration could be given to providing the subsidy quarterly or bi-monthly. Families' child-rearing status will be reviewed annually, and the subsidy can be extended until the child reaches the age of 12 or even 18.

In addition, many women of childbearing age have pointed out that not only do they have to consider the cost of giving birth to a child, but they also have to consider the cost of raising a child, the cost of education, the cost of medical care, etc. The fact that these costs remain high will undoubtedly limit the desire of many people to have children.

Experts suggest that in addition to subsidizing childcare for families with children aged 1-12 or even 18, parents should be given longer parental leave. Parents can adopt flexible working hours when children are under 8 years old to balance family and work. In addition, a certain amount of education and medical subsidies can also help alleviate the pressure of parenting.

小測試

Complete the sentences below using NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the passage for each answer.

Q1: The government's childcare subsidy plan aims to create a _ society by using mon– etary incentives.

Q2: In 2024, the number of births increased by compared to 2023, ending a seven-year decline.

Q3: Experts argue that China's current population structure, including a gender imbalance of males, hinders sustainable economic growth.

Q4: Childcare subsidies could be distributed or every two months to eligible families.

Q5: To balance work and family life, parents of children under 8 should be allowed _ working hours.



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(3) 30 million; (4) quarterly;

(1) fertility-friendly; (2) 520,000;

武俠小說女角色爲何囿於情愛?

在武俠小説中,男俠有各種 不同的人生追求,當中包括武 學、事業、國家民族福祉等, 而當中又以國家民族大義最為 重要。

例如在《倚天屠龍記》中, 張無忌於海外與四位女角同舟 之際,縱使其愛情取捨搖擺不 定,但在生死關頭,他首先想 到的是保護義父的性命和民族 復興的大業,可見孝義與復國 實為男俠的兩大要義。

那武俠小説的女俠又如何? 《射鵰英雄傳》第二十六回 寫到郭靖與黃蓉登上岳陽樓

郭靖默誦范仲淹名作《岳陽樓 記》,不禁嘆道:「先天下之憂而憂,後天下之樂 而樂,大英雄、大豪傑固當如此胸懷!」以「為國 為民,俠之大者」自勉的郭大俠,當然以為范仲淹 之言深得其心。然而,他身邊的黃蓉卻不以為然: 「靖哥哥,我不理天下憂不憂、樂不樂,倘若你不 在我身邊,我是永遠不會快樂的。」

女俠反映封建社會女性困境

在女俠黃蓉心中,似乎只有靖哥哥,沒有一絲半 點「為國為民」之念、《射鵰》結尾寫郭黃二人死 守襄陽,為百姓抵禦蒙古軍時,郭靖立心為國捐 軀,黃蓉則只想着騎小紅馬突圍,但她見郭靖心意 已決,唯有嘆道:「罷罷罷,你活我也活,你死我 也死就是!」如果説郭靖決心殉國,黃蓉則只是殉

武林女性之欠缺國家民族觀念,在非漢族女性的 身上尤為突出。《倚天》女主角趙敏生為蒙古郡 主,曾説恨不得生為男兒,輔助父王剿滅明教等反 元力量。後來,她愛上了明教教主張無忌,卻不惜 背叛父兄國族,並向張無忌自白:「管他什麼元人

■ ②歡迎反饋。敎育版電郵: edu@tkww.com.hk



圖為電視劇版《射鵰英雄傳》中的黃蓉和郭靖

漢人,我才不在乎呢。你是漢人,我也是漢人。你 是蒙古人,我也是蒙古人。」

趙敏不管什麼華夷之辨、民族大義,只一心一意 追求自己的愛情幸福。她的民族認同是依據情人的 身份(漢人)而來,因此後來她輔助明教抗元,竟 然變成了「蒙奸」。

武林女性的國族意識薄弱,也許反映了封建社會 女性以家為本的身份認同。在「男外女內」的性別 分工下,女性角色僅限於家中的女兒、妻子或母 親,而非一國的人民。

「女國民」此一名詞及概念,至清末方出現。從 現存文獻所見,「女國民」一詞最早或出現於1903 年,胡彬夏等留日女生所成立的「共愛會」章程: 「本會以拯救二萬萬之女子,復其固有之特權,使 之各具國家之思想、以行自盡女國民之天職為宗 旨。」此時的中國女性方真正走出家門,擁有不再 依附於男性的獨立國民身份。

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並置結構展示反差 對比鮮明更吸引

拍成由愛瑪屈臣做主角的電影,無論它是 什麼並不重要,今天討論,為何剛看這個 故事名稱已經感覺吸引。

有一種表達技巧叫並置(Juxtaposition) , Juxta 是拉丁文, 意思是附近 (nearby) 或並排 (side-by-side) , Position 是位置。那是把兩個東西相近地放在一 起,一如《美女與野獸》(Beauty and the Breast)的故事名,令人有興趣看看這兩位 有如此大差異的角色會有什麼發展。

這技巧除了用在寫作, 也可放在熒幕和 其他藝術上。在奧運射擊比賽裏土耳其大 叔無須裝備,鬆弛感十足,與裝備十足蓄 勢待發的對手形成鮮明對比,非常有趣。

並置的經典例子是狄更斯的《雙城

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, ... we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way..... "

為何最好的時代,又是最差的時代?還 有緊接着的智慧和愚蠢、信仰對懷疑、光 明與黑暗、春天及冬天、擁有一切又一無 所有……如果不知道這個故事的歷史背景 也許會一頭霧水,故事發生在法國大革命 時期,法王被推翻,人民原本期望有更好 的明天,可惜接着進入黑暗年代,誣告和 屠殺一浪又一浪。所以若你知其歷史背 景,會為這個年代感慨不已。

《美女與野獸》和《雙城記》均是大反 差的例子,不過,並置還能以其他形式出

並置對象可互襯或比喻

並置的兩個對象可以相互映襯或比喻, 在海明威的《老人與海》中有這一句: Everything about him was old except his eyes and they were the same color as the sea。直 寫他雖年老但卻有年輕人的魄力,把老人 眼睛的顏色和包圍老人的海水相比,是説 老人有永不言倦的本色,還是描寫眼睛的 顏色,就由讀者自由理解。

主角特質可由配角道出: The lined up soldiers solemnly salute to the General,列隊 的戰士們莊嚴地向將軍敬禮。我們可以寫 將軍拿槍、下命令或駡人, 若要顯示他有 地位或威嚴, 便要看其他人的態度, 正所 謂面子是由他人給的;同理,忠心須由行 為來表達, The Golden Retriever shielded the sleeping baby from sunlight,那金毛尋 回犬為熟睡的嬰兒遮擋陽光。真暖心。

並置可以用在橫向時空, The team has been working day and night, 團隊日以繼夜 地工作。若用24 hours或 non-stopping 看似 一樣,可是只有day and night 體現出營營

《沙灘上的腳印》(Footprints in the Sand) 是首鼓勵詩,當中有一句:Sometimes there were two sets of footprints; other times there was only one,看到兩行腳印是 昔日情景,今天看到只有一行腳印。是説 有人夢見自己與主同行,可他患難時卻發 現身邊的主不見了,兩行腳印變成一行。 主去了哪裏呢?答案是It was then that I carried you, 主背着這人前行。

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