

Chapter 7 Litotes

1. Proper use of negative words

2. Conversion of positive into negative

A. Preposition

- Ex. 1 It was beyond his power to sign such a contract.
他无权签订这种合同。

B. Verb

- Ex. 2 The memory of this warm reception shall remain with us long after our departure from the beautiful and historical capital of this great country.
我们离开这个伟大国家古老、美丽的首都之后，你们的盛情款待将令我们久久不能忘怀。

C. Adjective

- Ex. 3 Indeed, Chenault's biggest pressures over the coming months won't be in the backroom but on the bottom line. As America's newest celeb CEO takes the reins, his company seems to be in surprisingly good shape – with an Amex card being swiped somewhere in the U. S. every hundredth of a second. Ken Chenault's job, somehow, is to make that look slow.
...从一定意义上说，肯·谢诺尔特的任务是，让这个速度看上去还不够快。

D. noun

- Ex. 4 Shortness of time has required the omission of some states.
由于时间不够，我没能访问某些国家。

E. Connective

- Ex. 5 The problems were particularly acute in the company's top ten major metro sales markets, where it had been five years since the company had received local media support.
在该公司的十大城市销售市场上，问题尤其严重，因为当地的新闻媒体已经五年没有为该公司做宣传了。

F. Idioms

- Ex. 6 He will pay his debts when two Sundays come together.
他永远不会还债的。

3. Conversion of negative into positive

- Ex. 7 The thought of returning to his native land never deserted him amid his tribulation.

在苦难中，归国的念头一直在他心中萦绕。

- Ex. 8 We must never stop taking an optimistic view of life.
我们对生活要永远抱乐观态度。

4. Shift of perspectives

A. Comparison

riot police	防暴警察
terror measures	反恐怖措施
crisis plan	应急计划
hunger march	反饥饿游行
self-taught	自学
<u>10%</u> discount	九折
it seems to <u>me</u> that...	我觉得... ..

- Ex. 9 By the third criterion, the great literatures of the Orient spring to mind, not to mention the languages of Tolstoy, Goethe, Cervantes and Racine.

按照第三条标准来衡量，人们马上会想到东方各国的伟大文学，且不提托尔斯泰、歌德、塞万提斯和拉辛使用的语言了。

- Ex. 10 Since economic reform began in 1978, an average growth rate of almost 10% a year has seen China's GNP nearly quadruple.

自1978年开始经济改革以来，中国（经济）以每年将近10%的速度增长，国民生产总值几乎翻了两番。

B. Spatial shift

- Ex. 11 But though the city was to undergo one of the worst punishment in the history of warfare thereafter, that was the low point.

不过，尽管这座城市即将遭受战争史上最为严酷的折磨，但是它的磨难已经到顶了。

C. Temporal shift

- Ex. 12 But we are getting ahead of the story.
不过这是后话了。

5. Shift of word order

A. Priority shift

- Ex. 13 National Foreign Language Center,
4th Floor, 1619 Massachusetts Avenue,
Washington D. C.,
the United States of America
美国华盛顿特区马萨诸塞大街1619号四层
国家外语中心

- Ex. 14 We enclose a cheque for US\$ 35,110 in settlement of your invoice No. SH2065 of 20th, April, 1997.

现随信寄上 35110 美元支票一张，以支付贵方 1997 年 4 月 20 日第 SH2065 号发票货款。

B. Collocative shift

Ex. 15 He witnessed the sixth post-war economic crisis of serious

1 2 3 4

consequences that prevailed in various fields in the USA.

_____ 5 6 7
他亲眼目睹了 (...) 美国 战后 第六次 波及各领域的

1 7 3 2 6
后果严重的 经济危机。

5 4

Ex. 16 He was working with a mower in his garden all the morning.

1 2 3

他一上午都在园子里用剪草机干活。

3 2 1

6. Summary