**3-4 文化差异 cultural difference**

**【原文】**

**Part 1**  
A： [罗伯茨先生](http://so.03964.com/cse/search?s=6992403128494853769&entry=1&q=%E7%BD%97%E4%BC%AF%E8%8C%A8%E5%85%88%E7%94%9F)，您在中国生活两年了，还习惯吧？

B：I think I′m quite used to my Chinese life here. Actually I′m thinking about settling down in China for good.

A：前几天我看可一部美国电影，片名叫[《美国丽人》](http://so.03964.com/cse/search?s=6992403128494853769&entry=1&q=%E3%80%8A%E7%BE%8E%E5%9B%BD%E4%B8%BD%E4%BA%BA%E3%80%8B)。我没有完全看懂，[我也不知道](http://so.03964.com/cse/search?s=6992403128494853769&entry=1&q=%E6%88%91%E4%B9%9F%E4%B8%8D%E7%9F%A5%E9%81%93)这部电影为何获得了当年的[奥斯卡奖](http://so.03964.com/cse/search?s=6992403128494853769&entry=1&q=%E5%A5%A5%E6%96%AF%E5%8D%A1%E6%9C%80%E4%BD%B3%E5%BD%B1%E7%89%87%E5%A5%96)。我没完全看懂可能是中美两国的文化差异吧，或者叫做东西方文化差异。

B：This is a good topic and a broad topic, too. Let me talk a bit more about the film you mentioned. Actually, I have noticed a very interesting difference many Chinese and Americans in understanding the title of the film.

A：是吗？

B：In some Oriental countries, the translation of the film′s title goes as something like A Beautiful American Lady. While to most of the American, I am afraid the reaction toward this title is mixed or confused. The film first and foremost refers to a type of rose bearing large, purplish-red flowers. And the flowers usually remind people of romance, love, beauty in its abstract sense, and vigor and vitality of a nation, etc. But this interesting image on the film′s poster has failed to make any sense to many Chinese viewers.

A：你说的没错。至少我就没想注意到这个意思！难道这是文化差异造成的吗?

B：Yes, absolutely. Such cultural differences arise from the differences in region, race, history, environment, and in the levels of economic, scientific and technological development.

**Part 2**

B：您能给我举例子吗？比如说，您在中国的生活和工作中发现什么严重的文化差异吗？

B：We emphasize efficiency, competition and originality while your management gives priority to careful planning and encourages close cooperation among team members. In daily contacts, we tend to be humorous and casual while some of you appear more formal. In American schools, discussion is given top priority and seminar is the usual way of class. Good teachers are those who possess flexible and adaptable talents, and are able to respond at any moment to any question that might arise among the students. That kind of capacity makes a popular teacher in the United States.

A：我感到[美国人](http://so.03964.com/cse/search?s=6992403128494853769&entry=1&q=%E7%BE%8E%E5%9B%BD%E4%BA%BA)太看重[个人主义](http://so.03964.com/cse/search?s=6992403128494853769&entry=1&q=%E4%B8%AA%E4%BA%BA%E4%B8%BB%E4%B9%89)，太看重个人利益，这样可能会牺牲集体的利益，影响群体之间的和睦，甚至会损害社会的和谐。

B：Yes, in many cases, you′re right. American working ethic seems to be more individual-oriented. We often value the results and accomplishments of work more than its process. Central to American political, economic and social thought is the concept of individual moral autonomy. If I am not mistaken, traditional Chinese philosophical systems are based on Confucianism, which values communal harmony over individual freedom.

A 可以这样说，应该说是部分正确吧。尽管我们有如此多的文化差异，全球化浪潮正使世界变得越来越小，文化交流也随之变得越来越广泛。

B：Yes. The global integration of economy has brought the world closer than ever before. Chinese learn English, Americans learn Chinese; we drink tea, you drink Coca-Cola; we exercise Kung Fu, you go bowling; we enjoy Peking Duck, you like KFC. Nowadays, easterners and westerners are walking side by side, talking face to face, living, working and studying in harmony. The whole world is becoming increasingly beautiful due to cultural exchanges.

A：是的，我想这个话题还有许多值得我们探讨的地方，由于时间关系，我们今天暂且谈到这里。以后我们再接着聊吧。谢谢。

B：My pleasure. Yes, we′ll do it some other time.

**【译文】**  
A：Mr. Roberts, you have been living in China for two years. How do you like it ?

B：我想我已十分习惯这里的生活，其实我还想在中国永久定居呢。

A： I saw an American Movie a few days ago, which is entitled ”American Beauty” . I didn′t quite the story. I don′ t quite understand why this movie won the Oscar Award that year, either. Maybe the answer is the difference between the Chinese and American cultures. Or rather, it is due to the culture difference between the East and the West.

B：这是一很好的话题，也是一个很大的题目。我想先从你提到的电影谈起。事实上，我注意到许多中国人和 美国人在理解此片时有一个非常有趣的差别。

A：Yes?

B：一些东方国家将这部电影的片名译成《一个美丽的美国女士》，甚至译成《美丽有罪》。大多数美国人对 于这种片名的反应颇为复杂，他们颇感困惑，难以断定这些词究竟意味着什么。其实 American beauty 首先是指一 种美国[红玫瑰](http://so.03964.com/cse/search?s=6992403128494853769&entry=1&q=%E7%BA%A2%E7%8E%AB%E7%91%B0)，一种生有长茎的紫红色的大花。这种花会让人想到浪漫、爱情、抽象意义上的美，它还表示民族的 勃勃生机等。我认为，这种见于电影海报的有趣意象，许多中国观众却未能理解其中的含义。

A：That′s right. At least I didn′t get that. Is this due to cultural differences?

B：确实这样。这种文化差异是由地域、种族、历史和环境的差异造成的，也是由经济和科技水平的差异造成的。

**Part 2**

A：Can you offer us some examples? For instance, during your stay in China, have you have found any serious cultural differences or clashes with regard to life and work?

B： 我们强调效率、 竞争和独创性， 而你们则将严谨规划放在首位， 鼓励团队成员之间的密切合作。 在日常交往中，我们往往比较幽默和随意，而你们则比较严肃。在美国学校，讨论享有至高无上的地位， 讨论就是课堂教学的主旋律。优秀教师具有灵活应变的才能，能回答学生可能提出的各种问题。这样的教师最受欢迎。

A：I think Americans give too much importance to individualism and personal gains ,so much so that it might sacrifice collective benefits , hurt the agreeable relationship among group members and even bring harm to the harmony of the society.

B：你说得对，在很多情况下，确实如此。我们美国人的工作理念似乎更强调个人主义。我们一般重视的是结果和成就，而不是过程。美国政治观、经济观以及[社会观](http://so.03964.com/cse/search?s=6992403128494853769&entry=1&q=%E7%A4%BE%E4%BC%9A%E8%A7%82)的核心是个人道德自治观。如果我没理解错的话，中国传统的思想体系是以儒家学说为基础的，这种思想强调整体和谐高于个体自由。

A：You may say so. I should say you are partially correct on that. In spite of so many cultural differences, globalization has brought the world increasingly closer. Likewise, cultural exchanges have become more and more extensive.

B：是的。[全球经济一体化](http://so.03964.com/cse/search?s=6992403128494853769&entry=1&q=%E5%85%A8%E7%90%83%E7%BB%8F%E6%B5%8E%E4%B8%80%E4%BD%93%E5%8C%96)，不断加速的信息革命等等，都使世界的联系比以往更加紧密。中国人学习英语， 美国人学习汉语，美国人学习汉语；我们饮茶，你们喝可乐；我们练功夫，你们玩保龄球；我们品尝北京烤鸭，你 们喜欢[肯德基](http://so.03964.com/cse/search?s=6992403128494853769&entry=1&q=%E8%82%AF%E5%BE%B7%E5%9F%BA)。现在，东西方人肩并肩走路，面对面谈话，和谐的生活、工作和学习。整个世界由于文化的交流而变得越来越美丽。

A： Yes, I believe there is still much room for further discussion on this topic. As time is limited, we have to stop here today. We will find some other time to continue our talk. Thank you.

B：不客气。是呀，我们另找时间再接着聊。