

英语反意疑问句的结构与主谓一致

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[摘要] 文章以英国古典和现代名家著作中的例句为例分析了英语反意疑问句陈述部分与后附问句肯定与否定结构的几种搭配,以及各形式所表达的曲折语气;同时阐述了两部分的主谓一致现象,从主语和谓语动词两方面来分析其中的规律。

[关键词] 反意疑问句; 陈述部分; 后附问句; 结构; 肯定; 否定; 主谓一致

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反意疑问句也称后附疑问句,在英国语言学家 R. R. K. Hartmann 和 F. C. Stork 编辑的《语言与语言学词典》中还称为证实疑问句(Confirmational Interrogative)^[1],即在陈述句后附加一疑问成分形成的问句。此类问句出现的频率颇高,又因其由两部分组成,结构较为繁复,国内研究此类问句,多从结构上进行研究或比较,例句一般随意撰写或摘自普通文章。本文则主要讨论其结构两部分主谓一致的情况。本文的例句,是笔者在广泛阅读英国古典文学名著的基础上,着重摘录了勃朗特三姐妹的原著《简爱》、《呼啸山庄》、《野丘老宅的房客》中的经典例句,以求获得实证的权威性和原始性。

一 反意疑问句的四种结构

(一)“+ -”型,即陈述部分为肯定结构,后附问句为否定结构,如:

You work behind the scenes anyway, don't you? (John Braine)^①

But you've been talking to a woman very recently, haven't you? (John Braine)

True, but we shouldn't always have what we want: it spoils the best of us, doesn't it? (Anne Brontë)^②

It would make a marvelous film, wouldn't it? (Iris Murdoch)^③

这时,后附问句中的 not,可置于主语之后,这一现象在英国文坛勃朗特三姐妹的著作中尤为明显:

She's her brother's heir, is she not? (Emily Brontë)^④

I'm older than he is, you know, and wiser: less childish, am I not? (Emily Brontë)

Brocklehurst, who I understand directs Lowood, is a parson, is he not? (Charlotte Brontë)^⑤

(二)“- +”型,即陈述部分为否定结构,后附问句为肯定结构,如:

You were not speaking the truth, were you? (Emily Brontë)

You are not reluctant to admit me, and own me, are you? (Charlotte Brontë)

It isn't really her name either, is it? (John Braine)

I am not cold like a corpse, nor vacant like air, am I? (Charlotte Brontë)

陈述部分如采用 not 之外的其他否定词,如 never, nothing, hardly, little, seldom, scarcely, rarely, none of, neither...nor...等,也属否定结构,后附问句应采用肯定结构:

You've never thought about these unpleasant details, have you, Vincent? (John Braine)

It is nothing, is it, Ellen Dean? (Emily Brontë)

You have no feelings of illness, have you? (Emily Brontë)

She was never cross with us, was she, Louisa? (Charlotte Brontë)

None of his team members are interested in the

mission, are they?

“+ -”型有肯定倾向,“- - +”型有否定倾向,如:

You're pining for pure love, are you not? (Emily Brontë) (问者倾向肯定,认为你确实为真爱而憔悴)

"I'm not come too soon, am I?" he said, casting a look at me. (Emily Brontë) (问者倾向否定,认为自己来得不算太早)

试比较:

You'll have Mr. Smith arrange my trip to that village, won't you? (你可能会派史密斯先生来安排我的旅行)

You will not have Mr. Smith arrange my trip to that village, will you? (你可能不会派史密斯先生来安排我的旅行)

(三)“+ +”型,即陈述部分和后附问句均为肯定结构,如:

You are come, are you, Edge Linton? (Emily Brontë)

Herman Wouk is the author of "The Winds of War", is he?

My case is quite desperate, is it? (Anne Brontë)

“+ +”型的肯定意义较强,相当一个反疑问句或感叹句,一般勿需回答。

"He's there, is he?" exclaimed my companion, rushing to the gap. (Emily Brontë)

You wandered out of the fold to seek your shepherd, did you, Jane? (Charlotte Brontë)

(四)“- - - -”型,即陈述部分和后附问句均为否定结构,如:

He wasn't late to office, wasn't he?

Her vase can't be outside, can't it?

“- - - -”型的否定意义较强,如:

They haven't made the decision yet, haven't they?

You'll not return home in two days, won't you?

以上两类反意疑问句的后附问句都是顺前意而问,即采用与陈述部分相同的结构,并无“反意”,要么表示问者作出的一个把握不大的结论;要么是问者在复述前面已提及的情况,期待进一步证实。往往带有推断、惊讶、怀疑、反感、遗憾、讥讽、责备等情绪:

You missed the last train, did you? (遗憾)

He has made another mistake, has he? (惊讶)

She won't do what I told her, won't she? (威胁)

The young man didn't want to behave himself, didn't he? (讥讽)

(五)反意疑问句上述四种类型,其陈述部分和后附问句前后还可以附加一些感叹词、连词、或呼语,用逗号隔开:

Adele may accompany us, may she not, sir? (Charlotte Brontë)

You don't grudge me these attentions, do you, Helen? (Anne Brontë)

You're going to tell me I'm in a state of mortal sin, aren't you, Grandma? (John Braine)

You have not quite forgotten little Adele, have you, reader? (Charlotte Brontë)

You've not done right, have you, now? (Emily Brontë)

What! you are my paid subordinate, are you? (Charlotte Brontë)

(六)两部分之间的标点符号

反意疑问句陈述部分与后附问句之间,一般用逗号隔开,但间或还能见到使用冒号、破折号甚至句号,均表示两部分的联系较使用逗号时松散:

You think me an unfeeling, loose-principled rake: don't you? (Charlotte Brontë)

You see now how the case stands-do you not? (Charlotte Brontë)

It is you-is it, Jane? (Charlotte Brontë)

Nothing's ever hopeless. Is it, Dave? (Iris Murdoch) (此句中,陈述部分与后附问句之间用了句号,表示两者关系更独立,因此后附问句也可看作一独立的简略疑问句。)

二 反意疑问句陈述部分与后附问句的主谓一致

后附问句的主谓语应该与陈述部分的主谓语保持一致,现分述如下:

(一)人称及单、复数一致

1、陈述部分的主语是人称代词或人名,后附问句的主语则使用相同的人称代词,如:

Sometimes you put yourself in other people's shoes, don't you? (John Braine)

I have surely not been dreaming, have I? (Charlotte Brontë)

You'll want somebody to clean and wash, and cook, won't you? (Anne Brontë)

It makes a nice title, doesn't it? (Iris Murdoch)
或使用符合该人名性别的人称代词:

Your brother is wondrous fond of you too, isn't he? (Emily Brontë)

Joseph sits up late, doesn't he? (Emily Brontë)

Laura drinks her coffee black, doesn't she? (John Braine)

2、陈述部分的主语是单数或复数名词或名词短语,后附问句的主语分别用 it 或 they:

Your name's Dungarvan, isn't it? (John Braine)

Thornfield is a pleasant place in summer, is it not? (Charlotte Brontë)

People are a trial and a trouble, aren't they? (Iris Murdoch)

"It's your father's, isn't it?" said she, turning to Hareton. (Emily Brontë)

陈述部分有并列名词作主语,则视其含义而定,表示单数,后附问句仍用 it,否则,用 they,如:

The poet and writer published a new book, didn't she? (the poet and writer 指同一人,单数)

The poet and the writer visited the palace yesterday, didn't they? (the poet and the writer 为两个人,复数)

Whisky and soda sells well here, doesn't it? (whisky 和 soda 为一种混合饮料,单数)^[2]

Whisky and soda taste different, don't they? (whisky 和 soda 为两种饮料,复数)

3、陈述部分的主语是单数指示代词或指物的不定代词 this, that, anything, everything, nothing, something 时,后附问句的主语用 it,如:

Three full-sized bedrooms...that'd be about three hundred deposit, wouldn't it? (John Braine)

This is a gentle delineation, is it not, reader? (Charlotte Brontë)

Everything is in control, isn't it?

Nothing can prevent us from going ahead, can it?

4、陈述部分的主语是复数指示代词,或指人的不定代词 these, those, anybody, anyone, everybody, everyone, nobody, no one, somebody, someone 时,后附问句的主语用 they, 如:

No one will mind me going to the funeral, will they, Mrs Dungarvan? (John Braine)

Everybody knows the answer, don't they?

5、陈述部分的主语为“none of”、“each of”、

“some of”等短语,后附问句的人称单复数根据短语后的名词人称单、复数决定,单数用 it, he, she, 复数用 they, 如:

None of his group members is interested, is he?

Some of her colleagues have gone abroad, haven't they?

Each of these novels is to be discussed this term, isn't it?

6、陈述部分的主语为“such”,后附问句主语的人称,单数用 it 复数用 they, 如:

Such is her idea, isn't it?

Such are your proposals, aren't they?

7、陈述部分的主语为动名词短语、不定式等,后附问句的主语用 it, 往往为否定式, 如:

Doing morning reading has helped to improve his pronunciation, hasn't it?

Working late at night impairs his health, doesn't it?

To crack this hard nut is not easy, isn't it?

8、陈述部分主语包括 I 和其他人称代词,后附问句主语用 we, 如:

You and I had a wonderful time in the party, didn't we?

You and I have been invited to the management meeting, haven't we?

She and I will visit that painting exhibition, won't we?

9、有时,针对两个听者说话,后附问句的主语可能与陈述部分的主语不一致, 如:

Pamela was telling me all about their life in Oxford, weren't you dear? (Herman Wouk)^[6]

(上句中 Pamela 是第三人称,后附问句主语却用“you”。这是因为说话对象有了变化,陈述部分是针对第三者,后附问句却是转对帕梅拉本人。这里 you 实际就是 Pamela, 所以仍然一致。)

He hates cats, I dare say, as cordially as he does old maids-like all other gentlemen-don't you Mr. Markham? (Anne Brontë)

(陈述部分的主语 he 与后附问句的主语 you, 虽不一致,但都指 Mr. Markham)

但下句较为特殊:

I've never seen anyone put a dog in a cage like that, have you? (Iris Murdoch) (这里,“I”指说话者本人,即 Jake;“you”指听者,即 Finn。分别指不同对象。当然,也许可以将“have you?”视作一般疑问

句“have you ever seen anyone put a dog in a cage like that?”的省略式。)

三 系动词、助动词、情态动词的一致:

(一)陈述部分的谓语为系动词 be、助动词、情态动词,后附问句一般只需重复这类动词提问:

Come here, Miss Jane: your name is Jane, is it not? (Charlotte Brontë)

You're not ashamed of her, are you? (John Braine)

You don't care much about your health, do you, Vincent? (John Braine)

Well, Ellen, you won't cry about it, will you? (Emily Brontë)

I should have tried to find out before, shouldn't I? (John Braine)

You can't imagine it, can you? (John Braine)

陈述部分谓语为系动词 am, 后附问句则用 aren't 或 ain't:

I'm helping him, aren't I, the poor bumbling fool? (John Braine)

I'm as bad as a John O'Hara character, aren't I? (John Braine)

I'm going to the park too, ain't I?

但陈述部分谓语为一般系动词,则后附问句需用助动词 do 提问:

But it looks melancholy, does it not, Ellen? (Emily Brontë)

These apples look very good, don't they?

The material feels like nylon, doesn't it?

(二)陈述部分有情态动词 need、dare 时,后附问句可简单重复该词提问,前面用助动词,则用助动词;前面没有用助动词,则不用助动词,如:

He doesn't dare to do the work alone, does he?

The nurse dare come to work at night, daren't she?

You needn't hand in your paper, need you?

We don't need to go through it again, do we?

(三)陈述部分的谓语为行为动词 have, 作“有”解时,后附问句可简单重复该词提问,前面用助动词,则用助动词;前面没有用助动词,则不用助动词,如:

A present has many faces to it, has it not? (Charlotte Brontë)

You've more sense than to get married, haven't

you? (John Braine)

当“have”作“有”之外的解释,如“经历,得到,吃”等解时,后附问句的谓语用 do 的适当形式,如:

He often has colds, doesn't he?

They had lobster and fish for dinner, didn't they?

(四)陈述部分的谓语含有 have to, had to 时,后附问句可用 have 或 do 的适当形式,如:

You have to love a child, haven't you? (John Braine)

We have to get to the office at eight in the morning, don't we?

They had to take the last metro at night, didn't they?

(五)陈述部分的谓语含有 used to 时,后附问句用 usedn't 或 didn't, 如:

He used to go to bed late, usedn't he?

He used to get up early, didn't he?

(六)陈述部分的谓语含有 must 时,如表示“推断”意义,后附问句按照 must 后的助动词类别与时态采用适当形式,如:

Little girl, a memory without blot or contamination must be an exquisite treasure-an inexhaustible source of pure refreshment, is it not? (Charlotte Brontë) (单数现在时,后附问句中用 is)

She must have arrived by train, hasn't she? (单数现在完成时)

You must read the novel yesterday, didn't you? (单数过去时)

如表示“必须”的意义,后附问句的肯定式用 must, 否定式用 needn't (表示无必要)或 mustn't (表示不可以或不行):

They mustn't smoke in the waiting room, must they?

You must see the doctor, needn't you?

We must draw on the wisdom of the masses, mustn't we?

(七)陈述部分的谓语含有 had better, would better, would like, would do 的简略式'd better, 'd rather, 'd like 时,应注意后附问句采用与其一致的形式,如:

You'd always be ready to help me, wouldn't you? (Emily Brontë)

That'd be terrible, wouldn't it? (John Braine)

You'd like a man again, wouldn't you? (John Braine)

You'd better go now, hadn't you? (You had better...)

(八)陈述部分的谓语为 wish to 时,后附问句的谓语要用 may,而且用肯定式,表示征得对方同意或允许,如:

I wish to leave now, may I?

I wish not to be disturbed in the next round, may I?

(九)陈述部分的谓语为 there be 结构,后附问句中将其倒装,如:

There's nothing the matter but laziness, is there, Earnshaw? (Emily Brontë)

There's nothing wrong in you bringing her to see Jenny and me, is there? (John Braine)

There has been much talk about the traffic accident, hasn't been there?

但陈述部分的谓语为 there seem to be, there appear to be, there used to be 等结构时,后附问句一般用 be there 的适当形式:

There seems to be some misunderstanding about the matter, isn't there?

There appeared to be no better way, was there?

There used to be an old house nearby, wasn't there?

(十)陈述部分有不同的并列谓语,后附问句与哪一个谓语一致,就表示对那一部分进行提问,如:

You're Irish like me and take it with milk, don't you? (John Braine) (对后一谓语 take 提问,强调喝咖啡是否要放牛奶)

试比较:

You're Irish like me and take it with milk, aren't you? (对前一谓语 are 提问,强调你是否是爱尔兰人)

四 陈述部分为祈使句的主谓一致:

(一)陈述部分为祈使句,无论肯定与否,后附问句一般都用 will you? 或 will you please? 如:

Hold your tongue, will you? (Anne Brontë)

Be so kind as to walk home with him, will you? (Emily Brontë)

Ah! Bring me a candle, will you, Leah? (Charlotte Brontë)

Hand me that double-boiler from the shelf behind you, will you, Vincent? (John Braine)

Hang up my coat in the closet, will you please?

Don't make that noise, will you?

为使语气缓和,还可以用 would you, won't you, can you, could you, can't you 等,如:

Come in out of the wind and rain, can't you? (John Braine)

Just say something more about Anna, would you, Hugo? (Iris Murdoch)

Mind you don't spit on the floor, won't you?

(二)陈述部分为 Let's 引导的祈使句,后附问句为 shall we? 因为陈述部分有“让我们……”的意思,如:

Well, now, let's get clear about where we stand, shall we? (Iris Murdoch)

Let's cook it with the octopus, shall we?

也可以用 shan't we, 口气更为和缓:

Let's meet at the station, shan't we?

但 Let us 引导的祈使句,后附问句一般用 will you? 因为陈述部分有“你同意我们……”的意思,如:

Let us go home, will you?

Let us sing the song together, will you?

(也有例外,如: Let us join them to the party, shall we?)

(三)陈述部分为 Let me 引导的祈使句,后附问句可用 will you, shall I 或 may I, 如:

Let me say I'll think it over, shall I?

Let me do it for you, may I?

Let me have a rest, will you?

五 陈述部分为感叹句的主谓一致:

陈述部分为感叹句,后附问句主语指人,用 he, you 等代词;指物,用 it,且都采用否定式,这类反意问句类似感叹句,只是语气较为和缓:

What a lovely girl, isn't she?

How cool the water is, isn't it?

六 含有复合结构的反意疑问句的主谓一致

(一)陈述部分是一个含有从句的复合句时,后附问句的主谓语应该与主句的主谓语一致:

含有宾语从句:

I didn't say I'd broken it, did I? (Anne Brontë)

You wouldn't notice whether your father was happy or not, would you? (John Braine)

Well, we know what that means, don't we? (Iris Murdoch)

含有定语从句:

This is the paper mill they built last year, isn't it?

含有状语从句:

If you want to persuade him into giving up smoking you've got to be prepared to take much trouble, haven't you?

When I've gone, you'll be able to dream about me, won't you? (John Braine)

含有表语从句:

Oh, the evil is that I am not jealous, is it? (Emily Brontë)

含有主语从句:

How you will handle the matter is for you to decide, isn't it?

it 引出的主语从句:

It's clear he doesn't want us to run risks, isn't it?

It is useless to consider two until you have first considered one, isn't it? (Iris Murdoch)

(二)但是,当陈述部分含有第一人称推测、判断的宾语从句,后附问句的主谓语应该与宾语从句的主谓语一致:

I suppose Mr. Heathcliff does not lodge at the top of the house, does he? (Emily Brontë)

I suppose you're serious about her, aren't you, Vincent? (John Braine)

I expect you've already passed the end-term exam, haven't you?

这时主句若是否定式,后附问句一般只用肯定式:

I don't believe you've paid for it yet, have you?

I don't agree that the proposal is a good one, is it?

这类动词还有:think, consider, expect, figure, assume, fancy, imagine, reckon, feel 等。

七 结语

反意疑问句的结构为一陈述句后附一简略疑问成分,但有四种不同的形式,这种较为“松散”的结构造成此类问句带有明显的问者主观语气,使其语义有较大差别和随意性。反意疑问句两部分之间的主谓一致是个复杂的语言现象,但实际上是以人称单复数以及助动词和情态动词的变化规律为基础,其繁复的变化形式在其他句型(肯定句、否定句)或疑问句的上述变化中均可得到佐证。

注释:

① John Braine. *The Jealous God*[M]. Eyre & Spottiswoode (Publishers) Ltd. 1964 (以下凡注明 John Braine 的例句,均摘自此书)。

② Anne Brontë. *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*[M]. Wordsworth Classics,1994 (以下凡注明 Anne Brontë 的例句,均摘自此书)。

③ Iris Murdoch. *Under the Net*[M]. Penguin Books,1954 (以下凡注明 Iris Murdoch 的例句,均摘自此书)。

④ Emily Brontë. *Wuthering Heights*[M]. Penguin Books, 1994 (以下凡注明 Emily Brontë 的例句,均摘自此书)。

⑤ Charlotte Brontë. *Jane Eyre*[M]. Penguin Books 1994 (以下凡注明 Charlotte Brontë 的例句,均摘自此书)。

⑥ Herman Wouk. *The Winds of War*[M]. Little, Brown and Company (以下凡注明 Herman Wouk 的例句,均摘自此书)。

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Structure of the Disjunctive Question and Its Subject-verb Agreement

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Abstract: Different collocations of the statement and the tag in the disjunctive questions are discussed in terms of affirmative and negative structures, with their suggested complicated meanings; and the subject-verb agreement in the two parts of the disjunctive questions is also analyzed. Most examples are culled from English classical and modern literature works.

Key words: disjunctive question; statement; tag; structure; affirmative; negative; subject-verb agreement