English Stylistics

英语文体学

Week 1: Course Orientation

Delu KONG 孔德璐

September 14, 2026



Session 1 · 第一课时

Course Orientation

课程导入：我们是谁，要去哪里



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- Roadmap & Assessment 安排与考核

Welcome to English Stylistics!

1 Welcome & Orientation 欢迎与导入

Course Card 课程信息

- **Course**: English Stylistics 英语文体学
- **For**: 3rd-year English majors 英语专业三年级
- **Format**: 16 weeks × 2 class hours (theory + hands-on practicum)
- **Nature**: a **bridge discipline**

Linguistics • **Literature** • **Translation** • **Data & Computing**

Today's Journey 今天的两节课

- **Session 1 (45 min)**: who I am; what stylistics is; why it matters in the AI era; a short survey
- **Session 2 (45 min)**: the map of the discipline; our textbooks; the 16-week roadmap & assessment

What Stylistics Does

Describe 描述 a text's language systematically, then **explain** 解释 — with evidence — how it works.



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Who Am I?

2 Meet Your Instructor 认识老师



PhD graduation • Tongji University • 2026

- **Delu KONG 孔德璐**
- **Joint PhD** 联合培养博士: **Tongji 同济大学** × **Ghent University 根特大学** (Belgium)

Credo 信条 & Homepage 主页

Language is not only a vessel of beauty, it is a **complex system** that can be **described, counted and modelled**.

delukong.top — slides, data & tools of this course will be posted there.



Four Stops of My Academic Journey

2 Meet Your Instructor 认识老师

- **2014–2018 · BA 山东财经大学** English Language & Literature 英语语言文学
  A lover of **British literature** 英国文学: Hardy, Dickens, **Mary Shelley**
- **2018–2021 · MA 上海外国语大学** Linguistics 语言学: **corpus linguistics** 语料库语言学
  I want to know *how* language works: patterns, frequencies, evidence.
- **2021–2026 · PhD 同济大学** Translation studies 翻译学: 语料库翻译学 **corpus TS** & 机器翻译 **MT**
- **2024–2025 · Joint PhD 根特大学 (Belgium)** CSC 国家公派 • LT3 Lab
  A full year inside Europe's translation-technology community (Language & Translation Technology).

The Arc 一条主线

Literary sensibility → linguistic rigour → computational methods
humanities × technology .

What I Do —Research in Brief 研究速览

2 Meet Your Instructor 认识老师

Four Keywords 四个关键词

- **Corpus stylistics 计量文体学**: measuring style across hundreds of texts
- **Corpus translation studies 语料库翻译学**: how translations tick — e.g. three Chinese *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* translations
- **MT & post-editing 机器翻译与译后编辑**: where machine and human styles meet
- **LLM applications 大语言模型应用**: evaluating and steering machine text

By the Numbers 数字画像

- **8** papers (7 as first/corresponding author), incl. **SSCI Q1** & CSSCI
- **15** international talks in 3 years: FIT (Geneva) • EST (Leeds) • MT Summit 2025
- Reviewer for SSCI journals • **30+** hrs graduate workshops
- Languages: EN • FR • NL
- Tools: Python • R • LaTeX • MemoQ/Trados • VScode • Codex ...

Academic Footprints 学术足迹

2 Meet Your Instructor 认识老师



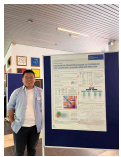
FIT Congress • Geneva 2025



MT Summit XXV • Switzerland



Vienna • Babel tower



NITs poster • Tilburg

What I Bring Back 带回课堂的东西

Conferences and labs are where this field's future is debated. The methods you will meet in Weeks 10–15 are the ones I use in my own research — not textbook regulars.

From British Literature to Big Data — and Back to You

2 Meet Your Instructor 认识老师

- I began exactly where many of you are now: **in love with literature, wary of code**. 我也曾站在你们此刻的位置：热爱文学，害怕代码。
- Twelve years on, I read **Hardy with concordancers** and **translations with classifiers** — the love never left; the toolkit grew.
- That combination — **humanities** × **technology** — is exactly what this course is designed to hand you.

About the Upcoming Survey 即将发放的问卷

The questionnaire will ask whether you lean "literary" or "technical". Answer honestly — it helps me tailor the course. But remember my own answer to that question: **you do not have to choose.** 你不必二选一。



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- Roadmap & Assessment 安排与考核



Style: A Thirty-Second First Taste

3 Why Stylistics? 为什么学文体学

Same event, two wording worlds 同一事件，两种措辞

(a) *The police asserted that the assailant had fled the scene before officers arrived.*

(b) *The cops said the thug had legged it before they got there.*

Who is speaking? To whom? Where? — Every choice (*police/cops*, *fled/legged it*, clause vs. phrasal verb) builds a different **style**, and style builds a different world.

A Working Definition 工作定义

Style = the consistent pattern of *choices* among linguistic alternatives. **Stylistics 文体学/风格学** = the systematic study of those choices and their effects, in literary and non-literary texts alike.

Stylistics is a method of textual interpretation in which *"primacy of place"* is assigned to *language* — *after Simpson, Unit A1.*

What Can This Course Give You?

3 Why Stylistics? 为什么学文体学

- **1 · A lens 一副透视镜** See through surface wording to the machinery beneath: why *this* word, *this* tense, *this* clause pattern — in poems, novels, news, contracts and ads alike.
- **2 · A method 一套方法** Replace "I feel it is beautiful" with analysis that is **rigorous** 严密, **retrievable** 可检索, **replicable** 可复验 — arguments built on evidence from the grammar.
- **3 · An edge 一种竞争力** In the AI era, those who can *describe*, *analyse* and *steer* language precisely will direct the machines — not be replaced by them.



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From Close Reading to Distant Reading

4 The Computational Turn 计量转向

Traditional Stylistics 传统路径

Depth on **one text**: careful, intuitive, insightful.

But: limited scale, and conclusions can be hard to *check*.

Computational Stylistics 计量文体学

Depth on **many texts**: features counted, patterns tested, models trained. **Style at scale**.

Questions Only Computation Answers Well

- Who really wrote the disputed *Federalist Papers*? (Mosteller & Wallace 1963, stylometry)
- Are the last 40 chapters of 《红楼梦》 by the same hand as the first 80?
- Which translation reads more "translated" — and can we *measure* translationese 译者痕迹?
- Can a machine tell a news report from a short story? What features does it use?

The Last Ten Class Hours: Our Flight Plan

4 The Computational Turn 计量转向

① Corpus 语料

text collection • file formats • cleaning 清洗 • alignment 对齐

② Tools 工具

AntConc, **Sketch Engine**: concordance, keywords, collocation

③ Features 特征

identify, count, **vectorise** 向量化: function words, POS, n-grams, readability

④ Modelling 建模

machine-learning text classification 机器学习 • visualisation 可视化

Don't Panic 不必恐慌

We start **zero-code**: graphical tools first, step by step. Python / R is an optional deep-dive for the curious (学有余力). What you need is curiosity, not coding experience.



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Now —Who Are You?

5 Survey & Preview 课堂问卷

Class Survey 学情问卷 (paper, ∼5 min)

- Your bent: more **literary** 文学 or more **technical** 技术?
- Your plan: postgraduate study 升学, further study abroad 出国, civil service 考公, or industry 求职?
- How do you see the English major in the AI era?
- What do you most want from this course?
- Preferred assessment: paper 论文, exam 考试, or project 项目制?

Your Answers Shape This Course

Examples, pace, difficulty and even the assessment design will be tuned to **your** answers. Please be honest — name is *optional*.

Hand in before you leave 下课前提交。Thank you!

Bridge to Session 2

5 Survey & Preview 课堂问卷

- You now know: **who I am**, **what stylistics is**, and **where this course is heading**.
- After the break — the discipline itself:
  - how stylistics grew from classical rhetoric to today's computational turn
  - our four textbooks and *how* to read them
  - the full 16-week roadmap, assessment scheme, and group formation 组队

Meanwhile 课间

Fill in the survey; scan the room for your future teammates (3–4 per group); feel free to come up and chat.

Session 2 · 第二课时

Mapping English Stylistics

英语文体学全景：教材 · 概念 · 源流 · 前沿



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6 Textbooks 教材导读

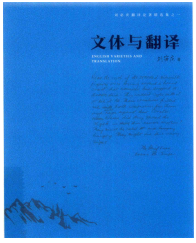
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Our Library: Two Cores, Two Wings

6 Textbooks 教材导读



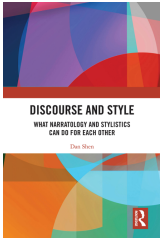
Core I
Simpson — theory spine
理论主线



Core II
刘宓庆 — applied backbone
应用与翻译



Wing I
董启明 — checklists
清单手册

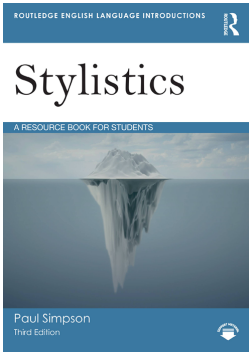


Wing II
申丹 — narrative frontier
叙事前沿

Rule of thumb: exams and tasks follow the **two cores**; the two wings are for the curious and the ambitious.
电子版/复印材料 will be shared in the class group.

Core I · Simpson (2025): Theory Spine 理论主线

6 Textbooks 教材导读



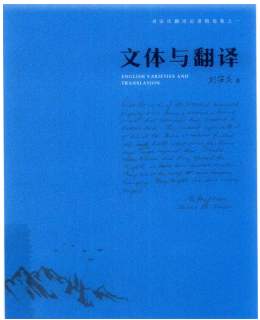
Stylistics: A Resource Book for Students, 3rd ed.

Routledge, RELI series

- **The design**: **12 topic units** × **4 sections** — every unit runs through four depths:
  A Introduction 概念奠基 → **B** Development 理论深化 → **C** Exploration 动手实操 → **D** Extension 名家名篇
- **Two routes through 纵读与横读**: vertical (finish all of A, then B, …) or horizontal — follow one topic strand, e.g. A3→B3→C3→D3 (our default)
- **How we use it**: lectures follow A + B; **C** units feed our workshops & homework; **D** units provide presentation material
- **Why fresh**: the 3rd edition (2025) updates examples and data — our unit/page numbers refer to it

Core II · 刘宓庆 (2019): Applied Backbone 应用主线

6 Textbooks 教材导读



文体与翻译
中译翻译文库, 2019
(classic first ed. 1985)

- **Comprehension first 理解为先**: meaning in layers — 概念意义 conceptual → 语境意义 contextual → 隐含意义 implied
- **Deep vs. surface 深层与表层**: what transfers between languages is the *deep* semantic structure; surface forms must be re-coded — hence **重神似不重形似** (lineage of 傅雷's 神似, 钱钟书's 化境)
- **Variety by variety 分文体对策**: news 新闻 • exposition 论述 • official docs 公文 • narrative 叙述描写 • sci-tech 科技 • applied 应用 — each with its own strategy
- **How we use it**: each theory week (Weeks 1–9) pairs one linguistic level with one variety chapter — analysis feeds directly into translation strategies

Wing I · 董启明: Checklist Handbook 清单手册

6 Textbooks 教材导读

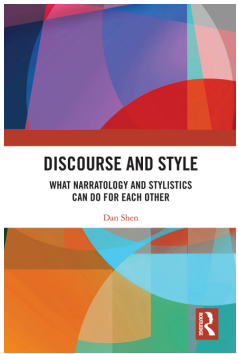


新编英语文体学教程
外研社, 2008

- **Made for Chinese classrooms**: theory in Part One, variety-by-variety analysis in Part Two — all in tidy **checklists**
- **The famous Checklist 分析清单** (Ch. 2): a fill-in grid across graphology, phonology, lexis, syntax, semantics
- **Variety chapters with sample analyses**: public speaking 演讲 (Ch. 9) • news 新闻 (Ch. 10–11) • advertising 广告 (Ch. 12) …
- **Reach for it when**: revising for exams 复习备考 • scaffolding your first stylistics paper • quick feature reference

Wing II · Shen Dan 申丹 (2024): The Frontier

6 Textbooks 教材导读



Discourse and Style
Routledge, 2024

Peking University

- **The agenda**: narratology 叙事学 (macro: plot, time, narration) and stylistics 文体学 (micro: lexis, grammar, transitivity) must be **combined** — this book shows how
- **Key chapters**: story vs. discourse; discourse vs. style; **focalisation 聚焦** — classes, functions, transgressions; **speech presentation 引语方式**, including Chinese prose fiction
- **Signature idea**: **covert progression 隐性进展** — a hidden narrative movement alongside the plot that can rewrite the whole story
- **When to reach for it**: choosing a BA-thesis topic on fiction or narrative; pairs with our point-of-view weeks



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What Is Stylistics, Precisely?

7 Concept & History 概念与源流

From the Stylus 从铁笔说起

Style < Latin *stilus*, the iron pen of Rome — hence "manner of writing". Today: the study of *style*, where **linguistics meets literature** 语言科学与文学研究相遇.

The 3 Rs (Simpson, Unit A1)

Good stylistic analysis is:

- **Rigorous** 严密 — based on the grammar
- **Retrievable** 可检索 — others can retrace your steps
- **Replicable** 可复验 — repeatable on new data

Why We Need Metalanguage

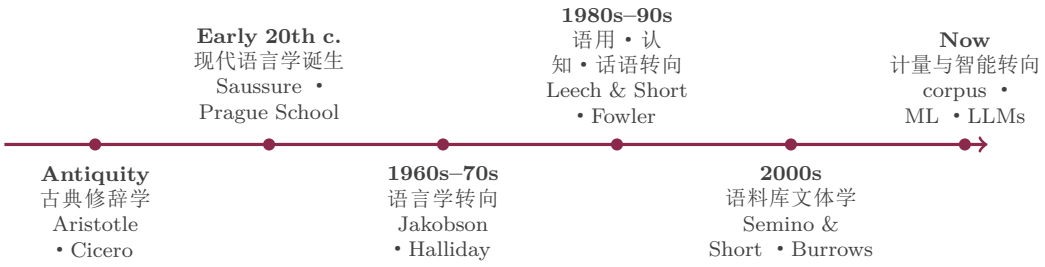
Impressionistic criticism without a spine — an *invertebrate* style of analysis 无脊椎式批评 — cannot be checked or argued with.

Metalanguage 元语言 (transitivity, deixis, cohesion…) is the backbone of our discipline.

Applications 应用: 文学阐释 • 翻译批评 • 语言教学 • 法律语言鉴定 • 署名考证 • 机器文风识别.

A Short History of the Discipline

7 Concept & History 概念与源流



The pendulum swings between **text-internal form** and **reader-in context** — and now swings toward **scale**: thousands of texts, computed features, statistical models.

Who Is Who in Stylistics

7 Concept & History 概念与源流

International 国际学者

- **Roman Jakobson** — poetics as part of linguistics (1960)
- **M. A. K. Halliday** — functional grammar; transitivity & style (1971)
- **Geoffrey Leech & Mick Short** — *Style in Fiction* (1981); speech & thought presentation
- **Roger Fowler** — *Linguistic Criticism*; critical linguistics
- **Paul Simpson** • **Elena Semino** • **Michael Toolan** — current mainstream textbooks & corpus work

China 国内学者

- **王佐良** — 英语文体学引论 (1980s); founder of English stylistics in China
- **秦秀白** — 英语语体和文体要略; register-oriented pedagogy
- **刘宓庆** — 文体与翻译; style-conscious translation studies
- **申丹 Dan Shen** — narratology × stylistics; *Discourse and Style* (2024); covert progression 隐性进展



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The Ladder of Language: Where Style Lives

8 Levels & Varieties 层级与变体

Graphology 图式层 — spelling • punctuation • typography • lineation 诗行排版

Phonology 语音层 — sound patterning • rhythm • metre (抑扬格五音步) • rhyme

Lexis 词汇层 — word choice • register markers • semantic field 语义场 • collocation

Syntax 句法层 — clause patterns • embedding • voice • transitivity 及物性系统

Semantics & Pragmatics 语义 · 语用层 — metaphor • deixis 指示 • politeness • speech acts

Discourse 语篇层 — cohesion 衔接 • context 语境 • narrative structure 叙事

Style can be created — and must be *described* — at **every** rung. (Checklist adapted from Simpson Unit A2; 董启明 Ch. 2–3.)

Why Does One Language Have Many Styles? Register

8 Levels & Varieties 层级与变体

Field 语场

What is going on?
subject matter, activity, topic

Tenor 语旨

Who is involved?
roles, power, distance, formality

Mode 语式

How is it transmitted?
spoken vs. written, channel, medium

Halliday: Register 语域 = Field × Tenor × Mode

Change any one variable and the wording world shifts — recall *police/cops*. Register theory explains **why the same language sounds so different** across situations; it is the engine behind all the varieties we will study.

The Varieties We Will Meet 本课程的应用文体

Variety 文体	Signature features 典型特征	Our source 材料
News 新闻报刊	inverted pyramid 倒金字塔 • nominalisation • attribution	董启明 Ch. 10–11 • 刘宓庆
Public speech 演讲论述	parallelism • rhetorical questions • first-person plural	董启明 Ch. 9
Advertising 广告	puns • coinages • imperatives • graphological play	董启明 Ch. 12
Official & legal 公文法律	embedding • formulaic precision • zero ambiguity	刘宓庆
Sci–tech 科技	passive voice • terminology • nominal strings	刘宓庆
Literary narrative 文学叙述	transitivity patterns • speech/thought presentation • foregrounding	Simpson • Leech & Short • 申丹

Each variety = a distinctive profile across the six rungs of the ladder. Reading them side by side trains your **contrastive eye**.



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Understanding Is Layered 理解的层次

A translator first reads *stylistically*: what does each layer of the text contribute? Lexis, syntax, rhythm, cohesion — all must survive the journey between languages.

重神似，不重形似

Preserve the **deep** semantic–stylistic effect even when the **surface** form must change. Literal translation 直译 is the base; free translation 意译 the supplement — dialectically united.

Style-Clash in Translation 文体错位

Classic failures: a legal clause rendered in chatty lexis; a colloquial narrator flattened into bureaucratic syntax; register markers (法语词、方言、俚语) erased — the "message" survives, the **text** dies.

This is why 刘宓庆 organises his book **by variety**: different styles demand different translating strategies — and different stylistic checklists.

Narratology 叙事学（宏观）

plot structure • story vs. discourse • time & order • narrative levels • the narrator

Stylistics 文体学（微观）

lexis • syntax • transitivity • point of view in the grammar • speech presentation

Dan Shen 申丹, *Discourse and Style* (2024)

The two lenses must be **combined** for a full interpretation:

- **story vs. discourse** 叙事学的故事/话语之分, and **discourse vs. style** 话语与文体之别
- **focalisation 聚焦** and **speech presentation 引语方式**: functions & effects
- **covert progression 隐性进展**: a hidden narrative movement alongside the plot that can rewrite the whole story

Where the Field Is Moving 学科前沿速览

9 Translation & Narratology 翻译与叙事

- **Cognitive stylistics 认知文体学** — schemata, mind-modelling, reader psychology
- **Corpus stylistics 语料库文体学** — keyness, clusters, patterns across big text collections
- **Computational stylistics 计量文体学** — stylometry, authorship, genre classification
- **Multimodal stylistics 多模态文体学** — image, layout, sound & text together
- **Feminist & critical stylistics** — ideology in the grammar
- **AI & LLM era** — style transfer, machine authorship, human–machine co-writing: **our course's destination**

The Frontier Needs You Both Ways

Frontier questions require **close-reading sensitivity** *and* **quantitative rigour** — exactly the two halves of this course.

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10 Roadmap & Assessment 安排与考核

- Welcome & Orientation 欢迎与导入
- Meet Your Instructor 认识老师
- Why Stylistics? 为什么学文体学
- The Computational Turn 计量转向
- Survey & Preview 课堂问卷
- Textbooks 教材导读
- Concept & History 概念与源流
- Levels & Varieties 层级与变体
- Translation & Narratology 翻译与叙事
- Roadmap & Assessment 安排与考核

十六周课程总览

10 Roadmap & Assessment 安排与考核

第 1–9 周

语言层级 • 语法与及物性 • 词汇与语义 • 衔接与语篇 • 叙事视角与引语方式 • 功能文体与翻译对策

阅读： Simpson A/B 单元 + 刘宓庆分文体章节

第 10–15 周

语料库建设（格式 • 清洗 • 对齐）• AntConc 与 Sketch Engine • 文体特征识别与向量化 • 机器学习分类 • 可视化入门

第 16 周 · 成果展示

考核方式待定

考核方案与课程组织

10 Roadmap & Assessment 安排与考核

考核方案（初步方案，将参考问卷意见微调）

- **20%** 平时成绩：出勤、课堂任务与讨论
- **20%** 期中作业：一份小型语料实验报告
- **60%** 期末考核：**小组实证项目**（语料库路径或文本细读路径均可）并现场答辩；亦可选择个人学术论文

答疑时间将在微信群公布；全部课程材料同步于 delukong.top。

小组与沟通

- **今天建班级微信群**：所有通知与材料都在群里发布
- 小组 **3–4** 人：建议“文学”与“技术”倾向混搭组队
- 小组名单**本周五前**发我

招募课代表 · Course Rep Wanted

本课程需要一位**课代表**：协助收发材料、传达通知、支持实践课。

有意向的同学可**课后当面找我**，或**通过微信群线上联系我**。
课代表有 bonus。

课后行动清单

10 Roadmap & Assessment 安排与考核

1. **加入班级微信群**——下课前前完成
2. **填写并提交问卷**——下课前交回
3. **完成组队**（3–4 人）——**本周五前**把名单发我
4. **预习**：Simpson 教材 *Grammar and Style* 单元（A3 / B3）；翻阅刘宓庆《文体与翻译》开篇章节

下周预告

我们正式开始攀登“语言之梯”：**语法与文体**——小句语法与及物性系统，如何塑造故事“看”世界的方式。



Q&A

Thank you for listening!
Your feedback will be highly appreciated!