

English Corner: Suggested Article of Discussion

1. Article 5-3: Words from the Heart

Most people need to hear those three little words ‘I love you’. Once in a while, they hear them just in time. I met Connie the day she was admitted to the hospice (临终关怀医院) room, where I worked as a volunteer (自愿服务). Her husband, Bill, stood nervously nearby as she was transferred to the hospital bed. Although Connie was in the final stages of her fight against cancer, she was alert (警醒) and cheerful (高兴). Connie was a romantic (浪漫多情的). She loved soap operas (连续剧), romance novels and movies with a good love story. As we became acquainted (认识), she confided (吐露心事) how frustrating (失望) it was to be married 32 years to a man who often called her “a silly (愚昧) woman”. “Oh, I know Bill loves me,” she said, “but he has never been once to say he loves me, or send cards to me.” She sighed (叹息) and looked out the window at the trees in the courtyard. “I’d give anything if he’d say ‘I love you’, but it’s just not in his nature (个性).”

Bill visited Connie every day. One day, I remembered it was February 12, over coffee in the cafeteria (餐厅), I got him on the subject (主题) of women and how we need romance (浪漫) in our lives; how we love to get sentimental (有感情) cards and love letters. “Do you tell Connie you love her?” I asked and he looked at me as if I was crazy (发疯). “I don’t have to, he said. “She knows I do!”

“I’m sure she knows,” I said, “but she needs to hear it, Bill. She needs to hear what she has meant to you all these years. Please think about it.”

Two days later I walked down the hospice ward (临终病房) at noon.

There stood Bill, leaning up against the wall in the hallway, staring at the floor. I already knew from the head nurse that Connie had died at 11 a.m.

When Bill saw me, he said. “I thought a lot about what you said, and this morning I told her how much I loved her...and loved being married to her. You should have seen her smile!”

I went into the room to say my own goodbye to Connie. There, on the bedside table, was a large Valentine card from Bill. You know the sentimental kind that says, “To my wonderful (奇妙的) wife...I love you

Don’t be closefisted (吝啬的) in expressing your affection (钟爱) to your beloved (亲爱的) lover, to your parents and to your friends who are waiting for it.

2. Discussion:

1. What does this article advocate (提倡)?
2. What factors make it difficult for people to express themselves?
3. Is it culturally acceptable today in China to be expressive of deep emotions?

3. Remember Seven Phrases a Week:

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| 190. My mouth is watering. | 我要流口水了。 |
| 191. Speak louder, please. | 说话请大声点儿。 |
| 192. This boy has no job. | 这个男孩没有工作。 |
| 193. This house is my own. | 这所房子是我自己的。 |
| 194. What happened to you? | 你怎么了? |
| 195. You are just in time. | 你来得正是时候。 |
| 196. You need to workout. | 你需要去运动锻炼。 |