

Editor-reader
interaction

A breath of fresh air

By Echo Xiong

Greenery, Indie Pop, *Your Name*, LOMO photography, and canvas sneakers, what do they have in common? The answer would be one word in Chinese, 小清新 (xiǎo qīng xīn).

Greenery, (Pantone 15-0343) is the Pantone Color of the Year for 2017. The color is described as a "life-affirming" shade of green, seen in new foliage, grass, and green apples, which evokes the first days of spring. This youthful hue has been described as very "小清新" by Chinese netizens.

What exactly does "小清新" mean? In Chinese, "清新 (qīng xīn)" is used to describe something to be "pure and fresh." It refreshes like a breath of clean air. Nowadays, people put "小 (xiǎo)," meaning small, in front, and give new life to an old word. "小清新" has now become a style.

It was first used to describe Indie Pop, when this new genre of music was introduced to China. Indie Pop is different

Poster of *Your Name*

from mainstream pop music. It is more melodic and less abrasive compared with Indie Rock, and is very refreshing to Chinese music fans.

The hit Japanese anime film *Your Name* is one of the most representative of "小清新" films. Though it talks about time travel and at one point appears to be a disaster film, it certainly qualifies to be a "小清新" film because the story is, after all, about love and youth. These kinds of films are artistic, poetic, and beautiful. The plot is less complicated and usually revolves around a young couple. *On the Road*, *Before Sunset*, and *One Day* are all fine examples of the genre.

"小清新" is also a lifestyle. The characters, mostly young women, usually wear canvas sneakers and make their photos look like LOMO images. They enjoy reading, traveling, and spending time alone. More importantly, they tend to live a simple and peaceful life.

Beautiful
translation

"Artificial Intelligence: March of the Machines"

Excerpt from *The Economist* (摘自《经济学家》)

Translated by Zhao Zhuoyun (赵卓韵 译)

Experts warn that "the substitution of machinery for human labour" may "render the population redundant". They worry that "the discovery of this mighty power" has come "before we knew how to employ it rightly". Such fears are expressed today by those who worry that advances in artificial intelligence (AI) could destroy millions of jobs and pose a "Terminator"-style threat to humanity. But these are in fact the words of commentators discussing mechanisation and steam power two centuries ago. Back then the controversy over the dangers posed by machines

was known as the "machinery question". Now a very similar debate is under way.

After many false dawns, AI has made extraordinary progress in the past few years, thanks to a versatile technique called "deep learning". Given enough data, large (or "deep") neural networks, modelled on the brain's architecture, can be trained to do all kinds of things. They power Google's search engine, Facebook's automatic photo tagging, Apple's voice assistant, Amazon's shopping recommendations and Tesla's self-driving cars. (Excerpt)

专家们警告，“用机器人取代人类劳动”或许会“使人口过剩”。他们担忧，“我们是在知道应该如何正确利用这一伟力之前”就“发现了它”。现在，一些人表达了这样的担忧，他们害怕人工智能的进步可能会摧毁数以百万计的工作岗位，并给人类带来“终结者”式的威胁。但事实上，这些事两个世纪前评论者们讨论机械所带来的危险引发了争议，这被称为“机器问题”。现在，一场非常相似的辩论正在进行中。

在经历了许多次虚幻的黎明之后，人工智能过去几年终于取得了长足进步，这得益于一种用途广泛的技术，名为“深度学习”。只要获得足够多的数据，这种模拟人脑结构的大型（或者“深度”）神经网络就可以被训练做任何种类的事情。它们可用于谷歌的搜索引擎，脸书的自动照片标签，苹果的语音助手，亚马逊的购物推荐，以及特斯拉的自动驾驶汽车。（节选）

One step
at a time

1. Wuhan dialect

fù liǎo jí

负了极

Meaning: to be in a desperate situation; to have no other option; to be at a breaking point

Chinese:

tā shí zài shì fù liǎo jí cái

他实在是负了极才

huì zhè me zuò

会这么做。

English:

He had no other option but to do this.

2. Chinese characters

shǐ

矢

Development:



Meaning: [n.] vector; dart; arrow

Chinese:

chéng yǒu yǒu dì fàng shǐ bǐ

成语“有的放矢”比

yù shuō huà zuò shì yǒu míng

喻说话做事有明

què de mù dì xìng

确的目的性。

English:

Chinese idiom "to shoot the arrow at the target" indicates that someone does things with a clear goal in mind.

3. Buzzwords

humblebrag

Meaning: The word is used to describe a person who makes a modest comment about himself, which is really meant to brag.

Chinese:

nǐ huì qiān xū zì kuā ma

你会谦虚自夸吗？

English: Do you humblebrag?

4. Sentence of the week

English: "Happiness is an inside job."

—William Arthur Ward

Chinese:

kuài lè yuán zì nèi xīn

快乐源自内心。

—威廉姆·亚瑟·沃德