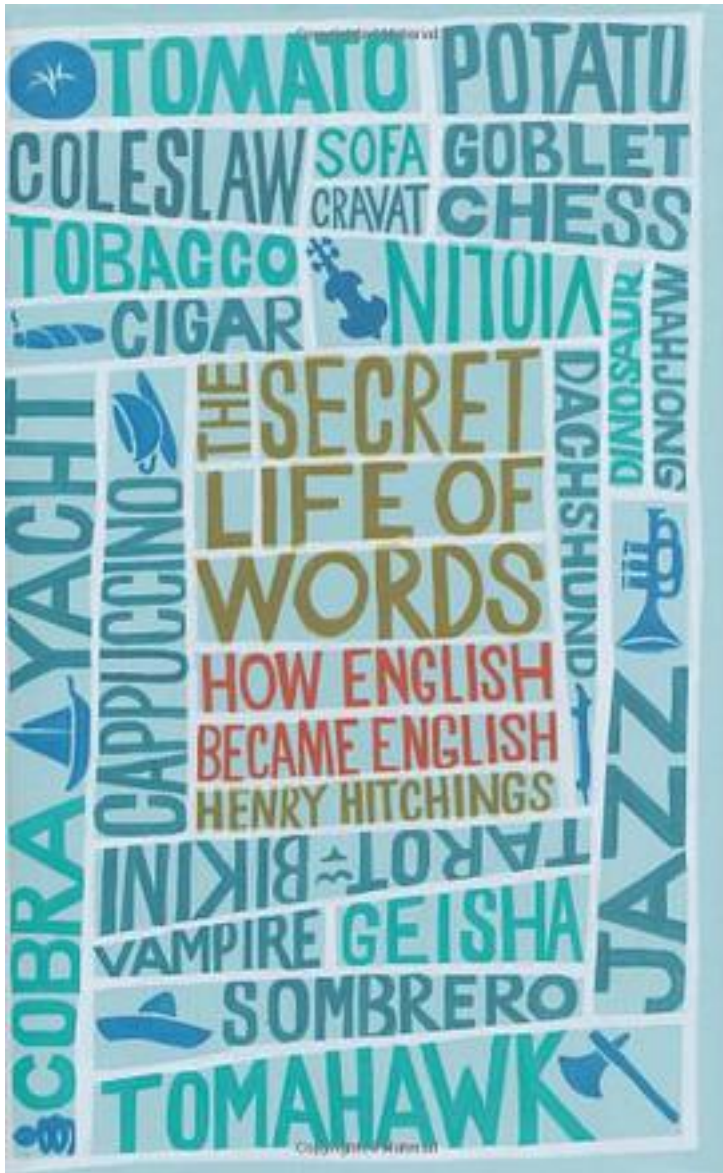


The Secret Life of Words



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著者:Henry Hitchings

出版者:Farrar, Straus and Giroux

出版时间:2008-9-16

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9780374254100

Words are essential to our everyday lives. An average person spends his or her day enveloped in conversations, e-mails, phone calls, text messages, directions, headlines, and more. But how often do we stop to think about the origins of the words we use? Have you ever thought about which words in English have been borrowed from Arabic, Dutch, or Portuguese? Try "admiral," "landscape," and "marmalade," just for starters. "The Secret Life of Words" is a wide-ranging account not only of the history of English language and vocabulary, but also of how words witness history, reflect social change, and remind us of our past. Henry Hitchings delves into the insatiable, ever-changing English language and reveals how and why it has absorbed words from more than 350 other languages--many originating from the most unlikely of places, such as "shampoo" from Hindi and "kiosk" from Turkish. From the Norman Conquest to the present day, Hitchings narrates the story of English as a living archive of our human experience. He uncovers the secrets behind everyday words and explores the surprising origins of our most commonplace expressions. "The Secret Life of Words" is a rich, lively celebration of the language and vocabulary that we too often take for granted.

作者介绍:

亨利·希金斯(Henry Hitchings)

語言和文化歷史評論家，生於1974年，畢業於牛津與倫敦大學。著有《約翰遜的字典》、《真的不用讀完一本書》。他也是《衛報》《金融時報》《新政治家》等報章雜誌的撰稿人。

林俊宏

師範大學翻譯研究所碩士。喜好電影、音樂、閱讀、閒晃。譯有《剪刀、石頭、布》、《群的智慧》等書。現就讀於師大譯研所博士班。

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书评

圣诞节的时候在铜锣湾的诚品发现这本书，只是摆放的位置在英语学习的那一大类。的确，这本书里面有各式英文词汇，如果你在准备托福、GRE的考试，我认为这本书再好不过了——给你讲英文词汇的起源与历史，远比红宝书什么的来的带劲。然而，这并不是一本单单在讲...

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