## 教授与青蛙的故事

一天,教授的实验成功了,他兴奋得大吼一声:"耶!"突然,从他的饭盒里跳出一只青蛙。教授立即想到,青蛙为什么要跳呢?他捉住青蛙放到桌子上,然后对着青蛙大喊一声"跳",青蛙就应声跳了起来。接着,教授用手术刀切除青蛙的一条后腿,然后再次对着青蛙叫跳,但这次青蛙却没有反应。于是教授得出结论:"青蛙失去一条腿后,就同时丧失了听力。"

第二天,教授意识到他的青蛙研究结论有问题,于是重新做了一个实验。他首先破坏青蛙的听力(我不知道教授是怎样做的,该不会是用棉花塞住青蛙的耳朵吧?),然后把青蛙扔进盛满沸水的锅里,结果那只青蛙立刻跳了出来。原来是高温迫使青蛙跳跃的,教授想。为了证实这个想法,教授接着把青蛙放进常温的水里,慢慢地给水加热,结果那只青蛙在水烧开后也没有跳出来。

## The professor and the frog

One day Professor succeeded in his experiment. He was so excited that he shouted loudly "Yeah!" Suddenly a frog jumped out of his meal box. A question flashed into Professor's mind: why should the frog jump? He caught the frog, placed it on a table, and shouted "jump" at the frog, and so the frog jumped. Then Professor cut off a back leg of the frog using a scalpel and shouted "jump" again at the frog, but this time the frog had no reaction. So Professor concluded: "The frog lost its hearing with the loss of a leg."

The next day Professor realized that there was something wrong with his conclusion of research on the frog, so he redid an experiment. He first destroyed a frog's hearing (I don't know how Professor did it. Could he have possibly plugged cotton into the frog's ears?), and then threw the frog into a pot full of boiling water – the frog leaped out right away. So it was high temperature that made the frog jump, thought Professor. To verify the thought, Professor then put the frog into room-temperature water and gradually heated the water. As a result, the frog had not jumped out even after the water boiled.

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## 作者 2009 年 7 月 4 日注:

- 该故事是作者把2个网上故事串起来改编的,其中的英文对照是作者根据中文翻译的。作者曾把该故事(包括英文)讲给作者的学生科研小组成员听,并把该故事(中文)印在作者自制的2008年年历上,赠送给川北医学院的部分学生。
- 想必没有哪个教授或学者会做那样的试验,但其中的因果推断问题在教授或学者们的科研论文中可能并不少见。[因果推断可能是一个很简单的问题,例如加热与水温的关系问题,也可能是一个很专业的问题,例如确定疾病病原体的科赫氏法则(Koch's postulates),还可能是一个很复杂的问题,例如是先有鸡还是先有蛋的问题。]即使有人做那样的试验,想必青蛙(虽然是体温会随环境温度变化而变化的冷血动物)也不会直到烫死都不试着跳出来,但现实竞争环境中安于现状而不知"大难"临头的例子可能比比皆是。