

I AM FIRM, YOU ARE OBSTINATE

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In the August 1969 Kickshaws, Dave Silverman briefly discusses the word game "Conjugating Irregular Verbs" (I am firm, you are obstinate, he is a pig-headed fool), and suggests a "Rich man, poor man" variant (rich man: tired; poor man: lazy). But such games can also be played in deadly earnest, particularly in religious and political confrontations. A classic example is afforded by the terminology used by the People's Republic of China, as interpreted for home consumption by the Nationalist Chinese government on Taiwan. The following phrases are taken verbatim from Huang Chih-Hsing and Chen Ying-Leu, Psychological Warfare Theories and Application, as translated by Lee Wah-Chung (Hong Kong: The Chi Hsing Press Branch, 1955), pp. 90-91. Part of the charm of this list lies in the inept English translation, rivaling the Portuguese-English phrase-book immortalized by Mark Twain in 1883 (see November 1970 Kickshaws).

The long march of 25,000 miles	The fleeing of 25,000 miles
Civil war	Rebellion
University of Revolution	Centre of Crime Manufacture
The thought of Mao Tse Tung	Treacherous plot of high treason
Democratic intelligensia	Communist satellites
Liquidation	Massacre
Frankness	Self-false accusation
Study	Forced thinking
Principle of warm affection	Human nature
3 Reflections and 5 reflections	Black mail
People's will	Adulterated people's will
Liberation district	District without freedom
New Marriage Law	Creation of obscenity
Liberation	Slavery
People's police	Dictator's accomplices
People uplifting their heads	People falling into water
Peace front	Agression front
United front	Group of scum
Democratic Intelligensia	Communist Appendixes
A clear mind	Processing of coercion and intoxication
Liberation army	Atrocious bandits
Contribution towards the purchase of aeroplanes	Scraping people's money
Cultural reformation	Burning of books and killing of scholars
Anti-Revolution	Reasonable Reformation