



Application of Hoeyan Discourse Model in College English Teaching - A Sample Analysis of “Read the Tea Leaves: China Will Be Top Exporter”

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Received 14 December 2018; accepted 25 January 2019

Published online 26 February 2019

Abstract

This paper aims to analyze the article “Read the Tea Leaves: China Will Be Top Exporter” in the light of basic principles and theories of discourse analysis developed by Michael Hoey (1983). Specific samples of clause relations and macro-structure analysis will also be presented in order to test the applicability of the Hoeyan approach in discourse analysis practice, which facilitates students’ understanding of the discourse organization of English economic texts and decreases structural obstacles in second language acquisition.

Key words: Discourse analysis; Hoeyan; Approach; clause; College English teaching

Wang, W., & Zhou, W. H. (2019). Application of Hoeyan Discourse Model in College English Teaching - A Sample Analysis of “Read the Tea Leaves: China Will Be Top Exporter”. *Studies in Literature and Language*, 18(1), 15-21. Available from: <http://www.cscanada.net/index.php/sll/article/view/10822> DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/10822>

INTRODUCTION

It is generally acknowledged that input (e.g. listening and reading) plays an important role in second language acquisition. For college students, acquiring practical and applicable methods of discourse analysis shall definitely have a positive effect on their reading.

“Until recently, discourse analysis has been the Cinderella of linguistics, seen as irrelevant to all the

most important theoretical problems” (Hoey, 1983, p.1). However, Hoey’s statement cited above obviously can not reflect the rapid development of discourse analysis theories in recent years. Based on the functional tradition of London School, Winter (1982) and Hoey (1983) developed a different approach to discourse analysis other than the approach developed by Halliday & Hasan (1976) and Martin (1992). The Hoeyan approach further elaborates patterns of lexis in text, holding the same significance compared with Martin’s (1992) model in the functional and systemic grammar. The present paper plans to analyze an article entitled “Read the Tea Leaves: China Will Be Top Exporter” selected from *The New York Times* published on October 11, 2005 (see Appendix I) with the Hoeyan approach. Both specific samples of clause relations and the macro-structure analysis between paragraphs will be offered in the thesis in order to testify the feasibility and applicability of the Hoeyan model in the class of Extensive Reading.

1. MICRO-ANALYSIS OF THE TEXT

According to Hoey (1983, p.15), the term “sentence” is defined as “an orthographic division beginning with a capital letter and finishing with a full stop.” Here is an example quoted from the article “Read the Tea Leaves: China Will Be Top Exporter”:

(S28) *A 100-mile drive on the modern, four-lane highway from here to Hangzhou, at the northern end of east-central Zhejiang Province, passes dozens of villages bulging with new, three-story homes built of brick or concrete and featuring the garish green or blue tinted windows now in fashion here.*

Different from the definition of the term “sentence”, a “clause” is defined as “a grammatical construction consisting of subject and predicate with optional adjuncts, where the predicate may be predicator and object, predicator and complement, or exceptionally just object or complement with deleted but recoverable predicator. The

subject may be derivable from the context if the clause is subordinated and omitted if the clause is an imperative" (Ibid). Here is an example of clause:

(S20) *Green tea is widely believed to have some medical benefits.*


2. THE CLAUSE RELATIONS

Accordingly, the clause relation may be defined as follows: "A clause relation is the cognitive process whereby we interpret the meaning of a sentence or group of sentences in the light of its adjoining sentence or group of sentences" (Winter, 1971, qtd in. Hoey, 1983, p.18). Hoey (Ibid, p.19) adopts Winter's definition and revises it as: "A clause relation is also the cognitive process

whereby the choices we make from grammar, lexis and intonation in the creation of a sentence or group of sentences are made in the light of its adjoining sentence or group of sentences." It should be especially stressed that the clause relation in Hoey's model is based on the semantic relations between clauses instead of grammatical ones.

"Clause relations may be divided into two broad classes of relation – Logical Sequence relations and Matching relations. Logical Sequence relations are relations between successive events or ideas, whether actual or potential, the most basic form of this relation being time sequence. Examples of relations incorporated under the heading of Logical Sequence include Cause-Consequence" (Ibid), e.g.

Table 1
Cause-Consequence Sequence


<p>Cause (S33) <i>Government support helped produce an 18.9 percent jump in Chinese tea exports last year, to \$437 million, in a global market that is nearly stagnant, according to official Chinese figures released at a conference in Hangzhou on Sept. 28.</i></p>  <p>Consequence (S34) <i>Because of the sudden sensitivity, Chinese officials have become a bit reticent about their future levels of tea production, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization.</i></p>

Another example of Cause-Consequence relation is like this:

(S40) "There's no way the containers could get to our farms," **because** the roads are too narrow and the bridges too low, said Ranga Bedi, a tea grower near Bangalore, India.


According to Hoey (Ibid: 20), "matching relations are relations where statements are 'matched' against each other in terms of degrees of identity of description." Matching relations can be further divided into two major types: Matching Relation of Compatibility (MRC) and Matching Relation of Incompatibility (MRI). Here is an example of MRC:

Table 2
Matching Relation of Compatibility (MRC)

<p>(S3) <i>China still has millions of tea lovers who lavish the same attention on their beverage that oenophiles devote to wine.</i></p>  <p>Matching Relation of Compatibility (MRC): General-Exemplification</p> <p>(S4) <i>The finest grades of green tea, made from the most delicate baby leaves and roasted in a pan by hand, sell for hundreds of dollars a pound in Shanghai and Beijing.</i></p>
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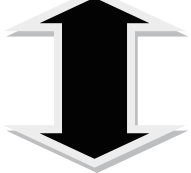
An example of MRI is illustrated in Table 3:

Table 3
Matching Relation of Incompatibility (MRI)

<p>(S48) <i>The winters, though milder than in northern China, mean that tea bushes in central China stop producing new leaves for harvest from mid-October to mid-March.</i></p>  <p>Matching Relation of Incompatibility (MRI): Contrast</p> <p>(S49) <i>In contrast, tea bushes in warmer climates, like southern India and western Java in Indonesia, can be harvested all year long.</i></p>

Sometimes a complex form of relation named Multiple Clause Relation (MCR) may also be discovered in discourses, e.g.

Table 4
Multiple Clause Relation (MCR)

<p>(S18) <i>The history of tea itself reaches back to ancient times in China. (S19)The earliest known literary references date back nearly 5,000 years, when Emperor Shen Nung is said to have discovered the infusion when leaves dropped into his hot water by chance.</i></p>

<p>Matching Relation of Incompatibility (Contrast) & Logical Sequence Relation (Time Sequence)</p>
<p>(S22) <i>But after millennia of popularity, tea consumption in China is growing by only 2 percent a year, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome.</i></p>

3. THE SIGNALING DEVICES

In Hoey's (Ibid, pp.22-23) opinion, "in some circumstances, the study of subordinators and conjuncts is insufficient to explain how a reader interprets a relation unambiguously." Therefore, "Winter has worked out in detail the significance of this type of lexical signaling, pointing out that in English it is possible to signal the

same relationship in one of three ways: subordinators, which he calls Vocabulary 1; conjuncts, which he calls Vocabulary 2; and lexical signals such as those we have just been considering, which he labels Vocabulary 3. These three vocabularies are frequently able to paraphrase each other, given different contexts." Specific samples of the three vocabularies of connection in English are listed in the following table:

Table 4
Vocabulary 1, Vocabulary 2 & Vocabulary 3

<p>V1: Subordinators: after, as far as, because, before, for, how, however, if, as if, even if, etc.</p>
<p>V2: Sentence connectors: accordingly, in addition, all the same, also, instead, meanwhile, etc.</p>
<p>V3: Proposed lexical items of connection: achieve, affirm, contrast, general, kind, lead to, etc.</p>

Samples of the three types of vocabularies are selected and analyzed from the given passage.

(Para 7) (S11) *While (V1: Subordinators) the growth of China's textile industry with the end of global textile quotas has attracted more attention as a threat to poor countries, China's tea industry also poses a challenge to some of the world's poorest nations. (S12)China is now poised to become the world's largest tea exporter by tonnage, overtaking Sri Lanka this year and Kenya next year.*

(Para 8) (S13)*Wide swaths of people across Asia depend on (V3: Proposed lexical items of connection) the tea industry for survival. (S14)Particularly (V2: Sentence connectors) vulnerable are countries that suffered from the tsunami last December: Indonesia, India and above all Sri Lanka, where (V1: Subordinators) income from the growing, processing and transport of tea helps feed nearly a tenth of the people, according to (V2: Sentence connectors) the Asian Development Bank.*

Signaling devices also include repetitions and projecting the discourse into question-and-answer dialogue. "Repetition is not only a common method of connecting sentences but also a significant contributor to their interpretation, because where two sentences have material in common, it is what is changed that receives attention by the reader, while the repeated material acts as a framework for the interpretation of the new material" (Hoey 1983: 25). Samples of different types of lexical

repetition are presented in the following section:

(a) Simple lexical repetition:

(S11) *While the growth of China's textile industry with the end of global textile quotas has attracted more attention as a threat to poor countries, China's tea industry also poses a challenge to some of the world's poorest nations.*

(b) Complex lexical repetition:

(S7) *Teahouses in China already are being replaced by coffeeshouses, and Starbucks, with more than 140 stores, has spawned a cottage industry of copycats.*

(c) Simple paraphrase:

(S2) *Tea remains a popular drink in China, but many young Chinese are turning to other beverages, from coffee to Coca-Cola.*

(d) Complex paraphrase:

(S11) *While the growth of China's textile industry with the end of global textile quotas has attracted more attention as a threat to poor countries, China's tea industry also poses a challenge to some of the world's poorest nations. (S12)China is now poised to become the world's largest tea exporter by tonnage, overtaking Sri Lanka this year and Kenya next year.*

(e) Pro-form:

(S19) *The earliest known literary references date back nearly 5,000 years, when Emperor Shen Nung is said to have discovered the infusion when leaves dropped into his hot water by chance.*

(f) Pro-verbs and other substitution items:

(S44) *Although no **one** can yet read the tea leaves, several challenges could temper China's tea business.*

(g) Co-reference:

(S26) ***Beijing** has also eliminated an 8 percent tax on tea production as a way to increase rural incomes. (S33) **Government** support helped produce an 18.9 percent jump in Chinese tea exports last year, to \$437 million, in a global market that is nearly stagnant, according to official Chinese figures released at a conference in Hangzhou on Sept. 28.*

(h) Particular – general (superordinates):

(S2) ***Tea** remains a popular **drink** in China, but many young Chinese are turning to other **beverages**, from **coffee** to **Coca-Cola**.*

(i) Representative:

(S26) ***Beijing** has also eliminated an 8 percent tax on tea production as a way to increase rural incomes. (S33) **Government** support helped produce an 18.9 percent jump in Chinese tea exports last year, to \$437 million, in a global market that is nearly stagnant, according to official Chinese figures released at a conference in Hangzhou on Sept. 28.*

Next section concentrates on the micro-analysis of the selected passage. Focus will be shifted to the macro-analysis of the passage in the next section.

4. MACRO-ANALYSIS OF THE TEXT

The article entitled "Read the Tea Leaves: China Will Be Top Exporter" is a narrative text which centers on the main theme: China will be top tea exporter. The dominant structure of the passage is a "problem-response-evaluation" pattern. This passage has two problems and each of them has its own response and evaluation. Accordingly, it can be divided into three parts.

Part I consists of 9 paragraphs, from Paragraph 1 to Paragraph 9, which is composed of a complete "Problem-Response-Evaluation" pattern. Paragraphs 1-5 present the problem: As the tea production of China increases these days, and many young Chinese are losing interest in it, the surplus part ought to be exported. Paragraphs 6-8 act as the role of response: The expanding sales by Chinese tea growers are causing alarm in other developing countries that depend on tea. Paragraphs 9 is the evaluation: A century-old pattern was invoked by China's re-emergence as the world's leading tea exporter. It can be seen that tea exportation is a profitable business.

Part II is made up of 17 paragraphs, from Paragraph 10 to Paragraph 26, which is also made up of a whole pattern of "Problem-Response-Evaluation". Paragraphs

10-17 present the second problem of the whole text: Tea originates in ancient China. Thanks to the long history of tea production in China, only Chinese people can read tea in the world. Policy support from the government plus infrastructure improvement facilitates the tea production in China. Paragraphs 18-22 present the corresponding response: China's surge in tea caught many off guard. China has become a looming competitor against India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Paragraphs 23-26 offer the evaluation: Although China possesses several overwhelming advantages, several challenges could temper its tea business.

Part III includes Paragraphs 27-29. This part is the conclusion of the whole passage. The author once again stresses the main theme: Due to the gigantic increase of tea production in China and the shifting interest in beverage of the young Chinese, the global market is worried about the arriving of the Chinese tea.

The macro-structure of the whole text is demonstrated in the following table:

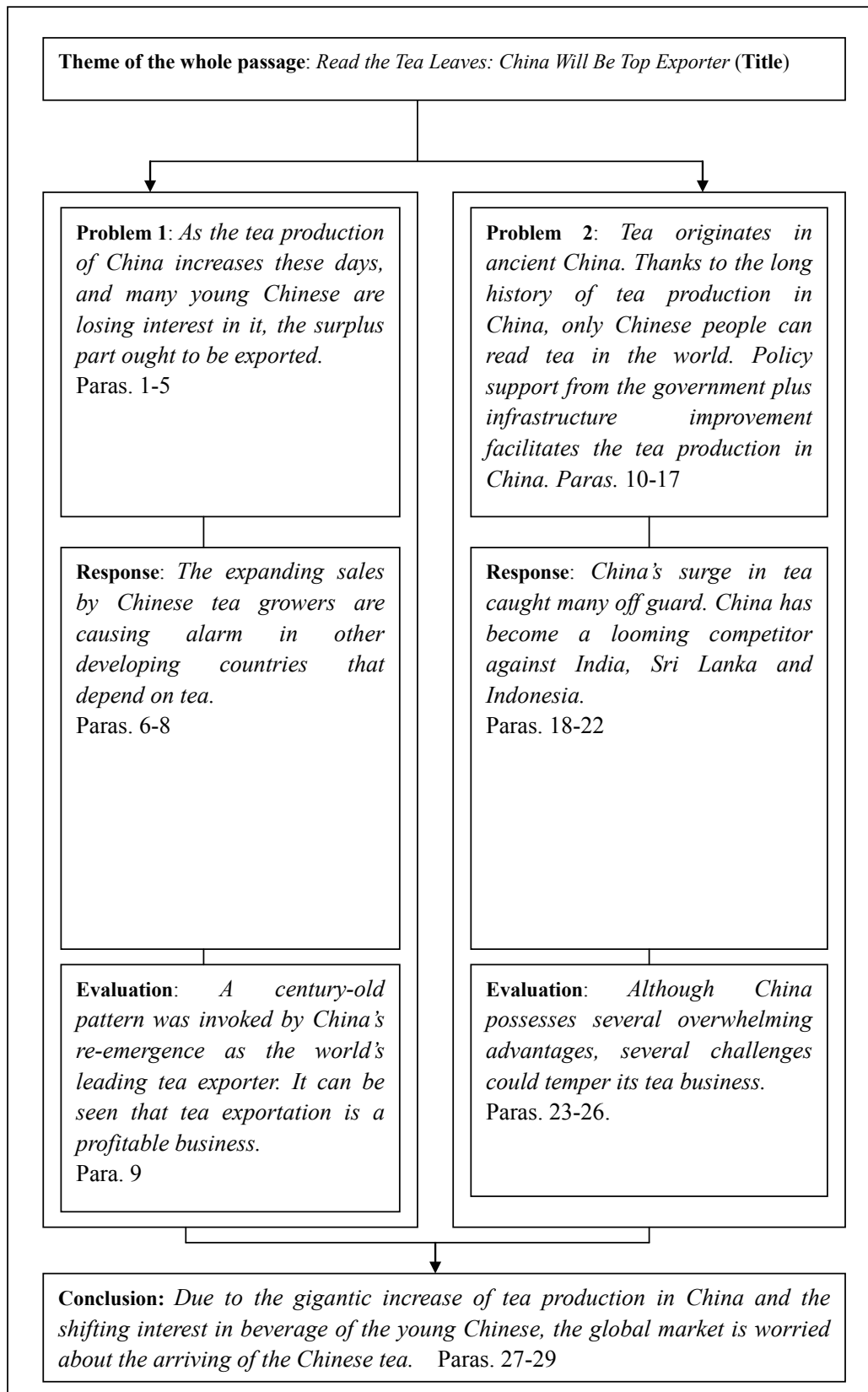
FEEDBACK AND CONCLUSION

By analyzing the article "Read the Tea Leaves: China Will Be Top Exporter" in the light of Hoeyan model of discourse analysis, it can be discovered that the approach adopted and developed by Michael Hoey (1983) is an effective and applicable method in discourse analysis of the style of narration. The Hoeyan Model has been adopted in teaching extensive reading at the Medical School of Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Beijing City University. For non-English major college students, Hoey's model of text analysis is clear-cut and easy to master. The practical feedback is excellent in the class of extensive reading. Large scale researches ought to be done in order to further testify the applicability of this model in different genres.

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Table 5
The Macro-structure Analysis



APPENDIX I. READ THE TEA LEAVES: CHINA WILL BE TOP EXPORTER

Published: October 11, 2005, *The New York Times*

(Para 1) JINHUA, China – (S1) All the tea in China is proving to be a lot of tea these days, as hillsides across central and southern China are bulldozed to make way for tea farms even as many young Chinese are losing interest in the beverage. (S2) Tea remains a popular drink in China, but many young Chinese are turning to other beverages, from coffee to Coca-Cola.

(Para 2) (S3) China still has millions of tea lovers who lavish the same attention on their beverage that oenophiles devote to wine. (S4) The finest grades of green tea, made from the most delicate baby leaves and roasted in a pan by hand, sell for hundreds of dollars a pound in Shanghai and Beijing.

(Para 3) (S5) But Coca-Cola, Pepsi, McDonald's, KFC and other Western businesses have come up with many other ways to slake thirsts in China, especially that of young Chinese. (S6) Shifting tides in tastes are creating waves over winners and losers both at home and abroad. (S7) Teahouses in China already are being replaced by coffeehouses, and Starbucks, with more than 140 stores, has spawned a cottage industry of copycats.

(Para 4) (S8) With tea in abundance in China, more and more is being shipped abroad, by third-generation tea farmers like Pan Jintu, who wants to supply green tea to Starbucks stores in the United States.

(Para 5) (S9) "Many people love tea now, so I foresee our business will grow," he said, standing amid his rows of tea bushes, as women in broad hats plucked tea leaves in the surrounding hillsides here.

(Para 6) (S10) But expanding sales by Chinese tea growers like Mr. Pan are causing alarm in other developing countries that depend on growing tea, like India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Kenya, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

(Para 7) (S11) While the growth of China's textile industry with the end of global textile quotas has attracted more attention as a threat to poor countries, China's tea industry also poses a challenge to some of the world's poorest nations. (S12) China is now poised to become the world's largest tea exporter by tonnage, overtaking Sri Lanka this year and Kenya next year.

(Para 8) (S13) Wide swaths of people across Asia depend on the tea industry for survival. (S14) Particularly vulnerable are countries that suffered from the tsunami last December: Indonesia, India and above all Sri Lanka, where income from the growing, processing and transport of tea helps feed nearly a tenth of the people, according to the Asian Development Bank.

(Para 9) (S15) Yet China's re-emergence as the world's leading tea exporter invokes a centuries-old pattern: the British East India Company, which bought its tea from China, held a monopoly on supplying Britain until 1834. (S16) Only when that monopoly was broken did other countries become big exporters. (S17) The saying "I wouldn't do that for all the tea in China" came to mean a refusal to do something even for a large and valuable payment.

(Para 10) (S18) The history of tea itself reaches back to ancient times in China. (S19) The earliest known literary references date back nearly 5,000 years, when Emperor Shen Nung is said to have discovered the infusion when leaves dropped into his hot water by chance.

(Para 11) (S20) Green tea is widely believed to have some medical benefits. (S21) Black tea, which may have similar benefits, is used in everything from Darjeeling to Earl Grey and is made from the leaves of the same tea plants as green tea, though processed differently.

(Para 12) (S22) But after millennia of popularity, tea consumption in China is growing by only 2 percent a year, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. (S23) By contrast, Chinese figures show tea production rising 8.7 percent last year and rapidly accelerating as recently planted tea bushes reach maturity and as inefficiently managed, state-owned farms are turned over to output-conscious entrepreneurs.

(Para 24) (S1) For the last three years, Beijing has set as its top goal the alleviation of rural poverty and high income inequality between coastal cities and rural areas, to the benefit of the tea industry. (S25) Municipal and provincial governments now vie to offer subsidies to an industry seen as an answer to lingering poverty and unemployment in the countryside, and are paying up to half the cost for the planting of new tea farms and the building of tea-processing factories.

(Para 14) (S26) Beijing has also eliminated an 8 percent tax on tea production as a way to increase rural incomes. (S27) Tea promotion policies, which also include heavy spending on research institutes to develop better strains of tea as well as subsidies, do seem to bring greater prosperity to tea-growing areas.

(Para 15) (S28) A 100-mile drive on the modern, four-lane highway from here to Hangzhou, at the northern end of east-central Zhejiang Province, passes dozens of villages bulging with new, three-story homes built of brick or concrete and featuring the garish green or blue tinted windows now in fashion here. (S29) Every few miles stands a new brick factory with a towering chimney belching smoke.

(Para 16) (S30) Jin Yuemei, a 54-year-old peasant near Hangzhou, paused before dousing nearly waist-high tea plants

with an anticaterpillar pesticide and described how her home now held a television set, a refrigerator and even a couple of air-conditioners. (S31)“Everyone has these things,” she said. (S32)“We are quite rich now.”

(Para 17) (S33)Government support helped produce an 18.9 percent jump in Chinese tea exports last year, to \$437 million, in a global market that is nearly stagnant, according to official Chinese figures released at a conference in Hangzhou on Sept. 28. (S34)Because of the sudden sensitivity, Chinese officials have become a bit reticent about their future levels of tea production, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization.

(Para 18) (S35)China’s surge in tea caught many off guard. (S36)Tea growers in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia invested in new processing equipment to produce green tea instead of black tea only to discover recently that China has become their looming competitor.

(Para 19) (S37)They are only now beginning to see the giant steps, like investing in infrastructure, that China is making to improve its tea-making capability.

(Para 20) (S38)Such advanced infrastructure far outpaces tea growers in India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Indonesia and other countries who make do with dirt roads and repeated power failures. (S39)The wide roads here lower costs to ship in diesel fuel to power the processing factories and ship out tea; electricity failures, a problem last year, have faded here as more generating plants are built.

(Para 21) (S40)“There’s no way the containers could get to our farms,” because the roads are too narrow and the bridges too low, said Ranga Bedi, a tea grower near Bangalore, India.

(Para 22) (S41)Tea production is a huge employer in countries around the Indian Ocean, including East African nations and Bangladesh as well as India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. (S42)But already, four dozen large farms producing black tea have shut down in the last two years, displacing tens of thousands of workers in southern India. (S43)Tea is one of the world’s most labor-intensive crops, with leaves that need to be harvested weekly for 7 to 12 months of the year.

(Para 23) (S44)Although no one can yet read the tea leaves, several challenges could temper China’s tea business.

(Para 24) (S45)With so many hillside forests cleared to make way for tea bushes, erosion has become a problem. (S46)“The central government will restrain them some, because if people keep developing tea gardens as they wish, a lot of trees will be cut down,” said Dai Changhua, the deputy general manager of Bonna Tea Enterprise near here in Jiashan County.

(Para 25) (S47)Prosperity here is pushing up wages, so farms already are drawing migrants from other provinces, and have sometimes used prison labor over the years. (S48)The winters, though milder than in northern China, mean that tea bushes in central China stop producing new leaves for harvest from mid-October to mid-March. (S49)In contrast, tea bushes in warmer climes, like southern India and western Java in Indonesia, can be harvested all year long.

(Para 26) (S50)Finally, even a small appreciation in China’s currency “will really affect our business,” said Xu Hairong, the deputy director of the Tea Research Institute at Zhejiang University here.

(Para 27) (S51)For the global industry, the bigger worry is how much Chinese tea will be arriving in world markets. (S52)That flood of tea will grow only if people in China keep switching to other beverages. (S53)Starbucks sells tea, as well as coffee, in China, but it has found that Chinese customers prefer the coffee, said Christine Day, the company’s president for Asia and the Pacific.

(Para 28) (S54)At a popular tea house in Hangzhou, a married couple of traditional Chinese medical practitioners savored a pot on a recent late afternoon but mourned that their 25-year-old son did not share their interest in the ancient brew.

(Para 29) (S55)“He doesn’t like tea,” said the husband, who only gave his family name, Ren, because of a wariness of foreigners that is common among older Chinese. (S56)“He doesn’t like coffee, he mostly drinks Sprite, Coca-Cola and water.”