Comparative Analyses of Chinese and American Network Language Based on Word-building Perspective

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Abstract: The article cited examples, expounded the cause, characteristics and classification of the network language, and analyzed the similarities and differences between Chinese and American network language, research found that whether the Chinese network language or American network language uses the most economical and effective word-building form and expression to convey the rich connotation. The network language of Chinese is mainly based on traditional English word formation method, rather than on traditional Chinese word construction method. It is believed that the research can provide some enlightenment and references for relevant researchers.

Keywords: Chinese-American network language; Word formation method; Comparative analyses

Introduction

Today’s society is greatly influenced by the Internet and English, and the language will change greatly with it. The mix and match of Chinese and English of the network language is more and more reflecting the changes of people’s mind and society. This paper plans to establish on similarities and differences of the word-building form of network language between Chinese and American, hoping to further understand the network language through the specific network language and provide some enlightenment to promote the benign development of the network language.

The corpus of the article comes from some Chinese and American Internet language.

Research Background

Broadly speaking, network language is the language used by network groups in network environments, including language of network news, network text, network chat rooms, and electronic Billboard systems. In a narrow sense, the network language is the language used in the network group. The characteristics of the network language are mainly reflected by the network vocabularies, but the back of network vocabularies is the public psychological tendency and subjective emotions.

Network language has an impact on all aspects of society. Take the term "inner volume" for example. The term has suddenly gone viral online since 2020. "Inner volume" is originally an anthropological terminology,
first proposed by anthropologist Gertz’s summary of the island of Java’s agricultural economy, to describe the increasingly refined agricultural social economy with no major breakthrough. Then the word is used to describe a social or tissue’s unchangeable development with only self-repetition at a simple level. Today, "inner volume" means "white-hot competition": people do their best in every aspect of daily life to gain a small competitive advantage in society, squeeze others’ living space, while causing mental internal consumption and waste. The use of "inner scroll" is still expanding so that netizens sigh that "everything can be rolled". It can be seen that as long as a single Internet hot word in a specific field helps people to develop barrier-free communication, it is an effective language expression.

Of course, with the development of network language, some new problems also arise in our language communication process. For example, there are some words that do not express the word meaning that it should carry, bringing barriers to human communication and understanding. More importantly, due to the continuous emergence of some novel network expressions, a human social barrier appeared online and offline and it is dividing network users into different, even completely uncommunicable groups, thus profoundly changing relationships between people. Of course, with the continuous transfer of real society to the online, more and more people spend their time on smart phones and social media every day, which has far exceeded the time of communication between people in reality. Under the influence of this huge trend, online social languages are endowed with more and more rich and sensitive meanings. These social languages play the role of "key" on the surface, which is used to open the door of strangers, but in the deep level it is the most sensitive touch to human nature. In order to save each other’s time, the new generation of netizens use a new language and emotion that is constantly manufactured to conduct more accurate communication. Simple words and punctuation, can’t carry people rich and heavy emotions. The modeling of network language is very helpful to improve the efficiency of communication. Views expressed by different subjects in different scenarios can quickly make others understand their meaning with the same word, which saves time and effort, and also makes people gradually lose their ability to think and express language. The word formation of network language is not consistent with traditional Chinese in form, which challenges the standardization of Chinese in form.

Review of Network Language Research

Network language has long been concerned at home and abroad, and there have been some important research results. In 1997, Hartford University held a network language seminar. The meeting discussed English as a global network language and network language teaching. In 2003, Spain held a conference on international cyberlanguage. These two meetings are milestones in the history of network language research. David Crystal published. Languages and the Internet. In 2001, becoming the first book to study cyber language. In this book, Crystal analyzes and discusses the network environment, e-mail, chat room and web language, virtual language, and puts forward such a forward-looking point of view: the revolution of the Internet is the revolution of linguistics, affecting the future of language. In 2002 and 2003, abundant cyber language appeared in. Language and English Language Teaching. magazine. Later, more and more scholars have carried out research on network language. Lisa Shaw (2004) gives the definition of network language in . How network language influences the way English communicates with us, analyzes why network language is more and more popular in computer science, and discusses the advantages and disadvantages of network
language. She pointed out that university-educated people could distinguish the phonetic, lexical and syntactic differences between online languages and ordinary languages, while many children and adolescents could not fully understand the characteristics of online languages, mainly restricted by the context of the network, so the spread of online languages in the classroom could affect the English ability of a new generation of young people. Another scholar Sanel (2008) pointed out that the vocabulary of cyber language has some unique characteristics. He believed that cyber language, as a new media communication tool, has the characteristics of globalization, interactivity and diversity.

In addition, various online dictionaries suddenly became popular. In short, foreign network language research scope is wide. Many academic works have been published constantly. However, the main content of these studies is a brief introduction to the definition of network language and its impact on social life and people, but a systematic analysis of network language is rarely seen.

The study of network language by Chinese scholars began in 2000. Academic discussion of network language mainly focuses on the following aspects: network language dictionary compilation, network language’s present situation investigation, network language rhetoric analysis, network language teaching research and so on. Yi Wenan published "Network Fashion Dictionary" in 2000, it is the first dictionary about network terms in China. The dictionary classifies network fashion words into slang, jargon, technical terms and other types of digital network language. In 2001, Chinese Network Language Dictionary, edited by Yu Genyuan, was the second online language dictionary published in China. Xinhua Network Language Dictionary, published by the Commercial Press in 2012, contains 2946 Internet words frequently used by Internet users in the process of network communication and communication, and 280 Internet symbols. These dictionaries are rich in content and detailed in interpretation, which are convenient tools for the majority of Internet users and readers to access network articles and read network literature. More importantly, the emergence of network language dictionaries is a symbol of network language as a new language phenomenon and a research object. Network language has entered the field of academic research and filled the gap of network dictionaries published in China. At present, many academic works on network language have been published in China. Yu Genyuan (2001) discussed the history of the Internet and the development of network language in Network Language, and analyzed the classification, characteristics, advantages and disadvantages of network words. Wu Huainan (2001) pointed out that the "use errors" in network language should be analyzed and treated differently. The standardization work of network language should have the concepts of dynamic norms, tolerance, hierarchical norms and respect for conventions. Liu Haiyan’s Network language (2002), while exploring the characteristics of network language, focuses on the analysis of the relationship between network language and society and the formation of network terms, to some extent, broadens the field of vision. Wu (2003) summarized nine academic attitudes towards cyber language, and most of them believed that the attitude towards cyber language was more flexible. Yao (2005) proposed to study the trend of network language and do a good job of network language standardization. Zhao Hualun (2005) analyzed the rhetorical devices frequently used in network language, such as metaphor, metonymy, homophony, abbreviation, reduplication and description. Yue (2006) summarized the automatic adjustment function of network language economy and accuracy in verbal communication from three aspects of social identity, cultural commonality and psychological cognition. Weng Ping (2006) analyzes the social mentality of network communication language, including: economic principles, hiding personal information, seeking novelty and advocating personality. Wang (2008) analyzed the composition and characteristics of linguistic communication symbols.
and non-linguistic communication symbols in cyber language from the perspective of semiotics. Wang Yanlong (2008) analyzed the communication paradigm of network language from the aspects of the cluster paradigm of network tribes, the classic open paradigm, the compound paradigm of fusion and digestion, and the sharing paradigm of equal rights. Cao (2009) used the basic principles of semiotics to explore the basic characteristics and transmission mechanism of Chinese network language symbols, non-language symbols. Liu Yu (2009) analyzes that the social psychological basis of teenagers’ use of network language mainly includes personality, conformity, entertainment, decompression and resistance. Some scholars have explored the causes of the emergence and use of network language through the interpretation of a network word. For example, Zhang Yisheng (2009) has analyzed the semantic composition of the network word "lose", and proposed that when analyzing the network language phenomenon with Chinese characteristics and foreign language influence in similar developments, we should not only understand the commonness of human language structure and the broad vision of language typology, but also explore the causes of its formation according to the cognitive characteristics of Chinese rhetoric. Qu Yanbin (2009) proposed to do a good job in the status planning and ontology planning of network language, established network language as a common language in virtual network space, and transform and improve the network language. Shi (2010) analyzed the linguistic value and linguistic value of cyber language focusing on the positive impact of cyber language. Bai Jiehong (2010), through the analysis of online meaning construction of network words ‘X Ke’, proposed that network words have both short and novel characteristics, and the online construction mechanism of network words is conceptual integration. Liang Qiqiu (2011) explains the fuzziness of network language, and thinks that fuzziness is an important bridge between network culture and real culture. Fang Yihua (2011) analyzed the coding rules of the top ten network catchwords in 2004-2010 from the perspective of semiotics, summarized their coding methods, analyzed the changes in motivation, content and effect of the top ten network catchwords in six years, and analyzed the causes of the network catchwords from three aspects of social economy, social culture and social psychology.

Zhou Hongxue (2012) proposed that the use of network language reflects the characteristics of defamiliarization, and summarized the specific implementation means of defamiliarization into five types: phonetic means, word-formation means, semantic means, syntactic means and visual symbol means. Li Mingjie's (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014) series of papers have a profound interpretation of the epidemic characteristics of network language. She believes that network catchwords are popular network hot words. Network hot words are related to high frequency and are often triggered by emergencies. Many of them echo people’s psychological demands and condense some subtle popular semantics. Yongchun (2013) analyzed the appearance and causes of network language anomie, and discussed the path of network language norms. Zhang (2014) analyzed the variation of the meaning of network language, and believed that the meaning of Chinese inherent words has been developed in a diversified derivative, non-derivative and divergent form in the network context, which has led to the corresponding changes in the categories of synonyms and antonyms. At the same time, the flexible use of network words has also impacted the color meaning of Chinese inherent words.

Many scholars have studied the spread of network language from the perspective of memetics, such as Wang Xiaoyan (2015) on the formation of popular language ‘positive energy’ meme phenomenon, trigger mechanism, types and factors widely spread in the media and social groups. The research on network language communication transcends language ontology, but it has great implications for a comprehensive
understanding of the attributes and social functions of network language.

Many academic works have been published constantly. However, as far as the current situation is concerned, there are not many achievements in the comparative study of network language at home and abroad, and the perspective and field of network language research need to be further expanded.

**Differences between Chinese and American Internet Languages from the Perspective of Word Formation**

Through the study of Chinese and American network language, we find that there are some similarities and differences between Chinese and American network language.

We intend to discuss the following aspects.

(1) Harmonic words

There are a large number of homonyms in Chinese network language and American network language. For example: RU (are you), CU (see you), 稀饭/xīfàn (porridge)—喜欢/xǐhuān (like), 果酱/guǒjiàng (jam)—过奖/guòjiǎng (over praise), 神马/shénmǎ (Pegasus)—什么/shénme (what).

(2) Abbreviations

This study divides English abbreviations into abbreviations, mixed words and initial abbreviations.

Abbreviation is also called truncation, which removes the latter or former parts of the word such as RT (retwitter), pls (please), bc (because), ppl (people). The mixed word is a mixture of two words, the initial part of the first word and the final part of the second word, or the initial part of the two words such as webnomics, adstraction. The first letter abbreviation is the combination of the first letter at the beginning, such as FOMO (fear of missing out), JOMO (joy of missing out), BTW (by the way), LOL (laughing out loud), TIA (thanks in advance).

There are a lot of abbreviations in Chinese Internet language, but the way of formation is different from English network language. There are three forms of abbreviations in Chinese network language: 1. Chinese pinyin abbreviations such as: YYDS (eternal god), XSWL (laughing to death), DB (comma), MM (Meimei); 2. Chinese abbreviations such as: 面经 /miànjīng (interview experience)— 面试经验 /miànshìjīnɡyàn (interview experience), 冷无缺 /lěnwúquē—冷漠、无理、信仰缺失/lěnɡmò,wúlǐ,xìnyǎnɡ,quēshī (cold, unreasonable, lack faith), 清仓 /qīncānɡ (clear up the warehouse)— 清理仓库 /qīnɡlǐcānɡkù (clear up the warehouse); 3. English abbreviations such as: BBS, CEO.

(3) New words

New words in network language give new meanings to the original words in both Chinese and English.
Metaphor, metonymy and analogy are all used to create new words. For example, "shade" is the original meaning of shadows, darker places, and now means shadows, contempt. The original meaning of "white wall" is white wall, which now means the posts before clearing cyberspace. The original meaning of "woke" is to wake up. Now it means those who are more knowledgeable, compassionate and innovative on racial and gender topics. "Defense" means that equipment in the game has no defensive effect because of skills or other reasons. In the Internet environment, more used to refer to the psychological defense is broken. Most of the time it is pointed out that after being ridiculed and rushed by one side in the language interaction between the two sides, it will be ridiculed defense, but also in the line suffered a brutal blow, or see some sad things, or moved, can also be called "defense".

(4) Symbolic characters

Symbolic words include some numbers and smiling faces, which are universal and only exist on the Internet.

(5) Derivatives

Derivatives are words that add prefixes or suffixes to the roots.

1. Examples of English. For example, "iphone, telecommut, eco-friendly, user-friendly, customer-friendly, business-friendly"; 2. Examples of Chinese. For example, 拼车 /carpool, 拼团 /squad, 拼吃 /spice to eat and so on.

(6) Foreign languages

Many network languages are borrowed from other languages, such as "add oil, no zuo no die, Yolo". Among them, "Add oil" is borrowed from gas in Chinese, meaning almost as much as "go on" or "go for it". "No zuo no die" comes from Japanese anime and has been included in the u.s. online dictionary urban dictionary, meaning if you don’t do stupid things, stupid things won’t hurt you in turn, if you do stupid things, then pay sooner or later. "Yolo" from the French writer Balzacs "Uncle Bons" is the abbreviation of "you only live once", meaning people should enjoy life. English is popular all over the world. There are many foreign languages. Chinese network language also borrows many English words, such as: Ericsson, Dreams, TOEFL, Hold 住 , freestyle, loser.

The word formation of Chinese and American online languages is similar. American network language is formed by traditional word formation, such as derivation, abbreviation, abbreviation, etc. Due to the globalization of English, Chinese network language is mainly based on the traditional English word-formation, rather than the traditional Chinese word-formation.

Conclusion

Whether it is China’s network language, or the United States of America’s network language, will use the simplest economic and effective word formation, expression to convey the rich connotation. Chinese network
language is mainly based on the traditional English word-formation, rather than the traditional Chinese word-formation. The collision between Chinese and English plays a very important role in the development of network language. At the same time, the emergence and development of network catchwords in turn also affect the development and integration of language and culture.

References


