语言问题探索

邢公畹题

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EXPLORATION OF
LANGUAGE AND DIALECT PROBLEMS

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序　言

　　近十多年来,国内陆续出版了不少语言学的论文集,反映了语言学者们辛勤笔耕、收获丰硕的情况,是很使人高兴的。论文集虽无一般专著的完整知识体系,然而所收专论往往探索深入,论析细致,富于创新,其学术价值常有一般专著所不及之处。

　　现在张旭同志也辑印个人的论文集,从学术价值的角度来衡量,我看它正是不在一般专著之下的。作者方步入中年,然而勤于用力,敏于思考,已与一美籍学者合著《英汉句法比较》,又独力主编《英汉商业辞典》,俱已出版,另主编《美国英语习用语辞典》,亦即将见书。现今《语言问题探索》问世,正较好反映作者多年来在语言、方言各方面的研究思考,表现出此前编著的各书所不曾公开出来的心得和已博取的学术价值。

　　张旭同志有扎实的基本功,知识面广,外语很好,研究既触及汉语、侗语、英语及汉语方言,同时又考察语法学、音韵学、翻译学、词汇学和词典学释义的问题。涉猎的方面可谓多而广,而各个领域又都有建树。对于一个四十多岁的中年学者来说,业务上有如此表现,委实难得。这种多向进取,四面花开果呈的事实,全面地反映到了这本论文集里来,可说是集子的第一个引人注目的特色。

不将自己局限在一个部门的狭小天地，而是眼光开阔，在多个相关部门的境域里驰骋，是很值得称道的。语言学界中，不少学人似乎一生只研究语言学的某一语种的某一部门，而且只在此一知识领域范围内研究该领域的问题，甚而只搞现代的，不关顾古代，或只熟悉古代的而不管现代，对其余血脉相通的部门更是不闻不问。如此研究，不从博中求精，鲜能周全透辟，造诣深宏。张旭同志当硕士学位研究生时，主攻方向为侗台语及音韵学，然而在深入此关联密切的两个领域的同时，就逐渐将研究的视野投到汉语方言学、语法学、汉外对比语言学和翻译学等方面。尤其难得的是，毕业三数年后，竟将相当大一部分精力用在汉外对照词典的编纂及紧相关联的词汇学问题的研究上。这是逆语言研究的一般潮流而上的。尤其研究汉语方言的人，不仅是从音韵学入手，而且通常就只着力于考察语音方面，有的再稍稍描写一些语法特点，至于词汇现象方面则是极少有作深入考察的。殊未料到，在我尝试侧重从词汇方面调查、研究东江中上游流域土语群之后不多久，张旭同志在深县方言的研究中也深入调查、整理了该方言的词语方面，就此写出了几乎是一本方言词典的长文。我深为有年青的志同道合者而高兴。汉语方言学的研究，今后倘多有学人从词汇方面下大功夫，必可取得更快、更大的进展。

《语言问题探索》的另一个特色，是论文都着力于发掘，通过对具体材料的分析，提出个人的见解，富于创新，确实体现了书名用词"探索"的精神。尤其在方法上，不仅论证严谨，描写翔实，而且时而提出适当的新分析法。如天津话新旧两派声类发音上的重合率和差异性，用比较某种声类的今音占各派发音的比例数来显示，异常简明、有力。更有意义的是，《天津话研究中

的几个问题》一文,采用了现代高等数学模糊集合论的方法,来分析和解决如何确定天津话边界的问题,有如快刀斩乱麻,干脆利落,准确得当。这种方法上的创新,是难能可贵的。因为它确实大大有助于困难问题的合理解决,而一般研究者都不大可能从现代高等数学那里获得灵感与妙方。张旭同志在大学期间学习数学专业,这为他吸取数学方法提供了良好的条件;但是如何吸取,分析什么问题吸取何种数学方法才适宜,仍然需要个人高强的敏感度和判断力。恐怕主要正是由于后一方面的因素,使模糊集合论的方法能成功地用于方言边界的确定问题。

张旭同志通英语,懂数学,这非常有利于他及时追踪现代语言学研究的先足,创造性地提出和解决自己研究范围的许多问题。期待着张旭同志充分利用个人得天独厚的条件,发挥个人所长,进一步把更多合适有用的数学方法引入方言学和语言学其他部门,并通过明白解释或其他办法,尽量使它们变得平易好懂。相信他今后将能够以自己的独特方式,在推动语言和方言研究朝精密化方向发展的事业中作出更多贡献。

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刘叔新

1993 年 7 月 30 日

于南开园西南村

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自　序

　　《语言问题探索》，收入了我从 1983 至 1993 这十年间，陆续在《南开学报》、《语言研究论丛》、《语文研究》、《民族语文研究文集》等书刊上发表的十余篇论文。也有几篇是在此期间写成，还没有发表的。为了保存原貌，结集前只作一些必要的文字上的订正，而未作实质性的增削。其中有几篇论文，今日看来，推演寻绎或可更为简捷，但已难改写、补苴，且因记录了我对某些问题的最初认识，故而一仍其旧，未作改动。

　　1979 年秋，旭之结束迷惘困惑的塞北生活，负笈津门从师邢公畹先生习语言学。邢师学问，博大精深。受业凡三年，或随侍于南开学府，或偕游于湘桂侗乡，举凡音词递嬗之理，文法究研之道，曾蒙不厌详示。而最近数载，更得刘叔新先生殷殷奖掖。刘先生于语言理论暨词汇学研究领域有很高造诣，其著述中西淹贯，体用兼赅，时闻训迪，裨益宏多。集中许多篇目，融溶着两位先生的心血。唯旭之驽钝，十年所得，不过尔尔，思之自觉汗颜。

　　现在，天津古籍出版社总社务兼总编务杨锺贤教授十分热心，肯于其事业艰辛、资金亏绌之季，不计损益，捐本印行，委实令人感动。付梓前，公畹师八秩华诞刚过，听说我出版文集，欣

然命笔,赐题书名;叔新师则于繁重的教学和科研工作中,拨冗掷烦,惠写弁言。对杨先生和两位恩师的无私扶助和热情提携,旭之感到极大鼓舞,谨此为志,表示我由衷的感激之情。

于等待文集早日问世的兴奋中,我同时感觉到了老师们的新的期许,同行、同事、同学以及我的学生们对我的新的鼓励,他们希望看到我在语言学的广阔原野上有更进一步的耕播与收获。这无疑是一种鞭策。

抬眼处,远红近绿,正是芳菲时节。我也这样希望、这样企盼和这样勉励着自己。

张　旭
1994 年 12 月 1 日于
津门知足知不足斋

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Views on Contrast
between Chinese and English

0. Introduction

A contrast in the wider sense is the total description of two languages, including their pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar. However, when we say "contrast" we incline to take it in the narrower sense and often emphasize the grammar. Of course, the contrast of grammar involves some matters of pronunciation and vocabulary which wouldn't be centred on in our discussion.

In this article, we are going to make a microscopic contrast between English and Chinese in three aspects and what to be discussed below will not be confined to grammar.

1. Covertness and Overtness

Covertness and overtness refer to the language feature that certain form classes and their relations in a sentence can or can not be told from overt markers. In inflected languages, in English for

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instance, plural forms of nouns or tense forms of verbs can often be indicated by some markers. To a very limited extent Chinese also has overt markers, such as -zi(子)for nouns, -le(了)for verbs. But they can't be simply regarded as markers for nouns and verbs, for their combinations with nouns and verbs are restricted by many elements and lack generality. In most cases, the total grammatical behavior of Chinese form classes is not revealed except in certain frames; otherwise it remains implicit, or covert. For example, when the word"初"(*chu*)is used to express the meaning of order, it is only suitable for the first ten days of a month in traditional Chinese calendar. Expression like"初十一"(the eleventh)is not permissible. [①] Only double-syllable or multisyllable numerals, not one-syllable ones, can be used as predicates. For instance, in Chinese, we can say"他十一"(he is eleven or as for something he has eleven of them). But we can't say "他十"(he is ten or as for something he has ten of them)unless we add a suitable classifier after it or it is used in the particular places where comparisons are made. For example, we can say"他六，我八"(As for something he has six of them and I have eight of them). However, there is no morphological suggestions in Chinese to tell people why we can say this and why we can't say that. The following is an often quoted example:

庖有肥肉，厩有肥马，民有饥色，野有饿莩。

The translation of "有"as"have" in all instances brings out the construction as S-V-O (subject-verb-object), which is the best grammatical analysis of these clauses. But we can't find obvious

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rules with which we use to explain why they have to be translated as S-V-O type. It seems that the other analysis is also permissible if we can give it a sound explanation. For instance, we may consider the four nouns at the beginning of the sentences(庖, 厩, 民, 野)as place adverbials.

The most grammatical categories in Chinese language are covert and have no overt markers. Therefore, people may often analyse and understand the same grammatical structure in different ways. Under the current research level, it's very difficult to set up an objective grammatical standard to balance the various theories unless we can discover the form of Chinese – the covert forms.

Things are different in English. Some form classes and their relations in sentences may be told from the forms and this is the result of the morphological interdependence and interaction of various syntactical elements. Thus we can say, in inflected languages , forms can not only express the grammar, but also restrain it. In the following sentence, for example, we can roughly tell the part of speech of each word from its ending; and the morphological changes of some constituents in the sentence are their very response to certain grammatical rules.

Statements about crime are not criminal language ; nor are statements about emotions necessarily emotional language .

In the sentence, the plural noun "statements" is marked by its form. As the subject of the sentence it requires its predicate "are", a varient of "be", under the principle of subject-verb

concord. In English, the subject and predicate agree to each other in forms, thus form the core pattern which can give guidance to the sentence for its final completion. This guidance, that is, the principle of SV concord, makes the relation between subject and predicate in a sentence very clear.

In order to explain this obvious grammatical difference between English and Chinese, let's analyse the following examples:

(1)果然那次就摔了下来，磕破了我的膝盖呢。

And sure enough, I fell down once to have my knee broken.

(2)光是烛灰一夜就有几升之多，可见他夜读何等勤奋了。

By the volume of ashes we can imagine how avidly he read at night.

In English, sentences are marked by their forms, so it's not difficult to tell each sentence element. But in its corresponding Chinese statement the matter is not so. It seems that we can hardly tell exactly which word or phrase in a Chinese sentence is the subject or the predicate from the surface structure of a sentence.

2. Parataxis and Hypotaxis

Parataxis and hypotaxis are two concepts often used in the contrastive study between Chinese and Indo-European languages. Their difference lies in that the connection of words or sentences

is realized whether by means of linguistic forms including lexical and morphological forms or by their internal meaning or logical order. The former lays emphasis on the cohesion of words and sentences in form while the latter the coherence in meaning.

From the microstructure of syntax, the incorporation of sentence elements in Chinese lays stress on parataxis, that is , the relation between different constituents in a sentence is internalized unnecessarily in Chinese. For example:

It is the unshakable sincerity of the Englishman's belief in his own superiority which is at once the strength and weakness of his race .

英国人对自己的优越性之坚信不移,既是这个民族的优点,又是这个民族的弱点。

In English, "which", as a relative pronoun, is used as a means of hypotaxis. But we couldn't find its equivalent in the corresponding Chinese translation. It is replaced by some independent phrasal or clausal pieces naturally organized on meaning.

The so called "合" (*he*, to combine), is a basic means to make the separated linguistic symbols organized. In fact, as two forms of expression, both hypotaxis and parataxis exist in every language, but different language has different emphasis. Chinese language focuses on parataxis. It is affected by the traditional philosophical thoughts of China that people think high of meaning, spirit and vigour of style. Chinese language has a history of thousands of years. Because of this traditional strength, it can

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