

语言

与

文化研究

YUYAN YU

WENHUAYANJIU

第一辑

吴尚义◎主编

语 · 言 · 与 · 文 · 化 · 研 · 究

yuyan yu wenhua yanjiu

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第一辑

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内容提要:

本书共收录了全国各地高校英语教师与研究者的论文 40 余篇,体现了研究者们对提高外语教学理论和实践方面的认真思考和探索,涵盖了语言研究、文学研究、翻译研究、跨文化教学与研究、外语教育等领域。收录的论文中有语言、文学与翻译理论前沿的最新报告,有对外语各层次教学改革的思想,教学方法的探讨,也有日趋成熟的基于数据的实证性研究。研究内容充分反映出了近 20 年来外语教学领域的发展趋势和热点:教法和学法的探讨仍然热烈;外语与其他学科门类的结合性研究给研究者增添了新的动力;网络教学的探讨和思考反映了新时期外语教与学的特点,体现了外语教师与时俱进的精神风貌。这些研究将极大地促进和指导教学实践。

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前 言

《语言与文化研究》论丛首辑经过作者和编辑人员几个月的努力工作终于问世了。本研究论丛每年出版四辑,收录全国各地的语言与文化研究者的文章,旨在为广大语言教师、语言研究者展示科研成果、进行学术交流提供平台。论丛第一辑共收录了全国各地高校英语教师与研究者的论文40余篇,体现了研究者对提高外语教学理论和实践的认真思考和探索,涵盖了语言研究、文学研究、翻译研究、跨文化教学与研究、外语教育等领域。

本辑所收录的论文体现了研究范围广泛、研究方法灵活、研究内容多样化的特点,充分展示了外语教学与研究领域学术气氛的活跃和新时期外语教育事业的繁荣。本辑论文既有语言、文学与翻译理论前沿的最新报告、对外语各层次教学改革思考以及教学方法的探讨,也有日趋成熟的基于数据的实证性研究。研究内容充分反映了近20年来外语教学领域的发展趋势和热点:教法和学法的探讨仍然热烈;外语与其他学科门类的结合性研究给研究者增添了新的动力;网络教学的探讨和思考反映了新时期外语教与学的特点,体现了外语教师与时俱进的精神风貌。这些研究将极大地促进和指导教学实践。

本辑的出版将大大激发和提高外语教师的科研意识与科研能力,从而为高校外语教学与研究作出贡献,并推动外语课程改革和学生英语综合应用能力的培养及提高。

胡文仲先生曾说,教师在教学过程中应该做有心人,经常思考问题,收集数据,分析研究,做一个既教学又研究的全面人才。这也是我们定期出版语言教育教学论文,起到激励推动作用的原因。《语言与文化研究》论丛将努力做成定期出版发行的期刊,成为广大研究者发表自己独特见解的一方论坛,在语言与文化研究领域占有一席之地。

由于编者的水平有限,疏漏在所难免,欢迎各界人士予以指正,盼望广大语言与文化的研究者不吝赐稿。

语言与文化研究编委会

2007年7月于北京

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◎语言研究◎

英语委婉机制的认知探析

重庆大学外国语学院 杨国萍 韩 瑞

【摘要】委婉语的使用和人的认知心理密切相关。本文从认知心理的角度运用认知语言学的理论成果分析了英语中由委婉词和语法手段构成的委婉语的认知机制,发现虽然不同类型的委婉语的认知机制各有特点,但是总的说来都是运用增加识解环节和认知努力、延长认知过程等手段,减缓语言事实在与听者的心理接触的过程中对听者的心理冲击的原理实现委婉的。

【关键词】委婉语; 认知机制; 心理冲击

一、引言

委婉语是人们在日常生活中为了文明礼貌、缓和语气、协调人际关系等目的而使用的一种表达手段。委婉语有广义和狭义之分。狭义上的委婉语亦称之为委婉词,“一般是约定俗成的,经过一段时间使用在一定的范围内被大多数人所接受的词或短语”(束定芳,徐金元,1995)。例如,英语中“die”的委婉词是“pass away”,“water closet”的委婉词是“wash room”等。广义上的委婉语既包括委婉词,又包括语言系统中通过其他诸如语法、语篇、语音等语言手段构成的委婉表达方式。其中委婉词和以语法手段构成的委婉表达方式又是委婉语的两种最主要的形式。

语言学界一直很重视对委婉语的研究。中外学者分别从语用学、语义学和社会语言学等不同的角度对委婉语的成因、构成手段和使用特点等方面进行了较为深入的研究,取得了一定的成就。近几年,随着认知语言学影响的不断扩大,一些研究者也开始尝试着从认知语言学的角度探索委婉语的深层机制。认知语言学作为解释语言学具

有从人的“真实感知经验”中“推测”人真实思维的特点（赵艳芳，2001）。因此，以认知语言学为视角对委婉机制的解释就具有更加深入、真实的特点。然而，前人研究大多只重视对委婉词的研究，忽视了对委婉语构成的另一个重要手段——语法手段的探索。本文拟从认知心理的角度运用认知语言学的理论成果系统分析以语法手段构成的委婉语和由委婉词构成的委婉语。

二、语法手段构成的委婉

1. 过去时构成的委婉

Langacker 在《认知语法基础 II》中系统地论述了过去时在小句中的语境定位（grounding）作用。语境定位指的是参照语言事件的语境把一个实体“安置”到一定的认知语境的过程。实际上，语境定位就是言语行为的参与者与所揭示的实体间建立“心理接触”的过程（张辉，齐振海，2004）。这种心理接触建立得越直接，语言事实对听话人所造成的心理冲击就越大，而委婉语所起到的作用就是在语言事实和听话人之间构筑缓冲地带。

由过去时构成的委婉语主要通过两种机制发生作用。

第一种是使用虚拟语气。如：If I were you, I would take a bath.（如果我是你，我会去洗澡）= Go and take a bath. 句中，说话人用过去时把整个语言事件置于“过去”这一远离现实的情景中，构造出一种虚拟的心理空间，隐含着“事情已经过去，不存在了”，即该状态在现在为虚拟。在这样一种虚拟情境中，言者通过“主语换位”的演示效果使听者间接了解到其意图，增加了认知环节和认知努力，从而实现了委婉。

第二种是使用过去时表达一种认知距离。英语中表达请求通常使用过去时，这源于“时间”与“空间”的隐喻（蓝纯，2005）。当一句话使用过去时时，有时态标记的动词或情态动词把语境定位于过去。相对于现在而言“过去”离我们是有距离的。因此，使用过去时提出请求表明我与我正在进行的言语行为之间存在距离，从而缓和请求或询问语气的强烈性。在英语中直接使用过去时态表达请求的委婉句很多，例如：

Excuse me, I wanted to ask you something.

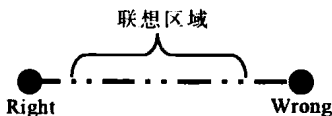
Could you please pass me the package?

Was there anything else you were wanting?

2. 否定形式构成的委婉

语法委婉的另一重要手段就是在表达贬义时使用否定形式，避免因直接使用贬义词而对言语接收者造成较大的心理冲击，如用“not right”代替“wrong”，用“not good”代替“bad”等。从语用学的角度讲，否定句与其对等的肯定句相比信息量要少，违背了合作原则方式准则中“说话要清楚，避免模糊晦涩”（Leech，1983）的原则。从

认知的角度讲,否定之所以有其委婉效果不外乎两方面原因:其一,否定句是一种标记语句,与肯定句相比,人们在理解否定句时需要多经过一个识解环节,付出更多的认知努力;其二,褒义与贬义的肯定与否定之间不存在清晰的界限,非严格的非此即彼的二分关系。我们以“right”和“wrong”之间的关系为例,用下图作出分析,其中线段的两个端点分别代表精确的正误概念表达。



如果我们采用肯定句式“**You are wrong**”,那所指代的就是线段的右端点,所表达的概念是清晰且具有极端性的,会对听者产生较大的心理冲击;如果我们采取否定的句式,就能给听者以较大的联想区域。虽然这个区域可能会很小,但是它在句中却起到了模糊表达、增加认知努力、缓解语言事实对听者造成心理冲击的作用。

三、委婉词构成的委婉

委婉词的认知机制大体可分三种:①注意焦点的转移或注意力的分散;②文化意象的转换;③认知过程的暂时中断(邵军航,樊葳葳,2004)。其中,第一种最多,包括隐喻与转喻两种手段构成的委婉词;第二种主要是指外来语构成的委婉词;第三种包括模糊语和语音、书写变异形成的委婉词。前两种委婉机制都可归结为注意焦点的转移和注意力的分散,第三种则归结于认知努力和识解难度的增加。

认知语言学认为,隐喻与转喻是一种以一事物代替或描写另一事物的思维和认知方式,是人类认知发展的产物(赵艳芳,2001)。它们都涉及不同认知域之间的投射,即将源域的一些相关特征投射到靶域上并通过源域识解靶域所表达的概念。概念隐、转喻的这一机制使它们在表达概念时突显源域,分散听者对靶域的注意力,对靶域起到了一种太阳镜式的过滤与遮掩作用。

外来语构成的委婉中同样存在一种借跨域投射分散听者注意力的机制。不同的只是在外来词中,注意力的焦点从本族文化的概念域转移到了外族文化的概念域。这也是本文把外来语构成的委婉语和隐、转喻构成的委婉语划为一类的原因。在英语中这类词汇有很多,如 *libido* (拉丁语) 意为 **sexual desire**; *enceinte* (法语) 意为 **pregnancy** 等。

委婉词使用的另一类机制是通过使用语义空洞的模糊词汇、改变正确的书写和发音方式等手段增加听话人的认知努力和识解难度。当使用语义空洞的词汇时,听者需根据具体语境来确定其意义,这一过程就是认知努力增加的过程。同样,故意改变词的书写和发音也是在意义的理解上设置障碍,然而这种理解障碍的设置并不一定会导致理解过程的中断,因为委婉语给听者造成的理解障碍并非一成不变,其委婉性是随

着人们对它们熟悉程度的增加而不断减弱的。当一个新的委婉表达法刚开始被使用时,其委婉度最强,给听者造成的理解障碍也最大,此时委婉语往往会对人的言语理解过程造成暂时的中断。随着时间的发展,人们对该委婉语所表达的理解逐渐固化,理解中断的现象也就会随之消失。这时,将其委婉机制解释为“识解难度的增加”是合适的。

四、结 语

委婉语作为一种心理现象,其构成有其独特的认知机制。各种委婉的构成手段并非通过单一的认知机制就能达到其委婉效果的,它们是各种机制共同作用的结果。本文介绍的也只是其中主要的认知机制。尽管不同类型委婉语的认知机制各有特点,但是总的说来都是运用增加识解环节和认知努力、延长认知过程等手段,减缓语言事实在与听者的心理接触的过程中对听者的心理冲击的原理实现委婉的。从认知语言学的角度探析委婉语的认知机制使我们对委婉语这一语言现象有了进一步的认识,如何更加深入系统地运用认知语言学的其他理论对委婉语进行更加深入的研究,还是我们今后要长期面临的课题。

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An Overview of Metaphor Research

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[Abstract] Since metaphor research has had a long history, it is essential to have an overview of the representatives of each period with their theories. In this paper, we have given a general review of metaphor research from ancient times to the modern days. For reasons of scope and space, we concentrate on the grammatical metaphor.

[Key Words] Metaphor; Grammatical metaphor; Metafunctions

The 20th century has seen an explosion of theories of metaphor. The interest in metaphor and study of its structure, mechanism, function, effect and cognitive nature have grown rapidly in a broad range of disciplines including linguistics, anthropology, philosophy, psychology, education, science, etc. Metaphor research has had a long history and today's study is developed on the work done by many predecessors. Here some influential representatives of metaphor research in various periods of time will be selected so as to have a general view of its development.

I. A Historical Account of Metaphor Research

1. Aristotle

Aristotle is the first man who makes systemic study on metaphor. His *Rhetoric and Poetics* covers many important aspects of metaphor, including its definition, mechanism and function. In *Poetics*, Aristotle defines metaphor as 'the application of an alien name by transference either from genus to species, or from species to genus, or from species to species, or by analogy, that is, proportion'. However Aristotle regards metaphor as 'fancy language' and insists that metaphor violates the principle of explicitness and should be restricted to poetry only. Therefore, his study mainly focused on the rhetorical aspect.

2. Lakoff & Johnson

Lakoff and Johnson initiate their argument with a harsh criticism of the traditional view of metaphor as 'a device of poetic imagination' and 'the rhetorical flourish'. In their

opinion, 'language is composed of a set of symbols that are arbitrary and meaningless in themselves, but supposedly given meaning by virtue of their capacity to correspond to things, properties and relations existing objectively in the world out there.' (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980). They offer their cognitive view of metaphor, 'We categorize the world largely through metaphors' and 'The essence of metaphor is understanding and experiencing one kind of thing in terms of another'. In other words, metaphor has come to mean 'a cross domain mapping in the conceptual system' and should be understood as 'metaphorical concepts'.

3. Goatly

By compassing not only the cognitive, but also the social and linguistic aspects of metaphor, Goatly provides a timely complement to contemporary psychological investigations. Combining insight from functional linguistics and relevant theory, he provides a powerful model for understanding how metaphors work in real communicative situations. According to Hu (2002), Goatly is the chief challenger to Halliday's grammatical metaphor theory.

4. Halliday

Most of the studies of metaphor, from Aristotle to the present day focus on lexical aspects or from cognitive perspectives. However, many scholars did notice that there exists something like grammatical metaphor (GM). Halliday first brought forth his idea of GM by making an analogy between the rhetorical transference in lexis and in grammar, noticing that 'lexical selection is just one aspect of lexicogrammatical selection, or 'wording'; and that metaphorical variation is lexicogrammatical rather than simply lexical' (Halliday, 1994/2000). He regards metaphor as a kind of variation, that is, the variation in the expression of a given meaning, which, in the last chapter of his book *An Introduction to Functional Grammar* (1994/2000), is identified not only at the lexical level, but also at the grammatical level. Halliday's study of GM can be regarded as the beginning of conscious study of grammatical metaphor and his idea of GM serves as a great milestone in the history of metaphor study by opening up a new realm of study on metaphor.

II. Grammatical Metaphor in Functional Linguistics

Martin (1992) is the first to realize that 'grammatical metaphor' is sensitive to metafunctions and it is possible to recognize different types of metaphor according to the

kinds of meaning they interface. According to this viewpoint, Halliday (1994/2000) classifies grammatical metaphors into ideational and interpersonal metaphors, no mention of textual metaphor which Thompson (1996) introduces in his *Introducing Functional Grammar*.

1. The Ideational Metaphor

Halliday (1994/2000) has suggested three steps for interpreting the clause in its ideational function, as the representation of a process. These three steps are:

selection of process type: material, mental, relational, with their various intermediate and secondary types; realized as configuration of transitivity functions: Actor, Goal, Sensor, Manner, etc. representing the process, its participants, and many circumstantial elements; realized in turn as sequence of group phrase classes: verbal group, nominal group, adverbial group.

We referred above to the fact that in ordinary language there is a logical relationship between meanings and wordings. As Halliday states 'there is a systematic relationship among steps (i), (ii) and (iii) such that for any selection in meaning there will be a natural sequence of steps leading towards its realization' (Halliday, 1994/2000).

2. The Interpersonal Metaphor

Interpersonal metaphors are sub-classified into metaphors of modality and metaphors of mood by Halliday. The former express the modality explicitly and indicate the speaker's subjective or objective opinion concerning the probability that something will happen. The latter changes the conventional sense of speech functions performed by mood. They are the marked selections of sentence types to realize certain speech functions and their interpretation cannot be a combination of the sentence elements, but associated with their conventional force. Thus, metaphors of mood are more indirect, and more polite than the congruent expressions.

3. The Textual metaphor

Whether textual metaphor exists or not has been a controversial issue in the systemic functional linguistics. Martin (1992) and Thompson (1996) are the main supporters of textual metaphor though they take different approaches. They include it because of the assumption that the presence of metaphor can be recognized by the need for a double transitivity analysis, one of the original wording and the other of a more congruent wording; and there are in fact two types of thematic structure (thematic equatives and predicated themes). In Martin's view, there are two kinds of textual metaphors:

metaphorical themes and metaphorical news (Zhu, 2000).

III. Metaphor Research in China

In the foreign language research in China, more and more scholars have focused their attention on the research of metaphor. The content of the research include: the definition and classification of the metaphor, the research of the function of the metaphor, the recognition and inference of the metaphor meaning, and the research of grammatical metaphor. As for grammatical metaphor, Halliday's influence in China is profound and vital. For the past 20 years, in the fields of linguistic research and foreign language teaching on the mainland of China, Halliday's SFL has been increasingly discussed and applied to the descriptions and analysis of both English and Chinese, among other languages. (Huang & Wang, 2000). Within a few years, articles write by Chinese scholars about metaphor came out one after another. As was observed by Shu (2000), research on Halliday linguistics has been one of the prominent research interests and trends in China. Fan (2001), for example, talks about how grammatical metaphors are realized by nominalization in the discourse. Yan (2000) employs the theory of grammatical metaphors in Systemic Functional Grammar to make a discussion and analysis on the formation of grammatical metaphor and its functions.

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浅谈英语的动态性和静态性

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【摘要】英语具有动态性和静态性，而对这一现象的了解有助于我们更好地理解语义。语言是叙述“做什么”或“是什么”的过程的，而这种过程主要是通过动词表现出来的。因此动词的语义对表达“过程”起着关键的、核心的作用。基于以上考虑，本文主要围绕动词的动态性和静态性来浅谈英语的动态性和静态性，从而使我们对英语语义有更深了解。

【关键词】动态性；静态性

动态着重表示人或事物的动作和行为以及特征和情感的变化。这些动作、行为或变化大多数是个别的、暂时的或临时的情况，是正在进行的、尚未完成的或一次性的动作、行为或变化。静态着重表示人或事物的固定的和特有的状态、特征、情态，大多数是一般的、永久的情况，是经常性的、习惯的、重复的或已经完成而不再变化的动作（王中浩等，1985）。

动态性和静态性的主要区别在于：动态性可以表现在进行体和祈使句之中，而静态性则不可以。

一、英语动词的动态性与静态性

要对英语的动态性和静态性进行深入研究，必须先从单词的动态性和静态性分析入手。名词一般是静态的，副词一般是动态的。下面笔者主要对动词的动态性与静态性进行分析。

动词有动态和静态之分。英语中大量的动词是动态性的，其特点是可以用于进行体和祈使句中。静态性动词有表状态、情态、特征和相互关系的动词。动态性动词有表瞬间、活动等方面的动词（薄冰，1998）。下面笔者分别就动态性动词和静态性动词进行具体分析。

1. 动态性动词

一般而言，动态性动词主要分下列五类。

（1）活动型动词。动态动词大部分是活动型动词，表明人或物的活动、动作或行为。例如：

a. They were having supper.

b. They were taking supper.

c. They were eating supper. (他们正在吃晚饭。)

(2) 过程型动词。过程型动词表示人或物在特征方面变化的过程, 常用的动词有 change, alter, shift, turn, mature, ripen, develop, grow, age, improve, increase, accelerate, decline, decrease, flag, reduce, decelerate, diminish, widen, flatten, deepen, shorten, lengthen, weaken 等。例如:

The government is changing its foreign policy.

The government is altering its foreign policy. 这个政府正在改变其外交政策。

(3) 感受型动词。感受型动词大多表示人体所受的痛苦, 主要有 feel, ache, hurt, itch, tingle, pain, sting, tickle 等。例如:

The child was itching all over.

The child was suffering from an itch all over. (这个小孩正浑身发痒)

(4) 过渡型动词。过渡型动词表示由一种状态向另一种状态的变化, 主要表现出现、消失、消亡、出发、抵达、升起、下落、开始、停止等概念。主要有: appear, make one's appearance, turn up, come out, emerge, die, pass away, perish, wither, go away, leave, depart, set out/off, start out/off, take off, come, approach, get on for, draw near, arrive, land, rise, go up, ascend, get on, mount, soar, issue, fall, come/go down, set, drop, descend, sink, decline, get down, get off, dismount, stop, make a stop, come to a stop 等。以表示“消失”概念的动词为例。“消失”的概念涉及人、物、声音、颜色、火等从有到无的过渡。例如:

The man was disappearing in the dense fog.

The man was going out of sight in the dense fog. (这个人正在浓雾中消失。)

(5) 瞬时型动词。瞬时型动词表示瞬时发生又旋即结束的动作, 用于进行体, 表明一个短暂的动作在重复发生或连续进行。这类动词有 hit, jump, kick, knock, nod, tap, bang, wink, fire, cough, snore, puff, inhale 等。例如:

a. He was nodding his head. (他在不住地点头。)

b. She was knocking at the door. (她在不停地敲门。)

2. 静态性动词

一般而言, 静态性动词可以分为下列几类。

(1) 状态型动词。状态型动词表明人或物所处的状态, 最主要的是 be, 此外还有 remain (=be still), matter (=be important/of importance), suffice (=be enough/sufficient) 等。例如:

a. What he says doesn't matter to me at all. (他说的话对我一点也不重要。)

b. I think this money will suffice for your present needs. (我想这笔钱足够应付你目