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A Contrastive Study of Semantic Prosodies
in the Interface of Bilingual Corpora

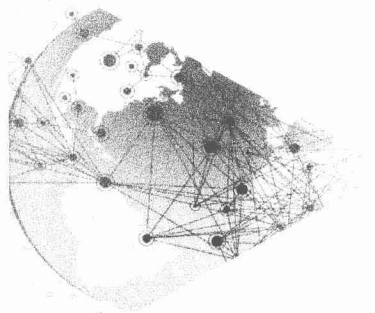
双语语料库界面下 英汉语义韵对比研究

李晓红◎著



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内容提要

本文以语料库研究范式下的扩展意义单位模型为理论基础,基于双语语料库界面下的验证数据,采用语义韵力度、主导语义趋向等测量描述参数,在英汉双语视角下揭示并探讨英汉双语词汇型式表达语义韵的特征异同,并提出语义韵对等是最高程度的双语型式对等。本研究对语言对比研究、翻译研究、语言教学及双语词典编撰具有借鉴意义。本书适合语料库、翻译、语言对比领域的研究者和教师使用。

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前言

语义韵概念的提出无疑是语料库语言学领域跨世纪的重要发现与主要研究课题。后弗斯学派的语料库语言学者在研究词语搭配时发现了超越单个词语界限的态度意义,这一发现为词语搭配研究和短语学研究提供了新的理论建构和工作范式。在近三十年的发展中,语义韵概念的探索经历了由单语视角向双语视角的转向,为对比短语学研究提供了新的方法与路径。

在语料库语言学领域和短语学研究中,约翰·辛克莱(John Sinclair)提出的“成语原则”(idiom principle)和“短语趋势”(phraseological tendency)是探索意义单位过程中最具变革意义和深远影响的发现,也是语料库语言学的理论基石。语义韵是辛克莱继而提出的扩展意义单位模型中的重要概念,是由节点词、搭配、类联接、语义趋向等要素共同选择而最终指向的态度意义。根据扩展意义单位模型,跨语言视角的语义韵研究主要通过调查双语词语的意义和功能对应来确立双语对等。然而,迄今为止,跨语言视角的语义韵研究仍以英语和其他西语的对比为主,基于双语语料库证据,严谨、系统地探讨英汉词语的语义趋向和语义韵如何构建双语扩展词汇单位的研究是一项既必要又艰巨的工作。

本书秉承辛克莱关于扩展意义单位的理论框架,在英汉双语视角下探讨并揭示两种语言表达语义韵——隐含态度意义——的特征异同。在研究方法上,采用自下而上的语料库语言学研究范式,借助平行语料库和对比语料库中客观、丰富的语料证据,发掘和描述新的语言现象,概括新的语言型式。英汉、汉英双向平行语料库能够提供大量的双语对应证据,有助于拟定词语层级的对应。对比语料库——现代汉语语料库和英国国家语料库——用于发现以节点词为核心的短语层级意义单位,即包含搭配、类联接、语义趋向和语义韵

各组合要素的扩展词汇单位。借助对比语料库中客观、丰富的语料证据能够发现凭直觉和经验无法发觉的语言聚合规律,揭示双语扩展词汇单位在形式、意义和功能层面的对应特征,最终确立最高程度的双语对等。本书的研究过程以数据为基础,采用了相互对应率(MC)、林奈双名法(Linnaean-style binomial notation)等测量和描述手段对语言证据进行数据处理和描述。在探讨语义韵过程中,本书提出了语义韵常模、语义韵力度、主导语义趋向等描述参数,系统、详尽地讨论了双语界面下语义韵及语义趋向的相互作用和共选规律。

研究发现,英汉语义韵表达既有共同特征,又呈现特有趋势。共同特征包括两方面:第一,节点词的内涵义无法直接表明扩展词汇单位的语义韵。单个词项蕴涵着语义韵潜势,即与特定的词汇-语法环境共选并表达积极、消极或中性态度意义的可能性,词语与语境相互共选时,语义韵潜势将被触发和具体化。语义韵同词语内涵义的区别在于语义韵是集复现搭配、特定句法结构及语义一致性的统一体。第二,节点词的主导语义趋向通常与语义韵保持和谐一致;有些语义范畴的节点词其主导语义趋向则可能与语义韵冲突对立。在解读语义韵过程中,可选语义趋向具有三种作用:态度指示语、态度强化语和语义携带语。距节点词越远,可选语义趋向的频数越低,相应的搭配和类联接规律越不明显,因此非显著性可选语义趋向的位置预示着扩展词汇单位的语义边界。

英汉语义韵表达体现三方面的异同特征。第一,语义韵力度差异。初似对应词呈冲突对立的语义韵及较高的语义韵力度,这说明以二者为核心的扩展词汇单位分别表达的典型态度意义具有语言特殊性或文化特殊性。第二,语义韵空缺。违背语义韵常模的个例使用表明,在目标语中出现的语义韵差异及语义韵非典型性现象皆由文化差异、意识形态差异和价值观差异所致。第三,类联接高度不一致。两种语言在表达语义韵时体现高度不一致的类联接选择趋向。

研究的另一重要发现是,要确立适宜的双语型式对等,语义韵的

一致对应或高度相似是关键所在。通过考察扩展词汇单位在语义趋向和语义韵层面的特征异同,能够建立不同程度的双语对等。双语扩展词汇单位的语义和功能高度相似,二者可确立为高度型式对等;双语扩展词汇单位中的一方允许语义韵偏离,二者为部分型式对等;语义韵冲突对立的扩展词汇单位则为不对等型式。因此,语义韵对等是双语词汇型式最高程度的对等。比较和探讨扩展词汇单位的语义韵对等为语言对比研究、翻译研究、语言教学及双语词典编撰开辟了新路径,为调查和确立双语对等提供崭新的研究视角。

语义韵概念在国外学界正处于多视角的理论阐释和更科学的方法探索阶段,而在国内学界仍是比较新的学术概念,近年间国内学者也开始越来越多地关注这一语言现象。语义韵的概念和研究方法尚在逐步完善,本书的描述和探讨难免有不尽准确之处,恳请广大专家同仁不吝指正。

拙著付梓之际,心存无限感激。

由衷感谢北京航空航天大学卫乃兴教授。他的悉心培养和专业指导是我顺利完成上海交通大学语言学博士研究的坚实基础。在博士研究和本书撰写过程中,他及时给予富有真知灼见的指导,耐心审阅本书的几次草稿,锱铢必较地指正文中谬误。卫乃兴教授严谨治学、孜孜不倦的学术风范是我完成学业和这本拙著的源源动力。

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李晓红
2015 年 7 月

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List of Abbreviations

BNC	British National Corpus
CPT	Contextual Prosodic Theory
JDPC	JiaoDa Parallel Corpus
MC	mutual correspondence
MCC	Modern Chinese Corpus
MEUM	Model of Extended Units of Meaning
PE	patterning equivalence
TP	translation pairs
SL	source language

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

In the past two decades the concept and phenomenon of semantic prosody have assumed a place of central importance in corpus linguistics; particularly, it has been brought into close integration with the study of attitudinal meaning and pragmatics. The concept of semantic prosody arises from post-Firthian corpus linguistics and is widely elaborated in phraseological studies. In effect, semantic prosody has increasingly been given considerable attention in corpus linguistics and beyond. Studies of semantic prosody have widened the horizons in the foreland field of linguistic exploration and enriched the methodology and contents of linguistic description (卫乃兴 2011a).

Discussions, questions and debates about the nature of semantic prosody, its identification and linguistic/non-linguistic implications lie at the heart of previous studies. In the literature, the term “semantic prosody” embraces different interpretations and is assigned with a broad range of features; however, the most common and acceptable interpretation can be paraphrased as: semantic prosody is semantically a property of meaning prevailing in the context as a result of lexico-grammatical co-selection, and pragmatically the hidden attitude and communicative purpose of a speaker/writer (Louw 1993, Sinclair 1996, 卫乃兴 2011a).

In Sinclair's (1996) Model of Extended Units of Meaning (henceforth MEUM), one of the most pioneering works for subsequent theoretical and empirical research, semantic prosody is considered as an obligatory property of an extended lexical unit. Semantic preference, or semantic association (Hoey 2005), reveals the relation between a word and a set of semantic categories, closely connected with the concept of collocation. The proposal of semantic preference leads us to a new understanding of collocation, because what we begin to note is not only "word-to-word collocation" but "word-to-class" or "word-to-semantic-class-of-word collocation" (Bublitz 1998: 16). Studies of semantic prosody and semantic preference have opened a brand new perspective to explore how the Idiom Principle or Phraseological Tendency (Sinclair 1996) operates on the syntagmatic axis and how the co-selection between lexis and grammar is oriented by communicative functions in languages, genres and language varieties (卫乃兴 2011a).

In the literature, semantic prosody and semantic preference have been explored most extensively by Sinclair (1996), Stubbs (2001), Partington (2004) and Bednarek (2008), among many others. The two notions have been widely and fully explored in a monolingual context, mainly in English. There are, however, only a few researchers (Partington 1998, Berber-Sardinha 2000, Tognini-Bonelli 2002, Dam-Jensen and Zethsen 2007) showing keen interest in contrasting semantic prosody between English and other European languages. Still less work has been carried out in a systematic way to study semantic preference and semantic prosody within a contrastive context involving English and a non-European language (notable exceptions include Xiao and McEnery 2006, 卫乃兴 2011b, 李晓红 and 卫乃兴 2012).