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A Functional Approach To Linguistic Taboo Violations

禁忌语 的功能研究

田贵森 著



河北教育出版社

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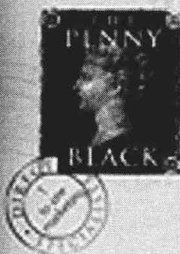
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特此致谢

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A Functional Approach to Linguistic Taboo Violations



The present work attempts to apply recent theories from linguistics functional linguistics in particular to the study of linguistic taboo violations. It aims to develop a coherent framework for linguistic taboo violation analysis and examine linguistic taboo violations in both

English and Chinese as an illustration of the framework offered. Taboo is a powerful restriction or prohibition that regulates contacts between specific categories of individuals and things in particular circumstances. The major argument developed in the analysis is that linguistic taboo violation is a kind of communicative strategy used to express anger to protest or to attack one's interlocutors and sometimes is also metaphorically used as endearment among friends as well. It functions as a loaded weapon, a protective shield in communication and the key issue of using these words is that there are rules and inhibitions about the normal use of items of this kind.

community itself. It is a familiar yet an almost inaccessible subject in academic research. It is a unique paradox in language communication. From its function in language it is a tool of expression, or it could hardly exist in language. From its function as a social norm, it can be used, or it could not be called linguistic taboo. In essence, linguistic taboo serves as a norm in language communication about things and way of saying certain things that cannot be mentioned or talked about. In language communication, it is almost impossible to

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序

语言是约定俗成的产物。既然是“约定”，意味着其语义和使用方法必然受到人类社会不同群体的规范和制约。在历史、社会、文化、宗教等种种因素影响下，有些词语越来越具有正面的、肯定的、优雅的意义，在公众场合被广泛地应用；有的则越来越给人以负面的、否定的、丑恶的联想，在不同程度上被禁止在公众场合使用。这种词语意义的褒义化（elevation）和贬义化（degradation）的较量和变化的过程推动了语言的发展。褒义化和贬义化发展到极端，会限制语言的良性发展，例如一些特定的褒义词语只能使用于王室人员或上层阶级，而一些贬义化的词语则索性被禁止使用或只能流通于黑社会。后者就是我们所熟知的禁忌语（taboo）。

语义学家、社会语言学家、人类语言学家、民俗语言学家等对这两种倾向都有不同程度的研究，但我国在这方面的专著还不多，特别是对禁忌语的研究，谁都不想惹是生非，给自己找麻烦。据说一位学者在词典编写“××大夫”的词条，受到围攻，最后不得不以一死来图个清静。本书作者涉足禁忌语，表现了他非凡的胆识。用难度系数来表示的话，我要给他打个高分。

但我觉得本书的亮点不在于作者能否收集罗列一大堆禁忌语交差

了事。作者在分析语料时发现一种现象，语言使用者并没有在所有的禁忌语前裹足不前，有时竟然有意地违反这样那样的禁令，在实际生活中大胆使用起禁忌语。他把这种称之为“犯忌”(taboo violation)现象。多年来，作者一直在探索，在思考，是什么原因促使语言使用者犯忌？这是一项艰苦的工作，皇天不负有心人，本书便是他苦心研究的成果。这不是难度系数所能概括的，这是创新！

本书的出版还提供了这样一条经验，要办成一件事，有时需要施压，需要逼。就作者田贵森教授的气质而言，他对工作极为负责，党的工作、行政工作、教学工作，总是他优先考虑的问题。这应该肯定。反之，他对个人的科研总是让路。短时间可以，时间长了，总不是办法。因此，一个优秀的教学工作者要学会在三条战线上战斗，教学、管理和科研都要安排合理，缺一不可。尤其对时间没有明确保证的科研要善于见缝插针，分秒必争，不能让别人牵着鼻子走。令人高兴的是，这一逼，贵森果然以新的姿态出现，有成果出版了。相信贵森能认真总结经验，今后在这方面会做得更好，有更多佳篇问世，成为一个更全面发展的教育工作者。

胡壮麟

2002年12月

北京大学蓝旗营

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中文摘要

本书运用功能语言学的理论和观点对语言交际中的禁忌语犯忌现象作了分析和探讨。全书共有六部分组成。在第一部分引言中，讨论了禁忌语的范围，并扼要回顾了以往禁忌语的研究情况。

第二部分首先讨论了马林诺斯基从社会角度分析语言的观点、弗斯关于语境的论述，以及韩礼德关于语言的系统理论和人际功能理论。在此基础上：（一）提出并阐释了语用隐喻的概念和功能。本书认为，任何进入社会交往的言语都有传达信息和表示讲话者态度或感情的功能。两者的组合形式可分为两大类：一是在规范的语言交际中，语言的感情色彩和讲话者的感情指数呈正态吻合形式；二是在偏离规范的语言交际中，语言的感情色彩和讲话者的感情指数呈逆向吻合形式，即语用隐喻。（二）提出并设计了禁忌语的发展流程图示。禁忌语言的存在说明，它也属于言语交际的一部分。本书从社会文化层次和语言交际层次对禁忌语的产生、演变和种类做了图示归类和总结，提出了两类禁忌语现象，即社会文化层次中产生的禁忌语和语言交际层次中产生的半禁忌语。本书认为一种语言中社会文化层次的禁忌词语是有限的，但是语言交际中的禁忌现象，即半禁忌语则是到处可见的。本书还在禁忌语的发展流程图示中归纳了禁忌语与委婉语交

错发展的三种趋势，即（1）禁忌（半禁忌）…>委婉…>禁忌，（2）禁忌（半禁忌）…>犯忌…>再禁忌，（3）禁忌（半禁忌）…>犯忌…>非禁忌。（三）提出禁忌语犯忌功能分析模式并系统概括了禁忌语的三种语用功能：（1）直言指代功能，（2）贬责攻击功能，（3）褒扬亲近功能。

以禁忌语犯忌功能分析模式为出发点，第三、第四、第五部分用英语和汉语的语言使用实例对三种功能分别做了说明。第三部分列举了禁忌语的直言指代功能；第四部分分析了禁忌语的贬责攻击功能；第五部分讨论了禁忌语的褒扬亲近功能。

本书的主要观点是，礼貌原则所阐释的是规范语言交际中的语用规律。实际语言交际中大量的非礼貌用语现象，尤其是禁忌语的犯忌现象说明，禁忌语言也属于言语交际的一部分。诸如：促使人们使用禁忌语的原因，制约使用禁忌语的因素，使用禁忌语的功能和效果，以及禁忌语的发展等方面的研究对认识语言交际中的语用规律，倡导礼貌语言具有重要意义。本书的第六部分对进一步研究禁忌语产生、替代和犯忌现象提出了自己的看法。

Abstract

The present work attempts to apply recent theories from linguistics, functional linguistics in particular, to the study of linguistic taboo violations. It aims to (1) develop a coherent framework for linguistic taboo violation analysis and (2) examine linguistic taboo violations in both English and Chinese as an illustration of the framework offered. The book consists of six chapters. Chapter 1 includes an explanation of the term “linguistic taboo” and a brief review of linguistic taboo research both home and abroad.

The second chapter reviews briefly the theoretical background of functional linguistics, chiefly Malinowski’s social view of language, Firth’s idea of context, Halliday’s systemic-functional grammar and language functions in general, and suggests a framework for the analysis of linguistic taboo violation. The framework consists of mainly (1) An

Emotionality and Meaning Co-variation Scale, which shows that every utterance in language use is a combination of a message and an emotionality marker; (2) *Pragmatic Metaphor* which explains that there is an incongruent and deviant form from the normal combination; and (3) *Functional Framework for Linguistic Taboo Violation Analysis* is proposed to illustrate three major functions of linguistic taboo violations as a communicative strategy.

Using this framework, three kinds of linguistic taboo violations in language communication are described and analyzed. Chapter 3 mainly examines the cacophemistic use of linguistic taboos, Chapter 4 mainly discusses the dysphemistic use of linguistic taboos, and Chapter 5 explores the euphemistic use of linguistic taboos.

The major argument developed in the analysis is that linguistic taboo violation is a kind of communicative strategy used to express anger, to protest or to attack one's interlocutors and sometimes is also metaphorically used as endearment among friends as well. It functions as a loaded weapon, a protective shield in communication and the key issue of using these words is that there are rules and inhibitions about the normal use of items of this kind. The work concludes with the observation in Chapter 6 that still more effort needs to be made in the analysis of linguistic taboos. Finally a number of suggestions for future research are offered.

Key words: linguistic taboos, taboo violations, cacophemism, dysphemism, swearing, obscenities, and pragmatic metaphor

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