

语言

与

文化研究

YUYAN YU WENHUAYANJIU

第十二辑

语 · 言 · 与 · 文 · 化 · 研 · 究

yuyan yu wenhua yanjiu

主 编 吴尚义

副主编 张春颖 王淑花 路文军

编 者 柯希璐 赵明明 范凌云



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全国百佳图书出版单位

语言与文化研究

Language and Culture Research

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内容提要

本辑论丛刊发了全国各地高校教师和研究者的论文 40 余篇, 内容涉及语言研究、教育教学研究、文学研究、翻译研究和文化研究等领域。所刊发的论文理论基础扎实, 观点新颖, 代表了我国语言学研究的最新热点和科研水平, 也反映了研究者对语言本身和语言教学理论与实践的思考和探索。论文的研究类型主要包括旨在研究解决课堂教学或与教学相关的一些实际问题的应用性研究, 但是其研究也带有较高的理论价值。其研究方法值得广大教师和研究者的广泛借鉴。本论丛可供较高语言水平的学习者、高等院校教师和语言研究者参考使用。

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前 言

《语言与文化研究》论文集每年出版四辑，由北京物资学院外国语言与文化学院《语言与文化研究》编委会与知识产权出版社联合推出，同时又是中国知网（<http://www.cnki.net>）学术期刊（光盘版）电子杂志社期刊，ISSN1671-6787，CN11-9251/G。论丛本着宁缺毋滥，少而精的原则，对稿件实行严格的三审制度。本辑共收录了全国各地高校教师和研究者的40余篇优秀稿件，内容涉及语言研究、教育教学研究、文学研究、翻译研究和文化研究等领域，是广大高校教师和研究者们对语言、语言教学、文学、翻译、文化等理论和实践的认真思考和探索的成果，体现了他们的学术水准、理论水平和业务素养。

本辑所收录的论文具有研究范围广泛、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、文化与翻译理论前沿的最新报告，有对外语各层次教学改革和思考，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，展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。

胡文仲先生说过，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。北京物资学院外国语言与文化学院语言与文化中心的宗旨就是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做出贡献，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。这也是我们定期出版外语教育教学与研究论文，并希望能起到激励推动作用的初衷。《语言与文化研究》论丛将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。

本辑中，北京物资学院外国语言与文化学院教师所发文章得到了北京物资学院科研基地项目的资助。

由于编者水平有限，疏漏在所难免，欢迎各界人士予以指正，欢迎广大从事语言与文化教学的教师和研究者不吝赐稿。

《语言与文化研究》编委会

2013年6月于北京

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A Comparative Analysis of Animal Proverbs in English and Chinese^{*}

Zhang Fang Wu Qiong

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【Abstract】 Proverbs are the reflection of people's life and the fruit of wisdom of human beings of a special nation, so are the animal proverbs which are the most vivid collection of language. This paper aims to make a comparative analysis of the animal proverbs in English and Chinese through introducing the form and foundations of animal words first, followed by the similarities and differences in the images and connotative meanings of animal proverbs in these two languages. Finally, the main factors that influenced the similarities and differences of animal proverbs are discussed.

【Key Words】 Animal Proverbs; Similarities and Differences; Factors

I Introduction

Language, as put particularly by Germany famous linguist Wilhelm von Humboldt, is "the outer appearance of the spirit of a people; the language is their spirit and the spirit their language; we can never think if them sufficiently as identical". (Humboldt, 1999: 46) As the vehicle of culture, language mirrors culture and carries a large amount of cultural information and inevitably takes inseparable relationship with culture.

Since vocabulary is the most sensitive, active and basic component of language, the influence of culture on language is embedded in vocabulary. Just as what Lado (1957: 113) pointed out, "The meanings of words are usually culturally determined or modified. They represent an analysis of the uni-

^{*} 本文系2012年江苏省大学生实践创新训练计划项目省级一般课题《从动物谚语的汉英翻译中看中西方文化差异》的阶段性成果,项目编号:20201。

verse as grasped in a culture”.

As a typical representative reflecting language, proverbs are closely connected with culture. They carry deep cultural information and deliver culture and civilization. They are the reflection of people's life and the crystal of wisdom of human beings of a special nation. Francis Bacon (1597), the British philosopher and essayist, had once stated that the genius, wit and spirit of a nation are discovered in its proverbs.

Proverbs, being short, vivid, pithy and pervasive, embody profound truth and wisdom while animal proverbs bearing proper animal images take rich cultural connotation. This paper aims to studying the similarities and differences in Chinese and English animal proverbs and exploring the factors that influence the uses of animal proverbs.

II A Literature Review of Animal Proverbs in English and Chinese

Animal proverbs are one category of animal words. In order to have an all-round overview of animal proverbs, the form and foundations of animal words will be illustrated first.

2.1 The form and foundations of animal words

The form of cultural connotation in animal words is closely related with people. Since the ancient times, there has been a close relationship between animals and human beings. In the long process of human civilization, animals have become an essential part in people's life and take an deep impact on human's life and development. Now that they occupy such an important role in human's society, language, as a reflector of experience and culture of human beings, would certainly have profound understanding and cognition of animal words. Therefore, a large number of animal words are naturally endowed with rich cultural connotation.

Besides the close relationship between animals and human beings, there are some foundations for the form of cultural connotation of animal words. Liao Guangrong (2000) concluded three factors: (1) Some features of animals such as appearance, psychological characteristics, physiological characteristics, behavior, character, habits and functions, etc. (2) Cultural content, cultural tradition and cultural psychology of special nation, including myths, religions, legends, history, literature, arts, languages, geographical environment, customs, ethic and morality, ways of thinking, aesthetic standards, etc. (3) Association, which means making connection between animals and some certain object. The cultural tradition of a nation, especially cultural psychology, takes potentially and importantly intriguing and instructive role in the form of association and direction.

Although animal words are rich in cultural connotation, the number of animal words with cultural connotation is limited and differs in English and Chinese. According to Liao Guangrong's (2000) investigation and statistics, the number of animal words in English is much bigger than that in Chinese. So is the number of animal words with cultural connotation.

2.2 The research on animal proverbs

Up to now, there are many dictionaries and papers recording a large amount of proverbs involved

with animal words in both English and Chinese. For example, in 2003, Yang Cengmao in his *Bilingual English Proverbs* makes a record of 520 proverbs involved animal words, which accounts for 6% of the total; in *Dictionary of Current Chinese Proverbs*, Wen Duanzheng and Shen Huiyun (2004) list 305 proverbs related with animal words that takes up 12% ; in 2007, Wang Fuzhen and Zhao Youbin in *A Collection of English Proverbs* record about 500 proverbs involved animal which is about 8% of the total.

The study on animal proverbs in English and Chinese can also be found in theses written by Wei Lijuan (2005) and Feng Xiaohui (2005). Wei Lijuan in her thesis named *A Comparative Study of Animal Images in English and Chinese Proverbs* made a comparison between English and Chinese proverbs from the aspect of animal images and clarified the animal proverbs in these two languages into three categories: identical animal images in English and Chinese proverbs, different animal images in English and Chinese proverbs and animal image blanking in English and Chinese proverbs. Feng Xiaohui studied animal proverbs in rhetoric and cultural angle in *A Comparative Study of English and Chinese Proverbs Containing Animal and Plant Words*.

III The Similarities and Differences in Animal Images Between English and Chinese Proverbs

On one hand, there are some animal proverbs with same images and same meanings in both English and Chinese, while on the other hand, some animal proverbs in these two languages may have same images but different or even opposite meanings. Moreover, there is one case where some animal proverbs are translated into non – animal proverbs or vice versa. Based on Ji Yizhi's classification of the relation between proverbs in different languages (1993), there are three groups: corresponding, semi – corresponding and non – corresponding, this paper will adopt this classification and illustrate one by one.

3.1 Corresponding animal images and meanings

Owing to the same or similar experiences acquired in life and the universal recognition of the world, there are some animal proverbs in English and Chinese with identical images breaking the national boundaries and cultural barriers, i. e. they are corresponding both in form and meaning. The people in these two cultures use the same animals to express the same meanings. Some examples are shown below:

Table 1 Corresponding animal images and meanings

Animal Proverbs in English	Animal Proverbs in Chinese
A cat has nine lives	猫有九命
Let sleeping dogs lie	勿惹睡狗，别惹麻烦
Big fish eat little fish	大鱼吃小鱼
The dog returns to his vomit	狗改不了吃屎

续表

Animal Proverbs in English	Animal Proverbs in Chinese
All lay load on the willing horse	人善被人欺，马善被人骑
A rabbit doesn't foul its own hole	兔子不吃窝边草
One swallow does not make a summer	一燕不成夏
A rat crossing the street is chased by all	老鼠过街人人喊打
He who rides a tiger is afraid to dismount	骑虎难下
A barking dog is better than a sleeping lion.	吠犬不可怕，睡狮难提防
If you not enter a tiger's den, you can't get his cubs	不入虎穴，焉得虎子
A speck of mouse dung will spoil a whole pot of porridge	一颗老鼠屎打坏一锅汤
It is the saddle that makes the horse and the tailor, the man	马靠鞍装，人靠衣装
As distance tests a horse's strength, so time reveals a person's heart	路遥知马力，日久见人心
If you raise a tiger secretly behind closed doors, when the tiger grows up it will harm you or others	关门养虎，虎大伤人

The examples above show that each pair of the proverb in English and Chinese has not only the same animal images but also the same meanings. Since language reflects people's life experiences and culture, these corresponding animal proverbs to some extent indicate that the English and the Chinese people share some similar experiences in their social practice.

3.2 Semi-corresponding animal images and meanings

In English and Chinese, there are some animal proverbs sharing the same form and image but inferring different connotative meanings. Moreover, there are some animal proverbs identical in meaning but with different images. To put it short, these animal proverbs convey the same image or connotation. Overall, compared with the corresponding animal proverbs mentioned above in English and Chinese, the number of this category is much larger. For example:

Table 2 Semi-corresponding animal images and meanings

Semi-corresponding	Animal Proverbs in English	Animal Proverbs in Chinese
Same images but different meanings	Dog eat dog	狗咬狗
	Barking dogs seldom bite	咬人的狗不露齿
	Old dogs will learn no new tricks	老狗学不会新把戏
	If the old dog barks, he gives counsel	老狗叫，是忠告
	It is a good horse that never stumbles	好马不失蹄
	When a dog is drowning every one offers him drink	救了落水狗，反咬你一口

续表

Semi – corresponding	Animal Proverbs in English	Animal Proverbs in Chinese
Different images with same meanings	As strong as horse	力大如牛
	As timid as a hare	胆小如鼠
	Love me, love my dog	爱屋及乌
Different images with same meanings	Hold the wolf by two ears	骑虎难下
	Eagles do not breed doves	龙生龙, 凤生凤
	Rats desert a sinking ship	树倒猢猻散
	Like a duck to water	如鱼得水
	Beat the dog before the lion	杀鸡给猴看
	The scalded cat fears cold water	一朝被蛇咬, 十年怕井绳
	A small bird wants but a small nest	燕雀安知鸿鹄之志
	Fine feathers do not make fine birds	好马不在鞍, 人美不在衫
	Kings and bears often worry keepers	伴君如伴虎
	Take not the musket to kill a butterfly	杀鸡焉用牛刀
	Hares may pull dead lions by the beard	虎落平阳被犬欺
	When the cat's away, the mice will play	山中无老虎, 猴子称霸王
	You can't sell the cow and drink the milk	鱼和熊掌不可兼得
	A nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse	对牛弹琴
	He killed the goose that laid the golden eggs	杀鸡取卵
	Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion	宁做鸡头, 不做凤尾
	Better be the head of an ass than the tail of a horse	宁为鸡头, 不为牛后
	Two dogs strive for a bone, the third run away with it	鹬蚌相争, 渔翁得利。
	A wise fox will never eats the grass beside its furrow	兔子不吃窝边草
	Carrion crows bewail the dead sheep, and then eat them	猫哭耗子假慈悲
	One may lead a horse to the water, but he cannot make him drink.	老牛不喝水, 不能强按头

3.3 Non – corresponding animal images with same meanings

Non – corresponding animal images with meanings refer to the phenomenon that the animal proverbs don't take up images in either English or Chinese, i. e. some animal proverbs translated into Chinese without animal images, or vice versa. For example;

Table 3 Non – corresponding animal images with same meanings

Non – corresponding	English	Chinese
Animal proverbs in English but non – animal proverbs in Chinese	Like cow, like calf	有其母必有其女
	Curiosity killed the cat	爱管闲事, 自己吃亏
	Every dog has his day	凡人皆有得意日
	Far fowls have fair feathers	月亮是别处的圆
	Don't let the cat out of the bag	秘密不可泄露
	A fox may grow grey, but never good	江山易改, 本性难移
	As the old cock crows, so crown the young	娘勤女不懒, 爹懒儿好闲
	He that lies down with dogs, must rise up with fleas	近朱者赤
	Dogs wag their tails not so much in love to you as your bread	醉翁之意不在酒
	The cow knows not what her tail is worth until she has lost it.	物在不知好, 失之方觉贵
Non – animal proverbs in English but animal proverbs in Chinese	Like begets like	龙生龙凤生凤
	Life is but a span	人生如白驹过隙
	Evil will never said well	狗嘴里吐不出象牙
	Nothing ventured, nothing gained	不入虎穴, 焉得虎子
	A little body often harbors a great soul	燕雀也有鸿鹄志
	Misfortune might be a blessing in disguise	塞翁失马, 焉知非福

IV Factors Influencing the Uses of Animal Proverbs in English and Chinese

According to the form and foundations of above, and analysis above, there are two main factors influencing the use of animal proverbs in English and Chinese: geographical features and living customs, and religious belief.

The difference in geographical culture is an important factor influencing both the living customs and the cultural connotation and use of animal proverbs in English and Chinese. Geographically, England is an island country located in the Western Hemisphere where its people make living by fishery or navigation while China is located in Eastern Hemisphere living on agriculture and forming the living

style of farming and stock raising. Therefore, there are a great many different animal proverbs. One of the typical examples shown above is the pair of animal words “horse” in English proverbs and “牛” in Chinese proverbs which indicate diligence. Besides, there are many proverbs involved dog in English take positive connotation such as “love me, love my dog”, “Barking dogs never bite” and “Every dog has his day” while in Chinese culture, dog is often associated with unpleasantness like expressions as “狗咬吕洞宾, 不识好人心”, “狗嘴里吐不出象牙”, “狗眼看人低” and “人急造反, 狗急跳墙” and so on.

“The influence of religious belief on human culture is significant because religious belief in a main component of human culture taking deep impact on people’s lives.” (朱乐红、陈可培, 2000) In English, there are proverbs like “as poor as the church mouse” and “the king and pope, the lion and wolf” which directly or indirectly originating from their religion while in Chinese, there are proverbs such as “狗肉烧酒穿肠过, 佛在心中留” and “大鱼吃小鱼, 小鱼吃虾” etc.

V Conclusion

According to the comparison between some animal proverbs in English and Chinese, it can be seen that the images and connotative meanings of some animal proverbs coincide fully or partially in Chinese and English; while others don’t, and some even turn out to be totally different or opposite because of geographical features and living customs, and religious belief.

Language and culture are interrelated with each other and language serves as the immediate bridge between different cultures. Animal proverbs, the building blocks of the very bridge and the pearls of the cultural treasure house, sparkle with the wisdom of the masses, and glisten with the artistic quality of the human language. Since animal proverbs are the most vivid collection of language and carry rich cultural meanings of individual nation and culture, success in the understanding and translation of animal proverbs will reinforce, in some degree, the firmness of the bridge, and the traveler on the bridge will enjoy a smooth sense of stability.

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The Symbolic Meaning of the Four Protagonists' Names in *the Scarlet Letter*

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【Abstract】 As the masterpiece of Nathaniel Hawthorne, *the Scarlet Letter* has always been the research text of many literature learners. With the universal employment of symbolism, one of the most skilled techniques employed in Hawthorne's novels, this paper focuses on the morals of the names of the four protagonists, illustrating the plot development and presenting of the themes from a new perspective.

【Key Words】 "*the Scarlet Letter*"; the Protagonists' Names; Symbolism; Symbolic Meaning

I Introduction

As one of the artistic techniques employed in literary works, symbolism represents abstract objects and meanings via concrete images so as to arouse readers' imagination and association. Just as what has been pointed out by French literary essayist A. Edward that symbolism meets readers' demand of describing and transcending reality. (Johnson, 1995). It is usually employed as a method to figure the protagonists. There are many methods of portraying characters, of which the simplest is naming the characters. Vivid or vigorous, fresh or lifelike, or full of personality, characters can be portrayed by a nickname, a name representing the characteristics or appearance or physiological features. Nathaniel Hawthorne's *the Scarlet Letter* is a typical model in which each name of the protagonists has its symbolic meaning respectively.

II The Symbolic Meaning of the Four Protagonists' Names in *the Scarlet Letter*

Based on the background of religion and ethics, many a work of Hawthorne explore the theme of human's good and evil via symbolism, ambiguity and psychoanalysis of the characters. Hawthorne names each of the protagonists a special word during the creation of the novel, so as to reflect the characteristic and destiny of the protagonists, the story background, the plot development, the climax and the ending, and create an echo with the theme. It can be known that the protagonists' names are ambiguously after deep consideration. It's helpful to grasp completely the themes of the novel with correct understanding of the symbolic meaning of the protagonists.

2.1 The Symbolic Meaning of Pearl

As the most mysterious heroine and daughter of Hester and Dimmesdale's love tragedy, "Pearl" has three meanings. First, "Pearl" means "very precious" in "*Holy Bible*". Based on the sacrifice of Hester's fame and whole life, Pearl is an angel who encourages her to face directly to the indifference of the society. Secondly, "Pearl" means "outstanding, crystal and elite", just as Hawthorne portrays "that little creature, whose innocent life had sprung, by the inscrutable decree of Providence, a lovely and immortal flower, out of the rank luxuriance of a guilty passion.", as well as many metaphors, such as "an airy sprite", "angel of judgement", "a wild tropical bird of rich plumage", "a nymph - child, or an infant - dryad", "with winged footsteps", "a floating sea - bird", "daughter of devil", "a bird of bright movement" etc, (Hawthorne, 1992) from which we can see Pearl is featured as an elf sometimes and an angel as well. Ultimately, after inheriting Chillingworth's property, she becomes a rich woman and marries a noble, living a happy life. Pearl stands for a kind of spirit and hope of contemporary American and a bright future. Moreover, Pearl is the partial tone of "purl" which means "brook" in the novel. Belonging to forest, Pearl's life experience is as mysterious as brook. Since the production of an illicit marriage, she becomes the foundling of the children's world and could only play near the brook in the forest. Pearl is just like a clean brook and a mirror. Overlook the novel, "Pearl" is perfect morally, containing the "good" of humanity—nature, pureness and goodness. She represents a natural person and she is the society norm and judge.

2.2 The Symbolic Meaning of Hester

Wearing the scarlet letter on her bosom, Hester Prynne is the center protagonist of the novel and the woman representative, brave, able and full of energy. She is not just a woman fighting for freedom while opposing adversity. She is a fighter against the fatuous old tradition, since she turns the spearhead to the integrated system of ancient prejudice closely related to ancient rules, which is the burrow of royalty and aristocrat. (常耀信, 2005) "Hester" has three meanings. First, "Hester" is associated with "Hestier", the elder sister of Zeus and daughter of Cronus and Rhea, a beautiful goddess taking charge of cooking range. Cooking is associated with flame and warmth of family. "Hester" indicates that Hester is not only a beauty but also a beauty with passion and love. Secondly, "Hester" means "to command". "Prynne" is the partial tone of "Pry" which means "to look closely and inquisitively". Committing adultery, the Seventh commandment of Puritanism, foreruns her inevitable tragedy under the cruel magisterium reign. "Hester Prynne" predicates her sin will be monitored in the next seven years in the novel during which she loses her personality because of her miserable suffering and trial of insulting. Thirdly, "Hester" is the partial tone of "haste", which means "imprudent or light - minded". Hester marries Chillingworth in haste, an old scholar, and faces a marriage without true love which is an adventure rather than marriage. After two years' dying of her husband, she falls in love with the pastor Dimmesdale in haste who is young and handsome, talented with holy and attractive voice. They create the fruit of love in haste which is completely forbidden in Puritanism doctrines. Besides the former meaning "pry" mentioned above, the surname "Prynne" has another