The Europeanization in Chinese — Focus on English and Chinese

Yang Fu [1,#], Jingyu Liu [*,2,#]

[1] School of European Languages and Cultures, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing, China, 100081

[2.]School of Foreign Languages, Tianjin University, Tianjin, China, 300072

* Corresponding Author Email: ljy0518_@tju.edu.cn

[#]These authors contributed equally.

Abstract. Languages are always progressing, and other languages significantly influence Chinese. The significant influence is a change in the structure of the Chinese sentence. As intercultural communication continues to increase, loanwords are becoming more and more common in daily life. Loanwords fill up the gaps of new things and greatly enrich the vocabulary. Language interactions and the people's perception of such implicit and explicit cultural influences are critical to understand cultural influences on people and cultural exchange. This paper analyzes loanwords, sentence structure and people's thinking patterns to find the influence caused by Europeanization and how Europeanization is defined in China. Moreover, this paper analyzes the international context and the related conditions of the Chinese Europeanization phenomenon. In general, the Europeanization of the Chinese is inevitable in the current context. The borrowed words and grammatical changes have enriched the Chinese vocabulary and promoted smooth communication between China and other countries.

Keywords: Europeanization, Culture influence, Loanwords, Sentence Patterns.

1. Introduction

Culture is the sum of the material and spiritual wealth created by human beings during social development [1]. Throughout history, the interaction and communication between peoples and nations have led to the interplay of different languages. If a culture is highly influential, then the unique cultural-related words from that culture will be introduced into other languages called loanwords. The use of loanwords and the variation of their semantics partly reflect the recognition of the cultural symbol. Some cultures are so influential that in the interaction of cultures, they can even influence another culture's mindset, which is revealed in sentence structure.

The loanwords in Chinese began in New Culture Movement[2]. Regarding loanwords, scholars have mainly explored the reasons for loanwords' emergence and the process of loanwords' lexical changes, and studies on the development and change process of borrowed words have been systematic. There exist certain articles on the explicit and implicit influence of borrowed words, but there is a lack of articles analyzing the implicit and explicit influence of borrowed words in terms of cultural interactions [3, 4]. In Wu Fuxiang's 2007 paper, he analyzed the reasons for the creation of loanwords. In his 2004 paper, Xiaofei Li analyzed how foreign English words are transformed into Chinese.

The order of words is determined by the human subconscious and, to some extent, reflects . The influx and learning of English have changed Chinese grammar, affecting people's daily speaking and literary works. After the mid-twentieth century, scholars, represented by Guangzhong Yu, focused on the advantages and disadvantages of the Europeanization of Chinese syntax. Some scholars have also studied the phenomenon of specific syntactic structural changes. Wang Li was the first person to study the phenomenon of Europeanization in China systematically, and in his Modern Chinese Grammar (1944), he provides a fascinating discussion of "Europeanized syntax" in the light of actual linguistic changes. He compared the new structures and syntax that emerged in the early decades of the 20th century with the traditional Chinese vernacular and summarized the

specific changes in syntax [5]. Subsequent studies have mostly focused on one grammatical change and further analysis for one text. For example, Yan Wang's 2008 paper focuses on the grammatical phenomenon in Some of the Tea in China. There is a lack of relevant, comprehensive exploration papers and a lack of thorough cultural analysis based on changes in sentence structure.

This article will focus on analyzing the cultural factors of the Europeanization of the Chinese. By extending the concepts of explicit and implicit Europeanization proposed by Yanbin Diao, we will analyze the results of the explicit influence of the introduction of loanwords and the implicit influence of the change of Chinese syntactic structure and explore the cultural factors and the implicit influence on people's thinking patterns. This paper will also analyze the contextual factors of Chinese Europeanization. This paper will try to analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the Europeanization of the Chinese.

2. Loanword definition

Loanwords, also called borrowing, refer to words borrowed from other languages, and they are the product of cross-cultural linguistic contact. The localization of the borrowing words is to make them can be used together with Chinese words as active words. The development process of loanwords is also the continuous development and innovation of Chinese culture[3].

2.1. "Loanwords" in Chinese

Language and culture are inextricably linked with frequent communication between different countries. Language as a symbol of culture is bound to develop in the process of communication, resulting in English loanwords[2]. The integration of cultures will further promote the evolution and evolution of English loanwords. In the process of long-term language and cultural exchange and integration, English loanwords are no longer just isolated from Chinese but gradually sinicized and truly became a part of Chinese. Through various translation methods such as transliteration, paraphrasing, phonetics and meaning, English abbreviations, etc., English loanwords have gradually developed and matured and integrated into the daily language of Chinese [6]. Any word that originates from other ethnic groups or nationalities is sinicized to varying degrees and used in Chinese, which has been determined and can be regarded as a loanword. The most important sources of loanwords in the Chinese vocabulary began in modern times, mainly from Western and Japanese loanwords.

2.2. Problems met by the borrowing words

The localization of the borrowing words is to make them can be used together with Chinese words as active words[2]. While borrowing one word from the source language, here refers to English, to the process of Chinese, any change in it must follow the actual needs of Chinese language communication and be subject to the constraints of Chinese phonetics, vocabulary and vocabulary grammar system.When Chinese borrows foreign words, the first problem to face is phonetics. Although English and Chinese have totally different pronunciation patterns, several Chinese characters will be used to form a word that shares the same meaning and likely sounds with the original one.

In terms of the structural form, compound words account for a considerable proportion of modern Chinese, so when absorbing words from another language, more consideration is given to the using habits of Chinese. No matter what the internal structure form of the original word is.

In terms of meaning, after foreign words enter Chinese, the meaning often changes, such as the expansion or reduction of the meaning. The meaning of words is narrowed. For example, the definition of the word Bar in the Dictionary includes several articles: 1. A bar is a place where you can buy and drink alcoholic drinks. 酒吧; 2. A bar is a room in a hotel or other establishment where alcoholic drinks are served. (旅馆等的) 酒吧间; 3. A bar is a counter on which alcoholic drinks are served. 吧台; 4. A bar is a long, straight, stiff piece of metal. (金属)棒; 5. If you say someone is

behind bars, you mean they are in prison. 在狱中的,etc. After the word was introduced into Chinese, only the meaning was selected. The word bar now only be used as "a room in a hotel or other establishment where alcoholic drinks are served", and compared with the meaning category of the bar in the English environment, the meaning scope of the bar in Chinese is relatively narrow, and its meaning has also been reduced.

2.3. The influence caused by loanwords

The word-forming component of a pure transliteration of a loanword originally had no meaning, but now there are new changes, such as a certain morpheme of a transliterated word of a foreign word can become a morpheme alone. The introduction of foreign words has made modern Chinese words appear alphabetized. Since alphabetic words have the advantage of being concise and convenient, this is also an inevitable trend. It weakens the absolute dominance of Chinese compound words. Modern Chinese vocabulary is mainly based on compound words, and the root word formation method links various morphemes. It has accelerated the internationalization of the Chinese. After the First Opium War and Second Opium War, many scientific and technological terms were introduced from abroad to China, which expanded Chinese vocabulary and accelerated Chinese internationalization, giving Chinese more potential for development.

3. Change in Sentence Structure and the Change in People's Thinking Pattern

The influence of English thinking on Chinese thinking first emerged in the Chinese texts translated and written by missionaries in the nineteenth century and then in the late Qing and early Ming dynasty translations of light literary and vernacular works, while the most concentrated expression of Europeanized grammar is in the modern vernacular, which is fundamental to its distinction from traditional vernacular [5]. The authors select five phenomena of Europeanization of syntactic structures. The authors believe these five phenomena have the greatest impact on Chinese thinking.

3.1. The Transformation of Gender Ideas --- the Use of Personal Pronouns

During the May Fourth Movement, influenced by English, the third-person pronouns in Chinese became gender-differentiated, and personal pronouns referring to things appeared [7]. In addition, Chinese is influenced by English's emphasis on sentence integrity, and some authors still retain the subject in the sentence when they create literary works. In many cases in Chinese, the subject of a sentence can be omitted. For example, if the subject appears in the previous sentence, the next sentence will have the same subject as the previous sentence, and the second sentence will omit the subject. In *When My Wife Comes Back*, the author wrote:

I can take care of wounded soldiers, I can play the piano, I can act [8].

In the original Chinese, after the first appearance of a personal pronoun, if the subject remains unchanged, the personal pronoun will no longer appear later. Therefore, all the punctuation is the comma, and in original Chinese, the second and third “I” can be omitted to avoid tautology.

After six months, you will leave me, and you should leave to do what you should do [8].

In Chinese, the tone of the second half of the sentence is more like stating a truth “Everyone should do what they should do”. At this time, the original Chinese will choose to omit the subject, weaken the emphasis on “you”, and change the tone of command to the tone of narrating facts. In original Chinese, this sentence will be "After six months, you should leave me and do what I have to do."

He sent me a letter the day before yesterday, and he knew that you could be home yesterday and was eager to see you. He asked me to wait at the company at six o'clock, and he sent a car to pick us up [8].

Although there are many changes of personal pronouns in this sentence, sometimes, in the original Chinese, we choose not to say the subject and let the other party guess the subject by

themselves according to the context. It also reflects that Buddhism and Taoism deeply influence Chinese culture. Both religions emphasize the need for understanding.

Besides the first “he” in the sentence, all the “he” can be omitted in original Chinese to avoid tautology.

This phenomenon has greatly affected the gender perception of the Chinese. Since ancient times, patriarchal thought has been dominant in China. During the period when Western culture first flowed into China, women's thinking was changing. Many women in China were in the era of feminist awakening, advocating gender equality between men and women. Influenced by Western ideas, Professor Bannong Liu of Peking University coined the character “她 (equals to “she” in English)”. Therefore, women have their own female personal pronouns. After this, the literati of that period compared China to their mother and used the pronoun "she" to refer to China in poetry. It has consolidated and developed a new gender value orientation of respect for women. Ancient China emphasized the family and Confucianism and demanded that people ignore their needs. In conversations, people would try to avoid “I/ me” to make the article or opinions more objective and tactful. After the frequent appearance of "I" in articles and conversations, people's self-awareness began to awaken, gradually began to express their opinions, and individualism began to appear.

3.2. The Transformation of Personal Identity Perception--- the Use of “Be.”

After the Europeanization of Chinese, “is/are/am” sentences gradually appeared in Chinese. In English, due to the limitations of syntactic structure, adjectives cannot be directly used as predicates, and the “be” must appear. However, in original Chinese, the adjectives can directly follow the subject. The sentence "She is beautiful" in original Chinese is "She beautiful". However, along with the Europeanization of Chinese, many of the masterpieces appear in the sentence with “be”:

He was gentle with women. It is true [8].

“Be” mostly means emphasis in Chinese. If speaking Chinese according to the logic of English, then the expression means, “this is absolutely true”. In original Chinese, “it is” in this sentence can be omitted.

The FBI's means of investigation are very clever [8].

If Chinese speak Chinese according to this sentence, “means” is emphasized in this sentence. Emphasize that the "means" are very clever, not personnel or other things. In original Chinese, “are” cannot appear in this sentence.

When Chinese learn English sentences consisting of "be", they often do not add "be" or over-add "be". They do not know how to use "be" correctly because there is no "be" equivalent in Chinese. According to the survey, the wrong use of the "be" in Grade 7 English test of Chinese junior high school students reached 394 times (in total, they collected 280 students’ articles) [9]. Moreover, many "be" are used after the person, and it emphasizes the attributes of that person and implicitly emphasizes the differences between people.

3.3. Change of Subjective Awareness---the Use of Passive Sentences

Passive sentences in Chinese were originally limited to expressing unpleasant and unhappy things. Influenced by English, Chinese passive sentences have greatly improved and are not limited to expressing unpleasantness. According to Professor Wang Kefei's statistics, there are 115 explicit passive sentences in the first 40 pages of Maugham's "The Shackles of Human Nature"; The first thirty pages of Austin's Pride and Prejudice have 150 explicit passive sentences [10]. Before the Europeanization of Chinese, the masterpiece Water Margin can be found in only two or three explicit passive sentences in one chapter; only one explicit passive sentence can be seen in twenty or thirty chapters of Dream of the Red Chamber. Before the May Fourth Movement, passivity was often used with things that hurt, indicating bad things. For example, there are as many as 100 passive sentences in Lao She’s “Camel Xiangzi”, with an average of 0.5 passive sentences per page.

For example:

The river is slightly reddish by sunset [11].

In the original Chinese, two things cannot complete passive actions. Only man can be the doer in passivity. In original Chinese, this sentence will be "The sunset illuminates the river to be a little reddish".

Back Lake was loved by me [11].

This sentence uses the passive to emphasize “lake”, but the original Chinese passive sentence does not have the meaning of emphasis. This sentence will be “I love Bake Lake” in original Chinese.

Chinese culture believes that people are centred, which means people do all activities. Things cannot complete people's behavioural activities, so they often take “I/other pronouns” as the starting point. Chinese tend to depict people and their actions or states. Therefore, the Chinese emphasize sensibility and imagery, emphasizing comprehensive cognition. Westerners often take things as the main body, emphasizing the role and impact of objective authenticity on people. Moreover, Westerners have always taken the understanding of nature as their main goal and regarded nature as an object. They tend to be more objective and focused on "what happened to whom". The subject is often what people care about the most. Therefore, passive sentences are very common in English and not so common in Chinese. Under the influence of English, passive sentences gradually appeared in Chinese, which to a certain extent, changed the thinking of Chinese people as the main body and made Chinese's thinking objective.

3.4. Changes in Conditions Implicit in Sentences--- Conjunctions

Chinese prefer symmetrical things and pursue balance, which exists everywhere in daily life. For example, Yin and Yang. If one of them occupies more, the Chinese will consider it unfortunate. In the sentence, the Chinese also pursue the aesthetic, in which the two parts occupy the same portion. While native English speakers, influenced by the western culture, emphasize their personalities and pursue distinctive from others.

For example:

Her family had lived in Hong Kong and knew that Hong Kong was a subtropical climate, but her mother still sent a sleeping bag because her mother was afraid that she would break the covers and get cold in her sleep [12].

In this sentence, the expressive sentence has the meaning of explanation. After Europeanization, complex causal sentences often appear in literary works. This kind of causal compound sentence does not often appear in Chinese. However, it plays an active role in this sentence, which is the supplementary explanation.

She didn't show it to him, and she was very afraid of embarrassing people, let alone him, although she was worried [12].

This is a turning sentence. The normal word order should mention the “although” in the transition related to the beginning of the sentence: “Although it was her concern, she still did not show it to him because he was embarrassed by others, let alone embarrassed him.” The stacked conjunctions in the original sentence can cause a certain degree of Chinese dyslexia. Europeanization plays a negative role here.

English thinking mode is derived from the Anglo-European cultural model, which fundamentally is the Platonic-Aristotelian thinking way [13]. Westerners always use syllogism and a deductive approach and usually straightforwardly illustrate things. They will point out the semantic relationship in the sentences using specific conjunctions. However, Chinese culture is deeply influenced by Taoism and Buddhism. The two thoughts, they emphasize the importance of perception. The widespread of the two religions have deeply influenced the literature and how people speak. They always illustrate things in a blur and speciosity way. It requires people to have the ability to understand. Therefore, it is hard for the Chinese to use the explicit conjunctions of accurate semantemes in English.

Influenced by English, the Chinese derive the conjunctions in pairs. Chinese prefer symmetrical things and pursue balance, which exists everywhere in daily life [14]. For example, Yin and Yang.

If one occupies more, the Chinese will consider it unfortunate. In the sentence, the Chinese also pursue the aesthetic, in which the two parts occupy the same portion. While native English speakers, influenced by the western culture, emphasize their personalities and pursue distinctive from others.

3.5. Changes in Linguistic Coherence--- Parenthesis

In English, parenthesis can be used in various forms and positions. The use of parenthesis vividly demonstrates the flexibility of language organization. In Chinese, the parenthesis's position is fixed and single. In Lao She's work "Camel Xiangzi", the use of insertions combines Chinese and Western characteristics and is very flexible:

The girl had always been, he knew, not to dress like that [15].

How clean and decent that was! Yes, there are many more decent things in the world than that blue, but Xiang Zi knows how difficult it is to make himself that decent [15].

Chinese sentences are sequential, and there will be no interjections in the middle to break the logic of Chinese. Generally, parentheses in English will appear as pre-attributives in the original Chinese.

The use of parenthesis adds a lot to Lao She's article. It makes Lao She's language more charming. The richness of parenthesis improves the problem that a sentence in Chinese can only have a single emphasis. In the sentence, "The girl had always been, he knew, not to dress like that, " Lao She emphasizes that the man knew that the girl was deviant, and the girl dressed abnormally. If a sentence like "He knew that the girl had always been not to dress like that", Chinese would think that the girl dressed abnormally is the highlighted part.

4. Historical and political reasons for Europeanization

In the 30 years since the reform and opening up, especially after China acceded to the World Trade Organization, economic and cultural exchanges between China and other countries have become increasingly close, and exchanges between countries have also increased. From a global perspective, the exchange and integration between various cultures and languages have also become a major development trend. Due to its dominant position in the world, English as a strong language has an unstoppable influence on the languages and cultures of other countries worldwide. To a certain extent, the consequent weakening of the influence of the Chinese language has become an inevitability. Economy development, political changes and the adjustment of the power structure greatly impacted people's ideology and concepts, and after the Opium War, the literature showed a different style than before. Language is a relatively stable symbol system in society, and the change of concepts, ideas and value attitudes to trigger the change of language is a rather slow historical process, and the trajectory of its change can only be seen by examining it over a long period [16].In the context of globalization, with the rapid development of mass media, the role of mass media in Europeanizing Chinese cannot be underestimated. If there are no mass media to amplify it, it is challenging to make Europeanized Chinese quickly popularized. The works of some national leaders and the world's famous masterpieces or important newspapers and legal norms disclosed in China will have a certain degree of Europeanization of Chinese, such as ranking, long determiners, passive structure, etc. Language structures can often be seen in life, and this phenomenon is the promotion of mass media in the current context of globalization. A language reflects the social requirements of society. Therefore, in the process of communication between countries and the needs of communication, language gradually changes with the expansion of the scope of communication. Moreover, some things that are not original in their own country, also known as foreign things, into people's lives, of them will have a convenient impact on people's lives, and some will have an impact on traditional national culture and thought, but it is not conducive to the long-term peace and stability of the country [7].

"Europeanization" is a neutral word, including both positive and negative. Therefore, the government plays an indispensable and important role in response to the "Europeanization" of the

Chinese. On issues related to national culture and traditions, China formulated the "Hanyu Pinyin Plan" at the beginning of the founding of the People's Republic of China to regulate the use of the Chinese language and has promulgated dozens of laws, regulations and norms, including the "Law of the People's Republic of China on the Standard Spoken and Written Chinese Language" [7].

5. Conclusion

The "Europeanization" of the text has enriched the development of the Chinese language and made the Chinese language more vibrant and colourful. They have accelerated the process of exchanges between China and the world and made it easier for China to accept new things. Moreover, with the development of science and technology, especially information technology and medical technology, "Europeanization" will simplify our expression and strengthen the global convergence of certain things. However, "Europeanization" also has a disadvantage, it will subtly and slowly change people's way of thinking and infiltrate the culture, there are indeed good changes, but it will also dilute the original culture because of the popularity of the media people are more and more exposed to foreign culture, and even appear unconventional usage. Nobody should be a linguistic determinist, but people must pay attention to an essential factor ignored by economic and social development determinism - language elements. Chinese will not remain static, but it is difficult to change easily. The way of thinking, emotions, expressions, or subjective and objective worlds of Chinese speakers have to be influenced by the Chinese language and Chinese characters.

"Europeanization" is the enrichment and development of the Chinese language, which can make the Chinese language fit the current environment and better play the function of communication and communication. Meanwhile, it also gives the Chinese more options for expression. "Europeanization" is the trend of the times and is inevitable. Chinese should be approached with a calm and positive attitude. While maintaining the purity of the Chinese language and culture, it takes guidance measures to maximize its advantages and integrate with the Chinese.

References

[1] Zhihong Lu, Li Qin. (1998). Interaction and Penetration of Language. Journal of Jianghan University (04),49-51+69.

[2] Ying Zhou. (2016). Analysis of English Loanwords in Chinese from a Sociolinguistic Perspective [J]. Shanxi Youth (18),100.

[3] Bo Zhang. (2014). Cognitive Interpretation of the Development of the Meaning of English Loanwords in Chinese. College English (Academic Edition), 2014(02),231-234.

[4] Wanying Zhu. Implicit Europeanization of Modern Chinese [J]. Journal of Eastern Liaoning University (Social Science Edition), 2022(05),63-69.

[5] Yifan Zhu. (2011). A Study of the Europeanization of Modern Chinese: History and Current Situation. Journal of PLA University of Foreign Languages (02),7-11+17+127.

[6] Weizhang Sun, Mingcheng Lyu. She Hui Jiao Ji Yu Yan Xue [M]. Jinlin University Press, 1996.

[7] Chunyang Li. (2014). A century of Europeanization of Chinese. Tribune of Social Sciences (12), 76-109.

[8] Xilin Ding. (1985). The Complete Plays of Ding Xilin (Vol. 1). China Opera Press.

[9] Mengyu Li. (2021). The effect of corrective feedback on verb accuracy in English writing for high school students (Master's Thesis, Southwestern University).

[10] Xia Chen. (2014). Analysis of European Language in Chinese. Journal of Mudanjiang University (10),78-81.

[11] Yan Lu. (1982). Selected Essays of Lu Yan. Hundred Flowers Publishing House. [12] Zhang ailing. (1999). Ailing Zhang's Collected Works. Yunnan People's Publishing House.

[12] Xuzhong Hu. 1989. A Preliminary Study of Contrasting Rhetoric between English and Chinese [B].

[13] Na Chen. (2011). The negative transfer effect of Chinese logical thinking on the use of English connectives. Overseas English (13), 336-337.

[14] Lao She. Camel Xiangzi [M]. Harbin: Northern Literature and Art Press,2016:121.

[15] Bo Fu. An Exploration on the Phenomenon of English Loanwords and Their Influence on Modern Chinese [J]. English on Campus, 2018(31): 176-177.