

Analysis of the Cultural Characteristics of Loanwords in International Chinese Textbooks

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Abstract: There is an increasingly urgent need for international students to learn and use loanwords in intercultural communication. Chinese loanwords in international Chinese textbooks have certain research value. With the textbook *Development Chinese Intermediate synthesis* as the investigation object and the *Xinhua Dictionary of Loanable Words* as the retrieval tool, the analysis of the Chinese loanwords is conducted by data analysis. It is found that the number of Chinese loanwords in the textbook is considerable, rich in etymology and diverse in parts of speech. Chinese loanwords have cultural characteristics, which can see the development and evolution of Chinese, understand the language and cultural differences of different ethnic groups, reduce the adverse factors of international Chinese teaching, and promote the effective development of cross-cultural exchanges.

Keywords: Chinese Loanwords; *Development Chinese Intermediate Synthesis*; Interculture; Language and Culture Characteristics.

1. Introduction

As an important part of Chinese vocabulary system, Chinese loanwords are an important symbol of language and cultural communication in different periods. Chinese loanwords have a long history and have rich ontology studies. Shi Youwei pointed out that “loanwords refer to the Chinese words that are borrowed in all or part from the corresponding foreign words and are rendered Chinese in different degrees on the premise that the meaning has a source or related relationship with a certain word in a foreign language.” Yang Xipeng believes that “the words produced by transliteration are similar to foreign words in phonetic form, and the words combined with transliteration and Chinese elements are foreign words in the narrow sense, and the words produced by form or meaning translation are foreign words in the broad sense.” Huang Borong and Liao Xudong defined loanwords as “loanwords are also called borrowed words, which refer to words borrowed from foreign languages.” According to the characteristics of Chinese loanwords in the textbook *Development Chinese Intermediate synthesis*, the author calls the words borrowed from transliteration loanwords, meaning loanwords, Semi-transliteration semi-meaning loanwords, transliteration and Chinese morphemes loanwords, and borrowing form words. On this basis, the characteristics and cultural characteristics of Chinese loanwords in the textbook are analyzed.

2. Investigation and Analysis of Loanwords in the Textbook *Development Chinese Intermediate Synthesis*

The author takes the Chinese loanwords included in *Xinhua Dictionary of Loanable Words* as the reference standard, and the textbook *Development Chinese Intermediate synthesis* published by Beijing Language and Culture University Press as the investigation objects to comprehensively collect the Chinese loanwords and summarize and analyze them.

2.1. The Quantity and Arrangement of Loanwords in the Textbook *Development Chinese Intermediate Synthesis*

First, the number of Chinese loanwords in the textbook. The survey found that there were 712 Chinese loanwords in the two textbooks. 276 Chinese loanwords in *Development Chinese Intermediate synthesis I* and 436 Chinese loanwords in *Development Chinese Intermediate synthesis II*. It reflects the writing rules of international Chinese textbooks from shallow to deep and from easy to difficult, which can meet the phased needs of learners to learn and use loanwords for communication.

Second, the arrangement of Chinese loanwords in the textbook, it adds listening, speaking, reading, writing together, more comprehensive, a wider range of knowledge. Each lesson is divided into seven parts. Among them, the text, notes and exercises are concentrated areas of loanwords, and other parts are relatively few. In order to make international students better understand and master Chinese loanwords, attention should be paid to the reasonable arrangement of Chinese loanwords.

2.2. The Category of Loanwords in the Textbook *Development Chinese Intermediate Synthesis*

The *Development Chinese Intermediate synthesis* two textbooks have complete categories of Chinese loanwords, with 35 transliteration loanwords and rich etymology, among which English etymology accounts for 45.7%, Sanskrit for 11.43%, Persian for 8.57%, Mongolian, Uyghur and Japanese for 5.71%, and DaWan /Elan, Siam/Malay, and Russian for 2.86%. There are two meaning loanwords, namely millimeter and centimeter. Three Semi-transliteration semi-meaning loanwords: opium War, Olympic Games and ice cream. Four transliteration and Chinese morphemes loanwords, namely bar, cafe, beer, table tennis. 18 alphabet borrowing forms, which can be subdivided into two categories, one is pure alphabet acronyms, one is letters plus Chinese morphemes. 11

pure acronyms are, E-mail, SMS, SOHO, UFO, HSK, OK, QQ, CD, CBD, MSN, CIE.7 letters plus Chinese morphemes, namely AA, T-shirt, M number, A mode, B mode, AB mode, O mode.

In addition, the number of Japanese source Chinese characters borrow form words in the textbook are the most considerable, which can be analyzed separately from the aspects of the characteristic or property of a certain word, syllables and semantics.

In terms of the characteristic or property of a certain word, the Japanese source Chinese characters borrow form words in the textbook are diverse, and there are multi-category phenomena. In the *Development Chinese Intermediate synthesis I*, there are 146 noun Japanese source Chinese characters borrow form words, accounting for 58.63%;39 verbs, accounting for 15.66%;22 adjectives, accounting for 8.84%,42 multi-category words, accounting for 16.87%.In the *Development Chinese Intermediate synthesis II*, there are 236 noun Japanese source Chinese characters borrow form words, accounting for 59.15%;74 verbs, accounting for 18.55%;37 adjectives, accounting for 9.27%,and 51 multi-category words, accounting for 12.78%.

In terms of syllables, in the *Development Chinese Intermediate synthesis I*, there are 249 Japanese source Chinese characters borrow form words,229 two-syllable words, accounting for 91.97%;19 three-syllable words, accounting for 7.63%.In the *Development Chinese Intermediate synthesis II*, there are 399 Japanese source Chinese characters borrow form words,363 two-syllable words, accounting for 90.98%;36 three-syllable words, accounting for 9.02%.It can be seen that this kind of words are mainly dual syllabic, three or more polysyllabic words accounted for less. This is because Japanese has absorbed a large number of ancient Chinese vocabulary in history, in the process of its return to modern Chinese, to adapt to the principle of Chinese dual syllabic word formation.

In terms of the semantic aspects, in the teaching material, the semantics of Japanese source Chinese characters is concentrated on social life and scientific and sports style. Social life category mainly includes time, telephone, service, transportation and so on. Science and sports categories mainly include works, performances, exhibitions, culture and so on. This is related to the topics involved in the text. Most of the selected texts in the textbook are close to daily life, while the upper class political and economic topics are relatively few.

2.3. The Characteristics of Loanwords in the Textbook Development Chinese Intermediate Synthesis

First, the etymology is rich. In *Development Chinese Intermediate synthesis I*, there are 276 Chinese loanwords, among them,250 Japanese source loanwords, accounting for 90.56%;19 English source loanwords, accounting for 6.88%;2 Sanskrit loanwords, accounting for 0.72%;Manchu, Malay, Iranian, Uygur, Persian loanwords each 1,accounting for 0.36%.In the *Development Chinese Intermediate synthesis II*, there are 436 Chinese loanwords, among them,400 Japanese source loanwords, accounting for 91.74%;24 English source loanwords, accounting for 5.5%;3 Sanskrit loanwords, accounting for 0.69%;2 French loanwords,2 Mongolian loanwords, and 2 Farsi loanwords, accounting for 0.46%;Russian, Manchu and Uygur loanwords each one, accounting for 0.23%.In general, the Chinese loanwords in the textbook are mainly English and Japanese words, while

there are relatively few in other areas.

Second, the nature of word is diverse. In the two textbooks, there are 712 Chinese loanwords, including nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. In *Development Chinese Intermediate synthesis I*,171 nominal Chinese loanwords, accounting for 61.96%;39 verb-based Chinese loanwords, accounting for 14.13%;23 adjective Chinese loanwords, accounting for 8.33%. in *Development Chinese Intermediate synthesis II*,271 nominal Chinese loanwords, accounting for 62.16%;74 verb-based Chinese loanwords, accounting for 16.97%;39 adjective Chinese loanwords, accounting for 8.94%.

Third, the frequency of repetition is different. The repetition of Chinese loanwords in the textbook is influenced by the theme of the text. In the same text, Chinese loanwords of related topics are reproduced more frequently. There are more frequent loanwords in Chinese in *Development of Chinese Intermediate synthesis I*, such as, question(92 tomes),time(78 times),prompt(59 times),telephone(48 times).There are more frequent loanwords in Chinese in *Development of Chinese Intermediate synthesis II*, such as, time(103 times),question(81 times),noun(57 times),verb (57 times),method(49 times),adjective (48 times).It can be seen that time, problem, telephone, and other commonly used words in daily life are reproduced more frequently. Specific names such as noun, verb, adjectives adverb is also reproduced frequently, which is related to a large number of modern Chinese proprietary terms listed in the comprehensive annotation section.

3. The Language and Cultural Characteristics Contained in Chinese Loanwords

“The vocabulary itself contains a clear information of national culture, and implies a deep meaning of national culture.” Chinese loanwords are the product of the integration of Chinese and foreign languages and cultures, from which we can see the characteristics of Chinese and foreign languages and cultures. Based on the Chinese loanwords in the textbook, we can analyze their language and cultural characteristics from three aspects: language structure, semantics and pragmatic.

3.1. Chinese Loanwords Reflect the Language Structure Culture of Different Ethnic Groups

“The language structure culture reflected in the construction of the language structure and cultural reference words, phrases, sentences and discourse chapters reflect the psychological mode and mode of thinking of a nation.” Taking Chinese, English and Japanese as examples, the Chinese formation of words attaches importance to meaning, which is related to the traditional Chinese ideology and culture. Influenced by the philosophy of “the unity of man and nature”, it emphasizes the harmonious coexistence between man and nature, and pays attention to grasping the objective world through intuition. This cultural tradition is reflected in the language, which is manifested in valuing the meaning correlation within the language. English word formation pays attention to the form rules of words, and changing the form of words can indicate the single and complex number of the things. In addition, English has the phenomenon of combination in word formation, such as “miniskirt”, which is the combination of “mini” and “skirt”. This linguistic habit of

valuing formal rules reflects the rigorous paradigm and logical thinking tradition of western science. There is a lot of agglutinating words in Japanese, the grammatical function of vocabulary is realized by adding different endings before and after the root. Specifically, it is shown to add auxiliary words between the subject and the predicate or between the object and the predicate, so that the sentence components are firmly adhered together. This linguistic phenomenon partly reflects the Japanese linguistic culture, "It reflects the implicit and euphemistic character of the Japanese, which can be seen that the Japanese pay attention to form and intuitive feelings."

3.2. Chinese Loanwords Reflect the Semantic Culture of Different Ethnic Groups

"Semantic culture refers to the semantic system of a language, which is mainly the social and cultural meaning contained in the vocabulary, which reflects the psychological mode and thinking mode of a nation." In the process of cross-cultural communication, the unique things and concepts of different nationalities can be found through Chinese loanwords. Influenced by the specific natural environment and social factors, different countries and nations have their own specific vocabulary, which reflects the particularity of their language and culture, such as cheongsam, quadrangle courtyard, story, steam engine, kara OK, logic and so on.

3.3. Chinese Loanwords Reflect the Language Pragmatic Cultures of Different Nationalities

"Language pragmatic culture refers to the language rules and cultural constraints used in communication, which are determined by the cultures of different nationalities, especially the customs and culture." In international Chinese teaching, international students come from different countries and nationalities. Influenced by their mother language culture, it is inevitable to have improper understanding of different cultures, and there are factors that hinder communication. Learners in different cultural circles should see the differences and follow the teaching principle of teaching students in accordance with their aptitude. Therefore, we should properly and effectively spread Chinese culture on the basis of understanding and respecting the language rules and cultural traditions of students in different cultural circles. For western students outside the Han culture circle, they are more active and braver in the process of communication, and they like to go straight to the point and come straight to the point when speaking. This is the result of the influence of the western humanistic cultural tradition of emphasizing personality development. For the students in the Han culture circle, their communication style has much in common. Take China and Japan as an example. In the long-term exchanges, their language and culture learn from each other, forming an intimate relationship. In the communication, they all emphasize harmony, attach importance to the overall interests, and have a strong sense of collective consciousness. Of course, there are some differences in the communication rules between the two countries. Similarly, harmony is the most important. China has long been influenced by Confucian culture, and it emphasizes harmony and seeks common ground while reserving differences. Japan, influenced by its native culture, shame culture and Shinto culture, emphasizes harmony while being more extreme in self-protection, loyalty to superiors and the collective.

4. The Language Development and Cross-Cultural Characteristics Reflected by Chinese Loanwords

Chinese loanwords have the dual identities of language and culture. In terms of the language system, Chinese loanwords can reflect the development of Chinese itself and its integration with other languages. On the cultural level, Chinese loanwords can reflect the cultural mode and cultural connotation of different cultural circles, and have cross-cultural characteristics.

4.1. Chinese Loanwords Reflect the Language Development and Integration

First, the language development reflected by Chinese loanwords. The relationship between language and society is dialectically unified. Social progress promotes the development of language, and the development of language reflects the social appearance of a specific period. "From the changing language structure, we can see the cultural psychology and world outlook of a nation, and we can explore the changes of an era and society from the most sensitive factor of language --vocabulary." historically, Chinese economy is backward, and its contact with foreign new things is limited, and the number of Chinese loanwords only accounts for a small part of the Chinese vocabulary system. Most foreign words were absorbed through official exchanges, such as Zhang Qian's missions to the Western Regions and Zheng He's voyages to the Western Seas. At this time, Chinese loanwords are only simply simulated in pronunciation, so the loanwords are mainly transliterated in type, such as glass and grape. Since modern times, with the rapid development of various fields in China, the appearance of loanwords has been greatly changed. The number and types of transliteration and alphabet borrowed forms are more abundant, such as coffee and CD. At the same time, there are also three or more syllables of loanwords, such as kara OK, romanticism. It can be seen that loanwords have involved all aspects of daily life and are a vivid embodiment of language development.

Second, the language fusion reflected in the Chinese loanwords. Chinese loanwords, especially Japanese source Chinese characters, produce a series of affixes and type affixes in the process of returning Chinese vocabulary system, such as variousness, modernize, sportsman. The number of new words formed by foreign words and Chinese morphemes is considerable, such as health care station, production team and so on. To some extent, this kind of words reflects the integration of Chinese and Japanese languages, and reflects the communication and integration of Chinese and other languages.

To sum up, the general appearance of Chinese loanwords is constantly developing and evolving, and their number and types are becoming more and more diverse, which has a certain positive impact on the Chinese vocabulary system and promotes the internal optimization and upgrading of the system.

4.2. The Cross-Cultural Characteristics of Chinese Loanwords

First, the western cultural model embodied by the English source words. In the textbook, English source words are concentrated in the field of science and technology, and carry the cultural tradition of the English cultural circle. Tracing back to the cultural tradition of the English cultural circle, it

is different from the Han cultural circle in both nature and humanity. On the level of natural environment, the existential crisis brought about by the stormy waves of the ocean made westerners have the concept of confrontation with nature very early, and stimulated their primitive desire to conquer nature. On the level of humanistic spirit, the supremacy of theocracy in the Middle Ages stimulated people's yearning for freedom and equality. Under the influence of humanism, the social atmosphere of affirming human value and exploring truth prevailed. Under the combined action of the internal and external forces at the material and spiritual levels, the scientific system of exploring nature has a driving force. In this context, with the rapid development of western science and technology, people's logical thinking and scientific consciousness run through all aspects of society. This phenomenon is reflected in the vocabulary level, mainly manifested as the emergence of a large number of technological words. In the process of Chinese learning to the west, they also introduced a large number of science and technology words, such as steam engine and Watt.

Second, the Japanese cultural model reflected by the Japanese source loanwords. In the textbook, the number of Japanese source foreign words is considerable, most of which are words produced by Japanese absorbing Chinese words to translate western things. This phenomenon shows that the Japanese are good at learning advanced things of other nationalities. In addition, there are many words involving propriety, righteousness, emotion and morality, such as love, friendship, emotion and so on. It can be said that the ritual and meaning culture reflected by these words has become a part of Japanese culture, which is enough to illustrate the depth of the language and cultural communication between China and Japan.

Third, the cultural connotation of the Han nationality reflected in the translation of loanwords. Chinese loanwords are the product of the cultural exchange between the Han nation and other nationalities. In the process of Sinicization, they inevitably contain the unique subjective initiative and individual aesthetic psychology of the Han people, which are embodied in the following aspects.

Firstly, the cultural psychology of seeking benefits and avoiding disadvantages. For example, the translation of TOEFL into "tuō fú" has a sense of happiness. Secondly, the simple and elegant aesthetic pursuit. The same is true when absorbing the translated loanwords. For example, telephone was originally translated as "dé lù fēng", and later translated as a simpler "diàn huà". Thirdly, emphasize the practical value orientation. Different from the West, which emphasized science, the ancient Han people developed the farming civilization and emphasized more practical experience, namely the so-called "practicality". The translation process of Chinese loanwords also reflects its practical psychological needs. Such as Nike translated as "nài kè" has durable practicality.

Therefore, Chinese loanwords are the symbols of language and culture, which carry the cultural patterns and cultural connotation of different nationalities, and have their own unique cross-cultural characteristics. Studying it can explore the cultural differences of different nationalities, enhancing the understanding of different ethnic cultures, and thus making the cross-cultural communication smoother.

5. Conclusion

Chinese loanwords play an important role in international Chinese teaching, reflecting the internal language and cultural characteristics of different cultural groups. Studying it can improve the understanding of other ethnic languages and cultures and avoid the adverse factors in cross-cultural communication. This paper investigates and analyzes the Chinese loanwords in the textbook *Developing Chinese Intermediate Synthesis*, and finds that the number of Chinese loanwords in the textbook is considerable, with rich etymology and various types. In terms of their nature and function, Chinese loanwords have certain cultural characteristics, including language and cultural characteristics and cross-cultural characteristics. Through Chinese loanwords, we can not only find the cultural mode and cultural connotation of different cultural circles, but also understand the language and cultural differences of different nationalities, so as to enhance the understanding and identification of other ethnic languages and cultures, and promote the communication and integration of different languages and cultures.

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