

Corpus-based Comparative Study of PLANT Metaphor in English and Chinese

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As a core component of organic metaphor, PLANT metaphor has constantly been a major concern for scholars. Recently, comparative study between Chinese and English Plant Metaphor has become the spot light. However, corpus-based empirical studies have rarely been conducted. This study, based on two comparable economic corpora, aims to investigate and compares PLANT metaphor in Chinese and English from the perspective of production rate based on the method adopted by Charteris-Black(2004), semantic category according to the categorization model by Zhe Zhang(2018), and linguistic expressions in accordance with Deignan *et al.*'s comparative framework, where manual annotation is applied and the PLANT metaphors are exhaustively identified and annotated. Chinese and English corpora are *China Economy Weekly* (365 thousand words after word segmentation) and *the Economist* (594 thousand words) respectively. The results indicate that English PLANT metaphor is more productive than Chinese(resonance: 58695>34320); Both Chinese and English have the same semantic categories despite the differences in their employment frequency; Chinese and English employ different plant types to structure economic concepts. English takes more preference for *bud*, *branch* and *flower*, while Chinese prefers *fruit*. Chinese uses plant types such as *willow*, *epiphyllum*, *bamboo* and *lotus* more frequently while English is more inclined to *mushroom*, *rose* and *shrub*. Human beings that have different cultural background share common close relationship with plants in nature from ancient times. The similarity of human experience, the universality of Great Chain of Being folk model facilitate the universality of PLANT metaphor. Different cultural historical experience and subjective understanding result in PLANT metaphor variations.

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