

A Cognitive Semantic Analysis of Exteriority in Mandarin

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The work represented here investigates the concept of Exteriority in modern Chinese. The concept of Exteriority in Chinese is denoted by two terms: *chu* (出) and *wai* (外), which are assumed to be dynamic and static respectively. In Chinese, the senses of *chu* are flexible and complicated. Cognitive linguistic theories tell us that meanings of polysemous words can be characterized by metaphor, metonymy, and different kinds of image schemas. (Lakoff, 1987; Johnson, 1987; Sweetser, 1990) Under this view, the senses of polysemous words are not idiosyncratic and arbitrary but structured systematically. Metaphor, metonymy and image schemas are traditionally known as means by which a central sense of the polysemy can be extended.

In modern Chinese, the word class of *chu* is always unspecified. The received opinion of the word class of *chu* is that it is a directional verb. (Huang Borong, 2017; Liao Xudong, 2017) This kind of verbs are added to lexical verbs as complementary components, which can be represented as the pattern "verb + directional verb". However, the semantic connotations of directional verbs are so flexible that we can not simply classify them into one category.

The directional verb is invariably a sought-after research topic in the literature. Other directional verbs such as "shang"(up) and "xia"(down) have been intensively studied while researches on *chu*, particularly on "v+chu" pattern, are far from enough. Nearly most of them put emphasis on the grammaticalization of 'chu' in modern Chinese. (Hu Xiaohu, 2012; Shen Min, 2014; Guo Shanshan, 2014; Gao Fengliang, 2018; Kuang Pengfei, 2018) Few of them aim at analyzing the semantic extension of *chu*, let alone drawing the lexical network of it.

We start out with identifying the basic meaning of *chu* and its extended meanings, such as arrival, leaving, moving out, etc. Working with hundreds of instances of *chu*-phrases collected from an online corpus (ccl.pku.edu.cn), we divided them into two patterns: One structure is "v+chu" and the other is "chu+n". In sum, this paper tries to make sense of the links of its meanings and draw the semantic network of *chu*.

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