

The Characteristic of Chinese Popular Constructions from a Cross-linguistic Perspective

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With the development of the Internet age, there are many popular words in Chinese every year, including many popular constructions. In recent years, many of the popular Chinese constructions have come from other languages, such as the “Foxi”, which originated from a Japanese magazine, and “pick”, which is derived from a variety show in South Korea. After entering the Chinese language, these exotic popular words will naturally change with the characteristics and development of Chinese language and become Chinese constructions.

These changes include: a) part of speech conversion. For instance, “Foxi” is a Japanese word, which describe a type of Japanese male who like to be alone and put our interests and hobbies first. In Japanese, this word is an adjective, however, it also can be an adverb after entering the Chinese.

b) semantic generalization. For example, “pick” is an English word, but the reason why it came to China and became popular is a variety show from South Korea. Firstly, when “pick” is a noun, it means the person or thing chosen or selected, whereas, it gradually produces a new meaning that is the person who I loved or idolized. And this meaning is more widespread and popular in Chinese’s daily life.

c) use frequency burst growth over a period of time, and then smooth and so on. Basically, almost every Chinese popular word experienced same explosive growth in use. Some gradually fade away, others are kept in daily life and remain vitality.

These are the basic features and patterns of Chinese popular constructions from other languages. And these words became an important part of Chinese language.

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