Complementarity between Positive Discourse Analysis and Critical Discourse Analysis

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Abstract: Positive discourse analysis and critical discourse analysis are two methods of discourse analysis, both of which are based on Western Marxist philosophy. This article briefly analyzes the development of positive discourse analysis and critical discourse analysis, and the author believes that positive discourse analysis is not a substitute for critical discourse analysis. The author analyzes the complementarity of positive discourse analysis and critical discourse analysis from the aspects of deconstruction and construction, object of analysis or selection of corpus, and analysis of the same discourse. Finally, the author emphasizes that we should treat these two analytical methods dialectically and use them based on actual situation.

1. Introduction

It is generally believed that the critical discourse analysis became popular after Habermas published the book Theory and Practice in 1973. Habermas advocated that when people analyse discourse, they should take "criticism" as the guidance, integrate language research into their lives and work for the equality of human beings. In 1999, Professor Martin put forward "positive discourse analysis" in his paper, which attracted people's attention and caused the discussion. Since then, many scholars had published articles on "positive discourse analysis." At present, discourse analysis develops from the perspective of criticism to positive analysis. This change has profound significance, but it does not mean that positive discourse analysis will replace critical discourse analysis. There is complementarity between positive discourse analysis and critical discourse analysis.

2. Deconstruction and Construction

Positive discourse analysis is constructive, and critical discourse analysis is deconstructive. Martin used the theory of "yin and Yang" to explain the relations of unity of opposites between deconstruction and construction. Because of the existence of scientific deconstruction, the realization of construction is possible; On the other hand, construction is the purpose of deconstruction. Without construction, deconstruction can not achieve development, and the level of deconstruction depends on the level of construction [1]. Deconstruction and construction, positive discourse analysis and critical discourse analysis complement each other and promote each other's development.

3. Analyze Objects and Corpus Selection

The objects of analysis and selection of corpus can also reflect the complementarity between positive discourse analysis and critical discourse analysis. Martin believes that the object of language analysis should not only be "bad news" that contains inequality, but also "good news" that advocates peace and equality [2]. Kress also advocates that discourse analysis should change from analyzing negative behavior to analyzing constructive behavior. For example, the following paragraph about Liu Chengjun, the head of the security brigade of the Zhengzhou Public Security Bureau, can be regarded as "good news":

In the face of dangerous explosive devices, he never retreated; In the face of the trial of death, he had no hesitation in guarding the safety of the masses. He is Liu Chengjun, head of the security brigade of the Zhengzhou Public Security Bureau [3].

On June 25, Liu Chengjun, the only representative of the public security system in our province in the 9th national "civil servants to the satisfaction of the people" was cordially received by the party and state leaders, including General Secretary Xi Jinping at the commendation meeting. "I was standing in the first row, especially excited [4]. I must not forget my original intention, remember my mission, do my duty, and interpret the police's oath with loyalty and responsibility. " Liu Chengjun said excitedly. (July 06, 2019, Henan Daily)

In this discourse, the intervention of evaluation theory is reflected in the "the trial of death", "head of the security brigade", "he", etc.. The content reflect attitude include"to the satisfaction of the people" and "cordially received". Regarding the "ruling", there is "never retreated", "had no hesitation", and there are strong words such as "never" and "only" in terms of "grade difference."

But we can not avoid the fact that in real life there will always be some bad news. Here is the report of the former Australian Prime Minister Howard who refused to apologize to the indigenous people on behalf of the government (August 26, 2015, Oriental History Review).

Howard's defense of the government's non-apology is mainly based on two reasons. The first is that "at the time, both sides of the policy felt acceptable, but only later did people feel that it was wrong."The second is," It is unfair to ask future generations to be responsible for what their predecessors did." The first is to ask people to correctly treat mistakes made because of good intentions. The second is to remind people not to trap all Australians into collective sins for no reason.

In this discourse, we will certainly note the content "Prime Minister", "refuse" and "the government's non-apology" and find that the former Australian Prime Minister Howard was not a person who was indifferent to the misfortune of the indigenous people, because he expressed his personal apology. However, as the head of government, Howard refused to apologize on behalf of the government, which caused strong criticism. As for Howard, people asked him to apologize, and he apologized, but he must make it clear that he was not apologizing in the name of the government, so the government didn't have to take on a series of responsibilities such as financial compensation. Considering that we often hear overlord clauses and other similar words in our lives, so "bad news" also need to be reported and analyzed, and we must recognize and accept that there are "good news" and "bad news" in all societies. But we need to know that critical analysis of "bad news" is not only negative but also positive. It can be used as a warning for future generations. In general, positive discourse analysis and critical discourse analysis are necessary for social "good news" and "bad news", and their ultimate purpose is to speak for the people. The author thinks that we should combine "positive discourse analysis" with "critical discourse analysis", attach importance to their complementarity, praise both positive people and things, and fight against bad things.

4. Analysis of the Same Discourse

In the current discourse analysis, people usually only do positive discourse analysis for the discourse, or only do critical discourse analysis for it. The author believes that for the same discourse, two kinds of discourse analysis methods should be used comprehensively. Some contents can be analyzed by positive discourse analysis method, and some contents can be analyzed by critical discourse analysis method. For example, the following report is about the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs urged the US to create conditions for the operation and normal cooperation of enterprises in various countries:

Geng shuang said that the US abused the concept of national security and used state power to suppress a Chinese company on false charges, which was the root cause of the problem and the source of the chaos. The bullying of the United States not only hurts Chinese companies, but also American companies. It not only affects the daily operations of enterprises, but also interferes with normal cooperation between enterprises. "We urge the US to immediately stop and correct the wrong practices and create conditions for the operation and normal cooperation of enterprises in various countries. "(Xinhua News Agency, Beijing, June 24, 2019)

In this discourse, the words "abuse", "bullying", and "hurt" of the first half of the discourse belonged to the scope of critical discourse analysis. The latter half passes used words such as "urge", "stop", and "correct" and direct quotation to show that China was willing to wait for the United States

to make the correct choice and call on the United States to create conditions for the operation and normal cooperation of enterprises in various countries. This part belonged to the scope of positive discourse analysis.

Of course, when we analyze negative news, we need to be realistic. We can not use only critical discourse analysis method.Such as the following report:

In July 2017, Zhang Siyuan, former deputy general manager of Hefei Railway Company in Anhui Province, was expelled from the party membership and public office for serious violations of political discipline and national laws and regulations. A few days ago, some media published his confession and attracted widespread attention. Regarding the act of corruption and bribery, he wrote: It was from "resignation" to "embarrassment" that it finally became "habit." He comforted himself with the thought of "people often walking by the river, there must be wet shoes" , but his shivering and stunned look after being wet is really pathetic. (Discipline Inspection Network of Lin Li County, October 17, 2017)

The first sentence of this discourse can be analyzed with critical discourse analysis method. Zhang Siyuan's confession plays a positive role and can be used to warn later generations to educate other cadres. To sum up, we can often find the co-exist phenomena of positive discourse analysis and critical discourse. By using their complementarity, we can analyze the discourse more fully and comprehensively.

5. Conclusion

As two different methods of discourse analysis, the essence of positive discourse analysis and critical discourse analysis is "evaluation". On the basis of standard and theory, they have certain differences. The evaluation attitude of positive discourse analysis is more positive and friendly, and the analytical goal is more constructive. The evaluation attitude of critical discourse analysis is more acute, and the analytical goal is more deconstructive. Each of them has its own strengths and they have complementarities. In the specific discourse analysis, we need to use the two methods flexibly, dialectically and realistically treat and use these two analysis methods, then we will get more ideal results.

References

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