

A Study on the Changes of Modern German Communication Neologisms from the Perspective of Lexicology and Sociolinguistics

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Abstract: After experiencing the influence of culture, semantics began to exist in language, but this semantics is limited to our own nation, and does not exist in another language. The semantic connotation of vocabulary is not its superficial meaning, but the implicit meaning of words and the new meaning attached to the conceptual meaning by national cultural emotion. The number of new words in German is increasing by thousands every year, and they inject new vitality into German. Based on lexicology and sociolinguistics, this paper focuses on the causes of the emergence of German neologisms and the changes of modern German neologisms, and analyzes the influences of society and life on neologisms and the effects of neologisms on language.

1. Introduction

Language is a bridge for people to communicate, and vocabulary is the basis for gathering languages. In German learning, vocabulary size, vocabulary knowledge, how to choose vocabulary and how to use vocabulary are all included in vocabulary ability, so mastering German vocabulary is the basis of learning German language. Therefore, for language change researchers, the most basic work is to find out the way of language change in a certain time and space environment, and how it differs from language change in other time and space environments [1]. Only in this way can we generalize the law of language change with high universality. Social linguists have been focusing on this kind of work, trying to find out why language change happened and how the process of change happened.

In this paper, the source of loanwords in German is comprehensively investigated, the causes of loanwords are analyzed, the characteristics of loanwords are studied, and the changes of word form, pronunciation and meaning of loanwords are deeply analyzed. By studying loanwords, we can better understand the characteristics of loanwords in German and master German better, which has reference value for the changes of new words in modern German communication.

2. Reasons for the emergence of German neologisms

2.1. The need of social development

The emergence of neologisms must first be rooted in the development of society, because language, as a conventional symbol system, is a reflection of social reality, and society is moving. At present, the total amount of knowledge mastered by mankind will double every six years on average [2]. In order to keep pace with the development of the times, language (first of all, its vocabulary) must change accordingly.

According to statistics, neologisms in modern German are mainly distributed in the following six fields: economy, technology, geography, medicine, sports and politics, among which neologisms in the fields of economy and technology are the most. For example, in recent ten years, the development of computer technology and Internet has had a profound impact on people's social life, which is reflected in German vocabulary, that is, a large number of new words about computer technology and Internet have emerged.

2.2. The need to strengthen the richness and precision of language

There are some new words whose basic meanings are not new, because there are already words with the same basic meanings in existing vocabulary, that is to say, there is a synonym relationship between new words and existing words, and the difference between them lies in their additional colors (such as commendatory and derogatory meanings) and different use ranges (such as formal occasions and informal occasions).

For example, the fixed expression of "wig" in German is "Perücke", but now many people (mainly women) often wear wigs carefully selected by themselves for decoration. This kind of wig mainly used for decoration is called "Zweitfrisur" in German, and people have coined such a new word to distinguish it from wigs in the traditional sense. The existence and continuous production of synonyms is one of the symbols of the richness and precision of language. The existence of a large number of synonyms makes language users have enough space to choose words to fully express their feelings.

2.3. The inevitable product of foreign exchange

Loanwords (that is, borrowed words) are also an important part of neologisms, which can most clearly reflect the close relationship between a nation and a language and other nations and languages. German has absorbed a large number of words from Latin, French and German in its historical development.

Under the background of today's global integration process, the extensive exchanges and contacts between countries and ethnic groups have reached an unprecedented height, and are constantly deepening, which also strongly promotes the exchanges and reference between ethnic languages, which is reflected in the vocabulary of languages, which is bound to be the introduction of loanwords. According to statistics, among the words borrowed from other languages in modern German, the words borrowed from German are the most, and the proportion of words in the field of science and technology is the largest [3-4].

3. The method of borrowing foreign words

Generally speaking, loanwords borrowed from German are rarely unchanged. There are many ways to borrow them. From the aspects of pronunciation, spelling and meaning of words, loanwords in German can be divided into the following six categories:

First, pure loanwords refer to those loanwords that have not changed in pronunciation and spelling, that is, foreign words are borrowed from German intact, which are different from the rules of German language in pronunciation and spelling.

Second, mixed vocabulary refers to those words that have made some changes in pronunciation and spelling, and this part basically conforms to German language rules. This kind of vocabulary includes compound words composed of German words and foreign words, and also includes words that borrow affixes from foreign words [5]. Generally speaking, this part of foreign vocabulary belongs to the borrowed German earlier, and with the development of German language, it has been partially German.

Third, loanwords refer to loanwords that conform to German language rules in pronunciation and spelling. This kind of loanwords are usually borrowed from German very early and have been regarded as the basic vocabulary in German. For example, the German letter k replaces the letter c (produktion replaces production, Rekord replaces record, etc.), and the letter combination sch replaces the letter combination sh (Schock replaces shock, etc.).

Fourth, loanwords refer to words that do not exist in German native vocabulary and are directly translated into German according to the literal meaning according to words of other national languages. Such loanwords are spelled according to German pronunciation rules. E.g. Jiaozi, Tee, Tofu borrowed from Chinese, Aubenseiter, Blutbank, Geburtenkontrolle borrowed from German, etc.

Fifthly, imitation words refer to the new German words which do not exist in the native German

vocabulary and do not exist in other nationalities, and are created according to the form of the national language or word formation. These loanwords are usually pronounced according to the pronunciation rules of the source language of loanwords [6].

Sixth, metonymy refers to those words that are the same as those of other nationalities in terms of pronunciation or part of speech, but the meaning of words has changed; Or words with other meanings are borrowed from German.

4. Changes of neologisms in modern German communication

4.1. Compound nouns are increasing

With the development of society, language is constantly developing and changing. The continuous development of industry, agriculture, commerce and transportation, especially the rapid development of science and technology since the 21st century, has put forward new tasks for language, forcing words reflecting these new things and phenomena to appear in language to meet the needs of human production, science and struggle practice.

Among the five typical methods of word formation in German (compound method, derivation method, conversion method, abbreviation method and onomatopoeia method), compound method is the most vigorous one. In German, more and more compound nouns have appeared in recent hundred years, and this trend has been recognized by people. According to the research of Germanic linguists, as early as the 19th century, the trend of constructing three-in-one compound nouns began to appear. Today, four-in-one nouns and even five-in-one nouns are constantly appearing.

4.2. Changes in word meaning

There are three main changes in the meaning of German words [7]:

(1)The meaning of words has narrowed. For example, the word Mut only means courage today, but it used to mean mood and emotion.

(2)The meaning of words has expanded. For example, fertig originally meant to be ready to travel, but today it can be used to be ready to do anything. In addition, the word has the meaning of ending today. Another example is the word "Sache", which used to mean only litigation cases, but now there are other meanings such as goods, things, things and undertakings.

(3)The meaning of words has changed. Some German words originally had specific meanings, but later they gradually evolved into abstract meanings, such as begreifen changing from holding and grasping to understanding and grasping; Ausdrücken changed from extrusion to expression.

4.3. Changes in the endings of foreign adjectives

In German, most foreign adjectives are directly borrowed words, that is, adjectives from other languages, such as cool, fit, good, in, new, etc. Other foreign adjectives are often derived from other parts of speech, such as gemixt, etc. Foreign adjectives usually change their endings according to German grammatical rules. When these adjectives modify nouns as attributives, they change according to German adjectives, which are also divided into weak, strong and mixed adjectives, such as das komfortable Zimmer (comfortable room) and cooles Getränk (cold drink).

The comparative level of foreign adjectives basically changes according to the rules of German adjective comparative level. For example, the comparative level and the highest level of German foreign word cleverer are cleverer and cleverst respectively.

In German, most adjectives can be used as adverbs as adverbials, and most foreign adjectives are similar to German native adjectives, which can be used as both adjectives and adverbs. Some foreign adjectives can only be used as predicative words, such as down, in, out, etc. These adjectives can only be used together with the copula sein or werden, such as Das Kleid ist out. Most foreign adjectives can be used as both predicative and attributive, such as cool and clever.

4.4. Simplify sentence structure with loanwords

With the development of science and technology, the development of international economy and

scientific undertakings, a large number of new words are increasingly needed, and there are inexhaustible morpheme sources in Latin and Greek, which provide modern languages with more appropriate names to express new things, such as Automobil, Hydrokuj-tur, Kosmonaut, Thermostat and so on.

Simplifying sentence structure is one of the development trends of modern German, which can be simplified by using loanwords. Because loanwords are inseparable, it is easier to use loanwords than German verbs in the predicate structure of sentences (such as present tense, past tense and perfect tense, etc.). For example, nowadays people often use Die Finanzkommission Reduziert Die Vorgesetzten Betr Geum Ein Drittel instead of Die Finanzkommission Setzt Die Vorgesetzten Betr Geum Ein Drittel Herab. Verbs with -ieren and -ifizieren are increasing.

In order to simplify the sentence structure, sometimes the separable prefixes in German verbs are regarded as inseparable prefixes. For example, Viele staaten anerkennen den neuen Staat is used instead of Viele staaten erkennen den neuen Staat an.

Widerspiegeln is a similar verb. Sometimes it is used instead of spiegeln...wider. Using loanwords can not only simplify the sentence structure, but also make the content of the sentence express more clearly.

4.5. Transposition of foreign verbs

The transformation of foreign verbs mainly involves verb transposition. Foreign verbs are divided into simple verbs and compound verbs for analysis.

Foreign compound verbs refer to verbs with prefixes, such as German verbs downloaden and updaten. In German, verbs with similar prefixes are separable verbs, and the prefixes of separable verbs should open at the end of sentences when they are transposed in the present tense. For example, the displacement of downloaden is ich lade down, du loadest down, ich habedongeladet, downzuladen. However, down, up, etc. can't be simply regarded as verb prefixes in German, so try to avoid using similar changes in official German documents. Besides similar separable verbs, there are also some inseparable verbs similar to those in German, such as emailen, layouten, etc.

5. Conclusions

Language is transformed from people's life experience. People define languages, but because of the different cultures of different nationalities, there are differences between languages. After experiencing the influence of culture, semantics began to exist in language, but this semantics is limited to our own nation, and does not exist in another language. Based on lexicology and sociolinguistics, this paper discusses some characteristics of German neologisms from two aspects: the causes of the emergence of German neologisms and the changes of modern German neologisms. New words are a mirror of the development and progress of the times. If a modern person wants to keep pace with the times, he must master new words that reflect new things and phenomena in time. In this sense, German new words have important practical significance for German teaching and research.

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