

# The Evolution of English and Chinese Language Development from the Perspective of Historical Linguistics

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**Abstract:** with the Continuous Deepening of the Process of Global Economic Integration, Economic and Cultural Exchanges between Countries Are Becoming More and More Frequent. in This Context, the Political, Economic, Historical and Cultural Exchanges between China and English Speaking Countries Are Also Deepening. as a Result, the Demand for English-Chinese Translation Talents is Also on the Rise. However, At Present, English-Chinese Translation Talents Are Limited by the Differences of Economy and Culture, and the Level of Translation Ability is Also Different, So It is Difficult to Meet Each Other's Translation Needs. This Paper Focuses on the Study of the Development and Changes of English and Chinese from the Perspective of Historical Linguistics, Hoping to Help the Economic and Cultural Exchanges between China and English Major Countries.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Literature Review

In recent years, with the increasing frequency of China's foreign exchange activities, the communication between Chinese and English languages also plays an important role. At present, many scholars have a strong interest in the development and change of English and Chinese language, and carry out a lot of research. Gao Bin finds that the source language is the dominant language in interpreting two-way notes, and the higher the professional level of interpreting learners is, the greater the proportion of translation will be. At the same time, the differences in the amount of notes taken by the junior, middle and senior three groups can reflect the level of their abilities and skills (Gao, 2019). Yu Bin believes that language, as the result of the development of a society, can not be produced without the nourishment of culture. Therefore, social communication under different linguistic and cultural backgrounds is not only limited to superficial language expression, but also more importantly, deep cultural communication (Yu, 2017). Qin Pingxin believes that English and Chinese have different dependence on formalization. Therefore, in the translation of English and Chinese, it is usually necessary to show the implicit phenomenon of English as a highly formalized language in Chinese translation texts. It is necessary for English Chinese translators to implicitly process the text according to the actual language situation and faithfully convey the meaning expressed in the original text (Qin, 2010). Cheng believes that the model of conjugation is different, which indicates that English is dynamic and stylistic related, while it is dynamic and marked when it is used in the text with strong subjective color. However, the Chinese passive dynamic has little relevance to the style, and its frequency of application is far less than that of English. Therefore, the application of dynamic style in English-Chinese translation is a big problem to be paid attention to (Chen, 2017).

### 1.2 Research Purpose

With the continuous acceleration of the process of world economic integration, the exchanges and integration of social economy, history and culture among countries of different languages are also deepening. With the rapid development of China's social economy, the economic and cultural exchanges between China and English speaking countries are increasingly close. In this context, the demand for English-Chinese translation talents is also increasing, which makes the scale of

English-Chinese translation market expand. Therefore, the demand for high-level English Chinese translation talents is also increasing. Compared with the general translators, the excellent English-Chinese translators can not only effectively promote the integration and development of politics, economy, culture and other aspects between China and English Department countries, but also continuously promote the friendly cooperation between China and English Department countries. In view of this, based on the historical linguistic perspective, this paper makes a comprehensive analysis of the changes in the development of English and Chinese language, in order to provide valuable reference for English and Chinese language translation talents.

## **2. An Overview of the Development of English and Chinese**

There is no fixed pattern in the development of English and Chinese language. In the gradual development of English and Chinese language, the phonetic and semantic changes of every word are in the process of follow-up. In this way, the changing meanings of English and Chinese are always quite different from those of the first words. Generally speaking, translation methods such as literal translation, free translation, retranslation, addition or deletion of words, and part of speech transformation are gradually developed in the development of English and Chinese.

On the one hand, The development of English and Chinese language is based on the more complex background of language application. The words and sentences of English and Chinese are transformed into words and sentences according to the semantic and word order. China and English speaking countries belong to different cultural systems, and there is bound to be a gap in language usage (Zhang, 2018). Therefore, the development of English and Chinese language needs to be based on the equivalence of sentence meaning. That is to say, the development of English and Chinese must follow each other's word situation, so that the language translated from each other can be accepted and understood by more people in a short time.

On the other hand, The development of English and Chinese language needs to abide by both sides' traditional cultural customs and expression habits of traditional terms. Specifically speaking, in the process of English and Chinese language development, the relevant personnel need to master each other's cultural heritage and cultural construction, and then carry out the proficiency conversion of language expression of both sides. Based on this, the relevant talents involved in the development of English-Chinese language need to control the core meaning of English-Chinese translation more accurately in the context of culture and language. Only in this way can English and Chinese follow their own semantics and master the essence of the original language. In addition, it is necessary to compare the semantic features between Chinese and English frequently for all kinds of people in the development of English and Chinese. Based on the analysis of the differences between Chinese and English, it is necessary to further clarify the arrangement rules of their word order.

The key to the development of English and Chinese lies in that the translators involved convert the obscure word order of the original text into the easy to understand text, and such a transformation also needs not to change the semantics of the original text. This not only requires the English and Chinese language personnel to understand each other's language connotation, but also to make clear the original author's emotional expression and thought. Therefore, it is very important to clarify the semantics of English and Chinese.

## **3. The Semantic Development of English and Chinese from the Perspective of Historical Linguistics**

### **3.1 Semantic Strengthening and Weakening**

Semantic reinforcement is to strengthen the meaning of the original words which are weak or neutral in English and Chinese language changes. Semantic weakening is contrary to the meaning of semantic strengthening expression, that is to say, weakening the original strong words and sentences. For example, terrible in the past meant "arousing the atmosphere of terror", but now it is

mostly used in oral expression, which means terrible, serious, etc., but far less serious than the semantic expression in the past (Zhang, 2012).

### **3.2 Semantic Abstraction and Concrete**

Semantic abstraction is to abstract the original concrete semantic expression words, or to abstract the original literal semantics into rhetorical semantics. For example, today's deduction originally means “convey”, “take” or “lead”. Semantic concreteness can also be expressed as semantic modification or semantic adjustment. Such concretization is an adjustment with the continuous development of social science and technology. For example, the term “science” originally refers to the whole category of applied knowledge, but now it specifically refers to a field of science.

### **3.3 Semantic Transfer**

Semantic transfer refers to the change of the meaning of some words due to the change of their own meaning. Lobby, for example, originally referred to the hall, but now it has evolved into a vote in the Senate. In addition, semantic transfer also includes associative transfer of meaning, which is a kind of change caused by the change of the main meaning of a certain kind of vocabulary. For example, bureau used to represent desks, but now it represents offices with desks and chairs. This kind of artificial change of semantic transfer comes from “false etymology”. In short, such semantic transfer is only the absorption of the original wrong associated meaning.

## **4. Translation Skills in the Development of English and Chinese from the Perspective of Historical Linguistics**

Generally speaking, there are several translation methods commonly used in the development of English and Chinese language, such as conversion of parts of speech, addition of words, subtraction of words, extension of word meaning, etc. When it comes to practical application, the methods of adding and subtracting words are the most commonly used translation methods.

### **4.1 Plus Morphology**

English and Chinese are based on different historical language backgrounds, which make the two languages different in expression, semantic modification and grammar application. Therefore, in order to interpret the translation semantics between English and Chinese more accurately, it is necessary to add modifiers without changing the original semantics. First of all, due to the long time changes in Chinese language habits, a word placed in different words and sentences will have different semantic expressions. If English translation is only based on the surface meaning, it is easy to cause sentence ambiguity and improper use of words, resulting in semantic distortion. In addition, the differences of social economy and culture between China and English-speaking countries lead to the gap in understanding of semantic culture between the two sides, so it is necessary to add corresponding words to the original semantic disobedience. Secondly, in the translation of English and Chinese, adding some modifying words can help the readers to further clarify the meaning of the original text and make it easier for the readers to understand the meaning of the original text. Finally, the historical and cultural background between English and Chinese leads to the problem of ignorance and violation of the logic of language if necessary modifiers are missing in each other's language translation.

### **4.2 Omission**

In addition to adding lexical methods in English-Chinese language translation, subtractive lexical is also a relatively common translation method. In English-to-Chinese translation, it is often the case that the same word expresses multiple semantics or multiple semantics requires only one vocabulary expression. In English-Chinese translation, it is necessary to perform such a derogatory translation of such a multi-meaning vocabulary, otherwise the translated statement or article is slightly embarrassing. Moreover, the semantics of different countries may be different. Therefore, the subtractive lexical method is similar to the affixing method and is a translation method that

appears to better express the semantics of the original text. First of all, deleting the vocabulary of repeated semantics can increase the semantic expression effect, which is simple and powerful. However, the differences between English and Chinese language contexts and the deleted words also require corresponding trade-offs. Whether it is alienation or naturalization, it needs to be carried out in the context of the fusion of the other context. To put it simply, in English-Chinese translation, translators are required to conduct specific analysis based on specific issues. Secondly, the language habits of the English Department and the Chinese Department are different, and violations of the expression habits of the translated language sometimes occur, and even worse, the original intention is distorted. Therefore, English-Chinese translators must pay attention to the application habits of contextual context. Finally, pay attention to the problem of translation. Specifically, the translation is to merge the words with similar meanings, or the two words together constitute a meaning. When translating between English and Chinese, it can be translated into one word.

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