

A Probe into the Synchronic Distribution and Diachronic Evolution of the “Thinking” Meanings in the Pre-Qin Period

Gao Hanyu

Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, 310028, China

Keywords: “thinking” meaning, Pre-qin, Synchronic distribution, Diachronic evolution

Abstract: This article has combined the documents of the pre-Qin Dynasty and the unpublished classics to comprehensively sort out the relevant using cases of the meaning of “thinking” in the pre-Qin period. The article summarized the three elements of “future”, “now” and “past” from the perspective of time. In the pre-Qin period, “si” has always been the dominant term of “thinking”. Since then, the division of thoughts of “si”, “nian” and “lv” has become obvious. “nian” and “lv” have withdrawn from the “si” semantics. 0 field, while “wei” has experienced grammaticalization, mainly used as virtual words. “si” is a useful example from the Warring States. Then in Yuan Dynasty, it can be compared with “si”, and modern Chinese, especially in spoken language, it has become the dominant word. There is a processing of “crowding in - coexisting - replacing” in the replacement of “thinking” to “thinking”

1. Introduction

“Thinking” is one of the important psychological activities of human beings. “Thinking” probe verbs are also an important part of Chinese psychological verbs. Currently, there are many research results on the division and definition of psychological verbs. For example, Hu Yushu (1995) and Wen Yali (2007) define psychological verbs from the aspects of semantic features and syntactic functions. The meaning of “thinking” discussed in this paper belongs to the category of psychological verbs summarized by Wen Yali (2007:73), which is the psychological phenomenon of feeling, thinking, cognition, judgment tendency and so on. From the pre-Qin to the modern, the words “thinking” have a big change besides “si”. Luo Xiangfeng (2018) conducted a preliminary review of the use and evolution of the “thinking” meaning from the ancient times to the modern times. Sun Shujuan (2012) discussed the evolution of the concept of “thinking” in the dominant and dominant positions, Wang Fengyang (2011: 822) A group of words such as “si, wei, xiang, and nian” were analyzed. Although the scope of the specific discussion and the collection are different, the “thinking” meaning has a certain research basis in general. Unfortunately, the existing research results have not fully utilized the unearthed literature, especially the unearthed literature materials. The division of the diachronic evolution of the pre-Qin period was not detailed enough.

The basic content of the “thinking” meaning includes: the subject of “thinking”, that is, the subject matter; the content of “thinking”, that is, accepting things. The content of “thinking” is very complex and covers a wide range. In order to facilitate combing, we divide our objects from time to time: what may happen in the future, called class A; thinking and analysis of problems or situations that are happening or facing, called class B ;recalling, summarizing, etc. of what has happened is called C class.

2. The Synchronic Distribution of “Thinking” Meanings in the Pre-Qin Period

2.1 The Use of the “Thinking” Meaning in the Western Zhou Dynasty

In the Western Zhou Dynasty, the most abundant use cases were “si” and “nian” followed by “wei” and “lv”. “Thinking, Rong also. From ' xin', 'xin' sound.” “xin” and “Thinking” ancient rhyme is double, “Thinking” is from “heart”, from “xin” The shape of the voice and the meaning of the word. It can be seen that although the ancients used the “heart” as the “thinking” organ, they

also recognized the relationship between “thinking” and “skull” (brain). “ nian”, “Shuo Wen Jie Zi”: “Reading, Chang Si also.” “Consideration”, “Shuo Wen Jie Zi”: “Consideration, thinking and thinking.” “ wei”, Shuo Wen Jie Zi “: “Only, all thoughts are also.” “nian”, “ lv”, “ wei”, “Shuo Wen Jie Zi” are all using “thinking” as the interpretation, “nian” is a long-term thought,” lv” is a careful thinking,” wei” It is the general term for thinking, and Xu Shen has recognized the slightest difference among them. There is no difference between “si”, “ nian”, “lv” and “ wei” in giving things. We summarize the three types of things that we have learned from the perspective of the above.

Category A: Forecasting and reasoning about possible future events:

A1: Thinking about possible problems, difficulties, consequences, and prejudging:

A2: Imagination, expectation, and reasoning about people or things:

Class B: Thinking and analysis of problems or situations that are occurring or facing:

B1: Thinking and considering a certain situation or something,

B2: Plan, plan to do something.

Category C: A summary of the thoughts and memories of what has happened:

CI: Missing and reminiscing about past people or things:

C2: Summary and reflection on past experience and lessons:

C3: Remembering and thinking about what has happened (mostly bad things),

2.2 The Use of the “Thinking” Meaning in the Warring States Period

During the Warring States period, the use cases and grammatical functions of “ si” were still the most abundant, the use cases of “ lv” increased, and the use cases of “ nian” and “ wei” were reduced. “ si” also had a small number of use cases during this period. In the Warring States Chu Bamboo Slips, see “ si” and “Thinking.”

Category A: Forecasting and reasoning about possible future events, events:

A1: Thinking about possible problems, difficulties, consequences, and prejudging:

A2: Imagination, expectation, and reasoning about people or things:

A3: I hope to achieve a certain wish or goal.

Class B: Thinking and analysis of problems or situations that are occurring or facing:

B1: Thinking and considering a certain situation or something,

B2: Plan, plan to do something,

B3: Judging and estimating objects according to certain criteria:

B4: Inductive, thinking, and summarizing knowledge,

Category C: A summary of the thoughts and memories of what has happened:

CI: Missing and reminiscing about past people or things:

C2: Summary and reflection on past experience and lessons:

C3: Remembering and thinking about what has happened (mostly bad things),

Mr. Jiang Shaoyu pointed out that the semantic analysis of Chinese vocabulary can be used to analyze the evolution of Chinese vocabulary. Based on the above semantics, the “thinking” meanings are sorted out, and the “thinking” meanings are accepted (thinking objects) in the pre-Qin period and modern times. A preliminary comparison of the situation in Chinese is used to glimpse the diachronic evolution of the “thinking” meaning.

In the pre-Qin period, “ si” was the most widely used, and each category had use cases, and its grammatical functions were also the most complete. The content of “Thinking” can be large or small, and it can be difficult. “Thinking” can be thinking about how to deal with national events, or daily chores. Almost anything can be thought of, and now it is “thinking.” “Thinking” can be a reflection on the current situation and problems; it can be a nostalgia or recollection of past people or things, which leads to the “thinking” meaning; it can also be a prediction or expectation of the future situation, the table hopes, expects to wait for meaning. In modern Chinese, “Thinking” mainly retains the use of Class B and Class C, but it is generally not used simply as a morpheme of polysyllabic words such as “ xiang yi xiang” .

The use case of “ lv” gradually enriched during the Warring States period, and the most

important usage was Class B. In modern Chinese, these usages of “lv” are still used, and can be used as morphemes such as “si” and “lv”, and there is more A1 in modern Chinese (prejudging problems, difficulties, and consequences) (prepare) usage, emphasizing long-term, prudent planning, generally using the polysyllabic word “lv.” During the Western Zhou Dynasty, there were still a lot of B-types (thinking and analyzing the problems or situations that are occurring or facing). During the Warring States period, they were mainly C-class, and C1 was the most used case, mainly emphasizing the achievements of ancestors. The meaning of missing and cherishing, that is, “Shuo Wen Jie Zi” is called “everything thinking.” “Nian” mainly retains the C1 class usage in modern Chinese as a morphemes of “thinking”. “Wei” has experienced the process of grammaticalization, mainly used as a virtual word, completely withdrawing from the “thinking” semantic field.

Although the use case of “xiang” the table “thinking” is still rare in the pre-Qin period, according to Luo Xiangfeng (2018), the use case “xiang” in the Yuan Dynasty exceeded “si”. “si” is commonly used in written language in modern Chinese, but “xiang” is used in spoken language. “xiang” is highly colloquial and rich in meaning. The three categories discussed in this article can all be expressed as “xiang.” “xiang” can be used alone, you can use “think about it”, you can also use the overlapping “thinking” to mean “thinking” and “thinking about it” to think over and over again. “xiang” also means “missing”, such as “I miss you”, or using the polysyllabic words “xiang nian”

The frequency of use of “thinking” words in the literature, Luo Xiangfeng (2018) has a list of descriptions, can be seen, this article is no longer cited. Generally speaking, since the pre-Qin period, the words “thinking” meaning can be claimed to be stable and changeable. Stability is the dominant word “si” has been used, especially in the pre-Qin period, the use cases and grammatical functions are the most abundant. The change is reflected in: First, “nian”, “lv” and “wei” have all withdrawn from the “thinking” semantic field, and the division of labor between “si”, “nian” and “lv” is more clear. The second is the increase of polysyllabic words. The “thinking” meanings are often used in the same way to form polysyllabic words, such as “si liang” in spoken language, “si kao” and “si lv” in written language. The third is the competition and replacement of the dominant words. In modern Chinese, “xiang” came to the fore, replacing “si” as the dominant word. “xiang” as a very colloquial word, from the beginning of the Warring States period, the East Han began to enrich, gradually compete with “Thinking”, it had become the dominant word in modern Chinese, and experienced “crowding in - coexisting - replacing” in a long process.

References

- [1] Luo, Xiangfeng. 2018. Han Yu Sikao Lei Changyongci Yuyichang Yanbian Yanjiu Chinese “thinking” class of common words evolution of the field, Master's thesis of Liaoning University, Liaoning University master's thesis.
- [2] Sun, Shujuan (Sun Shujuan). 2012. Guhanyu Sange Xinlidongci Gainianchang Cihuixitong Ji Qi Lishiyanbian Yanjiu On the conceptual field of three psychological verbs and its diachronic evolution, Zhejiang University PhD thesis Zhejiang University PhD thesis.
- [3] Wang Fengyang (Wang Fengyang). 2011. Gucibian ancient words (updated), Zhonghua Book Company Zhonghua Book Company.
- [4] Wenyali. 2007. Xiandai Hanyu Xinlidongci Yanjiu Research on Modern Chinese Psychological Verbs, PhD thesis of Beijing Language and Culture University.