

Title: Metaphors of Envy and Jealousy in Chinese

Key words: Metaphor; Envy; Jealousy; Chinese

Abstract: "It is a well established feature of emotion language that it is highly figurative" (Kövecses 2008). While there are a number of papers discussing metaphors of anger, love, happiness, etc (e.g. Gevaert 2001; Kövecses 1991, 1995), relatively few studies have focused on metaphors of envy and jealousy, which are universal emotions among human beings just like love and anger. The aim of this paper is to investigate and analyze how Chinese people express the emotions of envy and jealousy figuratively.

Through the paper, the author tries to answer the following three questions:

(1) DO the metaphor of ENVY and JEALOUSY in Chinese belong to the master metaphor: EMOTIONS ARE FORCES (Kövecses 2008)?

(2) Are ENVY and JEALOUSY in Chinese FLUIDS IN A CONTAINER (Yu, 1998)?

(3) What are the cognitive reasons behind the different changes of eye color between Chinese and English caused by the fierce emotions of envy and jealousy?

The data concerning envy and jealousy has been systematically collected from Center for Chinese Linguistic PKU (CCL), a corpus built-up by Peking University (http://ccl.pku.edu.cn/YuLiao_Content.Aspx). Questionnaires and interviews have also been conducted among university students to gather the metaphorical expressions of envy and jealousy. Moreover, some Chinese literatures will be consulted for further explanations.

The author claims first that the image of envy and jealousy in Chinese people's concept is a kind of sour fluid contained mainly in heart and sometimes in chest, for example in Chinese, those who are in the emotion of jealousy are usually described as having drinking vinegar (吃醋了 *chi cu le*). Second, the fluid is hot and it easily causes a fire like oil, for

example 妒火 (*du huo*, the fire caused by envy or jealousy), therefore, envy and jealousy in Chinese are conceptualized as hard-controlled strong force. Finally, the author tries to elaborate on the physiological effect caused by the force, that is, eyes turn red, compared to the green with envy in English and the conceptual explanations about the differences are under analysis, which hopefully will be solved by further readings and investigations.

In conclusion, through the analysis of metaphors of envy and jealousy in Chinese, the paper supports the views put forward by Kövecses and Yu, that is, THE EMOTIONS ARE FLUIDS IN A CONTAINER and EMOTIONS ARE FORCES in Chinese context.

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