

Title: Corpus-based Approach to Emotion Metaphors and Metonymies in Chinese: A Case Study of Anger

Key Words: anger; corpus-based; metaphor; metonymy

Studies on metaphors and metonymies thrived in the past three decades, however, data used for these studies (Lakoff & Johnson 1980; Kövecses 2008; Ning Yu 1998) are either from intuition of the researchers or elicitation from native speakers. In this paper, a corpus-based approach (Anatol Stefanowitsch 2007) has been adopted to systematically study the Chinese expressions of anger (qi, literally means gas). Following questions arise during the research: 1. Is there any basic ways of realizing metaphorical or metonymical expression (metaphorical pattern) of anger in Chinese? 2. What are these metaphorical patterns? 3. What is, compared with English, the specific systematic conceptualization of angry in Chinese? 4. Whether the metonymic principle that physiological effects of an emotion stand for the emotion is abided by in Chinese?

Center for Chinese Linguistic PKU (CCL), a corpus built-up by Peking University, has been used for the research and following findings have been obtained. 1. Hanks (2006) argued that “one of the most basic ways of realizing a metaphor in English involves use of a partitive or quantifying *of* construction.” This study shows that ‘得 de’ is one of the most basic ways of realizing emotion metaphors in Chinese. For example metaphorical pattern ‘气得 qi de’ (so angry that) has 2247 hits in CCL, among which 80% words followed ‘qi de’ are used either metaphorically or metonymically. 2. Linguistic expressions of anger are classified into three groups: first group involving internal organs, the location for both the fire and the gases (Ning Yu 1998; Rene Dirven 2003); second group involving outer organs or seven apertures, outlet of internal fire or gas, and third group involving behaviors caused by release of anger. Both the second and the third group belong to physiological effects of an emotion, therefore the metonymic principle is abided by in Chinese too. 3. According to Ning Yu (1998) Chinese shares the same conceptual metaphor of REDNESS IN FACE AND NECK AREA with English, but the statistics in CCL shows that colors used for expressing emotion are richer in Chinese. In addition to red, purple, blue, white, green and black are frequently collocating with face, eyes, lips and neck to express anger. Thus, this paper proposes that the conceptual metaphor of REDNESS IN FACE AND NECK AREA should be changed into COLOR CHANGE.

References:

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CCL website http://ccl.pku.edu.cn/Yuliao_Content.Aspx