

Original Paper

An Analysis of the Lexical Culture of the Wugong County

Dialect

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Abstract

As a component of the Shaanxi dialect and even the northern dialect, the Wugong dialect has its unique regional characteristics and cultural value. As Wugong County is located in the west of central Shaanxi Province, between Xi'an City and Baoji City, this geographical position makes it a major transportation route between the two places, and also makes the dialect of this place subject to multicultural influences, forming its own unique linguistic characteristics. Through an in-depth study of the vocabulary of the Wugong dialect in Xianyang City, this paper aims to explore the internal differences of the dialect and the reasons for its formation. By analyzing the lexical features in the Wugong dialect and comparing them with Putonghua, the differences in pronunciation, lexical usage habits, syntactic structure and other aspects are revealed. These differences not only reflect the influence of geographical environment and historical background on the formation of the dialect, but also the role of social change and cultural exchange on the evolution of the language. The significance of studying the Wugong dialect is that it maintains and enriches the cultural diversity of Chinese dialects, and at the same time provides new perspectives and materials for understanding the Shaanxi dialect. In addition, the study of dialects helps preserve traditional culture, promotes the excavation and utilization of language resources, and promotes the development of linguistics and related disciplines. Overall, by analyzing the characteristics and internal differences of the Wugong dialect, this paper not only enhances our understanding of the dialects of the region, but also provides theoretical support for the protection and transmission of the dialects, as well as a reference and reference for the study of other Chinese dialects.

Keywords

Countermeasures Wugong dialect, lexical culture, dialect vocabulary, regional characteristics, cultural value

1. Formulation of the Problem

1.1 Research Target

Among the many dialects spoken in the Shaanxi Province of China, the Wugong dialect of the Guanzhong region occupies an indispensable place. Wugong County, situated between the historic cities of Xi'an and Baoji, is right on the border between these two important cities. This geographical location makes the Wugong dialect not only carry the basic features of the Guanzhong dialect, but also incorporate unique regional cultural colors, forming its distinctive regional characteristics. The focus of this paper is on this important branch of the Guanzhong dialect system, the Wugong dialect. We will explore many aspects of the Wugong dialect, including its rich lexical system, its long historical background, and the differences between it and the modern standard Chinese language, Mandarin. Through an in-depth understanding and analysis of the Shaanxi dialect, we attempt to provide a more thorough analysis of the Wugong dialect. In terms of vocabulary, we will sort out and study those words that are unique to the Wugong dialect, which often reflect local lifestyles, customs, and thinking characteristics. At the same time, we will also pay attention to how these words are used in daily communication and their subtle variations in expression. Historical background is the key to understanding any dialect. The formation and development of the Wugong dialect is closely related to the historical changes it has undergone. We will trace the historical lineage of the Wugong dialect, exploring its connection with the cultural and economic development of the Guanzhong region in ancient times, as well as how major events in history have influenced and shaped the Wugong dialect of today. In addition, there are many differences between Mandarin, the standard language of modern Chinese, and local dialects. We will compare the differences between Wugong dialect and Putonghua in terms of phonology, grammar and vocabulary, and reveal the mutual influence and intermingling between the two. Through a comprehensive and detailed study, this paper aims to provide readers with a panoramic view of the Wugong dialect in Guanzhong, thus enhancing the understanding of Chinese linguistic diversity and cultural richness.

1.2 Lexical Study

The Wugong dialect provides a wealth of research material in terms of lexical richness, phonological properties, and the relationship with Mandarin, and is a worthy area of in-depth investigation for linguists. The Wugong dialect has been studied in a wide range of areas, among which vocabulary, phonology, and the relationship with Putonghua are the main research directions. The following is a specific analysis of these directions.

1.2.1 Research Target

The vocabulary of Wugong dialect is classified and analyzed in detail. For example, Kang Jizhen used the method of experimental phonetics in "Experimental Analysis of Single Word Tones of Wugong Dialect" to analyze the single word tone tonal values and their main distribution of the dialect of Wugong County, Xianyang City, by means of tonal pitch feature extraction and data statistics.

1.2.2 Phonetic Research

The main several counties in the Wugong dialect area are mainly analyzed. In “A Study of the Phonological System of Yangling Dialect”, Xu Wenqian combines fieldwork and literature research to systematically and comprehensively describe the phonological system of Yangling dialect and analyze it in comparison with the dialects of several other counties.

1.2.3 Relationship with Putonghua

To study the interactions and differences between the Guanzhong dialects (including the Wugong dialect) and Putonghua. In “The Influence of Guanzhong Dialect on the Acquisition and Use of Putonghua and Coping Strategies”, Eddy Liang explores the influence of Guanzhong dialect on local students’ acquisition and use of Putonghua, and proposes corresponding coping strategies. Li Min emphasizes the uniqueness of the vocabulary system of the Guanzhong dialect in “The Main Differences between the Characteristic Vocabulary of Guanzhong Dialect and the Vocabulary of Putonghua”. Lu Tuanhua’s “Comparison of Guanzhong Dialect Phonological Characteristics with Mandarin Phonology” compares the Guanzhong dialect with Mandarin in four aspects: tones, consonants, rhymes and sound-rhyme collocations, highlighting the phonological characteristics of the Guanzhong dialect.

Generally speaking, the research on Wugong dialect is still deepening and developing, and we have achieved certain research results, but there are still many issues that need to be further explored and researched, and here we mainly focus on the vocabulary of the Wugong dialect and its relationship with Mandarin to make an in-depth study.

1.3 Research Methods

Questionnaire survey: develop a questionnaire based on a brief analysis, covering various aspects such as the mastery of dialects, frequency of use, and scenes of use.

Field visit survey: through visiting the streets and townships of Wugong County, we understand their attitudes towards dialects, dialect usage, purpose of usage and so on.

2. Overview of the Wugong Dialect

2.1 Introduction to Wugong Dialect

The Wugong dialect, with its deep historical background, has a long history and can be traced back to the ancient times when Houji, the founder of the Zhou people, taught the people how to cultivate. Since the establishment of the Western Zhou Dynasty, the language of the Zhou people has been the official common language, which is called the “correct and elegant language”. Despite thousands of years of historical changes and language evolution, especially the popularization of Putonghua, the rise of Internet language and the impact of new languages, the Wugong dialect is still widely circulated among the people with its unique form of expression and tenacity, and is often found in literature and operatic works. An authentic Wugong dialect often makes people who grow up or work in Wugong feel close to them, and it makes the plots of literary and operatic works about Wugong seem more real and close to

life. Many words of the Wugong dialect contain rich connotations in a concise way, and have unique functions and charms that cannot be replaced by other languages and scripts. In the wave of modernization, although facing many challenges, Wugong dialect still retains its unique cultural value and social status. It is not only a communication tool, but also an important symbol of local culture and identity. For researchers, the Wugong dialect is a valuable window for exploring the cultural, historical and social changes in ancient China, as well as an important case for understanding the phenomenon of multicultural intermingling in contemporary society.

2.2 History and Culture of the Wugong Dialect

In the long history of ancient China, the establishment of the Zhou Dynasty marked the beginning of an important period. King Wu of Zhou, Ji Fa, succeeded in establishing the Zhou Dynasty by defeating Zhou and conquering Yin, a great feat that laid the foundation for the Zhou Dynasty's 800-year-long rule. Since then, the political, economic and cultural center of the Zhou Dynasty was firmly established in the Chang'an area. As the Zhou Dynasty stabilized and expanded, its culture and language gradually exerted a profound influence on the surrounding areas. In particular, the Wugong dialect, the official language of the Zhou Dynasty, was established as the official standard language because of its purity and standardization. This language, with its elegance and orthodoxy, was known to later generations as "the language of the Zhou people" or "the correct and elegant language," and became an important vehicle for the spread of Zhou culture. The influence of the Wugong dialect expanded over time, especially after the powerful dynasties of Qin, Han, Sui, and Tang chose Chang'an as their capital city. During the thousand-year reigns of these dynasties, the Wugong dialect was not only widely spoken in Guanzhong, but also promoted and popularized throughout the country. It became a common language and had a profound influence on dialects throughout the country. In the political arena of the country, the Wugong dialect was used as the official language for imperial edicts and official documents of the court as well as for communication among officials. In the economic arena, it facilitated the communication and development of commercial trade. On the cultural level, the Wugong dialect became an important tool for literary creation, academic research and educational impartation. And in folk interactions, it also serves as a bridge for people's daily communication and cultural exchanges. In short, the Wugong dialect played an irreplaceable role in ancient Chinese society. It is not only an important symbol of the cultural inheritance of the Zhou Dynasty and its succeeding dynasties, but also a key chapter in the history of the development of the Chinese language, which has had a far-reaching influence on the formation and development of dialects in various regions of China.

3. Vocabulary and Culture of Wugong Dialect

3.1 Overview of the Vocabulary of Wugong Dialect

The historical and cultural depth of the Wugong dialect reflects the long history and rich cultural heritage of the Chinese nation. As one of the origins of the Yanhuang descendants, the cultural heritage here is especially deep. More than four thousand years ago, Houji taught people how to cultivate the

land, and during the Spring and Autumn, Autumn and Warring States Periods, Duke Qin Xiaodong set up counties, thus making Wugong a bright pearl on the land of China.

After thousands of years of cultural inheritance and oral teaching by ancestors, the Wugong dialect has not only recorded historical changes, but also retained its ancient and elegant language characteristics. It is not only a tool for oral communication, but also a carrier of local culture and tradition.

With the development of the times and the changes in the world, the Wugong dialect is constantly evolving. It incorporates elements of multiple cultures and adapts to the needs of modern society with the times. Whether they are ancient saints and sages, or modern workers, farmers and businessmen, they all treat the classics and dialect culture with rigor and perseverance.

In order to maintain the vitality and vigor of our culture, we must innovate and develop on the basis of inherited traditions. This is precisely the fundamental purpose of our exploration and study of the Wugong dialect and its cultural value. Only through continuous learning, inheritance and innovation can these valuable cultural heritages continue to flourish in the new era and be better preserved and disseminated.

3.2 Classification of Vocabulary in Wugong Dialect

3.2.1 Astronomy, Time, Place, Place Name

Fan Chang: Often, for a long time.

Jiao Xian Chu: The moment of truth.

3.2.2 Personification, Relatives, Marriage, and Funeral

A Gong: Husband's father.

An Mai: Burial, burial.

Sui Wai: child.

3.2.3 Clothing, Food, Housing, Daily Life

Bai Men Zi: ask for help.

Chan Kou: Delicious and comforting to eat.

Die Fan: Bite and chew and wolf down your food.

Kun Ke: Difficulties and obstacles.

Wo Ye: peace and happiness.

3.2.4 Human Body, Godliness, Sickness, Medical Treatment

Han Shi: Thick, solid, plump.

Xi Yang: Pure white skin, handsome and cute.

Rou Rang: Gentle and not pushy.

3.2.5 Animals, Plants, Things, Socializing

Lao Dao: Tough to deal with.

Liao Za: Make some unsatisfactory small talk.

Pu Teng: The action or unfolding scene of doing your job to the best of your ability.

Ta Gang: argue with someone using sophistry.

3.2.6 Verbs, Pronouns, Adjectives, and Other

Er Wu Bu Gua: ignore or dismiss.

Gua Song: Stupid, senseless people.

Hu Ran: The lines of thought are not clear and they are rambling.

Pao Sha Di Zi: figuratively speaking, intending to leave for a distance.

Qiao Bu Yan Chuan: Not a word, not a hello.

3.3 Difference between Wugong dialect and Mandarin

3.3.1 Lexical Activation of Mandarin Vocabulary in Wugong Dialect (Differences in Lexical Properties)

The development of Chinese lexical categories has a long history, and its classification system has already formed a more complete framework in the ancient times. Traditionally, Chinese vocabulary can be divided into the following categories: (1) Nouns: words referring to people, things, places or abstract concepts. (2) Verbs (Verbs): words that denote actions, states or processes. (3) Adjectives (Adjectives): words used to describe or qualify the nature, state, character, etc. of a noun. (4) Numbers (Numerals): words that express number or order. (5) Measurement words (Classifiers): used with numerals to indicate the unit or measure of a thing. (6) Pronouns (Pronouns): words used in place of nouns to avoid repetition. (7) Adverbs (Adverbs): modifying verbs, adjectives or other adverbs to indicate the manner, time, place, etc. of an action or state. (8) Prepositions: indicate the relationship between nouns and other words, usually located before the noun. (9) Conjunction (Conjunctions): used to connect words, phrases or sentences, showing the logical relationship between them. (10) Auxiliary words (Auxiliary words): including tone auxiliaries, structural auxiliaries, etc., used to express a variety of tones or form a specific sentence structure. (10) Exclamatory words (Interjections): words that express emotions or reactions, usually used independently and do not constitute other components of a sentence.

In ancient Chinese, the functions of these word classes are relatively fixed, and the role that each word class plays in a sentence is somewhat regular. For example, nouns are generally not modified by adverbs, do not carry objects, and often act as subjects, objects, or determiners in sentences; verbs, on the other hand, are often used as predicates and are the core constituents of sentences; adjectives are often used as determiners, gerunds, and predicates, describing or qualifying nouns; and numerals are often used as determiners, qualifying the number or order of nouns. These basic rules still apply in modern Chinese, although the evolution of the language has brought about some changes, such as more flexible usage of certain word classes and the emergence of new syntactic structures. Nevertheless, in both ancient and modern Chinese, the basic division of word classes provides an important guide to understanding and constructing sentences.

3.3.2 Words Expressing Different Meanings in the Mandarin Wukong Dialect-Transfer or Expansion of Word Meanings (Difference in Scope of Use)

The way in which word meanings evolve is an extraordinarily complex area of language study, and its complexity is reflected in how word meanings change over time, geography and culture. In exploring this theme, there are two main perspectives from which we can make an in-depth analysis:

First, we can consider the expansion and contraction of word meanings, which is often referred to as “word expansion and contraction”. This is a change in the rational meaning of words, i.e., a logical and conceptual expansion or contraction of the meaning of words. For example, some words may gradually increase in meaning over time to encompass a wider range of concepts, which is called lexical expansion. Conversely, if the meaning of a word becomes narrower and narrower, limited to specific contexts or objects, then this is a contraction of word meaning. By observing the expansion and contraction of word meanings, we can better understand how words adapt to new contexts and expressive needs.

Secondly, we can also explore the evolution of word meaning from the transfer and deflation of word meaning. The transfer of lexical meaning refers to the fact that the original meaning of a word is transferred to another meaning which is related to it but not exactly the same. This phenomenon often occurs in the use of borrowing, metaphors or similes, allowing words to cross the original meaning boundary and acquire new connotations. Lexical deflation, on the other hand, involves the gradual semantic blurring or loss of the original specific meaning of a word, often accompanied by an enhancement or diminution of emotional overtones. Such changes may lead to a shift in vocabulary from concrete referents to more abstract or symbolic expressions.

To sum up, the evolution of lexical meaning is a multi-dimensional and multi-level process involving the semantic expansion and contraction of vocabulary, as well as dynamic changes in meaning transfer and deflation. Through these two perspectives, we can gain a more comprehensive understanding of the richness and diversity of language and how vocabulary develops and adapts in different cultural and social contexts.

3.3.3 Wugong Dialect Words

for example

Zhi Da-here are

Wu Da-there

Ye Li-yesterday

Zhi Ge-this one

Han Shui-saliva

Mu Nang-Slow-moving, time-wasting behaviors

Ri Ta-Something's broken.

Lan Ri-Not easy to talk to, not approachable.

Ri Neng-Competent and skillful.

Ha Wa-A man who doesn't do his job, a bad man.
Ma Li-Adjectives of degree, e.g. fast as hell
Dian Nian Lai Yi-I don't know, I don't know what that means.
Er Kai-Let go
Shou He-It's an exclamation. It's comfortable. It's refreshing.
Ha Yi-Bad, bad quality, spoiled food.
Bi lie-It's over. It means the situation is irreversible.
The way in which word meanings evolve is an extraordinarily
Dou Cheng Sa Lie-What's going on
Ma Hu Zi-Unreasonable and unreasonable
Sao Qing-Over-enthusiastic, suspicion of ingratiation and pandering

4. Summarize

4.1 Conclusion

Dialect, as a treasure in the treasure house of human language, is not only a tool for communication, but also an important manifestation of the diversity and richness of human beings. Language is not only the medium we use to express our thoughts, feelings and information, it is also the cornerstone of our understanding of the world, social interaction and transmission of history and culture. Each dialect carries the unique way of thinking, way of life and cultural values of a region or nation, which are the crystallization of human wisdom and an important part of cultural diversity.

The importance of protecting dialects is self-evident. It not only helps to maintain global linguistic diversity and promote mutual understanding and respect among different cultures, but also plays an irreplaceable role in promoting the progress and development of human civilization. The disappearance of each dialect is a loss to the cultural diversity of mankind and a deprivation of the global cultural heritage.

In addition, the protection of dialects helps to promote social harmony and stability. When people are able to communicate in their own mother tongues, they are more able to feel cultural self-confidence and a sense of belonging to the society, which has a positive impact on enhancing national self-esteem and self-confidence. In the tide of globalization, maintaining and promoting one's own language and culture is not only an affirmation of one's own identity, but also a powerful way of demonstrating to the outside world the uniqueness of the country and the nation.

In today's era of accelerating globalization, every country and nation is facing great challenges and opportunities. Protecting one's language and culture is not only a sign of respect for tradition, but also an investment in the future. It is a way for countries and nations to express themselves, to guard their cultural genes, and to ensure that our future generations can continue to enjoy and pass on this priceless cultural heritage. Therefore, to protect dialects is to protect our common human future.

4.2 Shortcoming

We currently face a number of challenges in learning and understanding dialects. Despite the progress we have made, there are still deficiencies in understanding and interpreting many specific words in the dialects. These words may contain the uniqueness of the local culture or reflect the historical evolution of the dialect, and they play an important role in language communication.

At present, we have not reached a satisfactory level in the study of these words. The meanings of some words may not be clear enough, or we do not have a full understanding of their origins and usage. The existence of these problems limits our ability to have a comprehensive grasp of the dialects and affects our ability to communicate effectively with the people who speak them. Therefore, in order to gain a deeper understanding and use of dialects, we must recognize the existing shortcomings and commit ourselves to investing more effort in research and exploration in the future. This includes a more detailed examination of the vocabulary in the dialects, clarifying the exact meaning of each word, tracing its historical origins, and exploring its specific applications in the local society and culture.

We need to systematically collect and organize these words, and establish a more complete dialect vocabulary database for scholars and learners to search and use. At the same time, through field surveys and field trips, we can obtain first-hand information directly from dialect speakers, which is invaluable for understanding the real use of dialects.

In addition, we should also encourage interdisciplinary cooperation by bringing together experts from different fields, such as linguistics, anthropology, history, etc., to study dialects, which will allow us to dig deeper into the value and significance of dialects from multiple perspectives.

In conclusion, although we still have deficiencies in our understanding of dialects, through continuous study and research, we are expected to gradually make up for these deficiencies and better protect and pass on these rich and colorful linguistic cultural heritages.

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