

# THE INTERPRETATION OF THE WORD "KU" BASED ON CHINESE AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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**Abstract:** Based on the CCL modern Chinese corpus of Peking University, this paper uses a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods to exhaustively analyze the distribution of the meaning of the word "Kǔ", uses the excellent English Chinese dictionary interpretation for reference, and uses the theory of physical structure to analyze and re-describe the distribution of the meaning of the adjective "Kǔ" in modern Chinese, and finds two new meanings of the word "Kǔ".

**Keywords:** Physical structure; Corpus; Interpretation

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Taking the adjective "Kǔ" as an example, this paper searches 115119 pieces of corpus of the word "Kǔ" from the modern Chinese corpus of Peking University (CCL corpus), and extracts 5000 pieces of corpus of the word "Ku" according to the proportion to establish a balanced corpus of the word "Kǔ". The definitions of "bitter" in the dictionary of modern Chinese learning (2010) (hereinafter referred to as "modern learning"), the dictionary of modern Chinese norms (3rd Edition) (hereinafter referred to as "modern rules"), and the Oxford Advanced English Dictionary (9th Edition) and the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (6th Edition), Carry out annotation analysis one by one. The definitions of "Kǔ" in modern Han are as follows:

- (1) Looks like the taste of bile and Coptis (as opposed to "sweet" and "sweet"): bitter gall | this medicine is extremely bitter.
- (2) Uncomfortable shape; Pain: bitter smile | hard | sad face | bitter days have passed | bitter sweet. To move causes pain.
- (3) Distressing: five members of the family rely on him to support them, but it is hard for him.
- (4) Suffer from: bitter drought | bitter summer .
- (5) Vice president patiently; Try your best: persuade | work hard | think hard | study hard and practice hard.
- (6) < Square > shape is removed too much; Too much wear and tear: if the nail is cut too hard, it cannot be repaired.
- (7) Name and surname.

Have the above seven senses included the common meaning of "Kǔ" in modern Chinese. Is there any repetition or omission of the meaning of "Kǔ" in modern Chinese. By comparing the definitions of commonly used Chinese dictionaries and English dictionaries, this paper uses the theory of material structure to re-describe the definition of the word "Kǔ", and finds out new meanings through corpus analysis.

## 2 REVIEW OF RELEVANT RESEARCH

In the 1990s, Prof. Pustejovsky of Brandeis University proposed Generative Lexicon Theory. The main idea of this theory originated from Aristotle's "four causes" in ancient Greece [1]. It is a lexical semantic means of expression to depict what the lexical referent object consists of what it points to, how it is produced, and what use or function it has. Specifically, object structure consists of four main levels of semantic knowledge, which are summarized in four qualia roles [2]. The four qualia roles are "formal role, which describes the properties of an object that distinguish it from other objects in the larger cognitive domain, including orientation, size, shape, dimension, and color; the constitutive role describes the relationship between an object and its constituent parts, including material, weight, parts and components; the agentive role describes depicts how an object is formed or produced, such as creation, cause and effect, etc; the telic role that is, the description of the object's use and function." Yuan proposed to depict the semantic structure of Chinese nouns with the Objective Structure Theory; and the semantic structure of Chinese verbs, adjectives, and other predicates with the Theoretical Meta-Structure Theory in an attempt to devise a semantic representation framework for nouns, and verbs, and adjectives, and to provide a reliable resource for the application of the Semantic Knowledge System to automatic computer analysis [3]. Zhang and Song [4] examined the object modification relations of modern Chinese morpho-nominal compounds using object structure theory and found that morphosyntactic elements selectively constrain the different object roles of nominal elements, and that the distribution and highlighting of the different object roles of nouns have an impact on adjective interpretation. Wang and Yuan [5] analyze the distribution of object roles of "color + noun" compounds, analyze the semantic agency of adjectives, and try to construct a template for adjective interpretation. Li shichun [6] and his team tried to explain the meaning of adjectives such as "píng", "huài", "zhí", etc. By using the theory of object structure and other adjective sense items were classified and depicted by the Objective Structure Theory.

### 3 RESEARCH DESIGN

#### 3.1 Division and Description of the Meaning of "Kǔ" Based on the Theory of Physical Structure

##### 3.1.1 Like the taste of bile and Coptis (as opposed to "sweet" and "sweet"): bitter gall | this medicine is extremely bitter

In modern Han, this meaning adopts the interpretation mode of "thing + attribute", highlighting the formal role of "bitterness". interprets the meaning of "bitter" as meaning "have a sharp, pungent taste or smell: not sweet", it can be seen that "bitter" in this sense, as one of the basic senses of taste, includes both the taste of taste and the smell of smell. To sum up, the meaning of this article is revised as follows:

Example sentence:

① When the sun is very close (you can reach out and catch it), and the oleander flower opens with [bitter] astringent fragrance, she runs as fast as a rabbit under the tree!(Contemporary \ literature \ mainland writers \ Can Xue's Anthology)

② He also hated that he was so unlucky that he would be irritated by a rain. He refused to drink that bowl of [bitter] juice. To prove that he didn't need to take medicine, he wanted to put on his clothes and go to the ground immediately. (Modern \ literature \ Lao She long article 1)

##### 3.1.2 Uncomfortable shape; pain: bitter smile | hard | sad face | bitter days have passed

The meaning of "Kǔ" is a qualitative adjective, which reflects people's subjective evaluation and emotional color of people or things and is used to modify people or things. According to the interpretation principle of the adjective "thing + attribute", when the modified noun changes, that is, "thing" changes, its attribute will change accordingly, and then the adjective may have a new meaning. Therefore, according to the change of the object modified by the word "bitter", the meaning of this article is classified and redescribed as the following three new meanings from different angles of people and things:

The form describes that people feel unhappy, sad and upset psychologically. The usage frequency of this meaning in the "Kǔ" balanced corpus is about 14.71%. The noun object modified by this meaning refers to the psychological state of the character, emphasizes the formal modification relationship, and modifies the spiritual feelings of the character.

Example sentence:

Chunling was deeply moved by the fact that she couldn't go to school. She was very grateful to him and wanted to help him. (Contemporary \ literature \ mainland writer \ spring flower)

When a character indulges in an unhappy and distressed mental state, this unhappy emotion will often be consciously or unconsciously revealed and displayed in the character's expression. Example sentence:

In a traditional wedding, the bride must wear a frown [bitter] face; The groom presented the bride with copper rings to wear on her neck, legs and arms. (Contemporary \ newspaper \ people's daily \ 1994 people's daily \ 4th quarter)

Sad and distressed emotions are not only naturally displayed in the characters' facial features and expressions, but also often subconsciously highlighted with the characters' voices and actions.

Example sentence:

"No! No!" She cried sadly, "I am too contradictory... I have a strong sense of guilt, because I am different from Jing Xuan. After all, they are unmarried men and unmarried women. I believe that older people will forgive her one day!" (Contemporary \ literature \ Taiwan region writer)

##### 3.1.3 Describe people who feel very uncomfortable physically and mentally when they are overworked or ill

The usage frequency of this meaning in the "Kǔ" balanced corpus is about 51.55%. interprets this meaning as "causing pain or unhappiness." in the corresponding word "bitter" and "pain" as "the feelings that you have in your body when you have been hurt or when you are ill.", "Unhappiness" is defined as "the feeling of being sad or not being happy." the way of interpretation highlights the formal role of "suffering" and the role of exertion, emphasizing that this is a comprehensive feeling of physiology and psychology [7].

Example sentence:

The more you suffer, the stronger your toughness and the stronger your spirit of struggle. So I really look at those bitter days with gratitude. (Contemporary \ historical biography \ late Jiang jingguo.txt)

##### 3.1.4 The form describes the lack of objective material or economic conditions

The usage frequency of this meaning in the "Kǔ" balanced corpus is about 4.9%. When the modified object points to objective material conditions or economic conditions, the "bitterness" at this time highlights the abstract attribute in the formal role of the modified object, which means the lack of material or economic conditions.

Example sentence:

I grew up in a place with very difficult conditions, and I know how much those people need these help. Don't blame me for putting my private ideas into the interview. (Contemporary \ spoken \ dialogue \ entrepreneur dialogue entrepreneur)

##### 3.1.5 Movement causes pain; Distressing: five members of the family rely on him to support them, but he has suffered

The usage frequency of this meaning in the "Kǔ" balanced corpus is about 1.7%.

When analyzing and sorting out the corpus, we find that the meaning usually appears in the mode of "suffering (LE) + patient argument", in which "suffering" mainly points to the patient argument, so the patient argument should be specified when describing the meaning. According to the sorting out of the corpus, the patient argument refers to characters other than "suffering tourists", "suffering cotton farmers" and "suffering children", There are also patient arguments referring to things such as "bitter Bureau organ", "bitter meat scheme" and "bitter hospital". Obviously, the

existing meanings in the modern Han Dynasty do not pay attention to this point. Therefore, according to the definition of adjectives, we have a single feature, that is, a material role modifies an object, and we can distinguish the objects referring to "things" or "people". To sum up, we describe the original meaning in modern Han as follows:

Because of some external reasons, people are under more pressure physically and mentally.

Example sentence:

Some Hong Kong directors especially like to use smoke when dealing with certain scenes. Maybe smoke can create a more hazy atmosphere, but it is [bitter] to be an actor. (Contemporary \ historical biography \ record of the survival of Chinese artists in Beipiao)

Something is adversely affected or damaged by some external reason.

Example sentence:

This practice [hurts] enterprises and damages the interests of the country. It is unpopular and should be corrected and prevented in time. (Contemporary \ newspaper \ people's daily \ 1993 people's daily \ March)

### 3.1.6 Suffer from: bitter drought bitter summer

The usage frequency of this meaning in the "Kǔ" balanced corpus is about 1.46%. According to the corpus, we find that this meaning usually appears in the mode of "Kǔ (苦)+ essential argument", in which the no essential argument points to the role of Shi Cheng. Common compound words such as "bitter", "bitter cold", "bitter rain", "bitter drought", "bitter fog" and so on. Therefore, in order to highlight the role of exertion, we analyze the original meaning with the method of descriptive interpretation as follows: move because of a particular situation and feel unhappy.

Example sentence:

When he recovered from illness, a nearby house wanted to sell it to him, and he wanted it very much, but [suffering] from the high price, he deliberately said to the seller, "the price is too high, I can't afford it.". (Modern \ literature \ lizongwu's black school)

### 3.1.7 Vice patiently; Try your best

The usage frequency of this meaning in the "Kǔ" balanced corpus is about 8.24%. The main function of adverbs is to modify verbs or adjectives, so the change of adverbial meaning is often related to the attribute of the modified verbs or adjectives. Through the corpus, it can be found that the adverb meaning of "Kǔ" is used to describe the degree of people's doing things, meaning "patiently, with all efforts, with all efforts". It usually describes people's determination and desire to actively mobilize their subjective initiative and make every effort to improve the situation in the face of bad objective and realistic conditions. It often hides the meaning of "the behavior that is not expected or supported lasts a long time but has little effect". In the common compound word "painstaking", the verb "mouth" is changed into "Persuasion", and the verb "heart" is changed into "study and think". To sum up, the meaning of this article is re described as: vice exhausted time and energy to act hard.

## 4 CONCLUSION

### 4.1 Finding New Meanings of the Word "Kǔ" through Corpus

#### 4.1.1 An intolerable situation

The usage frequency of this meaning in the "Kǔ" balanced corpus is about 10.77%. The original meaning of "modern language" does not describe this meaning. We refer to the interpretation of "Kǔ" meaning item 7 in "modern studies": "name bitter; suffering: if it were not for you, we would have suffered a lot." According to the analysis of the corpus, the meaning of the word "Kǔ" is a noun. "I have suffered for three years" and "I have complained about a bitter experience" involve the unit role of the noun. "Three years" and "one bitter experience" highlight the unit of measurement of the thing the noun refers to. The meaning also emphasizes the role of the noun in handling, which is usually combined with "bitter" to form a two syllable word, For example, "complaining", "suffering", "complaining" and "suffering", at this time, the meaning of "eating" has been virtualized and should be understood as "bearing". In other words, "suffering" is no longer meant to "eat bitter things", but should be understood as "endure unbearable circumstances".

#### 4.1.2 usually appear before and after verbs or adjectives, indicating depth

The usage frequency of this meaning in the "Kǔ" balanced corpus is about 0.40%. In modern Han, the meaning is described as: "too much square shape has been removed; too much loss: for example, the nail has been cut too hard and cannot be repaired." We refer to the corresponding interpretation in the current regulation: "the description is more than appropriate: the hair is cut too hard | the shoes are worn too hard, and the heels are worn out." [8] The examples in the current Han Dynasty are used in the interpretation of ban GUI, but the meanings are modified and are no longer classified as dialect words.

According to the annotation of the Balanced Corpus, the word "Kǔ" in this meaning item has no practical significance. The meaning item highlights the grammatical function of "Kǔ". In all the sampled corpus, the word "Kǔ" appears before and after the verb or adjective. When describing the meaning item, the grammatical function can be appropriately highlighted. Therefore, refer to class rules, The meaning is described as: it usually appears before and after the verb or adjective, indicating the degree of depth.

### 4.2 Summary of the Interpretation of the Word "Bitter"

To sum up, we adjusted the definition of "Kǔ" and found two new meanings of "Kǔ" through corpus technology. Due to the limitation of the number and scope of corpora, the research results are not comprehensive and in-depth enough. In the future, we will make a more comprehensive and in-depth study by comparing the excellent dictionaries of other languages.

The size and quality of the corpus have a direct impact on the results of the study, and the study in this paper has some limitations, such as the relatively small size of the corpus, the lack of rich and comprehensive samples, and the single reference dictionary, etc. Therefore, future research can start from expanding the size of the corpus to include more languages, so as to obtain more accurate and comprehensive results. Therefore, future research can start from expanding the size of the corpus and adding more languages to the lexicon for comparison, so as to obtain more accurate and comprehensive research results.

### **COMPETING INTERESTS**

The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.

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