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词义感染与删略生义

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摘要

本文讨论两种词义衍生的过程，即“词义感染”和“删略生义”。前者（“词义感染”）被普遍视为汉语词语获得新义的重要途径，后者（“删略生义”）在文献中则鲜有提及。本文证明，汉语词义演变中真正“词义感染”的实例十分罕见，以往被认定为“词义感染”的实例，几乎均非“词义感染”的确凿例证，其中多数是“删略生义”，而后者实际上是人类语言获得新义的一种常见途径。

关键词

词义感染 删略生义 语义演变 截短 转喻

1. 引言

历史语义学的一个重要任务是说明语言中新义是如何产生的。以往的汉语史研究表明，词可以通过两种途径获得新义：一种是源义经由引申而产生新义，在这种情形里，源义和新义之间具有演变关系，王力 (Wang [1942] 1982) 谓之“孳生”；另一种是通过其他途径获得

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CONTAGION AND ELLIPSIS

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we discuss the process of two kinds of word meaning generating, namely “contagion” and “ellipsis”. The former (“contagion”) is generally regarded as an important way for Chinese words to acquire new meanings, while the latter (“ellipsis”) is rarely mentioned in the literature. This paper proves that the real cases of “contagion” in the evolution of Chinese word meaning are very rare, and most of the cases that have been identified as “contagion” in the past are not “contagion”, but “ellipsis”, which is actually a common way for human language to acquire new meaning.

KEYWORDS

Contagion Ellipsis Semantic change Clipping Metonymy