

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

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**Abstract:** By comparing the meanings of "ruǎn (软)" in common Chinese dictionaries and its English counterpart "bitter" in English dictionaries, we use the theories of meta-structure and object-structure to re-demarcate and describe the adjectival meaning of the word "ruǎn" and explain its phenomenon of adjectival polysemy and derivation, in an attempt to achieve completeness in the division of the meaning and to improve the accuracy in the depiction of the meaning, so as to provide some references for the lexicon and for the guidance of the teaching of Chinese language in the international context.

**Keywords:** Corpus; Object structure; Paraphrase of denotations

## 1 INTRODUCTION

As Chinese language teaching continues to heat up, Chinese learning dictionaries and their research have also received some attention. However, China has not yet However, there is no outward-looking learning dictionary in China that is as popular among second language learners as English learning dictionaries such as Oxford Advanced Dictionary of English and Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, and the compilation of Chinese learning dictionaries is basically at the primary stage. At present, the compilation of Chinese as a Foreign Language (CFL) dictionaries is still in the primary stage, and "there is no systematic theoretical support for the structure, style and interpretation of CFL dictionaries"[1].

"Paraphrasing is closely related to people's daily study, life and work. Paraphrasing exists not only in lexicography, but is also common in daily language communication"[10]. Paraphrasing is the soul of a dictionary, and it is a core issue that lexicographers should pay attention to. Li and Yuan take "screen" and "record" as an example, pointing out the incompleteness of the relevant dictionaries in the division of noun meanings. Li and Yuan take "screen" and "record" as examples, pointing out the incompleteness of the dictionary's classification of nouns. Similar situation also exists in the interpretation of adjectives in Chinese dictionaries. In this paper, taking "ruǎn" as an example, from the current status of interpretation, there is still the phenomenon of inconsistency in the interpretation of language dictionaries; through the annotation and analysis of the corpus, it is found that the "present Chinese" is not the same as the "present Chinese" [2-4].

Therefore, this paper tries to combine the theory of generative thesaurus with corpus technology in the form of a case study, taking the character "ruǎn" as an example. This paper tries to explore the completeness of its meaning division and the accuracy of its depiction, hoping that it can It is hoped that this can draw attention from some compilers of learning dictionaries and lead to the compilation of a high-level Chinese learning dictionary as soon as possible [5].

## 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 [6-7]. 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 [8]. 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 [9-10]. Zhang and Song 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 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 and his team Li and Li , Lin and Li, and Li et al. tried to explain the meaning of adjectives such as

"flat", "bad", "straight", 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 "Ruǎn" based on the Theory of Physical Structure

Soft: ~wind | ~speech | words spoken in ~. (Dictionary Editorial Office of the Academy of Social Sciences, 2016, P1115)  
There are 382 entries in the balanced corpus of the word "soft", with a frequency of use of about 3.82% [11].

The way human beings perceive things and the world has always expanded from the concrete and sensible to the abstract. Zhou Tongquan in "The Study of Asymmetric Cognition" points out that "metaphorical projection refers to the projection or mapping between different cognitive domains in the form of metaphorical thinking. Metaphorical projection refers to the projection or mapping between different cognitive domains by means of metaphorical thinking. Cognitive domains are the conceptual domains or scope domains in which people perceive things. The cognitive domain is the domain of concepts or categories in which people perceive things." "Solid" objects such as pillows and fabrics are soft and easily deformable, and can give a tactile sensation when touched. When people touch it, it can bring them a sense of tactile comfort, so when the subjective element of "soft" is extended to non-physical abstract things such as "language", it can bring them a sense of comfort. color tones", "inner", etc., "soft" is transformed from a concrete The "soft" is projected from the concrete tactile perceptual domain to the abstract psychological domain and environmental domain, such as psychology and manner. [8]For example, "soft wind," "soft words," "soft rain", they are light and soft and do not give people a strong stimulus, but instead give people a gentle and comfortable feeling[12].

<*The Oxford Advanced Learner's English Dictionary*> defines the corresponding word "soft" in terms of sound, wind, rain, light and color as "SOUNDS not loud, and usually pleasant and gentle; RAIN/WIND not strong or violent; LIGHT/COLOURS [usually before noun] not too bright, in a way that is pleasant and relaxing to the eye. The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of English captures the functional role of "pleasant" in its definition. Noticing the differences in the subjects described by "soft" and creating three items accordingly. However, it ignores the distinction between the first one is "SOUNDS", which emphasizes the formal role of "not loud" and the functional role of "not loud". The first is "SOUNDS", which emphasizes the formal role of "not loud" and the functional role of "pleasant and gentle"[13]. The subject element of the second lexical item is "RAIN/WIND". It emphasizes the evaluative role "not strong or violent". The subject of the third lexical item is "LIGHT/COLOURS". which emphasizes the formal role "not too bright" and the functional role "pleasant and relaxing to the eyes"[14]. Since all three are abstract things and belong to the same attribute category, and the formal role is "soft", there is no need to disaggregate the terms[15]. Therefore, the original denotation is re-described as the following new denotation:

(Language, voice, light, methodology, etc.) Soft, not intense, not forceful:

Example sentence:

- a. Because the mind is softer [softer] when it is quieter, not as impatient and forceful as it used to be.
- b. When he expounds on difficult puzzles, he does so in a [soft] tongue, too.
- c. Japanese people prefer refreshing, [soft] and gentle shades, and avoid green.
- d. Her voice is particularly attractive to the audience, with a [soft] sound quality, and many lecturers and trainers have a unique charm compared to their "impassioned" speeches.
- e. It seemed to him that the hard set did not work, so he resorted to [soft] maneuvers.

### 4 CONCLUSION

This paper takes the word "ruǎn" as the object of study and examines the inadequacy of the existing dictionaries in terms of completeness and accuracy of its interpretation. Therefore, this paper combines the thesaurus and related linguistic theories to reclassify and depict the meaning of the word "ruǎn" and explain its adjective. Therefore, this paper combines the generative lexicon and related linguistic theories to reclassify and depict the meaning of the word "ruǎn" and explain its adjective polysemous phenomenon and derivational relationship, so as to improve the completeness and accuracy of the classification of the word "ruǎn".

However, due to the limited time and effort of this study, the corpus sample and scope are still insufficient, and only selecting the English dictionary as a comparison, the reference is not comprehensive enough. Future research should expand the corpus quantity, enrich the corpus sources, and study other excellent language dictionaries in the world for further in-depth research. dictionaries of other excellent languages in the world for further and more in-depth research.

### COMPETING INTERESTS

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

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