

Chinese neologisms

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Problem (1)

List the common driving forces that propel the creation of neologisms.

Solution:

- Language contact and cultural exchange
- large-scale transmissions of Western systems of knowledge to China
- Political movement

Problem (2)

Explain how Chinese neologisms were created throughout history.

Solution:

In pre-modern Chinese, Language contact and cultural exchange is the uppermost driving forces. The first large-scale cultural exchange is the translations of Buddhist scriptures in Chinese history. And most of the neologisms that were created in that era were still in use such as 极乐, 觉悟 and so on. Generally, the translation of religious expressions is the main sources of the neologisms in pre-modern Chinese and the neologisms have a lasting impact on the Chinese lexicon and the vernacular language

In early modern and modern Chinese, Knowledge transmission is the uppermost driving forces. 西学东渐 that is a large-scale transmissions of Western systems of knowledge, created lost of neologisms such as 函数, 赤道 and so on. The systematic of neologisms at that time is unprecedented. China has brought in a bulk of new terminologies of various fields. In the earlier stage of the transmission of Western systems of knowledge, British, American, and German missionaries played a crucial role. And the Meiji Reform in Japan palyed another crucial role. Further and wide-ranging sinification of Western concepts by way of massive translations of Western works into Japanese happened and Chinese intellectuals studying and sojourning in Japan bring in them.

an onslaught of political neologisms inspired by Russian communism, which subsequently morphed into Chinese-style socialism, ignited the second explosion of neologisms in modern Chinese. Many political neologisms represent concepts pertaining to class struggle such as 走资派, 接受贫下中农再教育 and so on. Someone characterized the creation as "linguistic engineering". Of course, with the development of Chinese society, some more harmless and positive political neologisms have been created such as 一带一路, 八荣八耻 and so on.

Finally, With the popularity of the Internet, many Internet neologisms are being created.

Problem (3)

According to the authors, what is the unique place of Internet neologism in Chinese lexical history?

Solution:

- the agent of the innovation
Chinese Internet neologisms came into existence through the creativity of the grassroots language users - Chinese netizens instead of learned religious ambassadors, intellectual elites, or ideological authorities.
- the direction of transmission
Internet neologisms are the fruit of grassroots creativity, which is spread horizontally in networked mass communication which is distinguished the top-down fashion.
- the content conveyed by the neologisms
the digital lexical innovations conveyed the stories told and social realities. The earlier neologisms shed light on the cultural, ideological, and political priorities of their times since of the top-down provenance to the contrary.
- the impact of the lexical innovations on Chinese society
The Internet neologisms create a discursive space for the ordinary netizens within the constraints of information control and censorship which is different from earlier neologisms.

Problem (4)

What are the three most frequently noted types of word formations in Chinese Internet neologisms?

Solution:

- Compounding: 网恋, 车奴, 不明觉厉 ...
- Homophony: 叫兽, 蓝瘦香菇, 小盆友 ...
- Loanwords: 狗带, 萌, 欧巴 ...

Problem (5)

Give an example of a neologism created in recent years and explain what zeitgeist it reflects.

Solution:

码, which originated from "mark ", means saving information for further reference or study.

It reflects the zeitgeist that people are increasingly paying attention to fragmented information on the Internet and try making use of the information to make their own lives more convenient and refined, to make themselves develop better.