

Copulative Model of Word Formation in Modern Chinese Language

¹Hashimova Sabohat Abdullaevna

ABSTRACT--- *This article is devoted to the copulative model of word formation in modern Chinese language. The article discusses the features of the formation of words and word constructions, formed according to this model. In the study methods such as analysis, synthesis, and component analysis were used. The article provides relevant conclusions on this topic.*

Keywords--- *morpheme, component, convergent word, correlative, copulative model, semantics*

I. INTRODUCTION

The copulative model of adding words in Chinese has several names: 并立式 *binglishi* – double model, 并列式 *binglieshi* – connecting model, 连合式 *lianheshi* – adhesive model. 并立式 *binglishi* (double model) the term was used in Lu Zhivei's work which published in 1957. In the next edition of the book, Lu Zhivei replaced the term 并列式 *binglieshi*. The term has also been used for this model of word addition in the works of Gao Minkai [1], Jen Xuelyan [2], Sun Chansui [3], and others. The model considered in the works of Zhang Shoukan [4], Zhang Zhigun [5], Li Jingxi [6] and others is called 连合式 *lianheshi*.

In the works of I. Oshanin [7], V. Solntsev [8], N. Korotkov [9] and others, it is called a binding or copulative model. The word components created according to this model are in an equally connected relationship. According to A. Semenas, "copulative addition is the addition of functionally-syntactically and semantically equally connected morphemes, the sum of which means a whole" [10, 176]. According to Huang Yuezhou, this model is one of the most effective in modern Chinese. In analyzing this model, first of all, attention is paid to the meaning of the bases attached to the complex word. In particular, Jen Xuelyan considers words made according to the connecting model and divides them into five groups depending on the type of essence of the words being added: 1) adding words that are semantically close to each other, synonymous; 2) add antonyms; 3) adding correlative words; 4) add words whose meanings are far from each other; 5) to add two bases, one of which loses its meaning when added [2, 165].

Discussing the groups mentioned above. 1. Add synonymous words whose meanings are close to each other. This group of words formed according to the connecting model is distinguished by almost all linguists who describe this model, including Ma Jianchun. By adding equally connected synonymous bases, different word groups of modern Chinese are formed. For example, in words related to the noun phrase: 语言 *yuyan* – language (language,

¹Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies, Associate Professor of Chinese Language and Literature, Candidate of Philological Sciences. sabohat15@mail.ru

speech + language, speech), 朋友pengyou – friends, friend (friend, brother + friend), 道路daolu – way (way + way), 文字wenzi – letter (writing + hieroglyph).

Words are also formed by adding synonymous bases that are equally connected in words belonging to the verb category: 生产shengchan – produce (to give birth, to produce + to produce), 答应daying – answer, make a sound (answer + answer), 答复dafu – to reply (reply + reply).

Most of the verbs formed from synonymous bases according to the connecting model also belong to the category of words belonging to the noun phrase. This is demonstrated by various linguists in their scientific work. For example: 斗争douzheng – struggle → fight, 考试kaoshi – examination → exam, 讨论taolun – discuss, to argue → discussion, dispute, 砾力lil – develop → work, product. Modal verbs are also made according to this model: 应该yinggai – should, need (should + need), 可能keneng – may, possible (may + can), 应当yingdang – must, so it should be (should + should).

Adjectives: 伟大weida – huge, majestic (huge + big), 快乐kuaile – happy (glad + happy), 孤独gudu – alone (alone + single), 灿烂canlan – bright (bright + bright, shiny), 美丽meili – beautiful (beautiful + beautiful), 广大guangda – wide (wide + large), 艰难jiannan – hard, heavy (hard, heavy + hard, heavy), 勇猛yongmeng – brave, courageous (brave + courageous). Most of the adjectives formed on the connecting model, which are based on synonymous adjectives, also belong to the noun phrase: 残忍canren – ruthless → cruelty, 富裕furao – rich, abundant → wealth, abundance.

Adverbs: 稍微shaowei – not much, little (not much + little), 宁可ningke – better (better + better, maybe), 总共zonggong – all, total (total + all). According to this model, some two-syllable servant (auxiliary) words of word groups, in particular, conjunctions and prepositions are also formed: 自从zicong – since then, 按照anzhao – appropriate (appropriate + appropriate), 假设jiashe – if, (if we guess + if it were).

Chinese linguists point out that in some cases one of the components in words made up of two synonymous bases according to the connecting model exists only at the level of morphemes and only performs the word-forming function. In ancient Chinese, these components were single-syllable independent words. Zhang Shoukan states that “in the process of language development, many of them lost their independence and became word-forming morphemes in modern Chinese” [2, 165]. Such morphemes include the following: 民min – nationality, 人民renmin – people, 微小weixiao – trivial, in the smallest word 微wei – tiny, 询问xunwen – in the word to ask, to appeal 询xun – to consult, 菲薄feibo – humble, a little word 菲fei – poor, insignificant, 给予jiyu – in the word to give, to show 予yu – to give, to present.

II. ADD ANTONYMS.

The construction of words on a connecting model based on antonymic bases was seen in the earliest works on the Chinese language. In particular, these words, published in 1898 in Ma Jianchun's famous, 马氏文通Mashi wentong "Grammar", are called 两字对待liang ziduidai two opposite morpheme words. The addition of antonymic bases according to the connecting model leads to the formation of different word groups, usually words with independent meanings. For example: 大小daxiao – size (large + small), 长短changduan – length (long + short), 天地tiandi – sphere, universe (heaven + earth), 出入churu – separate, differentiate (exit + enter).

Verbs: 呼吸huxi – inhale (exhale + inhale), 来往laiwang – to treat (come + send), 起伏qifu – swell, rise and fall

(rise + fall), 操纵caozong – to manage (take, hold + release, release). It should be noted that verbs formed on the basis of the connecting model from anatomical bases are also adjectives in the noun phrase. For example: 来往laiwang – contact → contact, 呼吸huxi – to breathe → to breathe.

Adverb: 早晚zaowan – early or late (early + late), 先后xianhou – alternately (before-after), 始终shizhong – always (beginning + end), 反正fanzheng – anyway (on the contrary, reverse + clear, same), 左右zuoyou – approximately (left + right), 前后qianhou – close, approximate (front + back).

Jen Xuelyan believes that adjectives can also be made from a binding model from antonymic bases. However, as an example in the monograph, the words he cites are not in fact adjectives, which are recorded in the 现代汉语词典Xiandai hanyu cidian dictionary. For example: 快慢kuaiman速度-这条轮船的快慢怎么样? - What is the speed of this ship? The examples given in the dictionary and the explanation given to the word show that 快慢kuaiman - speed - is a noun.

According to A.L. Semenas, “the uniqueness of antonymic components lies in their ability to be redefined and idiomatically applied in the complex” [11, 107]. For example: 消xiao – to disappear + 息xi – appear → 消息xiaoxi – news; 甘gan – sweet + 苦ku – bitter → 甘苦ganku – worries, difficulties.

III. ADD CORRELATION BASES.

In modern Chinese, complex words made according to a connecting model from correlative components can belong to different word groups. Nouns: 领袖lingxiu – genius, leader (collar + sleeve), 眉目meimu – appearance, looks (eyebrow-eye), 口齿kouchi – oral (mouth + teeth), 背心beixin – vest (back + heart).

Verbs: 交代jiaodai – to hand over (give + exchange), 描绘miaohui – draw, describe (copy + draw, draw a sketch), 招呼zhaohu – to call (gesture + shout), 招待zhaodai – to accept (spell + place).

The content of new words made up of related bases according to the connecting model often changes and differs from the content of the bases that make up these words. For example: 骨gu – bone + 肉rou – meat → 骨肉gurou – kinship, 口kou – mouth + 舌she – tongue → 口舌koushe – misunderstanding.

IV. ADD FOUNDATIONS WHOSE CONTENTS ARE DISTANT.

When adding bases that have distant meanings on a connecting model, in many cases, words are also formed that retain the content of the two bases. That is the peculiarity of the words in this group.

Verbs: 保养baoyang – to take care of (provide + feed), 爱惜aixi – to be careful, to appreciate (to love + to be careful, to spare), 夸耀kuayao – brag (exaggerate + shine, illuminate).

Adjectives: 简明jianming – clear, short (simple + clear), 卑微beimei – insignificant, little, low (low + insignificant, small), 辽阔liaokuo – vast, endless (distant + immense).

Nouns: 薄脆baocui – crunchy bread (thin + crunchy), 纲领gangling – application, platform (main link + neck) [12, 223].

5. Adding two bases by mastering the content of one

The peculiarity of such words is that one of the bases loses its original meaning in the complex word structure, i.e. desamentized. Such words are defined differently in the works of Chinese linguists: 偏义词pianyici – a word that does not have an exact meaning or 并合语bingheyu – convergent words. A root word that loses its meaning is

of secondary importance in word formation, but this baseless word will not exist. The desemantization of one of the bases can be done both when the bases that make up a complex word are synonymous or correlated, and when they are antonyms. For example: 人物renwu – person, figure (person + object), 国家guojia – country → country + family, 窗户chuanghu – window → window + door, 质量zhiliang – quality → quality + quantity, 狐狸huli – fox → fox + raccoon dog, 好歹haodai – unhappiness, bad → good + bad. Both the first and second components of such words can be desemantized. For example: 忘记wangji – forget → forget + remember, 面目mianmu – face → face + eye.

In the above examples, the second component is desemantized. In the following examples, desemantization occurred in the first component: 干净ganjing – clean → dry + clean, 热闹renao – noisy, lively → hot + noisy, 仔细zixi – thorough, attentive → dense + thorough.

Considering the essence of the words made according to the connecting model, Liu Shusyan points out that among them there are words whose bases have different meanings. The word formed from the addition is not equal to the meaning of one of them, but has the meaning of both. For example: 诊疗zhenliao – diagnosis and treatment – the meaning of both words, 诊zhen – diagnostics and 疗liao – treatment. But according to the connecting model, when synonymous bases, which are close or similar in essence, are added, semantic changes do not occur when the word is formed, the addition of bases occurs in order to form polysyllabism. For example: 身体shenti – The body is equal in meaning 身shen – body and 体ti – figure consists of bases. The meaning of the word complex 身体shenti is the same as the meaning of the bases that make it up. A similar situation is observed in the following words: 皮肤pifu – skin (skin + skin), 年龄nianling – age (year, age + age), 背脊beiji – back, shovel (back + back), 购买goumai – buy (buy + buy), 筒骨jiangu – thorough, solid (solid + solid), 刚才gangcai – just now (just now, just now).

We move on to the analysis of words formed according to the copulative model and belonging to different word groups.

Nouns: Below are the most common ratios of bases. [名noun + 名noun] – 土地tudi – land (land + land), [形adjective + 形adjective] – 远近yuanjin – distance (far + near), [动verb + 动verb] – 习惯xiguan – habit (to practice + get used to), [量counting words + 量counting words] – 条件tiaojian – condition (counting word for long objects + counting word for work).

In his work on word formation, Lu Chjiveey gives examples in which the foundations of a different character are laid down in a copulative model. For example: [名noun + 名noun], [名noun + 动verb], [形adjective + 名noun], [动verb + 名noun].

Verbs: Like verbs made up of a connecting model, verbs also consist of two bases that are qualitatively the same.: [动verb + 动verb] – 依靠yikao – to lean, to trust (lean + lean), [形adjective + 形adjective] – 短少duanshao – lack, feeling of inadequacy (short + young, small), [名noun + 名noun] – 牺牲xisheng – to sacrifice, to sacrifice oneself (sacrificial creature + sacrificial creature).

Adjectives: Most adjectives based on the connecting model consist of two adjective bases, but there are also a few examples of adjectives based on equine and verb bases.: [形adjective + 形adjective] – 伟大weida – great, majestic (great + great), [动verb + 动verb] – 发达fada – advanced (give + achieve), [名noun + 名noun] – 狼狈langbei – terrifying (wolf + wolf-like legendary beast).

Adverbs: Forms based on a binding model usually consist of two forms or quality bases. There are not many forms consisting of two verb or equine bases: [副adverb + 副adverb] – 刚才gangcai – ust now, now (just now), [形adjective + 形adjective] – 贵贱guijian – anyway (expensive + cheap), [动verb + 动verb] – 始终shizhong – always, all the time (start + finish), [名noun + 名noun] – 日夜riye – during the day (day + night).

Based on the above, it can be said that in many cases, the categorization of words based on the connecting model depends on the description of the bases, as well as their semantic definition (synonymy, antonymy, correlation of their content). Chinese linguists claim that words made according to a connecting model usually have two syllables. Such a conclusion is also confirmed by dictionary data. However, there are also more complex structures in Chinese based on a copulative model. It can be said that these are complex abbreviated words composed of equal elements.

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