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厦门大学

硕　士　学　位　论　文

A Study of Sense Division and Sense Discrimination of Polysemous Words in Chinese-English Dictionaries Aimed at Foreign Users

外向型汉英词典中多义词的义项划分与分辨研究

罗　良　勤

指导教师姓名：吴　建　平　教授

专　业　名　称：英语语言文学

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Synopsis

Language is the most convenient and fundamental means of human communication. Students from different countries and cultures are advised to master a foreign language during their school life. With the ever-lasting progress of globalization and the increase of the nation's comprehensive power, especially with the successful holding of the 'truly exceptional' Beijing Olympics in August 2008, China and the Chinese language have become more and more popular in this century. A good **Chinese-English dictionary** is indispensable in popularizing the Chinese language, and the core value of such an excellent dictionary is mainly embodied in its sense description of the Chinese headwords.

During the process of sense description, one of the most challenging parts facing dictionary compilers is **sense division** of the **polysemous words**; and actually, the problem of polysemy has also been puzzling other linguists interested in lexical semantics. Traditionally, semanticists and lexicographers tended to tackle this problem basing partially on certain linguistic data and partially on their instinctive judgments. The results of such interpreting, therefore, may be more of the individual scholars' subjective reflections, instead of the objective descriptions of the polysemous words under consideration. It becomes even more problematic when dealing with the issue of describing polysemous words in Chinese, and one of the reasons leading to this confusion is because of the lack of statistically-based researches on Chinese semantics. Thus, it is necessary for lexicographers or semanticists to have access to the large tagged Chinese corpus, if there had been such ones. Distinctions are to be drawn between the two cases of polysemy and homonymy in lexicographical practice, in that their arrangements are different from each other in most dictionaries: homonyms are distinguished by assigning to them distinctive superscript numbers and giving to each of them a separate entry; polysemous senses, on the other hand, are listed under a

single main headword and are treated as different meanings of the same word. In other words, while homonyms are given separate entries, polysemous senses are listed under the same lexical entry.

In a Chinese-English dictionary, sense division of the Chinese words is the basis of their **sense discrimination**, during which new entries are to be made to cater to the linguistic needs of the foreign readers and to adapt to their way of understanding, via splitting or combining the sense(s) of the same headword as contrast to that in the published Chinese monolingual dictionaries. Therefore, both monolingual dictionaries of the source language and large corpora (including both the monolingual one and the parallel bilingual one) are much desirable in compiling bilingual dictionaries. In the practice of compiling an encoding Chinese-English dictionary aimed at the foreign users, the different senses of a polysemous word are suggested to be arranged by their usage frequency, the tagging of parts of speech should choose the approach of 'POS (parts of speech) first', the phrases beginning with the same headword are suggested to be listed in a sequence based on their strokes for promoting the foreign users' convenience, and each of the phrases should be labeled with their Chinese pinyin.

Key Words: Polysemous Word; Chinese-English Dictionary Aimed at Foreign Users; Sense Division; Sense Discrimination

摘　要

随着世界交流的拓展和中国综合国力的提高，汉语正逐渐成为一种广受欢迎的语言。在推广汉语的过程中，优秀的**外向型汉英词典**(Chinese-English dictionary aimed at foreign users)起着不可或缺的作用。而一本好的汉英词典，其核心的使用价值体现在词典对汉语字词的义项描写(sense description)上。

在义项描写时，**多义词**(polysemous words)的**义项划分**(sense division)是词典学家遇到的最大难题。当然，多义现象也是长期困扰着语义学家的难题。在解决这个难题时，语义学家和词典学家依据的大多是一定的语言数据和自己的直觉判断，因此还有许多主观的成分。当涉及汉语的描写时这种情况尤为严重，其中有一方面的原因是因为目前基于统计学数据的汉语语义分析研究还做得比较少、也比较浅。因此，在对汉语字词作客观描写时，大容量的汉语标注语料库是必不可少的。词典中对一词多义现象的处理还涉及区分多义关系(polysemy)和同音/形异义关系(homonymy)，因为这两者在大多数词典中的编排是不一样的：多义词的不同义项安排在同一个词条(entry)内，而同音/形异义词的多个意义则视其词义联系的紧密程度分列为两个或多个不同的词条。

汉语字词的义项划分是汉英词典中义项描写的基础，汉英词典中义项的描写还应根据外国读者的学习需要对源语的词义作进一步的**义项分辨**(sense discrimination)。语料库在现代词典编纂中起着重要的作用，优秀的源语单语词典也为双语词典的编纂提供了很好的参考。在实际操作中，外向型汉英词典的义项排列可按使用频率原则进行，词性标注的原则应该是先词性后义项，词条内的词组应按笔画笔顺排列以方便外国读者查找，且每个词组都应标出其汉语拼音。

关键词：多义词；外向型汉英词典；义项划分；义项分辨

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