

STUDY ON THE ADVERBS OF DEGREE “TAI” “HEN” AND THE SENTENCE PATTERN “TAI.....HEN” IN DUNGAN LANGUAGE

Дунган тилиндеги даража тактооч “тэ” “хын” жана “тэ...хын” сүйлөм моделдерин талдоо

Анализ моделей предложений степенных наречий «тэ» «хын» и «тэ...хын» в дунганском языке

Abstract: *Dungan dialect is an extraterritorial variant of modern Chinese northwest dialect. Compared with the latter, the degree adverb system and sentence pattern that expressing degree of the former are slightly monotonous in Dungan language for only " Tai, Hen, Shen, Ken, Zui " and sentence pattern " Tai...Hen " are commonly used. This paper collects the relevant expressions of Dungan literature works such as novels, poems, fables and Gujin'er. It is found that degree adverbs " Tai " and " Hen " and the sentence pattern " Tai...Hen " are most frequently used and special in Dungan, therefore, their characteristics are briefly introduced.*

Аннотация: *Дунган тили бул-заманбап кытай тилинин түндүк-батыш диалектинин экстерриториалдык варианты. Дунган тилинде даража тактоочтордун системасы жана даражаны билдирген көп кездешүүчү сүйлөм формаларынан "тэ, хын, шын, кын" жана "тэ...хын" деген түрлөрү бар. Бул макалада автор дунгандардын аңгеме, поэзия, жомок сыяктуу адабий чыгармаларындагы тиешелүү сүйлөм моделдерин жыйнактап аталган өзгөчөлүк боюнча кыскача талдоо жасайт.*

Аннотация: *Дунганский язык-это экстерриториальный вариант северо-западного диалекта современного китайского языка. По сравнению с последним, система наречий степеней и степень выражения первого немного однообразны. Наиболее часто употребляемыми являются «Тэ, хын, шын, кын и тэ...хын», и т.д. В этой статье собраны соответствующие выражения в литературных произведениях дунганского языка, такие как романы, стихи, сказки, и обнаружено, что «тэ», «хын» и «тэ ... хын» часто используются и относительно особенные, поэтому мы кратко представим их характеристики.*

Keywords: *dungan language; adverbs of degree; tai; hen; tai...hen; sentence pattern*

Урунттуу сөздөр: *дунган тили; даража тактооч; "тэ...хын"; сүйлөм модели*

Ключевые слова: *дунганский язык; наречия степени; тэ; хын; тэ... хын; анализ предложений*

1.Introduction. In 1924, the descendants of the Hui people who came from Shaanxi and Gansu Provinces and settled down in Central Asia in the late Qing Dynasty were designated as the “Dungan people” by the Soviet Union government during the process of nationality identification and demarcation. In 1937, *Dungan Orthography Plan* by Yu.YangShan was included in *Dungan Orthography Problems*, setting a precedent for the study on Dungan language.

Since then, lots of scholars such as A.A. Dragunov, E.D. Polyvanov, L.V.Sherba wrote monographs introducing Dungan language. Among them, A.A. Dragunov’s paper *Study on the Grammar of Dungan Language* has made wonderful contributions to studies on Dungan language.

After the 1950s, studies on Dungan language has achieved remarkable results. Lots of masterpieces like *Concise Grammar of Dungan Language* (1957), *Outline of the Morphology of Dungan Language* (1982), *Outline of the Syntax of Dungan Language* (1987).), *Types of Dungan Language* (1977) were completed successively. In recent years, domestic studies on Dungan language have also made considerable progress.

It is shown that studies on Dungan language mainly attach importance to macro aspects, such as phonetics, vocabulary, and grammar, but rarely involve a specific grammar point. By reading the literary works in Dungan language, including novels, poems, folk tales by some famous Dungan writers, the author found that different from dialects in northwest China, which have complicated systems of adverbs of degree and sentence patterns, Dungan language has been natively monotonous system. The adverbs of degree “tai”, “hen” and the sentence pattern “Tai...hen” are the most commonly used and representative. Therefore, this paper laid stress on the analysis of the characteristics of them.

2. Adverb of degree “Tai”. In Dungan language, “tai” is one of the most commonly used adverb of degree. It is used in the following forms:

(1) Tai + *adj./v.* + (*n.*)

The flowers are in full bloom. However, the weather is too cold outside.

(Хуар кэди тэ жүн, вэту тэ лын.)

The flowers are so beautiful.

(Жыгы хуар кэди тэ хо кан.)

He is a very dutiful son. It is of great difficulty to work as an examiner.

(Эрзы тэ щёчун мучин, жянца жынди хуо тэ нэн.)

(2) Tai + *v.* + *v.*

I'm full of criticism on you.

(Вэ тэ щён фо ни.)

It is seen from the above examples that the adverb of degree “tai” is used as an adverbial before adjectives, verbs, or two verbs. Lin Tao (2012) pointed out that the adverb of degree “tai” indicates the “highest degree”. Wang Sen (2000) elucidated that “tai” is often used in affirmative sentences. However, we found the negative usage of it when collecting corpus. Examples are as follows:

I'm really not resigned to that, and bitterly regretted.

(Тэ бу сүщин, тэ хухуй.)

3. Adverb of degree “Hen”. In Dungan language, the adverb of degree “hen” is less frequently used than “tai”. Its usage is mainly as follows:

(1) *adj.* + *de* + Hen

This spotted pigeon is very kind-hearted just like you.

(Жыгы бэнгэр лян ни йиён, щынчон ходи хын.)

(2) *v.* + *de* + *adj.* + *de* + Hen

They overemphasized the old rules because of that. Because he overemphasized the old rules.

(Йинви нагэ ба ло гуйжю жўади жин.)

(3) *v.* + *n.* + *de* + Hen

My master's wife loves flower very much as well.

(Вэди сынён е нэ хуарди хын.)

It can be concluded from the above examples that when the adverb of degree “hen” functions as a complement in the sentence patterns of “*adj.* + *de* + hen” and “*v.* + *de* + *adj.* + *de* + hen”. Lin Tao (2012) noted that “hen” shows a “higher degree”. In addition, it is worth mentioning that “hen” has two distinctive usages when functions as an adverb of degree:

(4) Hen hen *de* + (*ye*) + negative word + *adj./v.*

The water is very cold.

(Фи хынхынди бу жэ.)

The rope is loosely fastened.

(Шынзы хынхынди мо за хо.)

The rice is far from ripe.

(дозы хынхынди е мо фу.)

It is stated by Wang Sen (2001) that the degree shown by “hen hende” in Dungan language is actually a combination of the degree of adverbs of “shen” and “hen”, indicating a slight negative tone, and it is usually used before the negative word. There is also a sentence pattern of “hen hen *de* + *ye* + negative word”.

(5) Hen + *adj.*

It is commonly believed that adverbs of degree can only be used to modify adjectives about qualities, but not adjectives about condition. However, in Dungan language, the adverb of degree “hen” can be used as a modifier for the adjectives about quality and those about conditions. It modifies the adjectives of conditions in the following two ways:

(1) Hen + *adj.* in the AABB form

On the dark road, several people come early. They are making their way to somewhere in a hurry.

(Ма ма хў хў йын лў шон, жигэ зо гуон. Дэдо зу натэр чини, хын хуон хуон мон мон.)

(2) Hen + *adj.* in the AAB de form

The house is really lively and hopping. Hearing the noise, I am writing.

(Фонли хуын хуочынди ни, чисын жэтынтың; жовэй хын лан хуанхуанди, вэ жын зу сывын.)

The members are very dusty. A cloud of dust rose as they passed by just like that caused by the camels running over this morning.

(Туан үан хын тў зонзонди, дуанщён шонфу гуо .йичүн луотуо по гуо чи, ту воха джын луо.)

About the function of “hen” modifying the adjectives about conditions, the author looked up the *Modern Chinese Dialect Dictionary*, and consulted the dialect scholars in northwest China’s Shaanxi, Gansu Provinces and Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. However, the function was not found. Therefore, further researches are still needed to figure out whether this function had existed in the dialects in northwest China and later disappeared, or it is the result of the Dungan language absorbing the expressions in Russian, Turkic, Persian and Arabic.

In the above given sentences, “hen” all serve as an adverb of degree. In addition to that, it can also be used to represent “an approximate number” and “a common situation” in Dungan language. There are examples as follows:

Beside the alfalfa ground are several mulberries.

(Колхоз муңу ди бонгэни жон ди хын жи кэ сон фу.)

Waters don’t always go to pure so that fish swim. The world doesn’t go without a hitch so that people live.

(Хэ фили бу хын чыан чын, йинцы ю юрни, Шы шон хо бу нын юн фан, йинцы ю жынни.)

In the above examples, “hen” indicates “an approximate number” and “a common situation” respectively. The second function is still seen in the dialects in Gansu Province, but not in Mandarin. To sum up, “hen” not only serves as an adverb of degree in Dungan language, expressing a “higher degree”, but also has the functions shown in the last two examples.

4.The sentence pattern “Tai...hen”. In Dungan language, in addition to the adverbs of degree “tai” and “hen”, the sentence pattern “tai...hen” is also used frequently to express the degree. Its function is mainly as follows:

I love you so much.

(Ба ни во нэди хын. Жэрди.)

The fish is down-right delicious.

(жыгы хуо ю тэ щёнли.)

It is highly unstable last night.

(Нэ йи вэщи, тэ бу аннинди хын ли.)

Different from the dialects in northwest China collocating “hen” after verbs or adjectives or using “tai” before verbs or adjectives to indicate the degree, such as “mei de hen (wonderful)” and “taimei le (so great beautiful), Dungan language has a unique expression through combining “tai” and “hen” to form a sentence pattern of “tai...hen” which shows the “highest degree” and represents a structure of “adverbial—adjective verb as head —complement”. The dialect scholars we consulted all said they had never seen this function before. It is certainly true that the sentence pattern “tai...hen” is the outcome of the exchanges between Dungan language and other languages, and its cause still needs further researches.

5.Conclusion. The characteristics of the adverbs of degree “tai” and “hen” and the sentence pattern “tai...hen” in Dungan language can be summarized in three points. First, they all show a high degree, but vary in “the level of degree”. Among them, “tai” and “tai...hen” both indicates the “highest degree”, and “hen” represents a “higher degree”. Secondly, they all are frequently used in Dungan language, but the frequency of “hen” is not as high as that of “tai” and “tai...hen”. In terms of their functions, “hen” can also be used to indicate “an approximate number” and “a common situation”, except for being used as an adverb of degree. Also, “tai” is usually used as an adverbial in a sentence, “hen” mainly serves as a complement, and for the sentence pattern “tai...hen”, “tai” is an adverbial and “hen” is a complement. In conclusion, they have similarities and differences as well and complement each other in functions, forming a system that expresses degrees in Dungan language.

As an extraterritorial variant of the dialects in northwest China’s (Hu, 2002), Dungan language is the living fossil of the dialects in the late Qing Dynasty, and a “mirror” reflecting today’s dialect in there (Yang, 2018). Therefore, we should attach importance to Dungan language and conduct in-depth and detailed researches on it.

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Expert comments:

This paper summarizes the characteristics of the degree adverbs "Tai" and "Hen" and the sentence pattern "Tai.....hen" in Dungan language through comparing "Tai" and "Hen" and the sentence pattern "Tai.....hen" in Dungan language with Shaanxi Gansu dialect. This paper analyzes the characteristics with details, and the conclusion is credible, so we agree to publish it.

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