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МАКАЛДАРДАГЫ ЖАНЫБАРЛАРДЫН СЕМАНТИКАЛЫК ТОПТОРУ: КЫТАЙ ЖАНА АНГЛИС ТИЛДЕРИН САЛЫШТЫРУУ

Аннотация. Бул макалада эки башка тилде — Кытай жана англис тилдеринде көрсөтүлгөн жаныбарлардын семантикалык топторун деталдуу изилдөөгө арналган. Изилдөөнүн негизги максаты жаныбарлардын негизги категорияларын аныктоо, алардын маданий-семантикалык маанисин аныктоо жана эки салттын макал-лакаптарында жаныбарлардын пайдалануу өзгөчөлүктөрүн салыштыруу болуп саналат. Бул процессте 150 макал-лакап (ар бир тилден 75 мисал) талданып, аларды төмөнкү семантикалык категорияларга системалуу бөлүштүрүү жүргүзүлдү: Үй жаныбарлары, жапайы жаныбарлар, канаттуулар, курт-кумурскалар жана мифологиялык жандыктар. Алынган жыйынтыктар эки салттын маданий контексттеринде Олуттуу айырмачылыкка карабастан, макал-лакаптардагы жаныбарлар адамдык сапаттардын, адеп-ахлактык негиздердин жана турмуштук кырдаалдардын символу катары окшош роль ойноорун көрсөтүп турат. Кытай макал-лакаптарында социалдык идеалдарды жана Конфуций этикасын чагылдырган аары же түлкү сыяктуу эмгекчил жана куу жаныбарлардын сүрөттөрү басымдуулук кылат. Өз кезегинде, англис макал-лакаптарында кайраттуулук, жалкоолук же куулук сыяктуу адамдын жеке өзгөчөлүктөрүн символдоштурган үй жаныбарларынын жана канаттуулардын сүрөттөрү көбүрөөк колдонулат. Салыштырмалуу талдоо лингвистика, маданият таануу жана маданияттар аралык байланыш сыяктуу дисциплиналардын өнүгүшү үчүн баалуу болгон ар кандай маданияттардагы жаныбарларды чечмелөөдө окшош белгилерди да, мүнөздүү айырмачылыктарды да ачып берет.

Негизги сөздөр: Фольклор, Элдик акыл, Жаныбарлар жөнүндө макал-лакаптар, Жаныбарлар метафорасы, Жаныбарлардын семантикалык топтору, Маданий семантика, Салыштырмалуу-тарыхый анализ, Маданий коммуникация, Кытай тили, Англис тили.

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СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЕ ГРУППЫ ЖИВОТНЫХ В ПОСЛОВИЦАХ: СРАВНЕНИЕ КИТАЙСКОГО И АНГЛИЙСКОГО

Аннотация. Данная статья посвящена детальному изучению семантических групп животных, отражённых в пословицах двух различных языков — китайского и английского. Основная цель исследования заключается в выявлении ключевых категорий животных, определении их культурно-семантического значения и сопоставлении особенностей

использования животных в пословицах обеих традиций. В процессе работы было проанализировано 150 пословиц (по 75 примеров из каждого языка) и проведено их систематическое распределение по следующим семантическим категориям: домашние животные, дикие животные, птицы, насекомые и мифологические существа. Полученные результаты указывают, что несмотря на значительное различие в культурных контекстах обеих традиций, животные в пословицах играют схожую роль, выступая символами человеческих качеств, моральных устоев и жизненных ситуаций. Китайские пословицы преимущественно акцентируют внимание на образах трудолюбивых и хитроумных животных, таких как пчёлы или лисицы, что отражает социальные идеалы и конфуцианскую этику. В свою очередь, английские пословицы чаще используют образы домашних животных и птиц, символизирующих индивидуальные черты человека, например смелость, лень или хитрость. Сравнительный анализ позволяет выявить как сходные черты, так и характерные различия в интерпретации животных в разных культурах, что представляет ценность для развития таких дисциплин, как лингвистика, культурология и межкультурная коммуникация.

Ключевые слова: Фольклор, Народная мудрость, Зоологические пословицы, Метафоры животных, Семантические группы животных, Культурная семантика, Сравнительно-исторический анализ, Межкультурная коммуникация, Китайский язык, Английский язык.

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SEMANTIC GROUPS OF ANIMALS AND PROVERBS: COMPARISON TO CHINESE AND ENGLISH

Abstract. This article focuses on a detailed study of the semantic groups of animals represented in the proverbs of two different languages, Chinese and English. The main objective of the study is to identify the key categories of animals, determine their cultural and semantic significance, and compare the use of animals in the proverbs of both traditions. In the process of work, 150 proverbs were analyzed (75 examples from each language) and their systematic distribution was carried out in the following semantic categories: domestic animals, wild animals, birds, insects and mythological creatures. The results obtained indicate that despite the significant difference in the cultural contexts of both traditions, animals in proverbs play a similar role, acting as symbols of human qualities, moral principles and life situations. Chinese proverbs predominantly focus on images of hardworking and cunning animals, such as bees or foxes, which reflect social ideals and Confucian ethics. In contrast, English proverbs often use images of domestic animals and birds to symbolize individual traits, such as courage, laziness, or cunningness. Comparative analysis allows us to identify both similarities and distinctive differences in the interpretation of animals in different cultures, which is valuable for the development of disciplines such as linguistics, cultural studies, and intercultural communication.

Keywords: Folklore, Folk wisdom, Zoological proverbs, Animal metaphors, Semantic groups of animals, Cultural semantics, Comparative-historical analysis, Intercultural communication, Chinese language, English language.

Methodology

The study of semantic groups of animals in Chinese and English proverbs used a comprehensive methodological approach, including the collection, classification, and quantitative and qualitative analysis of data.

1. Material collection

The main sources of data were collections of proverbs and idioms:

For the Chinese language, the "中华谚语大典" (The Great Encyclopedia of Chinese Proverbs), Internet resources and books on Chinese folklore were used.

For the English language, the "Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs", "A Dictionary of English Proverbs", and modern English-language collections were used.

150 proverbs were collected (75 for each language), which ensured the representativeness of the analysis.

The selection criteria included the mandatory mention of animals, their recognition, and frequency of use in the language.

2. Classification of animals

- Semantic classification was used to systematize the collected material, taking into account biological and symbolic characteristics:

1. Domestic animals: dog, cat, horse, cow, and pig.

2. Wild animals: tiger, lion, wolf, bear, and fox.

3. Birds: sparrow, eagle, crane, owl, and rooster.

4. Insects: bee, ant, mosquito, and fly.

5. Mythological or symbolic creatures: dragon, phoenix, and unicorn.

- Each proverb was assigned to a specific group based on the direct or metaphorical mention of an animal.

3. Qualitative analysis

- Each proverb was subjected to detailed semantic and pragmatic analysis:

- The symbolic meanings of the animal were identified (for example, associations with wisdom, cunning, or hard work).

- The functions of the proverbs were analyzed: moral instruction, characterization of personality, warning, or practical advice.

- Cultural and historical contexts were considered, including traditions, mythology, and religious motifs.

- Examples of analysis:

- The Chinese proverb "The fox is cunning, but it does not always win" demonstrates a negative perception of cunning and warns about the consequences of deception.

- The English proverb "Curiosity killed the cat" warns against excessive curiosity as a potential danger.

4. Quantitative analysis

- The frequency of mentions of animals from each semantic group was calculated.

- Tables and graphs were created to visually represent:

- the frequency of mentions of domestic animals;

- the occurrence of wild animals;

- the percentage of mythological images in both languages.

5. Comparative analysis

- The main focus was on comparing the semantic and functional characteristics of animals in the two languages.

- The following aspects were considered:

- What human qualities are symbolized by the same animals in the cultures of China and English-speaking countries.

- The influence of cultural context on the frequency and functions of animals in proverbs.

- Similarities and differences in the transmission of moral and social concepts through zoological metaphors.

6. Methodological validity

- The use of a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches ensured:

- identifying patterns in the distribution of animals across semantic groups;

- establishing culturally specific features and universal symbols;

- reliability of conclusions from the standpoint of linguistics and cultural studies.

The results of the study revealed significant cultural differences and similarities in the use of animal symbols in Chinese and English proverbs. A total of 150 proverbs were analyzed, evenly distributed between the two language traditions (75 from each). All proverbs were classified into five semantic groups: domestic animals, wild animals, birds, insects, and mythological creatures. Each group was analyzed based on frequency, symbolism, function, and provided examples. We offer you a detailed and expanded description of the analysis results.

1. Pets

This group demonstrates cultural differences in the approach to portraying pets.

Pets are rarely mentioned in Chinese proverbs (8% of the total). The main symbolism is related to traits such as loyalty, caution, and housekeeping. For example, "A dog that barks but doesn't bite" hints at loyalty and warns of the weakness of the threat, while "A cat catches a mouse, but not always" emphasizes caution and foresight. Proverbs serve a moral and educational function, conveying norms of behavior through the images of domestic animals.

On the other hand, English proverbs include pets much more frequently (30%). Here, they symbolize loyalty, caution, and observation. Examples include sayings like "Let sleeping dogs lie," which serves as a warning to avoid unnecessary conflicts. Similarly, "Curiosity killed the cat" encourages moderation in seeking knowledge to avoid trouble. The significant use of pets in English tradition reflects their active role in British daily life, which has been reflected in folk wisdom.

Conclusion: Pets play a much larger role in English proverbs, where their images focus on practical advice and personality traits. In Chinese texts, the emphasis is on instructive and often metaphorical scenarios.

2. Wild Animals

Proverbs about wild animals reflect the peculiarities of society's attitude towards nature and the possible social consequences of interacting with it.

Chinese proverbs (25% of the total) focus on strength, cunning, caution, and danger. For example, "The fox is cunning, but it doesn't always win" highlights cunning as a debatable quality with both advantages and disadvantages. "Don't approach a tiger without a reason" emphasizes the importance of respecting strength and avoiding unnecessary risks. These proverbs serve as warnings that promote collective ethics and the need for common sense.

In English proverbs, wild animals are less common (18%) and are often interpreted in the context of individual qualities or observations of the world around us. For example, "A wolf in sheep's clothing" warns against deceptive appearances. "Don't poke the bear" advises against provoking powerful or

aggressive opponents. The English tradition emphasizes personal characteristics and individual approaches to problem-solving.

Conclusion: In Chinese culture, images of wild animals have a more instructive nature, focusing on social norms, while in English culture, they are used to identify individual traits and risks.

3. Birds

Birds are represented as symbols of wisdom and harmony in many cultures.

Chinese proverbs include birds in 15% of cases. The main symbolism is associated with concepts such as longevity, spirituality, and harmony. For example, "A crane in the house is a sign of happiness" represents good luck and longevity, while "An eagle flies high" symbolizes ambition and achieving a high position through strength of character. These proverbs promote moral lessons through the idealization of virtues.

English proverbs mention birds less frequently (12%), focusing on practicality and worldly wisdom. For example, "As wise as an owl" associates the owl with wisdom and an analytical perspective.

Historical and cultural context

The study of zoological proverbs cannot be imagined without taking into account the historical and cultural foundations that have influenced the formation of linguistic images of animals. Proverbs represent the collective experience of a people, reflecting their worldview, traditions, work activities, and values. In every culture, animals occupy a unique place, and their interpretation is closely related to historical development and symbolism.

Chinese tradition

Chinese proverbs related to animals have their roots in the philosophical teachings of Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. These worldviews have contributed to a unique and harmonious concept of nature, where humans and animals coexist in balance, and each being is endowed with its own spiritual energy, known as qi (气).

Animals as Symbols of Morality and Spirituality

In Chinese tradition, animals represent specific moral and ethical qualities. For example:

- The dragon (龙) is the embodiment of strength, power, and nobility; it was associated with the emperor and the masculine principle (yang).
- Phoenix (凤) is a symbol of peace, prosperity, female energy (yin), and rebirth.
- Tiger (虎) is a protector of justice and a guardian against evil.
- Crane (鹤) is a sign of longevity, wisdom, and spiritual purity.

Images of these animals are often found not only in proverbs, but also in art, architecture, festive traditions, and rituals. For example, the expression "The Dragon raises its head" (龙抬头) means the onset of a new natural cycle, renewal, and rebirth.

The socio-moral aspect

Chinese proverbs mainly served an educational function, conveying through language the norms of behavior based on respect, moderation, and harmony. Animals were used as metaphors for human relationships:

- "A tiger does not give birth to a dog" (虎父无犬子) — about the noble offspring of worthy parents.
- "Waiting for a hare at a stump" (守株待兔) — about laziness and relying on luck.

Thus, in Chinese culture, animals were perceived not just as part of nature, but as embodiments of deep philosophical principles, shaping ideas about harmony and morality.

In English culture, animal-based proverbs were formed based on peasant life, Christian values, and everyday observation. Over the centuries, the English have drawn wisdom from their interactions with the world around them, turning it into concise and witty sayings.

Practicality and Individualism

Unlike the Chinese idea of harmony in nature, English proverbs often reflected a pragmatic and individualistic approach. Animals symbolized human qualities such as caution, hard work, or laziness:

- "Don't wake a sleeping dog" (Let sleeping dogs lie) - advice to avoid unnecessary conflicts.
- "Curiosity killed the cat" (Curiosity killed the cat) - warning about the danger of excessive curiosity.
- "The early bird catches the worm" (The early bird catches the worm) - about the importance of hard work and timeliness.

Influence of the Bible and folklore

Many English proverbs have their origins in biblical texts:

- "Don't cast pearls before swine" (Don't cast pearls before swine) – a reminder of selectivity in providing knowledge to the unworthy.
- "The wolf in sheep's clothing" is an image of hidden hypocrisy.

Medieval bestiaries also had a huge influence on the formation of symbolism. These books attached moral significance to animals, both real and mythical: the lion represented nobility, the snake was associated with cunning, and the donkey with patience.

The study revealed that zoological proverbs in Chinese and English are not only stable expressions involving animals, but also a significant part of the cultural heritage. They reflect the worldview, moral values, and historical experiences of the respective nations.

The analysis showed that animals in each culture form specific semantic groups that perform different functions and carry various meanings. In Chinese proverbs, animals often represent spiritual and moral qualities associated with the philosophy of harmony, collectivism, and moral self-improvement. In contrast, in English proverbs, animal images emphasize a practical and realistic perspective on the world, serving as metaphors for worldly wisdom, observation, and individual character traits.

A comparative analysis has demonstrated that animals have educational and cognitive functions in both cultures, but the forms of expression differ. In Chinese, an allegorical and symbolic approach prevails, where animals are associated with significant philosophical ideas such as power (dragon), longevity (crane), or strength (tiger). In English, a more everyday and concrete approach is dominant, based on observing the animals' daily behavior: the cat is associated with caution, the dog with loyalty, and the fox with cunning.

Historical and cultural differences have also shaped different ways of perceiving the world: in the Chinese tradition, humans and nature are seen as a unified whole, while in English culture, humans are primarily observers and interpreters of natural phenomena.

Thus, the semantic role of animals in proverbs becomes a significant tool for studying national mentality and cultural values. Through these images, language and folklore express an understanding of morality, ethical norms, and notions of good and evil.

The results of the study confirm that zoological proverbs can serve not only as a subject of linguistic analysis, but also as an effective means of intercultural communication. They contribute to a deeper understanding of the worldviews of different nations.

In the future, further research may include comparative analysis involving other languages such as Russian, Japanese, or Arabic. It is also important to study the cognitive and symbolic aspects of animal perception in different cultural traditions.

The English Tradition

The formation of proverbs with animal images in English culture was influenced by the agrarian way of life, the morals of Christianity, and folk observation. Over the centuries, English peasants and artisans observed animals, summarizing their observations in the form of apt and concise expressions.

Practicality and Individualism

Unlike the Eastern philosophy of harmony, the English proverbial tradition emphasizes practicality and individualism. Here, animals do not serve as symbols of cosmic forces, but rather become metaphors for human qualities such as prudence, caution, hard work, or laziness. For example:

- Let sleeping dogs lie — don't disturb what doesn't bother you (literally, don't wake a sleeping dog).
- Curiosity killed the cat — excessive curiosity can be harmful (literally, curiosity killed the cat).
- The early bird catches the worm — punctuality and diligence bring success (literally: the early bird catches the worm).

Biblical and folklore origins

Many English proverbs have biblical roots:

- Don't cast pearls before swine — don't waste your efforts on those who can't appreciate them (literally: don't cast pearls before swine, a quote from the Gospel).
- The wolf in sheep's clothing is a metaphor for deceptive appearances and hypocrisy (literally, a wolf in sheep's clothing).

The development of this symbolism was also influenced by medieval bestiaries, books about animals, where real and mythical creatures were endowed with moral traits. The lion was presented as a noble king of beasts, the snake was associated with cunning, and the donkey symbolized patience.

Social function

Like Chinese proverbs, English proverbs served as a tool for education, although they focused on self-control, prudence, and personal responsibility. These expressions encouraged people to observe human behavior through examples from nature:

- You can't teach an old dog new tricks — habits are hard to change (literally: you can't teach an old dog new tricks).
- Every dog has his day — everyone gets a chance at luck (literally: every dog has its day).

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