

VERBAL COMPLEXES IN CHINESE.

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0. Introduction

Lately in modern linguistics and, in particular, in Chinese linguistics increases an interest to a problem of lexical complexes's semantic features system, lexical formations, worth on border between dictionary and grammar, language and speech is observed. A formation of new compound lexical units by simple addition of elements is the typology feature of Chinese and other isolating languages.

The Verbal Complex is considered to be a version of lexical complexes, *representing a sequence of two or more verbs with one immediately following the other (V1 + V2)*. The combinations with modal verbs and verbs - prepositions and reduplications were not included in a circle of researched formations.

1. The structure of Verbal Complexes (VC).

The surface structure of verbal complexes are dissimilar, the results of it's study is the following:

1.1. The syllabic structure of VC can change from disyllabic and trisyllabic complexes up to more difficult units. Research has shown, that the absolute majority of VC is disyllabic, but the trisyllabic structure is more typical for resultative Verbal Complexes.

1.2. Verbal Complex formation is various. There are attributive (examples 1, 2), copulative (examples 3, 4), and resultative (examples 5, 6) models.

(1) Juanzhu "to assist by the donations, financially "

(to endow + to assist)

(2) Chensi "deeply to muse" (to be immersed + to muse)

- (3) Chaojia "to quarrel" (to cry + to counter)
- (4) Dashuan "to pack" (to weave + to bind)
- (5) Dangchu "to clear" (to rinse + to delete)
- (6) Chezou "to lead out smb., to withdraw smb."
(to recede + to go)

1.3 Two models of VC depend on lexical and grammatical significance of the whole complex:

- a) $V_1 + V_2 = V$

Chenchi "to blame smb." (to quarrel + to blame) - a copulative complex

Daqiang "to rob" (to beat + to take away)

Paosan "to scatter" (to run + to part, to separate) - resultative complexes.

- b) $V_1 + V_2 = N$

Lian'ai "love" (to love + to love)

Baoguo "parcel" (to wrap up + to pack).

- c) $V_1 + V_2 = V = N$

Qipian "to deceive" ("deception". (to deceive + to deceive)

Usually it is a copulative VC.

1.4. The order of complex components can be fixed or not. For example, verbal complexes with the alternative order of components:

- a) Dapei "to combine" (to incorporate + to select)

Peida - the meaning of the word does not vary.

- b) Aixi "to value smb. or to protect smb."

Xiai "to love" The meanings of the words are similar, its are close synonyms.

2. The semantic relations between VC's components.

2.1. The analysis of the Dictionary of new words (Xiandai hanyu cidian bubian, Beijing, 1989) arrives us to a conclusion about high activity (efficiency) of verb-verb constructions in modern Chinese

1) $R_1 (X_1, X_2) = \langle\langle X_1 \& X_2 \rangle\rangle$ The relation of summation.

The significance of a complex is a connected set of component meanings.

Minchu "to eradicate" (to disappear + to destroy)

Beijia "to increase" (to intensify + to add)

Daqiang "to rob" (to beat + to take away)

2) $R_2 (X_1, X_2) = \langle\langle X_1 \rangle\rangle = \langle\langle X_2 \rangle\rangle$ The relation of duplication with intensification.

Cizhu "to assist by money" (to assist + to assist)

3) $R_3 (X_1, X_2) = \langle\langle X_1 (X_2) \rangle\rangle$ The relation of absorption.

One component of the complex loses its own meaning.

Daonian "to pray" (to pray + to think, to read)

Gouche "to come to an arrange" (to come to an arrange + to tear)

4) $R_4 (X_1, X_2) = \langle\langle \text{the re-understood, generalized } X_1 + X_2 \rangle\rangle$ The relation of re-understanding on the basis of intermediate generalization of sense (summation - generalization - re-understanding).

Kaishuan "to play a trick on smb." (to boil + to rinse - to boil & to rinse - to play a trick on smb.)

5) $R_5 (X_1, X_2) = \langle\langle \text{the action } X_2 \text{ has taken place under the action, designated } X_1 \rangle\rangle$. The 'cause and effect' relation.

Dangchu "to clear" (to rinse + to delete)

6) $R_6 (X_1, X_2) = \langle\langle Y \rangle\rangle$ These are idiomatic complexes.

Dusai "to enclose" (to eradicate + to squeeze)

Chenyuan "to bear smb. a grudge" (to be angry + to take offence)

Panzhai "to descend from high achievements" (to climb + to take away)

2.2. The research of the VC semantic structure in some cases confirms the impossibility of differentiation of compounds and phrases. There are some semantic relations between components of Verbal Complexes, which establish, is it a compound word, or not.

a) The relations between components of VC, one of the components seems to lose its meaning (the grammaticalization of component):

Wangji "to forget" (to forget + to remember)

Biaomai "to sell on nominal value" (to mark + to sell)

b) The relations of duplication:

Chaorang "to make a hubbub, to be noisy" (to make a noise + to make a noise)

c) The idiomatic relations:

Yingxiang "to influence" (to cast a shadow + to sound)

Churu "to visit" (to go out + to enter)

3. The component analysis of Verbal Complexes (the semantic group of verbs of thinking).

This kind of analysis gives us the more complete description of the VC formation in modern Chinese and reveals their paradigmatic structure. We used two methods: definition and step by step identification.

The analysis leaned on comparison, integration and analysis of the information, extracted from dictionary definitions of researched group of words.

The semantic components of a non-polysemantic word and a semantic variant of polysemantic word form an hierarchy. All verbs of group contain in their meanings (and definitions) generic and specific components. The verbal group was studied completely, then we analyse Verbal Complexes (their paradigmatic and syntagmatic structure).

The semantic group of verbs of thinking was made up by making extracts from the dictionaries *Xiandai hanyu cidian* (Beijing 1987), *Tongyici cilin* (Shanghai 1985), *The Big Chinese-Russian dictionary* (Moscow 1984), *The Big Russian-Chinese dictionary* (Beijing 1986), other linguistic dictionaries of Modern Chinese. We selected the verbs, which definitions contain a word Xiang "to

think, to conceive". The findings were collated with all the dictionaries.

52 verbs were allocated, their definitions included a word xiang "to think, to conceive". All these verbs or the semantic variants of verbs (there are some polysemantic words) contain a component xiang "to think, to conceive" in one of their meanings and will form the semantic group of verbs of thinking.

There are four differential semantic components of chinese verbs of thinking, which are indicating on:

1) The temporal character of action ("to think a long time, carefully" (i.e. the process of thinking) / "to think a short time, reach to a idea suddenly, quickly");

2) The temporal characteristic of object of thinking ("to think about the past", "to think about forthcoming");

3) The mode of action ("carefully studying from the different parties", "choosing the correct decision", "critically evaluating" "together, after joint efforts" and other);

4) The expressive and stylistic characteristic of process of thinking.

During the research there were allocated groups and sub-groups with significance: "to think for definite period of a time", "to think by any way", "to think about smb./smth.", "to think about unrealizable", "to think + indication on the end of process", "to see in mind".

3.1. The group of verbs was the most numerous (23 verbs), containing differential components of mode of action. The component of temporal character of action ("to think a long time, carefully" (i.e. the process of thinking) / "to think a short time, reach to a idea suddenly, quickly") divides words on two sub-groups.

3.1.1. The sub-group "to think a long period". Differential components: "carefully studying a problem in all its aspects", "choosing the correct decision", "critically evaluating", "to make common cause, incorporated efforts", "the deeply process of

thinking", the indication on the end of thinking. The expressive and stylistic components: the approval of speaker, book style.

Table 1

verbs or their semantic variants	differential semantic components	expressive or stylistic components	distance from the centre of the group
1. si	-	-	0
2. lu	-	-	0
3. heji	2	-	2
4. zhenzhuo	-	-	0
5. chuaimo	2	-	2
6. cunliang	2	-	2
7. silu	2	-	2
8. pansuan	2	-	2
9. shusi	2	1	3
10. siliang	2	-	2
11. shulu	2	1	3
12. kaolu	2	-	2
13. sikao	2	-	2
14. sicun	-	1	1
15. xiang	1	-	1
16. chensi	2	-	2
17. yousi	1	-	1
18. sisuo	1	-	1
19. ningsi	1	-	1

a) 10 verbs of sub-group have a differential component "carefully studying a problem in all its aspects". The verbs chuaimo, pansuan, cunliang and silu are opposed to other verbs because they have a component of the mode of action "choosing the correct decision". The verb si is used as one of its semantic variants (in the second meaning "to consider"). The semantic structure of the verbs kaolu and sikao has a component "critically evaluating". The verbs shulu, shusi and siliang have the characteristic of the end of action, shulu and shusi have a semantic component of approval of speaker. The verb sicun is one of the book style words, and heji has a semantic component "to make common cause, incorporated efforts".

b) Five verbs are incorporated by a general component "the deeply process of thinking". The verb xiang is used as one of its semantic variants, other verbs (chensi, yousi, sisuo, ningsi) - in their general meanings. The verb chensi differs from other by that the object of a reflection can be as though in consciousness of the

subject, thus can take place the temporal characteristic of object of thinking ("to think about the past").

3.1.2. The sub-group "to think" + "quickly, suddenly".

There are four verbs in sub-group: zhuannian "to think", xiangyao "to take it in one's head" (a stylistic component), xiangdao "to come into one's mind" (the end of process of thinking), xiangqi "to remember smth., it occurred to smb." (the temporal characteristic of object - "to think about the past").

Table 2

verbs or their semantic variants	differential semantic components	expressive or stylistic components	distance from the centre of the group
1. <u>zhuannian</u>	-	-	0
2. <u>xiangyao</u>	-	1	1
3. <u>xiangdao</u>	1	-	1
4. <u>xiangqi</u>	1	-	1

3.2. There are 13 verbs in the group of verbs with general semantic component "the temporal characteristic of object". The verbs sinian, huainian, huixiang, huiyi and the semantic variants of the verbs si and xiang have a component "to think about the past". These verbs are close synonyms, they mean "to think warmly about smb., to recollect smb.".

The other seven verbs have a semantic component "to think about forthcoming". All these verbs have a component of the purpose.

The verbs han and cunxin have the expressive component of meaning (to plan to do smth. bad), yumou is the juridical term and means "to plan smth. with malicious prepense".

Table 3

verbs or their semantic variants	differential semantic components	expressive or stylistic components	from the centre of the kernel
1. <u>an</u>	1	-	1
2. <u>xunian</u>	1	-	1
3. <u>gousi</u>	1	-	1
4. <u>xumou</u>	1	-	1
5. <u>han</u>	1	1	2
6. <u>cunxin</u>	1	1	2
7. <u>yumou</u>	1	1+1	3

3.3. The group of seven verbs, which contains the component "the end of action" and "the achievement of required result". Four of these verbs shexiang, xiangchu, xiangjian, caixiang have a additional semantic component "to realize". The meaning of the verb xiangdao has also a characteristic of a mode of action "suddenly, quickly".

Table 4

verbs or their semantic variants	differential semantic components	expressive or stylistic components	distance from the centre of the group
1. shexiang	1	-	1
2. caixiang	1	-	1
3. tuilun	-	-	0
4. xiangdao	1	-	1
5. xiangchu	1	-	1
6. xiangjian	1	-	1
7. duanding	-	-	0

3.4. The sub-group of verbs, possessing component "to meditate on vain dreams, to imagine anything". Verbal Complexes kongxiang and huangxiang are opposed to the third verb by the component "to think about forthcoming". The verb kongxiang contains also:

- 1) the component of appraisal "castles in the air",
- 2) the indication on the end of thinking, the receipt of result (suppositions, conclusions).

The verb xuxuan contains the expressive component of meaning (negative appraisal).

Table 5

verbs or their semantic variants	differential semantic components	expressive or stylistic components	distance from the centre of the group
1. kongxiang	1+1	1	3
2. xuxuan	-	1	1
3. huanxiang	1	-	1

3.5. The sub-group of verbs the component of meaning "to see in mind". These verbs are xiangxiang "to imagine" and shexiang "to imagine, to see in mind".

3.6. The group consists from four verbs which don't contain mentioned above components of meaning. The verb xinsi assumes

the presence of object ("to think about smth."). The verb siwei has a stylistic component (bookish style).

Table 6

verbs or their semantic variants	differential semantic components	expressive or stylistic components	distance from the centre of the group
1. <u>xiang</u>	-	-	0
2. <u>si</u>	-	-	0
3. <u>siwei</u>	-	1	1
4. <u>xinsi</u>	1	-	1

3.7. The semantic kernel of each sub-group consists of non-polysemantic units in their direct, first meaning. There are units without differential semantic components in the centre of the kernel. The more differential components have a lexical unit, it takes up the more remote plot from the semantic kernel. The componential analysis of the semantic group of verbs of thinking has allowed to build its hierarchical structure.

The verbs xiang, si, siwei, xinsi are the central in the group of verbs of thinking. Their semantic structures are distinguished: xinsi assumes the availability of object of thinking, siwei belongs to bookish style.

3.8. The relations between lexical units of analyzed group. Units, containing identical set of components, can be considered as synonyms. For example:

1) Si "to consider", lu "to think over", zhenzhuo "to think about smth., to weigh the pros and cons.", sicun "to consider smth., fall to thinking". The general significance of the verbs - "to think + long period + choosing the correct decision".

2) Kaolu "to think about smth., to take into account", sikao "to think about smth., to reflect". General significance of the verbs - "to think + long period + critically evaluating".

3) Sinian "to recollect anything, to miss smb.", huainian "with heat to recollect, to miss smb.", huixiang "to reflect about smth., to restore in memory", huiyi "to recollect smth., to restore in memory", si "to recollect, to miss", xiang "to think about smth., to miss smb.".

General significance of the verbs - "to think + the temporal characteristic of object of thinking "to think about the past".

4) An "to plan, to bear smth. (for example, to bear spite)". xunian "to plan", gousi "to mature a plan", xumou "to plan anything, to mature", cunxin "to scheme smth.", yumou "beforehand design to do any illegal action". General significance - "to think + with the purpose of fulfilment of any action".

This series of synonyms are not absolute, there are some stylistic and expressive distinctions between them. (So, for example, in the fourth series the verbs cunxin and yumou have in their significance additional expressive component "something bad", the second of them - yumou - is a legal term). The features of a structure of complexes, in the majority of cases disyllabic, also are reflected in the semantic structure of lexical units. Some times lexical complexes seems to have identical set of semantic components of significance, can consist from lexical units, having unequal on quality or quantity units.

The Verbal Complexes accounts for 81 % of all lexical complexes of the group. The most part of components is created from elements of one semantic field (30 %).

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