

A Comparative Study on Cultural Factors of Chinese-English Proverbs based on Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language

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Abstract

As an important component of language and culture, proverbs are also the fruits of people's wisdom. Chinese and English have a very long history, so in the process of evolution, there are a very large number of proverbs. Therefore, this paper will compare the cultural factors between the two based on the teaching of Chinese as a foreign language, start with its comparative significance and related research status, summarize the overview of Chinese and English proverbs, and finally complete the research on the teaching methods of Chinese proverbs for native English students.

Keywords

Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language; Chinese-English Proverbs; Cultural Factors.

1. Comparative Significance and Research Status of Cultural Factors of Chinese and English Proverbs

1.1. Significance of Cultural Factors Study of Chinese and English Proverbs

As early as the 19th century, British anthropologists have proposed that culture is a whole composed of different parts mixed, including law, belief, art and language, in which language is just the carrier to transmit culture and can also record culture. And in languages there is a special kind of being known as proverb, saying as the essence of the content on the size of each culture also occupy a considerable proportion, and study of Chinese-English proverb cultural factors can also help complete the cultural differences and similarities of research, based on the help of teaching Chinese as a foreign language constantly get development [1].

1.2. Research Status of Cultural Factors of Chinese and English Proverbs

The study of proverbs has a long history, but its research has not become a hot topic. In recent years, the discipline has made strong development, so the study of proverbs has made some progress, the most obvious progress is the contrastive study of Chinese and English proverbs involved in this paper. Language proverbs of either individually or Chinese-English proverb contrast research through the untiring efforts of the relevant scholars for a long time have accumulated a large number of relevant content, after reading the content of the specific can find its research focus currently focuses on the definition, the proverb rhetoric way, proverbs and proverb translation and cultural relations, but the Chinese-English proverb cultural factors of the combination of the content of research is less, because this is in complete contrast cultural factors and teaching Chinese as a foreign language in the process of combination will be resistance.

2. Overview of Chinese and English Proverbs

2.1. Formation and Development

A certain number of proverbs have appeared in the ancient times of our country, and proverbs are in a fixed form in meaning. At this time proverbs were mostly passed on by word of mouth, but the basic structure has been simplified over time. In modern Chinese large-scale vernacular, the number of proverbs is also increasing, a lot of writers also added the use of proverbs in their works, which makes the proverbs more popular. Like Chinese proverbs, English proverbs are also derived from spoken Folk language, and a large number of proverbs are also derived from religious classics. In the case that most English-speaking countries believe in Christianity, the Bible, as its doctrine, is also an important source of Western proverbs, and in the process of continuous improvement of English, it has also been influenced by geographical location and foreign nationalities [2].

2.2. Comparison of Cultural Factors

And in the process of research comparing the factors of culture is also very important, first, in the contrast of theism and atheism in China religious ideas is not god or god, this also means that our country saying god is god, the god of the generalized doesn't like people of western religious belief only a religion, proverbs reflect the details of the specific see table 1.

Table 1. Comparison of Common English Proverbs on Theism

Chinese proverb	English proverbs
Heaven never seals off all the exits	Heaven is above all. God is above all
Life and death are all according to destiny	Turth is daughter of God
People fight for a breath, Buddha received a stick incense	The tree that God plants ni wind hurts it
a wrongdoer achieves salvation as soon as he gives up evil	God is where he was
I can't help it	Heaven's vengeance is slow but sure

According to the contents of Table 1 above, it can be found that there is a clear difference in the viewpoints of common Proverbs in Chinese and English in theism, and there is also a clear difference in the viewpoints of common proverbs in Chinese and English in the reflection of humanistic thoughts. See Table 2 for details.

Table 2. Comparison of Common English Proverbs in Humanistic Thought

A friend in need is a friend indeed.	Self comes first
Do not do what you do not want	Every man is nearest himself
Be strict with yourself and be lenient	Every man likes his own thing best
Where many helps to gather firewood, the flames shoot high.	Every miller draws water to his own mill

According to the above comparison, it can be found that Chinese proverbs in humanistic aspects are comelier and more modest under the influence of traditional thoughts, while English proverbs in humanistic thoughts are more self-centered, which have obvious cultural characteristics and great differences [3].

3. Teaching Methods of Chinese Proverbs for Native English Speakers

3.1. Cultural Factors Infiltration

In the process of teaching Chinese as a foreign language, according to the above summary, cultural factors should be infiltrated first for Students whose native language is English. As is known to all, English and Chinese come from different language families, so cultural factors should be infiltrated very important. In the process of infiltration, the cultural meaning of Korean proverbs should be summarized and analyzed first, the cultural background of the proverbs should be clearly explained first, and then the differences between the two countries should be compared. The two main problems to be avoided are literal meaning and historical and cultural misunderstandings. For example, the Chinese proverb: "Out of the barrel of a gun comes the unyieldability of the Chinese people against foreign enemies, but if you do not explain this proverb to English-speaking students, it may be misinterpreted as a representative of the warlike spirit [4].

3.2. Teaching Inspiration

In terms of specific teaching ideas, we should first teach students the common content of proverbs, and at the same time, we should also pay attention to students' own thoughts and explain the content they are interested in to stimulate their interest in learning. At the same time in the process of teaching from the shallow to the deep, at the same time master the principle of communication. The specific teaching methods include Chinese-English comparison, detailed explanation of the source and the combination of explanation and practice. Thus, proverbs in Chinese can be classified, and the basis of the classification can be reflected in two aspects and the reasons for the formation of proverbs, after which students can quickly find out the meaning they represent when reviewing.

4. Conclusion

Through the discussion of this paper, it can be found that there are similarities and differences between Chinese and English proverbs in the aspects of humanities, religion, morality and life experience. Therefore, this paper gives an overview of them and completes the research of future teaching from different perspectives. It is hoped that the research content of this paper can play a certain role in the future practical teaching work. In teaching Chinese as a foreign language, there are still a lot of contents that need to be studied urgently, all of which still need the joint efforts of all teaching staff to constantly improve it.

References

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