

The application of "XX Zi" constructs

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Abstract

The Chinese buzzword "XX Zi" is a noun triplet structure consisting of a two-syllable root and a suffix. "The reason for the formation of "XX Zi" is the influence of Japanese language, the analogy of superlative usage, the need for social activities, and the strangeness of online language. On three planes, "XX Zi" has grammatical functions as subject, object, and definite article, pragmatic functions as intimacy, and semantic functions as person and plant and animal. The use of "XX Zi" in communication has its own special characteristics, and people have their own views on its use, some accept it gladly, some reject it strongly, which also reflects that it is not easy to integrate new words and phrases into the Chinese language system and make them widely accepted. We should take the best and discard the worst, and keep our eyes open, not to follow the current.

Keywords

XX Zi; Zi.

1. The historical origin of "Zi"

The Analects of Confucius explains "Zi" [1]: "Zi, the common name for men, said that the superior and inferior can be called Zi, so Confucius' disciples called the teacher also said Zi." The Analects of Confucius explains "Zi" [2]: "The Zhou system, public, marquis, bor, son, male for the five ranks of the title, and the dafu, although noble, dare not call the son, Spring and Autumn since the Xiwen, the ruling secretary began to call the son. After that, the scholar for the scholars also can be called son, Laozi, Confucius is also." Accordingly, it can be seen that "Zi" in ancient China can be said to be learned people [3], mostly refers to men, such as "Confucius, Laozi, Han Feizi, Mencius, Zhuangzi" and so on. Later, "Zi" showed signs of endings and became a category of diminutives, e.g., children and juniors, small animals, and the prefix "Zi" has a real root and can be used alone, but when combined with The prefix "子" is a real word and can be used alone, but when combined with "Zi", the word has the semantic characteristic of "small", and the "Zi" is the basis for the finalization of the word. "The meaning and usage of "Zi" has changed since it was introduced to Japan, where it has been processed to refer mainly to women. In modern Chinese, "Zi" as an affix is mainly found after kinship terms. In modern Chinese, "Zi" is a signature element attached to the root of a word, which is an expressive affix, a word marker with informal function and strong word formation ability. In the Middle Ages (Tang and Song dynasties), the noun ending "Zi" was gradually developed and had certain word formation ability, e.g. jiaozi and huizi. These new words are composed of the root word plus the suffix "sub", "sub" end kinship appellation word is sprouted in the Tang and Five Dynasties period, the Yuan Dynasty after the development of special appellation phenomenon. [4] For example, the word for "brother-in-law" and "aunt", and the word for "father", "Lao zi" and so on. Most of the derivational affixes in modern Chinese are expressive affixes, which are grammatical and pragmatic in nature, and are not obligatory in use, and are to some extent arbitrary.

2. Causes of "XX sub" constructions

Impact of Japanese language

In recent years, there has been a wave of nicknames for idols on social media. During the popularity of the variety show "Sisterhood of the Wave", almost every female guest has her own cute nickname with the suffix "Zi", either given by fans or called by the guests to each other. In the popular talent show "Youth With You 2", "Tong Tong Zi" and "Xin xin Zi" were nicknames given by fans for Zhao Xiaotang and Yu Shuxin, and X Zi or XX Zi seemed to be the necessary titles for talent show contestants. As we all know, many Japanese women's names end in "Zi". "Zi" has a deep historical origin in Japan, it was the name given to women by the nobility of the Japanese court in ancient times, and was the privilege of only a few noble women in the Heian period of Japan. It was only after the Meiji Restoration that it became popular among the general public. People still psychologically felt that "xx son" had a sense of nobility and wanted their children to have a rich and happy life like a princess, and a trend was formed, and this custom has gradually continued. In Japanese, "son" means "child, child, girl, little thing, child" and so on. This is why most people think that the suffix "ko" has a strong female and Japanese cultural component. The emergence of "Xin xin zi" may have been influenced by a Japanese anime "The Daily Life of POP Zi and PIPI Mei", in which POP Zi and PIPI Mei look like the classic Chinese animation characters "No Brain" and "Unhappy". "In short, they are spooky and funny Japanese girls. When Yu Shuxin and Fu Ruqiu performed together in "Youth With You 2", some people associated them with the characters POP Zi and PIPI Mei based on their height difference, personality difference and dance moves. The blogger "Azhong who draws comics" has drawn many pictures of Yu Shuxin and Fu Ruchao in the same animation. [5] Yu Shuxin's quirky personality is very similar to the main character in the show, POP Zi, which is based on the Japanese pronunciation. Therefore, to a large extent, people made "Xinxinzi" based on "POPzi".

Analogy of superlative usage

The basic idea behind the formation of emergent structures is that old elements within the language can provide formal templates for emerging popular structures, which are copied imitatively from the old elements. [6] In expressions, especially in personal expressions, we often choose a word from a name to address someone in a superposition to indicate closeness of relationship and emotional closeness. It is also very catchy and rhythmic to read. The word "XX Zi" is the inheritance of the superposition, which is modeled on the form of the superposition with the addition of a "Zi" after it, without any change in semantics. Therefore, the usage has not changed either. This novel approach attracts the attention of users and satisfies their psychology of pursuing new styles. The novel form and the scope of use remain the same, which makes it easier for users to accept and expand the scope of communication.

The need for social activities

It is used to meet the needs of expression by adding new meanings to the original one without creating new words, which is in line with the principle of language economy. The term "xx son" blurs the differences in status, position and age, so that people of different status, position and age can use it to communicate with each other, which enhances the sense of closeness and reduces the sense of distance, and breaks the orderly way of referring to young and old in society, which is also in line with the principle of economy.

The strangeness of seeking differences in network language

The theory of "strangeness" is most commonly used in the field of literature, and can be summarized as: making the familiar strange, so that the aesthetic subject can make new discoveries even when facing things that are commonplace. [7] The use of Internet language also reflects the characteristics of strangeness, using new words or structures to break the traditional, commonplace expressions, creating a sense of freshness and bringing new psychological experiences. The Internet language is trendy and fashionable, and fresh language is respected by everyone, so "strangeness" has become one of the important means to satisfy the freshness of the Internet language. The emergence of the term "XX Zi" is also a form of

Internet language alienation and innovation, and the psychology of seeking differences and newness makes the different term quickly become popular on the Internet.

3. Function of "XX Zi"

Grammar function

The word "XX Zi" is equivalent to a noun and is used as the subject, object and definite article in a sentence.

As subject:

"Qiqi Zi" is here! ("Sister who rides the wave" video pop-up)

Zhang Yuqi did not have a tone in tune, Jing Jingzi's little expression is so cute, hahaha Qiqi Zi do not be afraid, punch! (Idle Entertainment)

As an object.

Yu Shuxin disguised as "Yu guide", online guidance on how to digest the center of the dance movements, as expected of Xinxin son. (Youth with you official microblogging)

As a definite article.

The Chinese doll style Qiqi Zi is cute without losing her valiant spirit, and every movement is so charming. (The official microblogging of "The Sister Who Rides the Waves")

Zhou Jian divided the Chinese three-character pattern into three categories according to the rhythm, which are 2 + 1 style, 1 + 2 style and 1 + 1 + 1 style. Obviously, "XX Zi" belongs to the 2 + 1 form. According to the number of morphemes, there are three types: trilingual, bilingual and monolingual, and "XX sub" is trilingual. There are theoretically 22 types of trilingual triplet lattices with complex structural relationships. The structural patterns of the trilingual trigrams are listed as follows (A: root morpheme, B: additional morpheme)

1. (A + B) + A
2. (A + B) + B
3. (B + A) + A.....

"XX Zi" belongs to the sixth category, i.e., (A + A) + B, which belongs to the derived three-character pattern. When Zhou Jian [1] listed examples of "(A + A) + B" style, he gave two examples of "resentful and cocoa".

According to Zhou Jian [8], the words "resentful, cocoa, baba-di, old journeyman, technician" have a common composition, and they are all formed by bilingual roots with affixes (or affix-like). Formally, "XX sub" has some similarity with "resentful, cocoa, baba-di". "XX sub" is composed of an overlapping bilingual root "X" with the suffix "sub". The three word patterns made up of bilingual roots and affixes are mainly adjectives, adverbs and nouns, such as.

- (1) Adjective: resentful, cocoa
- (2) adverb: hard, bitter, baba
- (3) Nouns: Shizuko, Hyeko, Nanaeko

This kind of structure does not include the verbal three-character pattern, such as "wake up, look at it, listen to it", which is a compound structure formed by overlapping, and the semantic meaning changes after overlapping. For example, "wake up" can mean "wake up" or "want to wake up", while The word "wake up" only means "want to wake up". The overlapping bilingual roots with affixes form a three-character pattern, which is an additive structure with little cohesion, and the monosyllabic roots can be used alone with the same semantic meaning.

Pragmatic function

The "XX sub" is mainly based on semantic use, not on semantic expressions. The overlap of "XX sub" is mainly used to strengthen the semantic expression, but does not change the semantic meaning. The overlap of "XX sub" is different from the overlap of words such as "wake up,

everyone". Wake up, everyone" is a semantic overlap, "wake up" means "trying to make ... wake up" and "everyone" means "trying to make ... wake up". "Everyone" means "everyone". "XX Zi" is a semantic overlap, strengthening the tone of voice, which is expressed in two meanings: the speaker's affectionate attitude towards the object referred to, and the speaker's own liveliness, cuteness and affection. When "XX Zi" first became popular, its meaning implied fans' admiration and love for female celebrities. For example, "Xinxinzi grew up on Kourtney, right?" Fans used "Xinxinzi" to call their idol Yu Shuxin. "XX Zi" is used on the Internet and in daily life to reveal the speaker's adorable mentality and his or her own liveliness, cuteness and affection. Compared with formal terms such as "Zhang Yuqi, Ms. Zhang", "XX Zi" is more lively and friendly.

(iii) Semantic function

We can find out through the names on the web. The semantic meaning of "XX Zi" is mainly used to refer to people, and "X" is mostly chosen from names. A few of them refer to plants and animals, such as "芒芒子, 絮絮子" which refers to mangoes and willows. Thus, it seems that "XX Zi" can mean plants and animals in addition to names. In addition, in order to ease the emotion, "zi" can be added after the emotion, such as "no words, absolutely no son". Thus, "XX Zi" can be used for people, plants and animals as well as for emotions.

4. Characteristics of "XX Zi"

Language form characteristics

"XX Zi" is a three-character structure, which consists of "X" with "Zi" added in the overlapping form. In terms of linguistic components, "X" generally has a real meaning and indicates the name of a specific thing. The meaning of "Zi" has no real meaning, and the whole structure is basically unchanged when the "Zi" is removed, e.g. "jingjingzi" becomes "jingjing" when the "Zi" is removed. The meaning of the word "jingjingzi" remains the same after "jingjingzi" is dropped and becomes "jingjing". "Zi" is similar to a monosyllabic affix. In terms of the relationship between linguistic components, "XX Zi" is a postpositional structure, with the overlapping root in front and the suffix at the end. The status of the linguistic components is different, as the meaning of "XX" remains the same when it leaves the "sub", and "XX" can become a word on its own. Therefore, "XX" and "sub" do not have a mandatory association. The "XX sub" is not strongly fixed and is a free phrase. Therefore, "Zi" makes more sense as an affix. However, due to speech habits, we often refer to "sub" as an affix. The "XX Zi" is centripetal, centered on "XX".

Linguistic arbitrariness

"XX sub" is generally a personal expression, and each of our names can be expressed by this construction. However, at the pragmatic level, "XX sub" is not exactly used as a personal expression, and "XX" is not necessarily identical. With the popularity of the title "XX Zi", the usage of "zi" tends to be generalized, and terms such as "juejuezi" and "wuyuzi" "These are the usage of verb + sub, adjective followed by sub, etc. "juejuezi" expresses admiration and admiration for things, and is synonymous with "absolutely"; "wuyuzi" expresses speechlessness about things (having nothing to say, specifically meaning helplessness and not wanting to talk), and is synonymous with "The word "Zi" buffered the emotional impact of words to a certain extent, not lacking warm feelings, which is why people like to add "Zi" to the end of words. "Speechless son" also has the harmonic sound of "wu fish son", which is also used very frequently on the Internet. The use of these "XX Zi" to a certain extent indicates the arbitrariness of language usage.

For example: worthy of my big brother, absolute absolute son. (Weibo)

Handsome Deng Lun in autumn, temperament is really absolute absolute son. (microblogging)

Speechless son, this time again stood me up, do not play. (Weibo)

Salty fish to buy something encounter opposite tone yin and yang, so want to directly apply for a refund ah, speechless son. (microblogging)

Non-differentiated allegation

"XX Zi" is mainly a nickname to express the love for someone, giving people a sense of cuteness and intimacy. This title breaks the distance from identity, status and age, and satisfies people's demand for indiscriminate reference to men and women and age, which is an important reason why it can be widely spread. Even though the suffix "Zi" is partly derogatory, such as blind, cripple, kid, etc., many fans use "XX Zi" to call their favorite stars as their nickname, mostly in a positive sense. In daily communication, calling people by their first names will have a sense of distance, so using "XX Zi" can bring the distance between the speaker and the listener, reduce the sense of strangeness and enhance the sense of familiarity, making the communication more affable, and also in line with the principle of politeness in language communication.

5. How to view "XX Zi"

Strictly speaking, the word "Zi" is arbitrary in terms of the rules and regulations of Chinese usage. The usage of "xx son" does not violate the laws of Chinese usage in the strict sense. The People's Daily and other official media have also used the word juejuezi in some articles, and the Southern Daily and other media have also used the word "XX Zi". In daily life, the appropriate use of some "XX son", no harm, but also can play a role in the friendly atmosphere. But too much and frequent use, may give people a sense of discomfort, so to use "XX Zi" rationally.

(1) Reasons for liking "XX Zi"

1. The influence of Japanese culture

Some people who are passionate about Japanese anime, Japanese dramas or Japanese literature basically like Japanese culture and are more receptive to "xx subs" than most people.

2. Demand for personalized expression for all

In spoken language, affectionate terms such as "young man" and "big sister" often appear, but in the Internet context such terms are particularly unfamiliar. In the Internet context, the creation and use of Internet buzzwords and emoticons allow people to distinguish themselves from everyday colloquial expressions or written expressions in online communication, and the Chinese Internet has its own expression context. The use of Internet phrases responds to the contextual requirements of social platforms for the identity of Internet users, which requires them to have a "sense of the Internet", to express their individuality, and to express themselves to embrace the diverse Internet subculture. The "sub" suffix Internet phrases were created in the process of people's desire to express their independent, quirky or humorous selves, and they have been widely spread and used to amuse the audience and meet people's demand for eagerly expressing themselves in their circle of friends, microblogs and postings.

3. Lovely self-presentation

People have to play different roles in daily life, and Goffman in "Self-presentation in Daily Life" stated that people use symbols to express ideas, and the most familiar symbols for people are verbal as well as non-verbal. In contrast, online terms, which are different from everyday terms, are emerging tools of self-expression in the Internet platform, and are the identity proof of Cyber residents. XX Zi, whether it is a tone auxiliary or an affectionate name for a star, creates a cute, low-child self image, which is more friendly and easy to get along with, so that people can let down their guard and accept themselves to meet the needs of social interaction. The meaning of the Chinese character "Zi" in this online term is "tiny thing" to describe the smallness and cuteness of the object. The moe and Japanese online language system may not be

suitable for serious public discussion, but it is perfectly suitable for the social scene of the platform.

(2) Reasons for not liking "XX Zi"

1. Refuse to blindly follow the trend

To a large extent, "XX-ko" has suddenly become popular because of an idol program or an event in Japanese culture, and has become the object of imitation by some people who use "XX-ko" to show their fashionability. There are even some abuses, such as the formation of a variation of "XY-ko", such as "no words, sleep-ko". However, other people who are more rational or conservative do not readily accept and use this new structure.

2. "XX sub" is easily replaced by other words

"There are many words or forms in Chinese that refer to people or other names, and "XX Zi" has not yet reached the point where it has to be used. There are many intimate forms of address in Chinese, such as "XX, X'er" and even the monosyllabic "X". These structures express intimacy along with address. In terms of semantic and pragmatic effects, "XX, X children, X" and "XX children" are basically the same. Therefore, "XX Zi" has not yet gained a high status and frequency of use in the minds of some people.

3. The need for circle integration

The use of buzzwords such as "no words" is dominated by female users, representing the emerging rice-circle terminology, and people can also identify the people who use such online buzzwords at a glance. In short, "XX Zi" originated from the rice-circle culture, and people use it to prove their identity and to name their idols with online buzzwords to bring out their "traffic effect", which fans are eager to use to bring heat to their idols. At the same time, the use of XX sub-phrases enlivened the Internet atmosphere, making the star-catching circle more intimate and the "sisters" in the rice circle gaining a sense of identity for each other. However, the use of this buzzword outside of the rice-circle section may seem out of place, reflecting the fact that the buzzword has not yet spread to the entire Chinese Internet context.

6. Conclusion

The controversy over "XX Zi" reflects that it is not easy to integrate new words and phrases into the Chinese language system. Many new words and phrases will decline after a certain period of development, such as "shenma" and "guanxuan". Only a few of them have been gradually fixed and retained in the Chinese language system, such as "geili, zhengneng". This reflects the fact that language stability and variability are always in a game, and also shows that language has relative stability, and the development of language is gradual rather than sudden. With the development of the Internet, various online languages have emerged, and we should take the best of them and discard the worst of them, and keep our eyes open, not to follow the trend. We should also avoid using these words in the middle of writing articles to keep the language clean and pure. And the Internet language will continue to precipitate with the development of the times, we just need to keep the right attitude and not extreme, so that we can contribute to our language environment.

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