

Какие же цветы принято дарить? В ответе на этот вопрос белорусы и китайцы очень отличаются, так как в Беларуси почти все цветы несут одно значение — знак внимания. Цветы здесь преподносят на праздник или просто с целью порадовать любимого человека. Также цветы можно получить в качестве извинения.

В Китае существует традиция дарить друг другу подарки [4]. Китайцы никогда не дарят подарки в нечётном количестве, это является символом несчастья и неудачи. Лучше будет преподнести какой-либо презент в чётном количестве. Когда китаец идёт в гости или на праздник, он в обязательном порядке подготовит подарок хозяину. В Китае нельзя преподносить в подарок часы, так как это является символом смерти.

В Беларуси также принято дарить друг другу подарки, но каких-либо ограничений, как в Китае, нет. Белорусы преподносят подарки, когда идут на праздник или просто в гости. Также можно подарить что-то в честь извинения или таким образом сделать приятно дорогому человеку.

**Заключение.** В Китае и в Беларуси люди уделяют огромное внимание традициям, которые заложили их предки. Следование традициям и обычаям в этих странах показывает их огромную духовную историю. Исходя из этого можно сказать, что белорусы и китайцы чтят своих предков. Мы выявили множество сходств в традициях Беларуси и Китая (прислушивание к мнению родителей при выборе спутника жизни, выкуп на свадьбе, осторожность в выборе дня свадьбы, мотив очищения в некоторых обрядах, размах празднования Нового года), но есть и некоторые различия (дата празднования нового года; наличие праздников, а соответственно и традиций, в Китае, которых нет в Беларуси и наоборот; блюда новогоднего стола).

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#### A STUDY ON THE PRAGMATIC MEANING OF “一下” BASED ON CHINESE-ENGLISH TRANSLATION

By means of pragmatic analysis concerning the phenomenon of “V + 一下” in translating “go”, “talk about”, etc. into Chinese, the author attempts to take advantage of comparison of multi-lingual meanings to reflect the pragmatic meaning of “一下”. The conclusion is made that “一下” changes the constant of the verb and plays a role in soothing the tone.

**Key words:** 一下; verb; pragmatic meaning.

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#### ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ ПРАГМАТИЧЕСКОГО ЗНАЧЕНИЯ “一下” НА МАТЕРИАЛЕ КИТАЙСКО-АНГЛИЙСКОГО ПЕРЕВОДА

Путем прагматического анализа феномена “V + 一下”, наблюдаемого при переводе на китайский язык глаголов «идти», «говорить» и т. п., автор предпринимает попытку использовать сравнение многоязычных значений для отражения прагматического значения “一下”. Делается вывод о том, что “一下” меняет константу глагола и влияет на смягчение тона.

**Ключевые слова:** 一下; глагол; прагматическое значение.

**Introduction.** In the process of English-Chinese translation, the translation of verbs is the most flexible one and at the same time is the most difficult task to take. When translating, translators should not only find the corresponding Chinese verbs to English one according to the context, but also often have to encounter such a choice: the same English verb should be directly translated into the corresponding Chinese verb or the corresponding form of “V + 一下”? If the

translator does not take this into consideration, but simply and stiffly translates the corresponding verbs, the expressing function of the whole sentence will be greatly affected. For example:

1) So she called all seven to her and said, dear children, I have to go into the forest, be on your guard against the wolf.

The Chinese translation is:

2) (一天, 它要到森林里去取食物, ) 便把七个孩子全叫过来, 对它们说: “亲爱的孩子们, 我要去一下森林里, 你们一定要提防狼。”

In the above example, the translator translated “go into the forest” into “去一下森林里”, but not directly “去森林里”. Another example:

3) “Yes, of course,” said the matches, “let us talk about those who are the highest born.”

The Chinese translation is as follows:

4) “对, 我们还是来研究一下谁是最高贵的吧?” 柴火说。

Similarly, the translator did not directly translate “talk about” into “研究”, but into “研究一下” according to his own understanding of the context.

Then, what are the reasons for the translator to do so? In other words, in addition to the difference of surfacing structure, are there any other differences between “去” and “去一下”, “研究” and “研究一下”? Is this difference an accidental linguistic phenomenon or a universal linguistic phenomenon?

**Main part. Preliminary view on the pragmatic meaning of “一+下”.** When looking through the dictionary, we would find that there are many definitions of “Go” (including the meaning of “去”), but there is no explanation of “去一下”. Therefore, from the two aspects of dictionary interpretation and specific translation, we can make the following statement:

1) “Go” means “去”(dictionary interpretation);

2) when the speaker says “Go”, he really means “去一下” (specific Chinese translation).

Therefore, the meaning of the verb “Go” is divided into dictionary meaning and translation meaning (temporarily referred to as translation meaning). The reason for this differentiation is that the dictionary meaning is in a hypothetical situation, while the translation meaning is in a determinable situation.

As we know, Leach established two famous formulas [1, p. 85]:

Formula 1. X means Y.

Equation 2. By X, S means Y.

He believes that the meaning in Formula 1 is non-pragmatic meaning, and the meaning in Formula 2 is pragmatic meaning. In other words, Y in the two formulas is different. For convenience, we record Y in Formula 1 as Y1 and Y in Formula 2 as Y2. According to Leach’s view, we can see the dictionary meaning of “去” in the above is Y1, which belongs to non-pragmatic meaning; but the translation meaning of “去一下” is Y2, which belongs to pragmatic meaning. Similarly, we can also conclude that “研究一下” is the pragmatic meaning of the English verb phrase “talk about” in the Chinese translation.

Because the translated works are a literary form highly dependent on the communication situation, in order to truly reproduce the original author’s expression intention, the translator often combines the two meanings for secondary creation. Since “一+下” is added by the translator in a certain situation provided by the original text, it can be seen that “一+下” has a certain pragmatic significance.

**Research on “去一下” and “研究一下”.** In order to make an effective investigation, we apply the verbs “去” and “研究” to design a dialogue respectively, and assume that the dialogue content belongs to the real situation. The dialogue designed with the verb “去” is as follows:

Scenario 1: Xiao Wang often goes to the hospital to take care of his sick mother during working hours. The manager thought he would delay his work and talked to him. The manager again found that Xiao Wang was not in the office for a period of time, so he asked the two staff respectively.

5) 经理: 小王刚才又去哪里了?

职员甲: 小王去了医院!

5) Manager: where did Xiao Wang go just now?

Clerk A: Xiao Wang went to the hospital!

6) 经理: 小王刚才又去哪里了?

职员乙: 小王去了一下医院!

6) Manager: where did Xiao Wang go just now?

Clerk B: Xiao Wang went to the hospital!

The dialogue designed with the verb “研究” is as follows:

Scenario 2: Xiao Li, a staff member, is very concerned about the selection of overseas personnel and asks for information from the two manager secretaries respectively.

7) 小李: 请问, 今天会议的议题是什么?

秘书甲: 今天会研究一下出国留学人员的选派问题。

7) Xiao Li: Excuse me, what is the topic of today’s meeting?

Secretary A: today we will study the selection of students studying abroad.

8) 小李: 请问, 今天会议的议题是什么?

秘书乙: 今天会研究出国留学人员的选派问题。

8) Xiao Li: Excuse me, what is the topic of today's meeting?

Secretary B: today we will study the selection of students studying abroad.

It is not difficult to see that both staff member A in example 5 and Secretary B in example 8 gave the most natural, simple and clear answers to the questions raised. According to Grice's principle of conversational cooperation, "make due contributions as needed at a specific time when you make a contribution with words in conversation". In other words, what the communicator says in the conversation is consistent with the purpose of the conversation. Therefore, we first make the following analysis on the answer of employee A in example 5:

1. In fact, Xiao Wang did go to the hospital (abide by the principle of quality).

2. As far as where to go is concerned, it is appropriate to talk only about other things, such as when to go, how to go, how long it took, and who to go with (abide by the principle of Quantifier).

3. Employee A's words are aimed at the words of the boss and manager (abide by the principle of relevance).

4. Staff A's expression avoids obscurity, ambiguity and wordiness (abide by the method rules).

Similarly, the answer of secretary B in example 8 also fully abides by the principle of conversational cooperation.

Moreover, Grice once outlined four situations to describe that communicators may violate cooperative principles or norms [2, p. 22]. In the fourth case, it is pointed out that the communicator deliberately and obviously violates a certain criterion and makes the listener realize this, that is, the so-called contempt for a certain criterion. Because most communicators have a strong desire to understand what others say as their contribution to language communication, the contempt of others for a certain criterion in communication is understood as some circuitous statements that abide by the conversational principle. In this way, meaning comes into being. Grice believes that if there is a meaning, it is the result that the speaker is deliberately applying a certain criterion.

In example 6, employee B's answer has meaning because of contempt for the criterion of Quantifier. First, we can see the meaning of employee B's answer is: Xiao Wang just went for a while and came back soon; obviously, employee B not only answered the question of where Xiao Wang went, but also pointed out that he went for a short time. We know that the criterion of Quantifier is reflected in two sub-criteria: 1) provide sufficient information according to the needs of the purpose of the conversation; 2) don't provide more information than what is really required. It can be seen that the meaning of employee B's answer is realized by providing more information than what is really required.

In example 7, secretary A also provided Xiao Li with more information than the question itself through "一下", such as "today's meeting may only make a general study on the selection of overseas personnel"; or "today's meeting may study other issues in addition to the selection of overseas personnel". Therefore, secretary A's answer also has meaning through contempt for the criterion of Quantifier.

Then, we will examine the two original English sentences listed in the Preface of this paper. If it's just a separate example 1 and example 2, we can translate example 1 into:

9) 一天, 它要到森林里去取食物, 便把七个孩子全叫过来, 对它们说: "亲爱的孩子们, 我要去森林里, 你们一定要提防狼。"

9) One day, when he was going to get food in the forest, he called all seven children and said to them, "Dear children, I'm going to the forest. You must be on guard against Wolves."

Translate example 2 into:

10) "对, 我们还是来研究谁是最高贵的吧?" 柴火说。

10) "Yes, let's study who is the noblest?" Firewood said.

However, in this way, it is easy to see that the amount of information provided by examples 9 and 10 is obviously less than that provided by examples 2 and 4. In other words, examples 9 and 10 lost the conversational meaning of examples 1 and 3 in the original text: example 1 is what the children's mother said. Because she was worried that seven children would be in danger, the mother's words showed the meaning of going and returning quickly, so it was more appropriate to translate into "去一下" than "去"; example 2 Firewood is a sentence with a sense of ridicule, before that, firewood has boasted that it is from a famous family, so the so-called "研究" is just an excuse to attract everyone's attention. Therefore, it is more appropriate to use "研究一下" here than just "研究". Through the above analysis, we can draw a conclusion: in terms of the amount of information provided, "去一下" > "去", "研究一下" > "研究". In other words, the comparison result of the amount of information is:  $V + \text{一下} > V$ .

**Pragmatic differences between "V" 与 "V+一下".** As mentioned above, in the "V+一下" structure, "一下" plays a very important role in the auxiliary verb "V" on expressing more than its own meaning. The word "auxiliary" is applied here because the meaning expressed by "V+一下" is not a simple superposition of the meaning of "V" and "一下", but a supplement and penetration of "一下" to the meaning of "V". Taking the same method to study other borrowed momentum words, we can get the same conclusion, that is, "一下+Quantifier" can assist the verb "V" to express the pragmatic meaning beyond its own meaning, which is a supplement and penetration to the meaning of "V" [3, p. 58—61].

This can be explained by the complexity iconicity motivation in cognitive linguistics. According to the principle of iconicity, the discourse structure and grammatical rules are not completely arbitrary, and the structure of language often has the motivation of iconicity. Cognitive linguistics holds that the complexity of language form and conceptual complexity are affected by complexity iconicity, that is, relatively simple concepts are generally expressed by relatively

simple forms, while relatively complex concepts are generally expressed by relatively complex language structures. In other words, the complexity of language structures reflects the complexity of concepts, the different forms of verbs reflect the different degrees of conceptual complexity. The relatively complex “V + 一 + Quantifier” in the predicate part has become more complex in form than the bare pole verbs used alone. At the same time, it also reflects the conceptual complexity: in addition to the function of bare pole verbs to refer to action, it also adds the meaning of Quantifier, which leads to pragmatic differences.

**Difference between “homogeneity” and “heterogeneity” on action.** The zero form of the verb used in the sentence refers to the action, because there is no other additional content, it only refers to the action without emphasizing the starting point and ending point of the action, therefore, “V” indicates the constant of the action which is showing homogeneity in result.

If other components are added after the verb, then this relatively complex form represents the corresponding relatively complex concept. The verb “V” plus “一下” has an impact on the constant Quantifier of the action, making the Quantifier of the action have a certain degree of flexibility. For example, the process of the action can be long or short, and the number of actions can be more or less. Although the amount of action is relatively vague at this time, from the overall perspective of the action, the “V + 一下” language structure can still depict the starting point and ending point of the action on the time axis. Therefore, the “V” in the “V + 一下” structure has a certain “heterogeneity”.

**Difference between “certainty” and “uncertainty” of tasks.** As mentioned above, “V” represents the constant quantity of action, while “V + 一下” represents the state of action change. Reflected in the request sentence, “V” represents the “certainty” of the task, while “V + 一下” represents the “uncertainty” of the task.

Lu Fubo and Wu Ying believe that “V”’s non delay performance strengthens the decidedness of action and task determination, and prolongs the length of predicate movement at once [4, p. 40—45]. While limiting a small amount, it obviously has the effect of soothing tone and weakens the certainty of task.” For example:

11) 请随手关门。

11) Please, close the door behind you.

12) 请随手关一下门。

12) Please, close the door behind you.

In example 11, the speaker asks the hearer to do the action “close”, there is no limit on the amount of action, no other content is added, but the hearer is required to complete the action as required. Therefore, this request is beyond doubt and does not give the hearer room for negotiation. “Close the door” in example 12 vaguely depicts the amount of the verb “close” in example 11, which means that the listener has room to discount the enforceability of executing the discourse. This “room” can include at least two choices: one is the choice between off and off; second, the choice of the seriousness of closing the door. At this time, the speaker only highlights the delay of the sentence and ignores the certainty of the task. Because it prolongs the length of the predicate, it has the function of delaying the mood.

**Conclusion.** To sum up, the pragmatic meaning of “一下” is embodied in the “V + 一下” format, in which “一下” changes the constant of the verb and plays a role in soothing the tone.

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## CULTURAL SHOCK AS PROBLEM OR AS LEARNING/GROWTH?

This paper aims to clarify the misunderstanding of the function of cultural shock and highlight the growth perspective of it by summarizing the major research findings and outlining the research prospects in related disciplines. Having analyzed the positive and negative influence of cultural shock on a person's adaptation and personal growth, the author concludes that cultural shock can be viewed upon as a trigger for cross-cultural adaptation process.

**Key words:** cultural shock; adaption; growth; self-awareness.