

DEFINITION OF THE TERM "VERBAL PHRASEOLOGICAL UNIT" IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE

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Abstract: *Based on the above-mentioned research, the definition of Chinese idioms in this article basically meets the following conditions: Formed and used for a long time; concise form, fixed structure and mainly four-word structure; the meaning should be summarized and abstract*

Keywords: *phraseological unit, idiom, phraseological unit, characters, four-word characters, Yao Pengzi and Ni Baoyuan*

In the process of researching the phraseological unit (PU), one of the most difficult problems is the definition of the term "phraseological unit", due to which various definitions of the concepts of idioms in this field have appeared, which has led to the complexity of the study of PU. Therefore, the research in this article begins with the definition of terms and categories of phraseological units. After reading a number of literatures and monographs, I sorted out the following authoritative definitions, contrasted them and summarized the opinions of scholars.

1. Definition of phraseological unit in Chinese authoritative dictionaries "Dictionary of Modern Chinese Language" (2012, 6th edition) defines idioms as follows: "Widely and long-used set phrases or collocations that have profound meanings." The definition of phraseological unit in "Zi Yuan" is: "Widely used ancient language, and set phrases or collocations that express the full meaning." As can be seen from the above, in defining the category of phraseological unit, "Dictionary of Modern Chinese Language" is more complete than "Zi Yuan". But both have shortcomings. Both dictionaries consider idioms to be phrases. However, in fact, idioms should appear as a whole with fixed meanings, and therefore, it is better to regard them as set phrases. Now let's look at the definition of Chinese phraseological unit in another linguistic dictionary. "Dictionary of Chinese Linguistics" provides the following definition: "A linguistic unit is a meaningful, laconic, widely used set phrase that belongs to a ready-made expression. Such as "狐假虎威" (to intimidate people with the authority of the patron),

"一叶知秋" (the leaves are falling - autumn is coming)".

An idiom often comes from generalizing the content of a certain parable or historical story, condensing sayings, or using and transforming some folk and obsolete sentences that have a strong national character.

Four-word phraseological units are the main form of Chinese idioms. The form and meaning of some idioms have changed with long-term use. For example, “揠苗助长” “pulling up the shoots with your hands”, and then write as “拔苗助长”, the first character was changed; “沆瀣 – 气” originally meant to have the same interest, and today, it expresses that the bad guys are chasing benefits together.

2. Definition of phraseological unit in phraseological monographs Ma Guofan in his work “Idioms” believes that “idioms are stable phrases with historical and national characteristics. Chinese idioms mainly consist of individual syllables, the basic form is four-word.” In his work “Study of Chinese Phraseological Units,” scholar Shi Shi believes that “each set phrase or set word combination that has been used for a long time and has a fixed structural design and component composition with a specific meaning, and serves in a sentence as words called idioms.” Linguists Yao Pengzi and Ni Baoyuan pointed out in “Nine Chapters on Phraseologism” that “phraseologism is a widely and long-used set word combination that has a complete and integral meaning, stable structure, and laconic form.”

3. Definition of Idioms in Modern Chinese Language Textbooks Linguistic textbooks and modern Chinese language textbooks used in leading universities in China regard idioms as an important part of modern Chinese vocabulary and provide clearer definitions of phraseological units. Here, we mainly take into account the definition of idioms from several textbooks widely recognized in linguistic circles.

“Modern Chinese” edited by Huang Boron and Liao Xudong summarized idioms as follows: “idioms are fixed phrases with rich meanings in the style of bookish language that have been widely and long used in society. Such as “破釜沉舟” “cut off one’s escape route”; “四面楚歌” “find oneself in a hopeless situation”; “Cut the Gordian knot”, etc.” The book also states: “Idioms have the characteristics of integrity of meaning, strengthening of structure and elegant style.”

“Modern Chinese” edited by C provides the following definition: “idioms are fixed phrases passed down from generation to generation and widely used with apt meanings and laconic form. For example, “高山流水” “High mountain, flowing water”, which is a fixed form of modern Chinese.”

Xing Fuyi and Wang Guosheng also believe that a phraseological unit has three main characteristics: strengthening of structure, integrity of meaning and familiarity of use. Ge

Penyi pointed out in “Lexicology of Modern Chinese”: “idioms are stable phrases with a fixed structural form and complete meaning.”

From the point of view of structural form, the features of the typification of the construction of phraseological units are especially noticeable. Chinese idioms are mainly based on the four-syllable format, and their composition and word order generally cannot be changed at will.

In terms of meaning, the meanings of idioms are mostly concentrated and condensed, so they are relatively complete and abstract.

From the above three famous domestic textbooks, it is clear to us that the definition of phraseological unit in textbooks is more specific and detailed than that in dictionaries, and it provides a deep understanding of both the characteristics and sources of idioms.

Based on the above research, the definition of Chinese idioms in this paper basically meets the following conditions: Formed and used for a long time; concise form, fixed structure, and mainly four-word structure; the meaning should be summarized and abstract (letter meaning and deep meaning).

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