

# A Semantic Study of Food Culture Vocabulary in the Vietnamese Manuscript *Da Nan Guo Yu*

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## ABSTRACT

Chinese culture is not only closely related to Vietnamese culture, but also has a profound influence on the development of Vietnamese. The author conducted an exhaustive survey on the food and beverage words in the Vietnamese manuscript "*Da Nan Mandarin*". By comparing the word formation and meanings of some typical food words in Vietnamese and Chinese, we found that many pure Vietnamese words for food are derived from It has been transformed from Chinese and has a variation in the way of word formation.

**Keywords:** Chinese and Vietnamese words, *Da Nan mandarin*, inherited vocabulary, Vietnamese food vocabulary

## 1. THE HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND OF HAN-VIETNAMESE "LANGUAGE CONTACT"

As the most important communication tool and thinking tool for people, language has social attributes and is the product of a certain stage of social development. With the needs of social, economic and cultural development, trade and cultural exchanges between different countries and different ethnic groups will trigger language contacts. As the degree of contact deepens, the degree of language variation will also deepen, which is manifested in all aspects of pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and semantics, and sometimes even produces a brand new language.

China is an ancient civilization with a history and culture of more than two thousand years. As a bridge that carries Chinese culture, Chinese has the mission of inheriting and spreading Chinese culture. Vietnam belongs to the East Asian Han cultural circle, bordering China to the north and Laos and Cambodia to the west. Due to the unique geographical environment and historical background, in ancient Vietnam, Chinese characters have always been regarded as official characters, and Chinese characters and Chinese have been regarded by Vietnamese as part of their own language and culture system. After Vietnam's independence, successive dynasties have always advocated Chinese, and Chinese characters are still the common official script.

Chinese culture has always had a positive influence on Vietnam's history and culture, which is manifested in all aspects of social life, and the phenomenon of language contact between Vietnamese and Chinese is particularly widespread [1]. As Chinese characters have become the medium of language communication between China and Vietnam, a large number of Chinese vocabulary enters the

Vietnamese system through phonetics. The two collide and merge in phonetics, grammar, and vocabulary, and continue to evolve, becoming an important part of the Vietnamese system. Among them, the evolution of word meaning and pronunciation is the most obvious. Chinese-origin words are the product of language contact between Chinese and Vietnamese.<sup>1</sup>

The Han origin vocabulary is undoubtedly an important component of the Vietnamese language system, with strong vitality, accounting for nearly 70% of the Vietnamese vocabulary. Hanyuan vocabulary is closely related to modern Chinese vocabulary. The two have inherited relations and are obviously different. Han-origin words, that is Han-Yue words, are divided into three types, ancient Chinese-Yue words, Han-Yue words, and later Han-Yue words [2]. Among them, due to the early introduction time, "ancient Chinese and Vietnamese words" have been integrated into spoken Vietnamese and become the basic vocabulary used by the Vietnamese people, losing the appearance of "foreign words" themselves [2]. We do not regard them as Chinese and Vietnamese words, but rather Spoken in pure Vietnamese. In recent years, with the rapid development of economic globalization and transportation and communication technology, Hanyuan vocabulary has developed towards diversification, intelligence and new style.

## 2. EXPLANATION of "Diet Gate" VOCABULARY in "*Da Nan Guo Yu*"

The Vietnamese wrote political documents and literary works in Chinese and Chinese characters, leaving behind countless Chinese classics and a large number of precious Chinese manuscripts. These precious Chinese manuscripts have important academic value and are our reinterpretation of East Asian culture. And a treasure house of Chinese culture research. "*Da Nan Guoyu*" is one of them. It is an encyclopedic dictionary during the reign of Vietnam's

Cheng Tai Jihai, covering 47 types of vocabulary such as astronomy, geography, human relations, and clothing.

People rely on food as their heaven, and diet is one of the basic ways of human existence. Both Chinese and Vietnamese food vocabulary carry the imprint of the folk culture of the ethnic group, and most of their similarities and differences depend on social and cultural factors. As an important part of Vietnamese traditional culture, Vietnamese food has formed its own national style and characteristics in the process of long-term, evolution and accumulation. The Vietnamese have applied ancient Chinese medicine theories and yin and yang theories to their food culture and formed their own traditional and unique food culture.

Food is a cultural subject, a culture that uses the natural environment. The Vietnamese diet clearly embodies the traditional civilization of rice agriculture. Southeast Asia is a place suitable for the growth of rice. Vietnam's rice is well-known and its export volume ranks third in the world. It is located in the tropics, with sufficient sunlight and abundant rainfall, which is especially suitable for the growth of food crops and economic crops. Vietnamese people are accustomed to eating plant foods, of which rice is the main food, and there are also some miscellaneous grains, such as cassava, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and corn. Their daily life and cultural characteristics are formed and developed on this basis.

Both China and Vietnam are countries with traditional farming culture. In ancient times, they paid great attention to the development of agriculture. China has a vast land and diverse climate types. There are obvious differences in climate and environment between the south and the north. Wheat is mainly grown in the north and rice is mainly grown in the south. This has led to differences in the diet structure between the North and the South. The northerners use pasta as their main food, while southerners use rice as their main food. Compared with China, Vietnam has a small land area and a single climate type. It belongs to a tropical monsoon climate and is suitable for the growth of rice. Therefore, it is called a rice civilization country. This is reflected in the food vocabulary of Vietnam.

The following is an excerpt from the "Diet Gate" in "Da Nan Guo Yu", and conducts research from the perspective of the food culture of China and Vietnam, in order to further understand the inheritance, variation and development of Chinese vocabulary. The following is classified according to different foods, each category lists representative words for analysis:

### 2.1. Xiangji

Press: "Da Nan Guo Yu": "Xiang Ke, grits." In Chinese, there is no such word, but we can use the Vietnamese interpretation-grits, to study word by word. In Chinese, "" is the vulgar form of "甘", which is the same as "甘". It describes a good taste and has the meaning of sweetness, while "gritty" means "rice grain" in dialects. It can be seen

that this word means sweet rice in Vietnamese. It is a newly coined word in Vietnam, but its word formation is the same as that of Chinese. It uses syntactic means to combine two morphemes to form a compound word. "Xiangji" is a compound compound word, which belongs to the positive structure.

### 2.2. Qingjing

Click: In Chinese, the "Chinese Dictionary": "Qingjing, the name of a plant. A Nantian candle, also known as Mofancao, is one of the raw materials for making Qingjing rice by Taoists, referring to Qingjing rice." Song Lu You, "Star The poem: "A bowl of green essence is more than enough, and everything in the world is sparse." It can be seen that the term should refer to rice, and it is undoubtedly a Han origin term.

### 2.3. Nine Cooked

Press: "Danan Guoyu": "九， 糛九。" The word "糛" is pronounced "gao" in Vietnam, referring to rice and rice. The Chinese pinyin of "糛" is "kǎo". There is the word "糛" in Southwest Mandarin, which refers to a kind of rice paste. "Chinese Dictionary": "Nine ripening, but more ripening." J<sup>2</sup>in Ge Hong "Baopuzi • Lost Wen": "Wu Ling never winter dead wood, South China Sea Jin'an has nine times ripe rice." Therefore, the word of "Nine ripening" is a term of Chinese origin, referring to mature rice.

### 2.4. Crystal

Note: "Da Nan Guoyu": "Crystal, 糛水星." The word "crystal" in Chinese can be used to refer to crystal clear objects. In Vietnamese, "rice" means "rice", which also expresses people's love and praise for rice. Vietnam is a country with rice civilization, rice is the staple food of the people, and rice plays an extremely important role in the lives of Vietnamese people. It can be seen that the word "crystal" spread to Vietnam, and the meaning of the word has evolved.

### 2.5. 糛

Press: "糛" is a simple word referring to glutinous rice. It should be the Nan character, which is a script used by the Jing nationality, the main ethnic group in Vietnam, and is one of the Chinese characters for breastfeeding. The character "糛" resembles the Chinese character "cook". There was once in the Han Chinese saying: "It is difficult for a clever woman to cook without rice". The two characters are just different in radicals. The "fire" is changed to "rice", which means "glutinous rice."

## 2.6. *Eight Things*

Press: "Da Nan Guoyu": "Wei Bawu, Dragon Liver, Phoenix Marrow, Leopard Fetus, Carp Tail, Sunburn, Lips, bear paws crisp, Diao Chan. "This word belongs to the folklore word with Vietnamese characteristics. Through this word, you can think of the Chinese diet vocabulary "Eight Treasure Congee", which is porridge made from eight kinds of food. The two words have the same effect and the same effect.

## 2.7. *Jade Chips*

Press: "Da Nan Guoyu": "Jade crumbs, jade crumbs." In Chinese, the term jade crumbs has many meanings, but it does not refer to food. The word spread to Vietnam, and the meaning of the word evolved.

## 2.8. 脍, 银羹玉脍

Press: Silver clam jade, fish crust with golden orange, cut into thin strands, and the name of the mix is: Yin chong jade." "Chinese Dictionary": "Chun has three meanings of this item, one refers to finely cut fish, the other refers to fish in general, and the third refers to cutting." "The Analects of Confucius • Xiangdang": "You never tire of eating fine, and you never tire of fine." Ancient examples are as follows: "Ancient and Modern Novels • "Pei Jin Justice Restoration": "It just so happened that the crown prince went to the palace to ask about illness, and Emperor We also taught him to suck the carbuncle. <sup>3</sup>The crown prince retorted: the minister eats fresh scorpion, and it is not suitable to approach the holy disease." "Poetry • Xiaoya • June": "Friends of eating and drinking, brazilian carp." Comparing the semantic difference of "脍" in Han and Yue, we can see that Vietnamese can only borrow the pronunciation of Chinese "脍", which is used to mean "chun", but does not adopt its meaning. . Otherwise, it won't make sense.

## 2.9. *Chicken Yellow, Chicken White*

Note: These two words have the same meaning as "egg yolk" and "protein" in modern Chinese. Because in ancient my country, eggs or chickens are often collectively referred to as "chickens", and due to the simplicity of language, we directly call them "egg yolks" and "proteins". The language contact between Chinese and Vietnamese makes these words mutated. "Yellow" and "white" are added after "to become Vietnamese words.

## 2.10. *Flavor*

Press: "Da Nan Guoyu": "Add flavor, flavor Jia." The word "Jia Wei" in Chinese is not common. In the Ming Dynasty Qin Jingming's "Zheng Yin Mai Zhi", "Jia Wei Wu Ji Tang" appeared."<sup>4</sup>Chinese Dictionary "Does not include this word, but from the interpretation of the word in "Da Nan Guoyu" [3], we can see that the thing may be a certain condiment that can be put into dishes or soups to increase its deliciousness, which is similar to Chinese The term "MSG" has the same meaning. The word "jiawei" belongs to the verb-object compound word.

## 3. SUMMARY

In terms of food culture, by classifying and examining these vocabulary, we found that most of the vocabulary used to describe staple foods is for rice. Rice is the main food crop in Vietnam, and its status in the lives of Vietnamese is extremely important. This is not as rich as our Chinese vocabulary; In terms of the vocabulary describing non-staple foods, various dishes made of fish, meat, seafood, and vegetables have their own distinctive flavors, which are different or missing from the Chinese vocabulary; the seasoning product vocabulary is the most. It can reflect the unique flavor of each ethnic group. In terms of describing the vocabulary of condiments, the Chinese prefer to use "vinegar", "soy sauce" and "oil", while the Vietnamese prefer to use fish sauce, lemon, and eat less oil. Chinese and Vietnamese Most of the words describing taste are the same, and there is no big difference.

All in all, the dietary structure of China and Vietnam is basically the same [4-5]. They are roughly divided into: three meals a day, each with a staple food (the Chinese eat staple foods such as pasta and rice, and the Vietnamese eat rice), non-staple food (meat dishes, Vegetables, soups), in addition to snacks, snacks, and various fruits.

On the variation and inheritance of Chinese vocabulary, by comparing the semantic differences between Chinese and Vietnamese vocabulary in "Da Nan Guo Yu", we can conclude that: First of all, Chinese-origin words are undoubtedly an important component of the Vietnamese language system and have strong vitality. Under the influence of historical objective factors, Hanyuan words gradually replaced some pure Vietnamese words. Among the basic vocabulary, Chinese-origin words in Vietnamese account for about 70%, and most of the remaining newly created words also use Chinese morphemes. This is enough to reflect in the language contact between Chinese and Vietnamese. The influence of language is great.

Chinese loanwords (especially Chinese-Vietnamese words) still occupy an important position in the Vietnamese vocabulary system after thousands of years of

history. Its practical value is clearly reflected in all areas of social life. In the new era, the development of Vietnamese has become more independent and more national. Among pure Vietnamese words, there are more and more words that have the same meaning as Chinese-Vietnamese words; and the degree to which Han-Vietnamese words are influenced by Vietnamese has become more and more profound.

Secondly, by comparing the word formation of Vietnamese and Chinese, we found that the introduction of Chinese-Vietnamese words into Vietnamese has not only changed in pronunciation, but also in semantics, which may be reduced, or it may be due to local cultural factors. It is given other cultural meanings. Random use of Chinese words to understand and apply Chinese words can sometimes lead to misuse of words [6-7]. The word formation of Vietnamese and Chinese is basically the same. There are not many simple words. Most of them are compound words composed of two or more morphemes combined by syntactic means, which are divided into derivative words and compound words.

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