

Analysis on the Meaning of Polysemous Word “Drop in”

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Abstract—This paper uses the basic category, metaphor, metonymy and prototype theory in cognitive linguistics to analyze the meaning range of Japanese word “drop in”. For the polysemous verb of Japanese vocabulary, the second language learners are difficult to distinguish between the usages in the learning process, because of improper understanding, or even misuse phenomenon is often seen. For the teaching difficulties, teachers should positively guide students to use polysemous words for emphasis. On explaining multiple meanings, it should analyze its common points and clarify extension relationship, which is the necessary link of helping students to understand and memorize fundamentally. This paper starts from the perspective of cognitive linguistics to analyze the polysemy construction of polysemous verbs.

Keywords- *cognitive linguistics; polysemous word; semantic extension;*

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Research Subject

In this paper, the investigated object is the Japanese polysemous compound verb “drop in”.

B. Research Significance

How to guide students from multiple perspectives in teaching to understand and use Japanese polysemous verbs has become the research field that needs to be solved and extended for teachers in teaching. This research intends to explore the meaning extension mode analysis method theory of Japanese polysemous verbs.

II. AMBIGUITY ANALYSIS OF “DROP IN”

A. Basic Meaning of “Drop in”

For the polysemous verb “drop in”, we first contact the meaning, which is the motion from top to down.

(1)a. The eldest son and daughter playing indoors, witnessed the little daughter drop in from the window, telling the mother resting next door, and the mother called the police.

Japanese morning news 2008/4/6, morning page 2 social P034.

(2)b. Because even with hat, the sweat will drop in from head, so it is necessary to have two towels between head and hat.

Sino-Japanese news 2006/8/17, morning page citizen version P16.

In (1a), “drop in” refers to that, the girl less than four, according to weight, having the action of falling down from window to ground, with rapid location change.

In (1b), “drop in” conducts physical motion according to gravity from body surface because temperature stimulation leads to sweat by skin secretion as the form of water drop. According to the meaning of (1b), it can be analyzed the rationality of usage of raining.

(2)a. With the sunset, the celebration activities reached a climax, and the participants were encouraged by audience, constantly dancing for two hours with sweat.

Sino-Japanese news 2006/8/20, morning page Toyota version P18.

b. In the winter, the sunlight from the leaves gently scatters on the road in early January.

Tokyo news 2008/1/15, morning page Tokyo P26.

(2a) “Drop in” means the sun and the moon make the direct downward from the horizon or horizontal line. (2b) It means the light or sight toward a certain direction and focus on it. Because space location is the concept that human can truly feel, thus in the paper, light or sight are the content that can be captured by visual sense. So the meaning is listed in the basic meaning of “drop in”.

Through the analysis, the conclusion is that, in multiple meaning of “drop in”, the basic meaning is the physical motion from top to down according to gravity of human and objects apart from humans.

B. Derivation Meaning of “Drop in”

1) Derived Meaning 1

(3)a. Children are very surprised at only a little detergent on the board to do decontamination and the heavy iron in the past.

Sino-Japanese news 2007/11/15, morning page B P20.

b. In the summer, the sweat makes the make-up soon drop in.

In the example (3a), “drop in” and “drop” have the same meaning, which means the dirty mark on the clothes, because of the detergent role, it disappears from the clothes.

(3b) is almost the same, meaning the cosmetics stick on the face, because of sweat, it disappears from the face.

(4)a. In the two months, he suddenly unloaded the bag, with a sunny face, and suddenly left from my working place.

b. Recently running 5 miles every day, and the single trip to the working place in the county of 25 miles takes 2 hours of time, and practice 4 days every week, altogether the trip was 3600 miles last year, and the weight reduced 10 kg, and the arms were like two plastic bottles.

Through the analysis, we can obtain that the meaning of derived meaning 1 “drop in” is the object leaves from attached place or belonging place. And the point of motion action ends is the result of object finally achieves, which is normally not focused.

2) *Derived Meaning 2*

(7)a. becoming prostitute.

b. The politicians are corrupt.

c. The talk was too dirty.

The “drop in” of the three examples are understood as the meaning of fall, which means the very bad situation of humans, and the ethical moral fall. In addition, it also means nasty past, which means passive meaning vocabulary.

(8) As the demonstration area, in March, the perfect area, we can see the effect of car speed of reducing 3 miles per hour.

Japanese morning news 2008/4/8, morning Tokyo west 1 place P031

b. The people of 30 or 40 years old, with good physique also have healthy problems, and the childrens’ physical decline, which are equal to unhealthy adults will appear.

Sino-Japanese news 2007/10/12 evening page 2 P2.

c. The frozen taste becomes worse than the original taste, which is as it should be.

Through the analysis, it can obtain the derived meaning 2 is that the degree, stage, value, power of things reduce or get worse, compared with others.

3) *Derived Meaning 3*

(9)a. In hospital the eve, it conducts the testing of measuring sleep depth. Based on ensuring the sleep time more than 8 hours, the second morning, you can see the brainwave state and measure which time to drop into sleep.

Japanese news 2008/4/6, morning page life 2, P028.

Summarizing up the above examples, we can obtain the common meaning. In sleeping, love and Iran jurisdiction state, things achieve the finish line, and the results are respectively asleep, love and becoming the Iran jurisdiction.

Through the analysis, it can obtain the derived meaning 3 is that things achieve a certain state, to make result clear.

III. THE SEMANTIC EXPANSION OF “DROP IN”

Various derived meanings are expanded, according to the metaphor and metonymic principle of cognitive linguistics. Among them, derived meaning 1 is obtained according to the basic meaning of metaphor. Derived meaning 2 uses the metaphorical and metonymical principle to obtain. Derived meaning 3 is the newly formed meaning based on metonymy theory.

IV. CONCLUSION

Using the concept of cognitive linguistics, it conducts meaning analysis of polysemous word “drop in”. It makes the conclusion that the semantic expansion path of polysemous verb is mostly with basic meaning, using the metaphor metonymy and synecdoche cognitive theory, and cares about verb change stage in the cognitive process.

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