

A Study of Errors in the Acquisition of “More and More (X)” Format by Korean Students

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Abstract: As a widely used grammatical format in Chinese, “More and More (X)” has a high usage rate and a high error rate. This article takes Korean students as the object, analyzes the types of errors that occur when using this format, and combines Korean to compare and analyze and explain the reasons for these errors.

Keywords: “More and More (X)”; Error Analysis

1. Preface

The grammatical format “More and More (X)” is widely used and will be involved in the primary stage of Chinese as a foreign language. In our investigation of relevant corpus in HSK dynamic corpus, we found that Korean students at the advanced stage still have errors in using this grammatical format.

2. Types of errors in the acquisition of “more and more” formats by Korean students

2.1 Matching Error

For example:

The weather in Beijing is getting more and more warmer and warmer.

There is no time for conversation between the two generations, and they are much more and more farther and farther apart.

Although South Korea’s economy is developing more and more, great international changes may cause the collapse of South Korea’s economy.

Therefore, the number of young people leaving the countryside has more and more increased recently.

The results of our class are also improving more and more, accounting for almost the first place in the school.

2.1.1 “X” is an adjective word, that is, “more and more A”

“More and more” has the characteristics of [+time][+change]. In order to avoid semantic repetition, it excludes words with [+time][+change] characteristics from entering the format of “more and more A. The underlined part of the error sentence (1)-(2) is composed of “more and more + adjectives + complements”. The adjectives “warm, far,” all contain [+variable measurement] characteristics, and do not have [+time] [+change] characteristics. However, these adjectives have the characteristics of [+time], [+change] after the complement that it becomes “warmer” and “farther”, which is contrary to the restriction of “more and more” on the words that appear afterwards, so they cannot enter the “more and more A” format.

2.1.2 “X” is a verb word, that is, “more and more V”

In addition to adjective words, there are also verb words that can enter the “more and more (x)” format. In error sentences (3) to (5), verb words act as “x”. The “developing” in the error sentence (3) and the “developing” contains the [+variable measurement] feature in the semantics, and they also contain the [+time][+change] feature, which is repeated with the “more and more” semantic feature, so it cannot enter this format. “Increased” and “improving” in error sentences (4)-(5) act as “X”. These two types of verb words are also unable to enter the “more and more (X)” format because they both contain [+change] characteristics.

2.2 “more and more (x)” misplaced

For example:

With the improvement of social living standards, people are more and more becoming selfish.

Children also more and more don't want to talk to their parents.

“More and more” is an adverb structure, its position and usage in the sentence are very fixed, in front of the predicate word as an adverbial. But when “more and more” is combined with “X”, according to the nature of the word acting as “X”, the position and function of “more and more (X)” in the sentence are also different.

2.2.1 “X” is an adjective word

When “X” is an adjective word, it can act as a variety of syntactic components in a sentence. Its position also changes because of the different syntactic components it acts. Liang Binglei (2011) once mentioned that “more and more A can act as predicate, object, attribute, adverbial and complement in sentences, but there is no case where this format acts as subject”.

2.2.2 “X” is a verb word

When “X” is a verb word, it can also be used as a variety of syntactic components in a sentence.

2.3 The mistake of “more and more (x)” and other adverbs overlap

For example:

With the development of society, the difference between parents and children's ideas is getting more and more binger.

With the development of modern civilization and social changes, the problems between people are becoming very more and more serious.

2.3.1 “More and more” and the adverb “more”

“More and more” is similar to the adverb “more” in semantics and usage. The semantics of “more and more” and “more” contain the feature of [+ degree deepening]. When they are co-present in sentences that indicate changes in degree, semantic overlap occurs, and one of them should be removed. “More and more” is a further change in the nature of the same thing; “more” is used to compare the difference in the nature and state of two or more things.

2.3.2 “more and more” and “very”

Chen Qun (1999) pointed out that “although ‘more and more’ and the adverb ‘very’ have many similarities in usage, there are also differences in usage. ” “Very” can be matched with non-quantitative words to express the speaker's subjective feelings or subjective evaluation of things. This non-quantitative actually represents the largest amount in the speaker's mind and has the nature of non-variable. “More and more” requires the words appearing after it to have the [+ variable measurement] feature, while “very” requires the words appearing after it to have the [-variable measurement] feature. When they co-appear, semantic conflicts occur, so they cannot overlap.

2.4 The misused of “more and more (x)” in the compared sentences

For example:

(10) The standard of living in society compared with beforis getting higher more an more now .

Error sentence (10) sentence is a mistakes caused by a mixture of comparative markers. “More and more” means that it develops with the passage of time, and it already contains the semantic features of [+change]. The sentence compared with the “more and more” table represents a process of degree change. When the word “compare” is used for vertical comparison, its meaning is “more and more” the same, then the two sentence patterns should not be used together, but one of them should be chosen.

3. Reasons for errors

Based on the analysis of the error corpus, we divide the main sources of Chinese “more and more (X)” format errors into three aspects: improper explanation of teachers and teaching materials, negative transfer of Korean language, and generalization of target language knowledge.

3.1 Teachers and teaching materials are not properly explained.

First, Improper explanation of teaching materials is one of the main reasons for errors. The interpretation of “more and more” in the grammar section is “used before adjectives, indicating that the degree changes over time”. But in the corpus, “more and more” can be followed by not only adjectives, but also verbs such as “like”, so the explanation in the textbook is not accurate.

Second, The format of “Yue Lai Yue (X)” is the same as the semantics and usage of “Geng” and “jian jian”, which are different in modern Chinese. And the semantics and usage of these three in modern Chinese are different.

3.2 Korean Negative Migration

In the vocabulary system used by Koreans now, Chinese characters account for about 60% of the total number of Korean words. Most Koreans believe that the Chinese characters in Korean are not very different from the corresponding Chinese words, so when they learn Chinese, they often transfer the semantics or usage of Chinese and Chinese words in Korean to the learning and use of

Chinese, which leads to a large number of errors.

3.3 Negative transfer of target language knowledge

Negative transfer of target language knowledge can cause learners to make errors in the rule process of internalizing the target language. When acquiring the “more and more (x)” format, the first thing international students learned was this fixed format with adverb nature. At this time, they will apply the grammatical features of adverbs to this format, causing foreign students to think that all verbs or adjectives can appear in the position of “X”, and any adverb can be superimposed with this format. In addition, with the improvement of students’ Chinese proficiency, the sentence patterns they learn will become more and more complex. At this time, students may mix two or more sentence patterns they have learned together to form a wrong sentence.

4. Conclusion

The errors of Korean students in learning Chinese are largely related to the negative transfer of Korean as their mother tongue to Chinese learning. Therefore, when teaching Chinese as a foreign language, we should not only explain the usage of Chinese, but also compare and explain the differences between the mother tongue and the target language, as well as the cultural differences between the two countries. This will help foreign students to better understand the usage of Chinese and reduce the errors caused by directly moving the rules and usage in their mother tongue to Chinese.

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