

# On the Rhetorical Function of Overlapping Forms in Crescent Child

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**Abstract:** Lao She's *Crescent Moon* observes the world from the perspective of children and uses a large number of reduplicated words, reflecting distinctive pragmatic characteristics. The ways of reduplication in discourse are AA, ABB, AAB, ABAB and AABB. Different ways of reduplication of parts of speech show different rhetoric effects. They construct the rhythmic beauty of the text, make great emotional expression, and present artistic style of colloquialism and lyricism.

**Keywords:** "Crescent Moon"; Overlapping words; Rhetorical effect; Reduplicated form

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## 1. Overall overview of the number distribution of overlapping words in *Crescent Child*

Mr. Lao She's "*Crescent Child*" a total of 43 chapters, although the number of words in each section is not much, but the text is condensed and concise, the artistic conception is quiet and meaningful, the style is deep and sad, the lyric color is very strong, the article has a total of 32 overlapping words, among which AA type overlapping words are the most, there are 21. Moreover, the distribution of 32 overlaps in the whole text is very distinctive. The number of overlaps in the first 10 chapters is 24, accounting for two-thirds of the whole text, and the number of overlaps in the last 33 chapters is 8. The distribution of overlapping words in the text is inseparable from the writing characteristics of the *Crescent* novella.

## 2. "Crescent" overlapping adjectives

### 2.1 The specific format of overlapping adjectives in *Crescent Son*

According to the statistics of overlapped adjectives in *Crescent Child*, there are 13 overlapped adjectives, accounting for 40% of the total number of overlapped adjectives in the whole text. These overlapping adjectives can be divided into two categories, one is monophonic, there are 9 of them, and there is only one type of AA. The other is disyllabic, there are 4, divided into ABB and AABB two forms.

#### 2.1.1 Type AA

- ① There are little flowers printed on it. <sup>[1]</sup>
- ② A little pile of dirt.

#### 2.1.2 Type ABB

- ① My eyes are so moist all day long.
- ② My eyes are old grey and bloodshot.

#### 2.1.3 Type AABB

- ① I only remember a crescent moon in the misty sky.
- ② Confused not very clear.

## 2.2 Semantic characteristics of ABB overlapping adjectives in *Crescent Son*

### 2.2.1 It has the characteristics of typing

According to the different meanings of the affixes, they can be divided into the following two categories:

The first type: monosyllabic morpheme A has real semantics, and the overlapped affix also has real semantics. However, compared with the two, monosyllabic morpheme A highlights the main part of the whole semantics and is essential, while the overlapped affix just plays an auxiliary role.

For example: My eyes are always so moist.

The second category: the first morpheme of a monosyllable has actual lexical meaning, while the overlapped part has no actual lexical meaning. This kind of word meaning almost rely on the monosyllabic morpheme A to bear, overlapping affix only play the role of adding degree.

For example: My eyes are old grey and bloodshot.

### 2.2.2 ABB overlapping adjectives have delicate meanings

Due to the participation of overlapping affixes, ABB overlapping adjectives have delicate meanings, concrete and figurative characteristics, and play a great role in enhancing the expressive force of novels. Mr. Wang Li pointed out: "The overlapping form has the function of painting method, that is, to make the said scene as vivid as painting." [2]

For example:

- ① The eyes are always so moist.

## 3. "Crescent" overlapping verbs

### 3.1 The specific format of the overlapping verbs in Crescent Child

#### 3.1.1 Type AA

- ① The noise was loud.
- ② Look at Dad.
- ③ And secretly talk about things they know are not right.

#### 3.1.2 Type AAB

- ① Let her rub the top of her back to tickle it.
- ② She asked me to help with the paperwork.

### 3.2 The grammatical features of the overlapping verbs in Crescent Child

#### 3.2.1 "Slight"

Ding Shengshu [3] et al. 's Speech on Modern Chinese Grammar, Wang Li [3]' s Theory of Chinese Grammar, and Zhang Jing [18] 'On the Overlapping Forms of Chinese Verbs' all express the same views in these monographs or papers. The point of Ding's work is that once the verbs overlap, they mean "slightly... A little while. The idea of Wang Li's works is that verbs overlap, meaning "short-term appearance"; These grammatical features are reflected in Mr. Lao She's novel.

For example: Have gone stealthily.

The overlapping use of the word "steal" vividly paints a picture of the state of mind of the shopkeeper to whom mother later remarried as he tried to sneak away behind her back, the fear of being discovered by mother, and the slight, stealthy movement of stealing. His description of such behavior also implies to some extent the irreversible and tragic fate of my mother and me.

#### 3.2.2 Indicates the meaning of trying

Zhao Yuanren [4]'s Chinese Oral Grammar, Zhu Dexi 's Study of Modern Chinese Grammar, Fan Fanglian 'On the So-called Verb Overlap', these three scholars expressed the same views in their own works and papers. Zhao Yuanren called the verb overlap the trial state of the verb; Zhu Dexi's point of view in his works is: the verb duplication, which means small quantity, often means trying; Fan Fanglian's paper argues that verb overlap can be used to represent attempted sentences.

For example: Look at Dad.

The overlapping use of the verb "look" describes that when the young protagonist covered his face with a white cloth after his father died, he wanted to lift the cloth to look at his father again, even if it was just a short look, but he dared not, reflecting the complex psychological feelings of the young protagonist, who was eager but afraid.

## 4. "Crescent" overlapping onomatopoeia

### 4.1 The specific format of overlapping onomatopoeia in Crescent Child

#### 4.1.1 Type ABAB

She also snorted.

#### 4.1.2 Type AABB

I sobbed.

### 4.2 The role of overlapping onomatopoeia in Crescent Child

#### 4.2.1 Make the plot more vivid

In Example 1 above, the onomatopoeia of "chi chi" can easily make readers imagine that the young protagonist's mother is forced to live a hard life. In order to earn money to feed herself and her children, the mother makes a wheezing sound for others to wash

smelly socks day and night. The onomatopoeia of "chi chi chi" vividly depicts the haggard appearance of the mother who is tired for life, and further highlights the life status of the poor laboring people.

#### **4.2.2 Vividly depict the inner emotions of the characters**

In example 2 above, the onomatopoeic overlapped word "throb" can stimulate the hearing of readers in the process of reading, because the syllables of overlapped words have a certain sense of rhythm. The beauty of melody reflected by the repetition of words can, to a certain extent, reflect the psychological condition of the characters at that time, associate with the action state of the characters, easy to feel the emotion the author wants to express, and deeply understand the central idea of the article.

## **5. The overall rhetorical function of the overlapping words in the Crescent Child**

### **5.1 The embodiment of children's perspective**

Carefully read through the full text will find two features, the first feature is that the distribution of overlapped words in Crescent Er is regular, which is a very interesting phenomenon, Crescent Er has 43 chapters, a total of 32 overlapped words, the first ten chapters appear a total of 24 overlapped words, accounting for two-thirds of the total number of overlapped words, the last 33 chapters appear a total of 8 overlapped words, That's only a third of the number of repetitions in the whole text. The second feature is that the AA overlapping words account for the largest proportion, accounting for 65 percent of the total number of overlapping words in the full text. The author used so many AA overlapping words in the article, not randomly, each word is carefully selected by the author.

After careful study, we can find that the first ten chapters with a large number of overlapping words are the periods when the protagonists were relatively young, and the period when the protagonists used AA more often, which reflects a characteristic that most overlapping words and AA forms are used in the childhood of the young protagonists. This is a remarkable feature of the article, namely the embodiment of children's perspective, such language expression is suitable for children's age characteristics. The first ten chapters of the Crescent are about the protagonist's childhood. Children are narrating their own stories according to their ignorant memories, using a large number of overlapping words, and mainly AA type overlapping words, which is in line with the characteristics of children's discourse.

### **5.2 The embodiment of colloquial style**

In the overall design process of the novel, the author chose words and condensed words with originality, and the use of a large number of overlapping words reflects the author's own unique writing style, and in the selection of these overlapping words, the author also made a great effort to feel the overall style of the work is very down-to-earth, reading these plain words, can quickly narrow the psychological distance between each other. The use of these words increases the artistic appeal of the article.

### **5.3 Rich sense of rhythm, enhance the beauty of rhythm**

Mr. Chen Wangdao said, "The purpose of overlapping characters is not to enhance the complexity of language sense by borrowing the complexity of sound, or to enlarge the harmony of intonation by the harmony of sound." The use of overlapping words makes syllables emphasized again and again, thus enhancing the sense of rhythm for the whole article and highlighting the beauty of rhythm. This is like the repetition of lyrics in music creation, which can leave readers with long-lasting emotional experience. In the novel Crescent Child, the author's use of overlapping words is appropriate, which not only well expresses the author's thoughts and feelings, but also reflects the language characteristics of the article which is different from other works. While reading the article, readers will not only feel the touching plot, clever rhetoric methods, and unique innovative language features, but also get the auditory feast of rhythmic beauty.

## **6. Conclusion**

Using a research perspective combining structure, grammatical features and rhetorical functions, and on the basis of studying the overlapping words in Crescent Child one by one, the categories of them are summarized into five forms: AA, ABB, AAB, ABAB, AABB, according to the quantitative exhaustive research method, we find the distribution characteristics of the quantifier chapters in the text, analyze the structure and grammatical characteristics of each type of overlapping words in specific contexts, and the overlapping ways of different parts of speech show different rhetorical effects. Thus, it constructs the rhythmic beauty of the discourse, children's narrative perspective, colloquial and lyric artistic style.

## **References:**

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