

A Study of Japanese Borrowings in Modern Sino Japanese Logistics Terminology: The Influence of Vocabulary Communication on Social Development

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Abstract: China and Japan are neighboring countries separated by a narrow strip of water, and the exchange of languages between the two countries has a long history. Before the Meiji Restoration, China had always been Japan's source of written output, but with the development of history, there has been a phenomenon of reverse input of vocabulary. This paper conducts a detailed examination of Japanese loanwords in the logistics field, in order to demonstrate the significant impact of vocabulary communication on social development.

Keywords: Logistics; Japanese loanwords; Social development

Logistics activities are one of the basic social and economic activities of human beings. In order to develop the logistics industry, Japan has translated a large number of logistics works from Europe and America. During the translation process, the Japanese used the language making power of Chinese characters to create many "harmony based Chinese words". Therefore, a series of logistics Chinese words have been widely used. Since the promulgation of China's reform and opening-up policy, a large number of personnel have been sent to Japan to inspect Japan's logistics industry, and reports and documents have been disseminated through various media outlets. In the late 1970s, China introduced the term "logistics" from Japan. In the 1990s, with the development of the economic system, the importance of logistics was valued by various enterprises. Therefore, the term logistics has gradually been widely used, and the domestic logistics industry has also developed rapidly. With the development of the logistics industry, logistics related vocabulary has also frequently appeared and been widely used by people. Many logistics terms have also been included in various new language dictionaries, such as "bundling, packaging" in the "Chinese Dictionary"; In some news, magazines, and newspapers, many logistics terms are also frequently used, such as "bulk traders" and "supermarkets"; There are also many vocabulary words, such as 'home delivery 'and' delivery ', that have been used as Chinese, but these words have an inseparable relationship with Japanese. The exchange of logistics vocabulary between the two countries has also promoted social and economic development, so studying the exchange of logistics vocabulary has theoretical and practical significance.

I. Collection of Logistics Terminology

The concept of logistics was introduced to Japan from the United States in the 1950s. In 1956, Japan's first logistics professional inspection team was sent to the United States. In the inspection report, the concept of "physical distribution" was first used, which was later translated as "circulation of goods" and widely used in Japan. Japan's logistics development history is not long, but it attaches great importance to the theoretical research of logistics. In order to develop logistics, many logistics literature from Europe and America have been translated, and a large number of logistics terms have emerged during the translation process. According to the survey, many logistics terms have been accepted in the form of foreign languages, followed by Chinese, with very few mixed languages and almost no Japanese. This article collected Chinese logistics terminology from the "Dictionary of Logistics Management Terminology" as the research object.

Logistics terminology has been summarized according to the word count of two, three, four, and five characters or more. From the aggregated vocabulary, there is no single word. Compared to two word, three word, and four word words, four word words have the most and two word words have the least. Words with five or more characters are almost all legal and contractual terms in the field of logistics.

Table 1: Distribution of Logistics Vocabulary in the Dictionary of Logistics Management Terminology

Foreign language	three hundred and forty-eight	43.1%
Chinese language	two hundred and ninety-three	36.3%
Mixed language	one hundred and fifty-seven	19.4%
He Yu	ten	1.2%
Total	eight hundred and eight	

II. The Chinese Vocabulary Characteristics of Logistics Terminology

In order to develop its logistics industry, Japan has become popular in communication with European and American countries, and has translated many works on European and American logistics. With the emergence of Chinese translations of foreign books, a large number of logistics terms have also emerged. As the logistics industry originated in the United States, English logistics works have the most translations, and many logistics terms are directly translated in the form of foreign words. Therefore, the reason for the most foreign words is obvious.

The research object of this article is Chinese vocabulary in logistics language, most of which directly flowed into China and are now used as Chinese. For example, terms such as logistics, circulation, groceries, delivery, packaging, inventory, dangerous goods, delivery fees, unpackaged, express delivery, product separation, shared logistics, shared delivery, and regular delivery.

Compared with foreign languages and dialects, Chinese has the following characteristics.

1. The compound freedom of words, with rich ability to create words.

Compared to Japanese and foreign languages, Chinese has a rich ability to create words. For example, when it comes to the word “dong” in Chinese, there are words such as “move, start, power, automatic, brake” and “cause, animation, power”. With “dong” as the center, many Chinese words can be created.

2. The word form is short and the semantics can be clearly defined.

The scope of meaning in Chinese is very broad, and it is easy to become vague and unclear. In contrast, the meaning in Chinese is limited and clear. For example, many Chinese words such as “transportation, distribution, and sea freight” have more refined meanings and are easier to understand compared to the Japanese word “yun”.

3. Strong ability to create words when expressing abstract concepts and things.

In order to compensate for the lack of abstraction in Chinese language, Chinese has been committed to creating abstract words since modern times. Especially in the composition of academic terms such as long sentences, the activity of Chinese is particularly prominent. This is also well demonstrated when translating logistics terminology. For example, constraint theory, consumer logistics, automated ordering methods, uniform principles of letters of credit, specific export declaration systems, and the United Nations Convention on the International Carriage of Goods. These abstract concepts are coined in Chinese, and their meanings are clear at a glance.

The logistics vocabulary summarized from the logistics dictionary is almost all Chinese words with five or more characters. In this situation, it is almost impossible to create words using Japanese and English. In addition, the number of phonemes in Chinese is relatively small, the syllable structure is simple, and there are many broad things represented by one word. Moreover, in modern language, the ability to create words is relatively weak. So, the language used in logistics is minimal. In the process of translating logistics works, Japanese people try to use Chinese characters as much as possible for translation. In logistics terminology, the reason why Chinese ranks second in terms of quantity after loanwords has become clear.

III. Japanese loanwords for logistics terminology

This paper studies the Japanese loanwords in logistics terminology, and the method of judging Japanese loanwords is very complex. Zhu Jingwei summarized the method of judging Japanese loanwords: derived from Japanese vocabulary and already fixed in Chinese.

The word ‘logistics’ itself is a borrowed word from Japanese. In addition, many Chinese words in logistics terminology are also borrowed from Japanese. For example, terms such as commercial flow, delivery, home delivery, and bulk sales.

The Chinese and Japanese meanings of the term ‘commercial flow’ are consistent, and so far, it has not been included in ordinary dictionaries except for relevant works and textbooks on Chinese logistics. In addition, before the reform and opening up, there was no such thing as “commercial flow”, which means that this word is not classical Chinese, but a borrowed word from Japanese.

The term ‘delivery’ was not included in the Chinese dictionary before the reform and opening up, but appeared after the reform and opening up. In 1996, the former Ministry of Domestic Trade proposed the “Development and Construction Plan for Logistics Distribution Centers”, which officially included the term “distribution”. Nowadays, this word frequently appears on the internet, with the term “delivery” appearing on e-commerce websites that sell clothing, books, and other items. Therefore, it can be inferred that the term “delivery” is also a Japanese loanword. In addition to the term “delivery”, there are also many related derived words, such as “joint delivery”, “delivery address”, “delivery time”, “delivery center”, “hardware delivery”, “flower delivery”, “fast food delivery”, etc. The term ‘distribution center’ was included in the book ‘Cihai’ published by Shanghai Publishing House in 1999. At present, the “catering industry order service” in China is gradually being promoted, with the emergence of telephone ordering and delivery services within designated times. Therefore, the term ‘delivery’ has also become popular in China. The meaning of delivery is easy to understand, as it aligns well with the meaning of related economic activities, so it quickly spread and gave rise to various related vocabulary. Therefore, the Japanese loanwords used in logistics have a significant impact on the development of Chinese society and Chinese vocabulary.

There are many loanwords from Japanese, such as “logistics, commercial flow, bulk sales, home delivery, and express delivery”. These loanwords not only enrich Chinese vocabulary, but also greatly help the development of logistics and service industries.

IV. The impact of vocabulary communication on social development

The reverse input of Chinese vocabulary in Japanese logistics terminology has had various positive impacts on the logistics field and social development in China.

1. Enrich Chinese vocabulary

There are many borrowed and translated words from Japanese in logistics terminology, and their usage rate is very high. Since the reform and opening up, the term “logistics” has entered China, and it is a borrowed word from Japanese. In addition, there are many Japanese loanwords like “logistics”. These words are borrowed and fixed in Chinese. The influx of Japanese logistics vocabulary has enriched the vocabulary of Chinese. Various new words are fixed and used as Chinese by people. These vocabulary not only enrich the

vocabulary of Chinese, but also enrich our daily life. Many vocabulary words are deeply loved by young people and have also changed the way many young people live. For example, “KFC Home Delivery” and “Pizzahut Home Delivery” can more accurately reflect the meaning of the activity than “KFC Home Delivery” and “Pizzahut Home Delivery”. The word has a strong sense of understandability and elegance.

Semantically, these words include both words with similar meanings to Japanese vocabulary and words with overlapping meanings, but there are no words with different meanings. These vocabulary not only enrich the vocabulary of our country, but also have a certain promoting effect on the social development of our country.

2. Promote the development of logistics industry

In ancient China, there were also “logistics” network systems, such as post stations and escort agencies. Although it contains the basic elements of modern logistics, it has our “China” logo. The Silk Road is considered evidence of ancient logistics in China. Thanks to the Silk Road, Chinese culture spread to the West and even the world. In addition, the Grand Canal is also a symbol of ancient logistics in China. And modern logistics originated from the United States. After the reform and opening up, modern logistics and logistics industry were introduced into China, and at the same time, many logistics terms also flowed into our country. These logistics terms have brought new concepts to the Chinese people and played a significant role in promoting the development of China’s modern logistics industry.

3. Promote the emergence and development of emerging industries

Currently, many Japanese loanwords used in logistics are being used as Chinese. For example, terms such as “home express delivery, home delivery, logistics, zero inventory, packaging, and circulation”. These logistics terms have become indispensable basic terms in daily life. In addition, the emergence of words such as “home express delivery” and “delivery” has also driven the emergence of emerging industries. It can be said that vocabulary exchange has also promoted social development.

Epilogue

This article studies the Japanese loanwords of logistics terminology collected in the “Dictionary of Logistics Management Terminology”. Japanese loanwords not only affect the quantity and meaning of Chinese, but also promote the development of the logistics industry and some emerging industries. In addition, we should face up to the influence of Japanese loanwords on Chinese. While interacting with foreign languages and cultures, we should maintain our own language and cultural characteristics, absorb them reasonably, be good at innovation, and not blindly absorb foreign words, which may cause confusion in language use.

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