

Research on the Compilation of Idiom Entries in Specialized Chinese Textbooks

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Abstract: Since the "the Belt and Road" initiative was put forward, various connections between China and the world have increased, and the value of Chinese language teaching in specialized fields has rapidly increased. As an important part of Chinese as a foreign language, the importance of Chinese idiom teaching cannot be ignored. However, at present, the academic community does not attach enough importance to the compilation of idiom entries in specialized Chinese textbooks. This article focuses on business, medicine, and art textbooks for teaching Chinese as a foreign language. It compares the inclusion of idioms in the textbooks with general and specialized outlines, and studies the degree of correlation. It analyzes the writing of idioms in specialized Chinese textbooks, summarizes the shortcomings in the writing of idiom entries in the textbooks, and proposes writing suggestions.

Keywords: Specialized Chinese language teaching, Compilation of textbooks, Idiom.

1. Introduction

Chinese for Specific Purposes (CSP) is a teaching theory based on the relatively mature ESP teaching theory at present and combined with the current Chinese as a foreign language practice and practical needs. Specialized Chinese is not limited to specialized terminology in certain disciplines, but also includes Chinese used in specific occasions, fields, and environments. [1] With the proposal of the "the Belt and Road" initiative in recent years, the demand for Chinese as a foreign language has gradually increased. At the same time, tourism, business, traditional Chinese medicine, art and other characteristic, professional and professional Chinese as a foreign language activities are also increasingly valued. Chinese language teaching for specific purposes has become an indispensable part of Chinese as a foreign language.

The rise of specialized Chinese language teaching has put forward higher requirements for the writing of textbooks, among which vocabulary writing is particularly important. The vocabulary compilation of current textbooks for general Chinese language teaching is mainly based on practicality, knowledge, and scientificity, targeting ordinary Chinese learners. Unlike general Chinese, the compilation of specialized purpose textbooks is guided by practical application needs, emphasizing more professionalism and practicality. The vocabulary compilation process should reflect principles such as knowledge systematization and professional standardization, the combination of discipline foundation and timeliness, and emphasis on inspiration. [2] Therefore, compared to general Chinese language textbooks for foreigners, the vocabulary writing in specialized Chinese language textbooks requires a combination of learners' usage needs and teaching syllabus requirements.

Currently, there is relatively little research on vocabulary writing in specialized Chinese language textbooks. Pengpai (2020) analyzed medical Chinese vocabulary with frame semantics theory, classified words with the same or similar situations, and finally formed a semantic frame hierarchy system of medical Chinese vocabulary. Wang and Xu Ruili (2020) analyzed the situation of vocabulary writing in medical Chinese textbooks and believed that vocabulary

writing should be mainly based on specialized outlines, supplemented by general outlines. Zhang Chenlin (2022) believes that the compilation cycle of special-purpose Chinese textbooks is long, so the timeliness of vocabulary tends to lag behind the development of language and society. He proposes that the "topic vocabulary" system should be built by using natural language processing related algorithms, models and platforms to maintain the timeliness of textbooks. Wang Ziqiu (2023) analyzed the vocabulary part in specialized Chinese language teaching from two aspects: semantic understanding and discourse application.

In summary, it can be seen that the current research on the vocabulary compilation of specialized Chinese language textbooks in the academic community is mostly focused on the overall compilation of specialized vocabulary, and there is relatively little research on specific vocabulary classification. Idioms are the essence of the Chinese vocabulary system. They can not only play the role of words, but also have rich connotations and special expression effects. Idiom teaching is the key and difficult point in Chinese as a foreign language. Whether Chinese idioms can be used correctly has become an important indicator of foreigners' Chinese level. As a highly distinctive fixed term in Chinese vocabulary, the compilation of idioms should receive attention from the compilation of specialized Chinese textbooks. Therefore, this article takes the "New Silk Road · Business Chinese Comprehensive Tutorial" series of textbooks, "Basic Practical Business Chinese", "Traditional Chinese Medicine Chinese Comprehensive Tutorial", and "Art Chinese" as the research objects, compares and analyzes the inclusion of Chinese idioms in the textbooks and the outline, and proposes suggestions for the writing of Chinese idioms in specialized Chinese textbook writing.

2. Collection of Idioms in Specialized Purpose Textbooks

The New Silk Road · Business Chinese Comprehensive Tutorial "is a relatively mature set of specialized Chinese language textbooks published by Peking University Press, which is divided into three volumes: beginner, intermediate,

and advanced. Among them, the "Intermediate Business Chinese Comprehensive Tutorial" is divided into "Life Chapter" and "Business Chapter", for learners with a certain level of Chinese proficiency who hope to engage in business activities in China. This article systematically organizes the collection of idioms in the textbook. The New Silk Road Elementary Business Chinese Comprehensive Tutorial has not been included as an idiom. The New Silk Road Intermediate Business Chinese Comprehensive Tutorial (Business Chapter) is compiled into 29 idioms, including 16 idioms, 8 colloquial sayings, 3 proverbs, and 2 idioms. The New Silk Road Intermediate Business Chinese Comprehensive Course (Life Chapter) includes a total of 33 idioms. 47 idioms are included in the "New Silk Road Advanced Business Chinese Tutorial". Overall, the number and difficulty of idioms included in this set of textbooks increase with the difficulty of the textbooks, which is in line with the general rules of textbook writing. This article compares the idioms included in the entire set of textbooks with the "New SHK Vocabulary Outline" and finds that in the "New Silk Road Intermediate Business Chinese Course (Business Chapter)", only "reciprocity" is included as a Level 6 vocabulary in the "New SHK Vocabulary Outline", and the other idioms are not included; The "New Silk Road Intermediate Business Chinese Course (Life Chapter)" includes 7 idioms, including "looking around", "worrying about the future", "eager to be", "seeking truth from facts", "meticulous", "affordable", and "cheerful", which have been included in the "New SHK Vocabulary Outline" as Level 6 vocabulary, while the remaining idioms have not been included; There are four idioms in the "New Silk Road Advanced Business Chinese Tutorial", including "smooth sailing", "a long way to go", "self-evident", and "constantly changing", which have been included as Level 6 vocabulary in the "New SHK Vocabulary Outline", while the other idioms have not been included. In addition, this article compares the textbook with the "New Business Chinese BCT (B) Outline" and finds that only 21 idioms are included in the "New Business Chinese BCT (B) Outline". Among them, only the "high-quality and affordable" in intermediate textbooks and the "smooth sailing" in advanced textbooks appear in the "New Silk Road · Business Comprehensive Tutorial". It is also worth noting that the term "good quality and affordable" has also appeared in the widely used textbook "Basic Practical Business Chinese".

Through the analysis of the correlation between included idioms, it was found that the correlation between included idioms and majors is not high. Among the 16 idioms included in the "New Silk Road Intermediate Business Chinese Comprehensive Tutorial (Business Chapter)", the idioms with high relevance to business majors are only "finding both ways" and "worthless", accounting for 12.5%. Among the 33 idioms included in the "New Silk Road Intermediate Business Chinese Comprehensive Tutorial (Life Chapter)", only "poor and wealthy" and "affordable" have a high relevance, accounting for about 6.06%. Out of the 47 idioms included in the "New Silk Road - Advanced Business Chinese Comprehensive Tutorial", 3 idioms have a high degree of correlation, namely "holding coins and watching", "hundreds", and "loving and dedicated", accounting for approximately 6.38%.

The Comprehensive Course of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Chinese Language "is a specialized textbook for traditional Chinese medicine in the" Series of Professional

Chinese Language Learning Books for International Students in China "published by Beijing Language and Culture University Press. It is suitable for foreign students who come to China to study traditional Chinese medicine and related majors. The Chinese language proficiency is at the beginning and middle levels, aiming to cultivate the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills that international students urgently need to learn traditional Chinese medicine and related majors, master the basic vocabulary, word formation, and expression sentence structures of professional Chinese language, Enable them to smoothly enter the department and receive undergraduate professional education. In this tutorial, a total of 84 idioms are included, of which 46 appear in the new words section of the textbook. The textbook provides English explanations for these idioms, while 38 idioms appear in the text section of the textbook. The textbook does not provide explanations for these idioms. This article compares the textbook with the "New SHK Vocabulary Outline" and finds that only "kill two birds with one stone" is included in the Outline Level 6, while the other idioms are not included in the Outline. Therefore, it was found that the "MCT Outline of the Medical Chinese Proficiency Test" only includes two idioms, among which "overeating" appears in this set of textbooks.

Similarly, conducting a correlation analysis of idioms, it was found that out of the 34 idioms included in the "Traditional Chinese Medicine Listening and Speaking Tutorial", 13 idioms such as "restlessness and confusion" have a high correlation with medicine, accounting for about 38.24%. However, out of the 46 idioms included in the "Comprehensive Textbook of Traditional Chinese Medicine", only 7 have a high correlation with medicine, accounting for about 15.22%. Overall, the correlation between the included idioms and medicine is not high, and their distribution in the textbook is uneven.

Art Chinese "is a universal Chinese language textbook for art majors published by Beijing Language and Culture University Press. This set of textbooks includes a total of 44 idioms. The selection of idioms and the arrangement of example sentences are highly relevant to the context and theme of each lesson. The selection and explanation of vocabulary are orderly divided into general vocabulary, professional vocabulary, and supplementary vocabulary. This article compares "Art Chinese" with "New SHK Outline" and finds that only two idioms, "Gradually" and "Can't Put It Down", are included in the vocabulary of Level 6 of the outline, while the other idioms are not included. Due to the lack of a specialized Chinese language syllabus for art, it is not possible to compare this set of textbooks with the specialized syllabus.

Unlike Business Chinese and Medical Chinese, idioms included in Art Chinese have a higher degree of association with art. Out of the 45 included idioms, 11 are highly correlated idioms, accounting for 24.4%.

In summary, by analyzing the inclusion of idioms in three specialized Chinese language textbooks, it can be found that most of the idioms included in the textbooks are not included in the general and specialized outlines, while a few idioms included in specialized Chinese language textbooks are included in the "New SHK Vocabulary Outline", and very few idioms are included in the specialized outline. At the same time, the idioms included in the three types of professional Chinese textbooks have a higher degree of correlation with their majors, with medical categories being higher than art categories and business categories being the lowest. The

overall correlation between the collected idioms and the majors is not high.

3. Analysis of the Problem of Writing Idioms in Specialized Chinese Textbooks

By analyzing the compilation of idioms in the specialized Chinese language textbooks provided earlier, we found that the current popular idiom compilation in specialized Chinese language textbooks is not highly correlated with the inclusion of idioms in the general outline and specialized outline. Whether idioms appear as new words in textbooks or in the context of textbook texts, there are often only a few idioms included in Level 6 of the New SHK Vocabulary Outline, and only a very few idioms included in specialized outlines. There are two reasons for this phenomenon. On the one hand, the general syllabus contains fewer idioms, making it difficult to cover daily and professional needs. For example, the "Outline of Chinese Proficiency Vocabulary and Chinese Character Level" only includes 144 idioms, while according to the Chinese language textbooks from primary to junior high schools in the People's Education Press, there are about 600 commonly used idioms in Chinese language. Therefore, when writing specialized Chinese language textbooks, it is necessary to introduce other syllabuses to supplement the vocabulary part; On the other hand, specialized Chinese language teaching is in the ascendant, and its vocabulary syllabus is not yet mature. The words included in the syllabus are often mainly professional vocabulary, and idioms are rarely included. For example, the "New Business Chinese BCT (B) Syllabus" only includes 21 idioms, the "Medical Professional Vocabulary Syllabus" only includes 2 idioms, and there is no mature vocabulary syllabus for art Chinese. Therefore, even if specialized Chinese textbooks cover all the idioms included in the specialized vocabulary syllabus, it is still difficult to meet the actual usage standards. Therefore, when writing idioms in specialized Chinese language textbooks, it is necessary to consider both daily usage needs and specialized usage needs, covering idioms included in the specialized syllabus as much as possible, while also taking into account idioms included in the general syllabus and idioms not included in the general syllabus but listed as daily use in domestic Chinese language teaching materials.

In addition, in the process of compiling specialized Chinese language textbooks, efforts should be made to improve the correlation between the inclusion of idioms in the textbooks and the specialized purpose. On the basis of covering all idioms included in the specialized syllabus, when writing textbooks, it is necessary to consider as much as possible the idioms that may be used in professional activities and commonly used idioms in daily activities in the professional environment, further enhancing the relevance of the textbook to its specific purpose, and in addition to meeting learners' practical, practical, and communicative needs for the teaching

material, enhancing their adaptability to future use. For example, in medical activities, idioms such as "prescribe medicine to the case" and "cure the disease with medicine" are commonly used vocabulary, but they have not been included in the general syllabus as commonly used Chinese idioms, nor have they been included in the specialized syllabus as professional vocabulary. These types of idioms should also be written in specialized teaching materials. For example, in the "Comprehensive Textbook of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Chinese Language", the new vocabulary part of the textbook includes idioms such as "fruitful" and "evenly matched" that are not only very useful but also less related to specific purposes. These types of idioms can reduce the burden on learners when learning Chinese for specific purposes. At the same time, it is necessary to continuously improve the vocabulary outline of Chinese for specific purposes, add more idioms with high relevance to specific purposes, and provide more basis for the compilation of textbooks.

In summary, the compilation of idioms in specialized Chinese language textbooks should reflect both universality and professionalism, enhancing the practicality of idioms in the textbooks. Firstly, it is necessary to pay more attention to the compilation of idioms in specialized Chinese language textbooks, increase the number of idioms included in the textbooks, and pay attention to the scientific nature of idiom compilation. Idiom compilation should be arranged according to the stage characteristics of learning difficulty. Secondly, attention should be paid to the correlation between idioms in textbooks and specialized purposes, reducing idioms with low practicality and relevance, and increasing idioms in specialized fields that are frequently used in Chinese contexts. At the same time, it is recommended to increase the collection of idioms in the professional Chinese vocabulary outline, divide the vocabulary outline level according to difficulty, and refer to relevant idioms in the outline during the textbook writing process, emphasizing their guiding role.

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