

Folk Culture Communication in English Everyday Language

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Abstract: Language is a unique cultural phenomenon that distinguishes humans from animals. Through language, humans can communicate and touch the pulse of their thoughts to achieve deeper understanding. This is also the foundation and prerequisite for human unity and joint progress. This article takes "English", a global language, as an example to explore the habits of people in Western society from the perspectives of holiday language, residential and dietary language, and digital language. Through understanding Western society, it deepens the ability to communicate between Eastern and Western cultures.

"God has endowed humans with the ability to speak, and language has created thought, which is humanity's measure of the universe." - From Prometheus Unbound, Shelley. Animals also have their own "language", but the ability to communicate in this language is extremely limited and barren, only able to communicate the simplest concepts. Undoubtedly, as the masters of the world, language is the carrier of human thinking, and the exposition of language is also the interpretation and reflection of the objective world by humans. Language plays a very important role in communication, cultural dissemination, and other aspects.

1. English everyday language and folk customs

As the world becomes smaller and cultural exchanges between the East and the West become increasingly close, misunderstandings, jokes, and misunderstandings often occur among the Chinese people in their contact and communication with the Western world. These problems are not only caused by language barriers, but also often lead to incorrect interpretations of Western social customs and thinking differences. Everyday language is an important part of the English language, and it is gradually accumulated by people in Western society in their production and life. English cannot exist alone with written language. Daily language mainly includes idioms, allegorical sayings, proverbs, collocations and usage of idioms, allusions, slang, etc. From the ancient era of Europa English to the current popularity of European and American cultures, English culture and civilization have flourished even more today. This article starts with everyday English language and gradually analyzes its characteristics. In this process, we can not only see the daily communication and folk characteristics of people's lives in Western society, but also further compare the differences in language and culture.

2. The Folk Characteristics of English Everyday Language

2.1 Daily language used in religious festivals

European countries were deeply influenced by Christianity and the Bible. In the ancient Middle Ages, the Roman Catholic Church ruled over the thinking of the people of Western Europe for nearly a thousand years. In Western society, due to the influence of Christianity, people need to go to church for worship on Sundays after a week of work, which is very different from Eastern countries. Vocabulary and related customs related to Christianity have also flooded into people's daily lives. From then on, in English speaking countries, people's daily language contains many phrases related to "God": "The dagger passed and God forgotten". God helps those who help themselves. "Man proposals, God disposals" and so on.

Excluding the word "God", there are still many everyday expressions related to festivals in English, such as "thanks giving", which is the main dish of turkey eaten by a family together during Thanksgiving; Fig, a commonly used fig during Easter; Easter egg, which is associated with the implied meaning of "having more children" in rabbits; Halloween is also a pumpkin culture of Western Ghost Festival, and has given rise to many everyday expressions related to these words, such as "talk turnkey" (directly serving the main course); "Cold turnkey"; "As poor as job's turnkey"; "Red as a turkey cock"; "Fig leaf" (a covered leaf, an indescribable sin); "The pumpkin has not turned into a coach" and so on[1]. Undoubtedly, these vocabulary related to festivals and religions have infiltrated a large number of people's lives and formed a part of their lives.

2.2 Daily residential language

People cannot live without the houses they live in. Unlike Chinese people, Westerners also use local materials to live in, and their style and methods of building houses are inevitably different from those of China. The main building materials used in British and American countries are stone, bricks, tiles, logs, wood, and so on. Many everyday English expressions are also related to building materials. For example, "heart of stone"; Stone by stone (stacking stones on top of each other, gradually accumulating); "Cannot see the wood for the trees"; "Dead wood" and so on.

In European and American countries, gardens are only owned by royal figures or feudal lords, so gardens have become symbols of beautiful things, and a large number of everyday words related to gardens are also widely used by people. For example: rose in the garden (very beautiful and satisfying); Everything in the garden is lovely, let no grass grow under one's feet, and so on.

2.3 Digital everyday language

In Western countries, many scholars attach great importance to the study of mathematics, and in the eyes of ordinary scholars, numbers have a certain profound meaning. For example, in the West, odd and prime numbers are generally good and cannot be split (except for the number 13), while even numbers are not good and contain segmentation and decomposition. In addition, due to the influence of the Bible and the Western Catholic Church, the number 3 is considered good because of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity; The number 7 is considered good because it represents completeness and completeness in the Bible; The number 6 is considered bad because in the Bible, it is seen as a serious imperfection and a representation of the devil. Friday is also considered bad, as Jesus sacrificed himself in the suffering on Friday. When designing buildings, people also intentionally avoid floors 13 and use floors like 12B instead. These ideas are also reflected in people's daily language, such as "The third time's the charm". (The third time will definitely be successful). Keep a thing seven years and you will find a use for it; Six penny; Black Friday and so on[2].

3. Proverbs

Proverb is a simple, concrete, traditional saying that expresses the crystallization of the folk wisdom of our Chinese nation, reflecting the life practical experience of the working people and the content of which involves all aspects of social life. Collectively, they form a genre of folk adage. Generally speaking, a proverb is a short, generally known sentence, and at times rhythmic, handed down from generation to generation in oral forms. It includes agricultural proverbs, daily life proverbs, meteorological proverbs, etc. Proper use of proverbs can make the language lively and witty and enhance the expressiveness of the article. Proverb expresses a perceived truth based on folks' common sense or experience.

Proverb is the wit of one, and the wisdom of many. Used in the article, it makes an article simple and profound. Proverbs are spoken literature, produced before words were created.

3.1 Meteorological Proverbs

It is the proverb for getting a closer look of nature and summing up production experience, such as "A lot of snakes move on the road means that heavy rain will come".

3.2 Agricultural Proverbs

It is agricultural experience that summed up by farmers in the production practice. For example, "The best time to sow cotton is the time that the dates start to sprout in spring", "The thicker the snow, the better the wheat harvest next year" and so on.

3.3 Life Proverbs

It derives from folks' knowledge of health care, such as "Cold often begins with cold feet, and illness is often caused by unhealthy diets", "Get up early every morning will make people who were eighty still feel young" and so on.

3.4 Social Proverbs

It generally refers to the things that people should pay attention to while interacting with others and governing a country, such as "You can't be called a gentleman if you're mean, or a real man if you're not ruthless to your enemy", "Beauty is but skin-deep", "If you don't want others to know about it, don't do it" and so on.

4. Catchphrase

As a lexical phenomenon, it reflects the hot problems or topics that people of a certain country or area concerned in a certain period of time. Different periods have different buzzwords, and they just like a sensitive nerve of society, reflecting the changes of society. Many new ideas and new things have emerged as the society develops, and the catchphrase is the best witness of these new ideas and new things.

Catchphrase, as its name implies, is a language with the characteristics of popular culture, reflecting the social warmth and civic culture. It is a quick summary of some aspects of the current social development and is rapidly updated as well. With the development of the times, catchphrases are constantly evolving. For a society, catchphrases can reflect the vitality of social culture, and cultural diversity is of vital importance to the development of media. Therefore, catchphrase has become a daily art, and an expression that directly reveals the fashion culture of the society. According

to the historical culture of different periods, we can study the meaning of catchphrases in different periods, and by analyzing the buzzwords of different periods, we can find the footprints of history. Catchphrase has rich connotations. To really understand it, people need to fully understand the social culture which has a variety of contents, including language environment, personal psychological quality and so on. The change of language is closely related to the change of society and catchphrase is the most representative one, it shows pictures of different society.

Generally speaking, according to the sources of catchphrases, they can be divided into several categories: current affairs, dialects, online buzzwords, and mixed words.

4.1 Current Affairs

Nowadays, people pay more and more attention to politics. For example, in 2013, General Secretary Xi made a speech about Chinese dream, then the word Chinese dream spread rapidly, derived numerous versions in the form of "xx Dream ". At the same time, the country's leaders and political newspapers and magazines became more approachable, and words like "American dream ", "sense of gain" are easy to understand[3].

4.2 Dialect

There are many dialects in the US, dialects are widely spread as people from different regions communicate more. People also find dialects interesting. And catchphrase evolved from dialects also occupies a certain proportion. In addition to the phonetic changes, expanded use of regional vocabulary now is used in conversations nationwide.

4.3 Online Buzzwords

Nowadays, with the emergence of the computer industry and all-pervading information sharing, online buzzwords occupy a large proportion of catchphrases. Modern online buzzwords win amazing productivity. These buzzwords are all derived from the network, and have been used in daily life, enriching people's expression.

4.4 Mixed Words

The phenomenon of language mixing occurs in many countries in the world, and language exchange provides abundant resources for the emergence of catchphrases. This kind of catchphrases can be divided into several kinds. First of all, "code mixing" is a phenomenon in linguistics which means one language as the basis, and the other language as a component inserted into it.

5. Conclusion

In the long history of human development, various countries and ethnic groups have made unique contributions to it, which has also made our world present a colorful cultural expression today. The civilization, culture, and folk customs of Western countries are worthy of our respect and appreciation. Due to the vast expanse of Western civilization, this article is limited by its length and cannot fully showcase its characteristics and charm. Nevertheless, it is of importance to know better about a part of the living customs of Western people. People all over the world would understand and respect each other, and work together towards a better tomorrow without barriers, competition, and misunderstandings.

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