

Exploring the Application of Internet Neologisms in International Chinese Language Teaching

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Abstract

With the continuous advancement of our country's technological level, some educational resources have gradually shifted to online platforms. Leveraging online courses and other means, these platforms offer convenient learning methods for learners. At the same time, the introduction of internet language and neologisms into international Chinese language teaching has gradually become a focus for improving classroom teaching quality. Internet neologisms, which are simple, quick, and easy to understand, are popular among contemporary youth. Traditional Chinese teaching has overly emphasized the basics of Chinese phonetics, script, and grammar. The application of internet neologisms can make Chinese learning more dynamic and interesting. Through learning internet language, students can better understand contemporary Chinese social culture, improve their listening and speaking abilities, and enhance their expressive skills. In the innovation of international Chinese teaching methods and textbook development, internet neologisms play a guiding role. Therefore, international Chinese teachers should focus on teaching internet neologisms in the classroom, adhere to the principle of teaching according to students' needs, set teaching goals, conduct teaching activities, and enable students to have a more comprehensive understanding of language and culture, thus enhancing their interest in learning Chinese.

Keywords

International Chinese Teaching, Internet Neologisms, Innovative Strategies.

1. Brief Overview of Internet Neologisms

Internet neologisms are words created and used frequently by netizens during online activities. These terms are concise, humorous, and can express the thoughts and emotions of netizens. Additionally, internet neologisms can also be referred to as popular words or linguistic symbols on the internet, emerging with social hot topics and widely used among the youth, seen as both a social and cultural phenomenon[1-2]. Essentially, internet neologisms are terms circulated online, endowed with specific era and linguistic environment meanings, and have high usage frequency. They record various novelties in real life, reflecting the psychological and conceptual changes of the public and directly showing netizens' focus on and insights into social life.

2. Characteristics of Internet Neologisms

2.1. Interest

In modern social communication, internet language serves as a crucial medium with distinctive innovative features. With the rapid development of information technology and the gradual advent of the information age, it brings great convenience to people's work and life while also providing a relatively free space to fully unleash one's imagination and creativity. The cyberspace, unconstrained by traditional society, further stimulates people to understand and transform the world, change communication methods, and improve living standards[3-4]. Compared to traditional Chinese vocabulary, internet neologisms are more ingeniously

conceived and can maximize the display of people's creativity in linguistic and cultural aspects. This innovation is mainly manifested in vocabulary and grammar: for example, assigning new meanings to old words and creating new words, and breaking conventional grammar rules, such as "yyds" (forever god) and "zqsg" (genuine feelings), making language more vivid and visual.

2.2. Innovativeness

Compared to traditional language, internet language draws from a broader range of materials, and the process is filled with randomness and flexibility. Sometimes, people also make full use of symbols on the keyboard, creating many emoticons to express human emotions. Clipping classic scenes or shots from movies and animations to make emoticons for communication simulation, these vivid images express one's current emotions or intended words to achieve a teasing effect, making the online communication atmosphere more lively. Simultaneously, internet language can break the shackles of traditional language through innovative methods such as homophony and abbreviations, creating terms like "yyds" and "zqsg," which are presented in a straightforward and clear manner, further enriching the connotation and expressiveness of internet language.

2.3. Economy

In the context of the information age, online communication has become the dominant mode of contemporary interpersonal communication, hence the innovation of internet language must revolve closely around the principle of economy. This means that internet language not only strives for brevity but also dares to break the constraints of traditional language patterns, exploring new realms where form, sound, and meaning are combined. Due to the continuous increase in the volume of linguistic information and the acceleration of update and transmission speeds, internet neologisms need to be economical and concise, and also accurately denote new phenomena. To adapt to this situation, abbreviations have started appearing online and are widely accepted by the public. These abbreviations are clear in meaning, simplified in syllables, catchy, and frequently used in online communication, gradually evolving into internet neologisms. In the network, language symbols mainly include abbreviations of Chinese pinyin, English abbreviations, homophones of numbers and letters (e.g., CU - see you), and homophones of Chinese characters, using concise language forms to achieve the transition from traditional to online communication.

In the context of the information age, online communication has become the dominant mode of contemporary interpersonal interaction; therefore, the innovation of internet language must closely align with the principle of economy. This means that internet language not only strives for brevity but also dares to break traditional language patterns. For example, "打卡" (dǎkǎ, punch in) has evolved from referring to clocking in to sharing experiences on social media. Similarly, "666" has transitioned from being a numerical expression to meaning "awesome" or "cool."

As the volume of information increases and the speed of transmission accelerates, internet neologisms must be economical and concise while accurately conveying new phenomena. To adapt to this situation, abbreviations have emerged online and gained widespread acceptance. For instance, "B站" (B Zhàn) refers to Bilibili, and "DPS" (damage per second) has become popular in gaming contexts. These abbreviations are clear in meaning, easy to remember, and frequently used, gradually evolving into internet neologisms.

In online communication, language symbols include abbreviated forms of Chinese Pinyin, such as using "Q" for "请" (qǐng, please), English abbreviations like "LOL" (laugh out loud), homophones such as "CU" (see you), and homophones of Chinese characters, like "520"

representing “I love you” (我爱你) due to its phonetic similarity. Through these concise language forms, communication has transitioned from traditional to online.

3. The Significance of Applying Internet Neologisms in International Chinese Teaching

3.1. Promoting International Chinese Teaching

With the deepening of globalization and continuous progress in information technology, international Chinese teaching has ushered in new opportunities, as shown in Table 1. Internet neologisms, as an important part of linguistic communication, play a crucial role in enhancing learners' language communication skills. In recent years, more and more Chinese learners have come to China to study and live, which has, to some extent, promoted the work of Chinese teaching. The emergence of internet neologisms, conforming to the trend of informatization and network development, reflects human societal progress. Teachers and international students may encounter many internet neologisms during online interactions, which can cause certain difficulties in their learning and communication. However, strengthening the teaching of internet neologisms can help international students enrich their vocabulary, enhance their language communication skills, broaden their communication horizons, and lay a solid foundation for their cross-cultural exchanges.

Table 1. Role of network new words

Performance	Description
Improve language communication skills	As an important part of modern language communication, the learning and mastering of network new words can significantly improve the language communication ability of international students, so that they can communicate with Chinese people more naturally and fluently
Enrich your vocabulary	By learning new words online, international students can have access to more modern and vivid Chinese words, so as to enrich their vocabulary and improve the diversity and accuracy of language expression
Broaden the horizon of communication	New online words are often closely related to current social hotspots and cultural phenomena. By learning these words, international students can have a deeper understanding of Chinese society, culture and people's lifestyle, thus broadening their communication horizons
Adapting to the Information Society	The emergence and popularity of network new words reflect the development trend of the information society. Learning these words can help international students adapt to the communication mode of modern society and improve their survival ability in the digital environment

3.2. Enhancing Students' Learning Interest

Traditional Chinese vocabulary teaching has played an irreplaceable role in helping Chinese learners master basic life and communication expressions. However, in the context of the information age, the drawbacks of traditional vocabulary teaching methods have gradually become apparent, especially in terms of meeting the needs of online communication[5-6]. The interest and convenience inherent in online communication are more evident among international students studying and living in China. Most of their time is spent interacting with

Chinese people, during which they encounter many internet neologisms that reflect the current social situation. These neologisms are concise, convenient to use, and can save communication time, thus sparking their interest in learning words, as shown in Figure 1. Over time, they aspire to master these internet neologisms to better integrate into Chinese social circles and engage in smoother, more interesting interactions with locals.

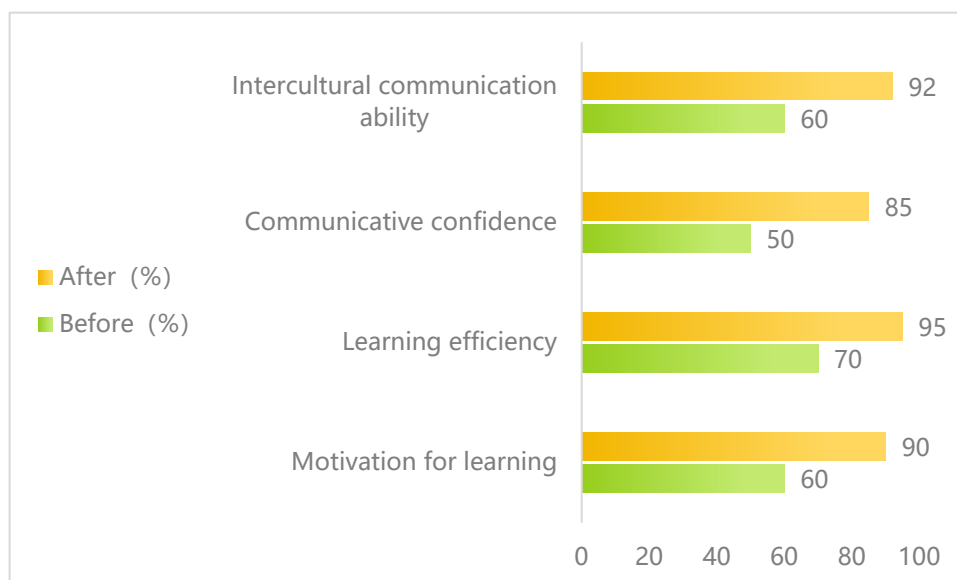


Figure 1. Comparison before and after the application of network neologisms

3.3. Meeting Language Communication Needs

As a new product of language development, internet neologisms have research value in aspects of linguistic ontology, language culture, and the relationship between language and society that cannot be ignored. Exploring the similarities and differences between internet neologisms and traditional language, the form of language structure has undergone major changes. In online communication, concise language is used to represent the leap from traditional language, shortening communication time and expanding the range of human social interaction. In recent years, due to the interest in the "Chinese fever," people have developed a strong interest in Chinese culture and language. In international Chinese teaching, the teaching of internet neologisms is an important part. The current state of human society's production and life can be reflected by internet neologisms. International Chinese enthusiasts who want to deeply understand the development of Chinese society, as well as the life changes and thought patterns of contemporary young people, should not only learn systematic Chinese foundational knowledge but also actively participate in the trend of societal development and learn internet neologisms to enrich their daily communication vocabulary.

4. Considerations for Internet Neologisms in International Chinese Teaching

4.1. Cultural Differences

In international Chinese teaching, teachers face students from different cultural backgrounds who have varying degrees of understanding and acceptance of internet neologisms. Internet neologisms are closely related to Chinese social culture and trends, but some international students lack the relevant cultural background knowledge and find it difficult to grasp these unfamiliar internet neologisms. Therefore, before conducting teaching activities, teachers

should comprehensively analyze the cultural backgrounds of students and cautiously select internet neologisms. In specific practice, to avoid potential misunderstandings or cultural conflicts, teachers should choose universally understandable and culturally representative terms as much as possible, supplemented by multimedia technological means such as pictures and videos, to visually demonstrate the cultural background and social phenomena behind internet neologisms, helping students better understand and accept these new words.

4.2. Lexical Accuracy

Ensuring the accuracy of vocabulary is a prerequisite for successfully conducting internet neologism teaching. Compared to traditional vocabulary, internet neologisms have multiple meanings and are highly susceptible to specific contexts, so teachers must ensure the accuracy and applicability of selected internet neologisms during the teaching process. On the one hand, teachers should conduct thorough preparatory work, deeply understand the exact meaning and usage of each internet neologism to avoid ambiguities or misunderstandings in teaching that could mislead students[7-8]. On the other hand, teachers should keep up with the times, adopt diversified teaching methods, create a specific environment for teaching activities, explain internet neologisms in specific contexts, help students understand the specific applications of these terms in different situations, and improve their language application skills and communication techniques. To truly apply knowledge to practice, teachers should encourage students to test their own knowledge through actual language use, ensuring the accuracy and effectiveness of vocabulary learning.

4.3. Vocabulary Stability

In the course of language development, internet neologisms represent a relatively special case with obvious timeliness characteristics, influenced by relevant factors, making the meaning and scope of use of internet neologisms change over time. In the process of international Chinese teaching, teachers must fully consider the stability of internet neologisms. In specific practice, teachers should prioritize widely accepted and relatively stable internet neologisms, reducing the use of overly timely, unstable, or potentially quickly outdated terms. Such a stable approach can ensure the effectiveness and accuracy of teaching content, reducing confusion among students during the learning process. Additionally, teachers should update teaching content regularly according to specific circumstances, introduce stable internet neologisms into the classroom, maintain the forward-looking nature of teaching, and meet students' individualized needs.

In the evolution of language, internet neologisms signify a distinctive phenomenon characterized by their inherent timeliness, influenced by various sociocultural and technological factors. This dynamic context leads to the continual evolution of their meanings and usages. In the realm of international Chinese language teaching, it is imperative that educators carefully evaluate the stability of these neologisms. Specifically, instructors should prioritize those internet neologisms that are widely recognized and relatively stable, while minimizing reliance on terms that are transient, unstable, or likely to become quickly outdated. Such a strategic approach can enhance the effectiveness and accuracy of instructional content, thereby alleviating potential confusion among students throughout the learning process. Furthermore, it is essential for educators to routinely update their teaching materials in response to changing contexts, integrating stable internet neologisms into the curriculum to ensure that instruction remains relevant and progressive. By doing so, teachers can better address the diverse needs of their students.

5. Recommendations Based on International Chinese Teaching of Internet Neologisms

5.1. Emphasizing Internet Neologism Teaching

Internet neologisms are diverse and cover various aspects of life. In international Chinese teaching, teachers should focus on explaining frequently used terms in communication. Integrating internet neologisms into classroom teaching can enrich teaching content, help Chinese learners gain a deeper understanding of Chinese culture, and thereby improve their Chinese proficiency. The fun aspect can enliven the classroom atmosphere, allowing students to learn internet neologisms in a relaxed environment. During the teaching process, teachers should focus on the interest of internet neologisms and avoid vulgar terms. Additionally, timely communication practice should be conducted, focusing on teaching according to students' needs. Chinese learners from different cultural backgrounds have different vocabulary needs and learning styles, requiring Chinese teachers to conduct targeted teaching activities to ensure that each international student understands the meanings and can proficiently use them, thereby enhancing their communication skills and deepening their love for Chinese culture.

5.2. Analyzing the Cultural Connotations of Words

Deeply analyzing the cultural content of internet neologisms is an important way to understand the differences and commonalities in network language across different cultures. Popular language is both a linguistic phenomenon and a reflection of social culture, historical events, and popular matters, able to showcase the connotations of traditional culture and traces of historical events. For example, terms like "小镇做题家" (small town exam-takers), "飒" (cool), and "栓Q" (thank you) each demonstrate the connotations reflected by historical events and the cultural connotations of phonetics and dialects due to geographical locations. "小镇做题家" reveals the historical background of uneven educational resource distribution, deeply reflecting contemporary society's diverse thoughts and debates about the path to success; "飒" ingeniously integrates dialect culture and modern aesthetics, showing the profound impact of geographical location on language development and cultural connotations. By analyzing the cultural connotations of different internet terms, students can be guided to understand the differences and commonalities in internet hot words across different cultures[9].

5.3. Emphasizing the Social Impact of Words

Internet neologisms are an important part of social culture with a strong communicative influence. In the fields of social media, online communities, and popular culture, they are widely spread with their unique charm, serving as bridges between people and cultures. In recent years, "山河大学" (Shanhe University) has become a hot term on social platforms, quickly gaining popularity online and attracting widespread attention from all sectors of society, even prompting the Ministry of Education to respond. This event fully demonstrates the social influence of internet neologisms, able to gather public opinion in a short time and promote the fermentation and discussion of social topics[10]. In international Chinese teaching, teachers can provide positive guidance to students, leading them to analyze the social values behind popular language, conduct teaching activities while cultivating students' cross-cultural awareness, enabling them to more keenly understand language phenomena under different cultural backgrounds, develop students' critical thinking skills, allowing them to think independently and rationally analyze, and continuously grow in a diversified background.

6. Conclusion

With the continuous enhancement of our country's comprehensive strength, various aspects of society have undergone changes to different extents, and emerging things are constantly appearing. The creation and development of internet neologisms fully reflect the development trends of contemporary society. In various fields of today's society, innovative and targeted internet neologisms have emerged, some of which, with their strong adaptability, have been widely used in people's daily lives and recognized by the public, considered as fresh blood in Chinese vocabulary. In international Chinese teaching, due to the emergence and rapid development of internet neologisms, teachers should change their inherent thinking, keep up with the times, give high importance to the teaching of internet neologisms at the ideological level, adopt diversified teaching methods to improve teaching quality, and help more students understand Chinese culture.

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