Peking University Linguistics Research

Volume 7

Series Editors

Rui Guo, Chinese Department, Peking University, Beijing, China Wangqi Jiang, School of Foreign Languages, Peking University, Beijing, China Peking University Linguistics Research (PKULR) is a cooperation project between Springer Nature and Peking University Press. This series presents the latest discoveries and developments of significance in linguistic research conducted by famous Chinese scholars. Titles in this series are carefully evaluated, examined and selected by Peking University (which ranks No. 10 in the world and No. 1 in China in the QS World University Rankings-Linguistics 2016) and Peking University Press (which was honored as the most influential publisher in linguistics according to Chinese Book Citation Index, 2016), covering all major aspects of linguistics—phonetics, phonology, pragmatics, semantics, morphology, syntax, theoretical linguistics, applied linguistics and inter-disciplinary studies. PKULR aims to provide an invaluable guide to the very nature of language. On the one hand, it tries to offer a thorough grounding in the fundamental concepts of linguistics; on the other hand, it also attaches great importance to the practical application of these concepts, esp. in Chinese context.

A Constructional Approach to Interpersonal Metaphor of Modality





Jian Hu School of Foreign Languages Beihang University Beijing, China

This book has been funded by Beijing Social Science Fund, project no. 16YYB012, at a later stage of the research.

ISSN 2662-3129 ISSN 2662-3137 (electronic)
Peking University Linguistics Research
ISBN 978-981-99-2763-0 ISBN 978-981-99-2764-7 (eBook)
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-2764-7

Jointly published with Peking University Press

The print edition is not for sale in China (Mainland). Customers from China (Mainland) please order the print book from: Peking University Press.

Translation from the Chinese language edition: "情态隐喻的认知构式研究" by Jian Hu, © Peking University Press 2020. Published by Peking University Press. All Rights Reserved.

© Peking University Press 2023

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publishers, the authors, and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publishers nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publishers remain neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

This Springer imprint is published by the registered company Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd. The registered company address is: 152 Beach Road, #21-01/04 Gateway East, Singapore 189721, Singapore

Acknowledgments

I am grateful to Prof. Mark Turner of CWRU and Prof. Wang Zhenya of BLCU for providing me the knowledge and challenges necessary to work on this project. I am also very thankful to Prof. Wei Naixin of Beihang University for precious encouragement and support. Gratitude also goes to Prof. Vera Tobin, Prof. Li Fuyin, Prof. Wen Jun, Prof. Feng Zengxin, Prof. Gao Mingle, Prof. Dong Qiming, and Prof. Liu Linjun for readings.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents and above all to my wonderful family, Mr. Guo Mi and Miss Guo Ruoxi, for their understanding and support over the years.

Contents

1	Intr	oduction	1
	1.1	Form-Meaning Mapping and Grammatical Metaphor	1
	1.2	Defining Interpersonal Metaphor of Modality	2
	1.3	Goals of This Book	3
	1.4	Theoretical Orientation	3
	1.5	Methodology Prospects	4
	1.6	Outline of the Book	5
	Refe	erences	5
2	GM	Theory and Interpersonal Metaphor of Modality	7
	2.1	The Theory of Grammatical Metaphor	7
		2.1.1 Clarification of Key Notions	7
		2.1.2 The Development of GM Theory	8
		2.1.3 Ideational Metaphor and Interpersonal Metaphor	12
		2.1.4 The Current State of GM Studies	15
	2.2	The Systemic Functional Approach to Modality	17
	2.3	SFL Approach to Interpersonal Metaphor of Modality	18
	2.4	The Semiotic Grammar Alternative to Metaphor of Modality	20
	2.5	The Problems with GM Theory and MM Studies	22
	2.6	Summary	24
	Refe	erences	25
3	Tow	ards a Constructional Approach to Metaphor of Modality	29
	3.1	General Research Questions	29
	3.2	Constructional Approaches to Grammar	30
		3.2.1 Cognitive Grammar as a Construction Grammar	31
		3.2.2 Cognitive Construction Grammar	32
	3.3	Subjectivity from a Constructional Perspective	34
		3.3.1 Modality and Subjectivity	34
		3.3.2 Subjectivity and Intersubjectivity	
		from a Constructional Perspective	37

viii Contents

	3.4	Towards the Constructional Approach to Metaphor	40
	3.5	of Modality	
	3.6	The Usage-Based Model	43 45
	3.7	The Corpus-Linguistic Methodology	43 47
		Summary	47
		erences	
4		Semantic Motivation of MM	51
	4.1	Theoretical Basis	51
	4.2	The Proposal of a Refined Model	56
	4.3	The Semantic Analysis of MM	59
	4.4	Summary	63
	Refe	erences	64
5	The	Lexical and Syntactic Properties of MM	67
	5.1	The Usage-Based Model and Corpus-Based Method	67
	5.2	The Syntactic Properties of MM	71
		5.2.1 Problems with Constituency Analysis	71
		5.2.2 The Syntagmatic Structure of MM	74
	5.3	[It be ADJ that P] Construction	76
		5.3.1 The Productivity of the Construction	76
		5.3.2 The Lexical Properties of the Construction	80
	5.4	[I V _{Mental} that P] Construction	87
	5.5	[I be ADJ that P] Construction	100
	5.6	Summary	102
	Refe	erences	102
6	The	Pragmatics and Discourse Functions of MM	105
	6.1	Discourse as the Research Instrument	105
	6.2	[I V _{Mental} that P] Constructions	107
		6.2.1 Functions of the Construction in Discourse	107
		6.2.2 The Distributional Features of the Construction	112
	6.3	[I V _{Verbal} that P] Constructions	114
	6.4	[It be ADJ that P] Construction	117
		6.4.1 The Functions of This Construction in Discourse	118
		6.4.2 The Distributional Features of the Construction	128
	6.5	Summary	136
	Refe	erences	137
7	Con	clusion	139
	7.1	Summary of Major Findings	139
	7.2	Implications and Contributions of the Study	141
	7.3	Limitations and Future Research	142
	Refe	erence	143

Contents	ix
----------	----

Appendix A	145
Appendix B	149
Appendix C	161
Appendix D	165
Appendix E	169
Bibliography	173

Abbreviations and Acronyms

A Addressee
ADJ Adjective
Adv. Adverb
Agt Agent

AM Affective modality

BCSN Basic communicative space network

CG Cognitive grammar

COCA Corpus of Contemporary American English
COHA Corpus of Historical American English

COMP-clause Complement clause

CT-clauses Complement-taking clauses

DM Deontic modality
EM Epistemic modality
GM Grammatical metaphor

H Hearer

ICE-GB International Corpus of English, Great Britain section

IS Immediate scope

LOB Lancaster-Oslo/Bergen corpus

MM Metaphors of Modality

MS Maximal scope of conception

NP Noun phrase
OBJ Object
P Proposition
Rec Recipient
S Speaker
SEM Semantics

SFG Systemic functional grammar SFL Systemic functional linguistics

SG Semiotic grammar

SUBJ Subject SYN Syntax V Verb

V_{mental} Mental verb

 V_{verbal} Verb of verbal process (speech act verb)

VP Vantage point

List of Figures

Fig. 2.1	Ravelli's model of grammatical metaphor as a semantic compound (From Ravelli, 1988: 137)	9
Fig. 2.2	System network of modality (Halliday & Matthiessen,	
	2004: 150)	18
Fig. 2.3	System of orientation types in modality (Halliday &	
	Matthiessen, 2004: 619)	18
Fig. 3.1	Construal configuration and its basic elements, (From	
	Verhagen, 2005: 41)	38
Fig. 3.2	Construal configuration for impersonal complementation	
	constructions (From Verhagen, 2005: 134)	39
Fig. 3.3	Symbolic structure of a construction (Croft & Cruse, 2004:	
	258)	40
Fig. 4.1	"Onstage" versus "Offstage" elements in construal	
	(Langacker, 2013: 3)	53
Fig. 4.2	Canonical viewing arrangement (Langacker, 1987: 139)	53
Fig. 4.3	Basic communicative space network (from Ferrari &	
	Sweetser, 2012: 49)	55
Fig. 4.4	The refined basic communicative space network	58
Fig. 4.5	Dimensions of VIEWPOINT space	58
Fig. 4.6	Mental space construal configuration for utterance	
_	with modal adjunct (14a)	59
Fig. 4.7	Mental space construal configuration for first-person modal	
_	expression (14b)	60
Fig. 4.8	Mental space construal configuration for impersonal	
	complementation construction (14c)	61
Fig. 5.1	Hierarchic organization of modal expressions	69
Fig. 5.2	Simplified VerbNet entry for a verb class (https://uvi.col	
_	orado.edu/uvi_search_anywhere)	89
Fig. 5.3	Mental space construal configuration for [I V _{Verbal} that P]	99
Fig. 6.1	Succession of space configuration in discourse	122

List of Tables

Table 2.1	Congruent pattern between the semantic and grammatical	
	categories in SFL (From Halliday, 2004, 1998): 40)	12
Table 4.1	Values of modality with verbs	61
Table 5.1	System of mental processes type	68
Table 5.2	Structure of it-extraposition	73
Table 5.3	Predicative adjectives used in [It be ADJ that-clause]	
	pattern in COCA	78
Table 5.4	Types of adjectives with extraposed it	80
Table 5.5	Matrix ADJ predicates of extraposed that-clauses	
	(Herriman, 2000: 597–598)	81
Table 5.6	Semantic classification of adjectival predicates in [It be	
	ADJ that-clause] construction	83
Table 5.7	Verbs and verb classes with the syntactic frame [I Verb	
	that P]	91
Table 5.8	Examples of verbs serving as process in mental clauses	
	(Adapted from Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004: 210)	92
Table 5.9	Verbs, verb classes, and process types with the syntactic	
	frame [I Verb that P]	94
Table 5.10	Working definitions of semantic categories adopted	
	in classification of modality	95
Table 5.11	Classification of [I Verb that P] constructions	96
Table 6.1	Distribution of [I V _{Mental} that P] construction	
	among different genres	112
Table 6.2	Distribution of [I V _{Verbal} that P] construction	
	among different genres	115
Table 6.3	Distribution of [It be ADJ that P] construction in COCA	
	among different genres	128