Critical Cognitive Linguistics

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Critical Cognitive Linguistics (CCL) is a multidisciplinary research field that has emerged in the past decade. It focuses on the correlation between discourse, society and cognition, and has generated considerable research outcomes. The book *Critical Cognitive Linguistics*, written by Hui Zhang and Tianwei Zhang, systematically introduces the mainstream theories, methodologies and approaches in CCL, as well as its applications in various fields. This work consists of two parts. The first part comprises Chapters 1-6, of which Chapter 1 serves as an introduction and Chapters 2-6 unfold theoretical underpinnings. The second part consists of Chapters 7-15, of which Chapters 7-14 present empirical studies, and Chapter 15 focuses on the challenges faced by CCL and suggestions for future research.

Chapter 1 expounds the status of CCL in critical discourse studies (CDS) and outlines its main research methods. As a branch of both CDS and cognitive linguistics (CL), CCL is a multifaceted and interdisciplinary research field capable of handling various types of corpora and drawing upon insights from humanities, social sciences and cognitive sciences. The authors contend that, although introspection is essential in the CCL research, empirical research approaches including corpus linguistics and psychological experimental approach have generated innovative outcomes and they represent the "experimental turn" in CDS (p. 15).

Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 discuss the dominant theories and applications of CCL. Chapter 2 focuses on the analyses of metaphor and metonymy in CDS. According to CL research, metaphor and metonymy are not just linguistic and rhetorical devices, but they are also cognitive means and reflect human beings' perceptions of the world. Hence, the choice of specific metaphors/metonymy in public and political discourse serves cognitive and communicative purposes. Similar discursive strategies can also be reflected in other modes in terms of multimodal metaphor and metonymy, which also function to shape and mirror social ideology, position and viewpoint.

Chapter 3 examines mental space, discourse space and Proximization theories. Mental space is a fundamental paradigm of CL and discourse space refers to the three-dimensional (space, time and modality/value) mental space constructed by speakers and writers (Chilton, 2004). Discourse space theory focuses primarily on the positioning of noun phrases in discourse space, rendering discourse space a static space incapable of describing the dynamic change process of discourse space. Recognizing this, Cap put forward the notion of "proximization", which he defined as a forced dynamic construal operation. These theories are illustrated with multiple case studies.

Chapters 4, 5 and 6 showcase foundational theories of CCL. Chapter 4 introduces the cognitive analysis model for critical discourse analysis (CDA) developed by Hart (2014), termed CL-CDA. Hart (2014) points out that CDA and construal operations in CL might be well integrated with each other to examine semantic and discursive formations, along with the stances and ideologies produced in the process. He analyzed the role of construal operations in discourse analysis and proposed the discursive strategies of structural configuration, framing, identification and positioning. Applying the strategies to English immigration discourse and political protest discourse, he is a seen as the pioneer advocating the "experimental turn" of CDS (p. xxiv). Chapter 5 introduces the socio-cognitive CDA developed by van Dijk (2008, 2009). This approach has laid an essential foundation for CCL's macro-analysis framework. Chapter 6 examines CDA from the perspective of Evolutionary Psychology (EP). EP is a new research domain of CDA. It assumes that psychology is composed of a large number of modules, and each module can address a specific problem related to humans' adaptive survival and reproduction in the evolutionary map. The overall goal of integrating EP and CDS is to explore the connection between discourse strategies and modules.

Chapters 7-9 focus on the applications of (multimodal) conceptual metaphor and metonymy. Chapter 7 presents a comparative case study of moral metaphors in English and Chinese political discourses, especially the projection of moral concepts therein. It is found that the scope of moral projection in English and Chinese is comparable, and the formation patterns of the two are also similar. Furthermore, there is a significant asymmetry of emotional valence distribution in both English and Chinese expressions, with negative emotions being expressed far more than positive emotions. Their distinction is most reflected in the formation of negative-emotion

words. This comparative analysis has enriched metaphor research by offering a new perspective on the relationship between metaphor, cognition and emotion. Chapter 8 investigates the function of conceptual metonymy in the production and comprehension of news coverage about migrant workers. Referring to Hart's (2011) classification of "inward" and "outward" metonymy in the analysis of migration discourse, the authors discover that there are both inward metonymy for instance "rural migrant labor" and outward metonymy like "new immigrants" in Chinese news reports about migrant workers; besides, there is a "complex" type such as "floating people" and "outside workers" (p. 118). This analysis confirms the critical significance of metonymy in discourse production and interpretation, and contributes to deepening readers' understanding of discourse as well as reforming relevant discursive practices. Chapter 9 identifies and interprets the multimodal metaphor and metonymy in *China's National Image Promotion: Perspectives*. It analyzes the interaction of these discursive strategies, and discusses their respective roles in the formation of multimodal discourse cohesion and coherence. Compared with previous organizationally stylized publicity discourse, this promotion video is more open, popular, friendly and persuasive.

Chapters 10-13 cast light on the studies adopting proximization theory. Chapter 10 utilizes this theory to investigate the foreign language reform policy of the College Entrance Exam or "Gaokao" in China. The authors discover that the evolutionary process of language policy is notably mirrored in the temporal and axiological axes. The time axis clearly demonstrates the key points of the changes in the college entrance examination policy. On the axiological axis, the norms of binary opposition are constructed, namely, "score only" before the reform correlating to the value "comprehensive evaluation" after the reform (p. 169). This study regards Language Policy and Planning (LPP) as a multi-level and dynamic process; it provides a more comprehensive perspective to explore the underlying political, economic, cultural motivations for the LPP change process. Chapter 11 analyzes the speech of the former foreign minister of Australia in the general debate of the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly. It investigates how political leaders construct discourse space, employ framing devices, and engage in construal operations to realize the purpose of coercive persuasion and to enhance the national image. Chapter 12 discusses the discourse of political conflicts. It selects the media reports of China, the United States and Syria on the local war in Syria, and uses discourse space theory,

proximization theory and corpus linguistic methods to examine the proximization strategies adopted by different parties on the same event reports so as to unveil their different political leanings. Chapter 13 scrutinizes the public health emergency discourse through a self-built corpus containing reports on the "2018 Changsheng Vaccine Scandal" by mainstream media in China, the United States and Britain. It demonstrates how different discourse producers adopt distinct proximization tactics to legitimate their stances and ideologies during the incident.

Chapter 14 focuses on intelligence discourse. To comprehensively study this type of discourse, the authors strive to establish a holistic analytical paradigm incorporating discourse space theory, critical metaphor analysis, and conceptual blending theory. Using seven reports relevant to Sino-US relations delivered by the US Intelligence Community as the corpus, this study identifies the linguistic strategies and cognitive biases that affect decision makers' judgments. Chapter 15 points out the shortcomings of CCL in terms of corpus selection, methodology construction and data interpretation, and offers suggestions on future studies. The authors advise that CCL research should highlight its interdisciplinary nature, constantly expand the research object and scope, and especially pay more attention to the empirical research methods.

In general, this is a cutting-edge, comprehensive, and well-organized book. With its systematic introduction of theories and approaches, and profound and pertinent analysis of data and cases drawn upon from various fields, this work can be utilized not only as a handbook for scholars and students in linguistics and applied linguistics, but also as a reference book for lay readers who are interested in this field. Considering that CCL as a branch of applied cognitive linguistics does not have a long history of development, the research methods and theoretical constructions in the book still need further improvement. In terms of data collection and methodology, the sociolinguistics research methods acclaimed by the authors including ethnography and sampling are not demonstrated in the case studies. In addition, it may be useful to synthesize the approaches introduced and utilized in the work, so as to construct a holistic theoretical framework. This will make this the whole work more systematic. Overall, however, this book is a pioneering and inspiring work that has made fundamental contributions to the "social turn" of CL (p. 275), and also provides a strong impetus for the progressive development of CDS, particularly in China's academia.

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