

Article Title

A Comparison of Word-formation between Chinese and English

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Bio Data

Aiguo Wang is Associate Professor and Director of the Linguistic Institute, Civil Aviation University of China. Besides his teaching of college intensive English, he is co-conducting research and studies on rhetoric for the Civil Aviation Administration of China. This research focuses on contrasting styles between East and West. Professor Wang is a co-author of the soon to be published books, "Olympic English for Cabin Attendants" and "Oral English on Campus." He obtained his BA and MA from Jilin University.

Abstract

Word-formation is the study of words, dealing with the construction or formation rules of words in a certain language. This paper studies and analyses various ways of Chinese and English word-formation so that similarities and differences are found between the two languages. Through comparison, Chinese or English learners could have a better way of acquiring either or both of the two languages concerned.

Key words

Lexicology; compound; derivation; affixation; conversion; blending; loans;

Word-formation or word formation is also known as morphology, which in linguistics represents the study of construction rules of words. Through studying and analyzing rules of Chinese and English word formation, both Chinese L2 and English L2 learners can also enlarge their native language vocabulary in addition to finding out the similarities and differences between the two languages concerned. The specific learner target groups, which could maximize such a contrastive approach will be left for others to determine and is beyond the scope of this paper, but nevertheless may represent a very worthwhile follow-up endeavor.

As early as in the Qin Dynasty in China, scholars began to notice the construction rules of Chinese words. Later in the Qing Dynasty, some works were written to explicitly analyze the formation of Chinese words. “Ma Shi Wen Tong” (Dr. Ma’s Argument) by Ma Jianzhong is a milestone of Chinese word study in ancient China. His opinion of “modifier + root >> word” and “root + root >> word” was quite close to that of modern Chinese linguists. After the “May 4 (1919) Movement”, more and more Chinese linguists began to study and analyze Chinese word-formation. Many books have been written and published ever since¹.

In 400 B.C., Indian linguist Panini described in detail how Sanskrit words were formed in his grammar book “Eight Chapter Book”. His view on word-formation had greatly influenced European lexicologists. However, little progress had been made in the study of word-formation since the time of Panini though various questions were raised by scholars in the 18th and 19th centuries. This was shown in many aspects of word study in the past centuries. One of the reasons was that study on word formation (lexicology) was not as

popular as linguistics at the beginning of the 20th century. Since 1916, Saussure's theory of synchronic and diachronic linguistics has had a great impact on the field of modern linguistic, yet its closely related subject of lexicology was simply put aside and paid little attention to. Linguists either focused on synchronic linguistics as L. Bloomfield did or just adopted diachronic linguistics as Kozoid did. In 1957, Noam Chomsky had his "Syntactic Structure" published, and syntax became a focus at that time while other structuralists went on with their studies on phonetics and morphology. In 1960, H. Marchand published his influential book "The Categories and Types of Present-Day English Word-formation", in which he disregarded synchronic and diachronic approach to word study. During the 1980s, linguists conducted their studies on word formation from different points of views: phonetic, synchronic and semantic respectively. More linguists intended to find out a universal grammar through their studies on the formation of words (Laurie Bauer, 1983:2-6).

In 1980, Ren Xue-liang had his book "Chinese Word-formation" published by China Social Sciences Press. In this book, the author proposed five approaches to word-coinage and word-formation: morphological approach, syntactical approach, rhetorical approach, phonetic approach and synthetic approach. Zhang Shou-kang, author of "A Brief Introduction to Chinese Word-formation", said that word-coinage and word-formation should go hand in hand. All words coined in whatever way have certain structures or follow certain rules (1983:104). This makes it possible for us to make a contrast of word-formation between Chinese and English.

I. Compounds of Chinese and English

Phonetic forms of Chinese compounds^{2,3}

(1) noun + noun >> compound:

lu + xian >> luxian

(road thread way)

mei + mu >> meimu

(eyebrow eye appearance)

shou + zu >> shouzu

(hand foot closetie)

fen + cun >> fencun

(foot inch extent/length)

bi + mò >> bimò

(pen ink handwriting)

ren + wù >> renwù

(person thing figure)

xiong + dì >> xiongdi

(elder brother younger brother brother)

fāng + yuán >> fāngyuán

(square circle area)

dōng + xi >> dōngxī

(east west thing)

(2) verb + noun >> noun compound:

chuan + piào >> chuanpiào

English compounds⁴

noun + noun >> compound noun:

air + line >> airline

air + port >> airport

eye + brow >> eyebrow

eye + sight >> eyesight

foot + ball >> football

book + worm >> bookworm

moon + light >> moonlight

tooth + brush >> toothbrush

pencil + box >> pencil-box

ball + pen >> ball-pen

ash + tray >> ashtray

verb + noun >> noun compound

play + boy >> playboy

(transmit ticket subpoena)

sī + jī >> sījī

(attend to machine driver)

tiao + zhan >> tiaozhan

(provoke fight challenge)

chàng + ge >> chàngge

(sing song sing (song))

qiān + míng >> qiānmíng

(sign name signature)

qi + cǎo >> qicao

(start draft draft)

an + xin >> anxin

(comfort heart set one's mind at ease)

(3) subject + predicate >> compound:

mín + zhǔ >> míngzhǔ

(people decide democracy)

xia + zhi >> xiazhi

(summer reach top Summer Solstice)

dì + zhèn >> dìzhèn

(earth quake earthquake)

xin + téng >> xinténg

(heart ache feel sorry)

xing + ji >> xingji

pick + pocket >> pickpocket

flash + light >> flashlight

push + button >> pushbutton

cut + bank >> cut-bank

cut + throat >> cutthroat

cut + line >> cut-line

make + weight >> makeweight

noun + verb >> compound:

head + ache >> headache

heart + attack >> heart-attack

ear + pick >> ear-pick

tear + drop >> teardrop

foot + note >> footnote

sun + rise >> sunrise

eye + reach >> eye-reach

hand + write >> handwriting

bus + stop >> bus-stop

(temper irascible short-tempered)

(4) verb + adverb >> compound:

shuo + ming >> shuoming

(say clearly explain)

tuī + fan >> tuīfan

(push over topple)

kuò + dà >> kuòdà

(extend largely enlarge)

da + dao >> dadao

(beat down overthrow)

tí + gāo >> tígāo

(lift high improve)

(5) modifier + stem >> compound noun;

hóng + qí >> hóngqí

(red flag red-flag)

hei + ban >> heiban

(black board blackboard)

fei + ji >> feiji

(flying machine plane)

zuò + tan >> zuòtan

(seat talk tea-party)

huǒ + chē >> huǒchē

(fire cart train)

verb + adverb >> compound

work + hard >> hardworking

last + ever >> everlasting

grow + out >> outgrown

take + off >> take-off

break + out >> outbreak

behave + well >> well-behaved

know + well >> well-known

break + down >> breakdown

take + over >> takeover

throw + over >> overthrow

adjective + noun >> compound:

green + house >> greenhouse

black + horse >> black-horse

black + board >> blackboard

high + way >> highway

blue + print >> blueprint

hot + line >> hotline

red + head >> redhead

red + neck >> redneck

safe + guard >> safeguard

cold + front >> cold-front

guang + gào >> guanggào

blue + eye >> blue-eyed

(extensively inform advertisement)

(6) relationships within Chinese noun compounds (semantic analysis of Chinese compounds):

N1 is the place where N2 operates or is located:

yanjing (eye lens) glasses

haitan (sea beach) beach

kongjun (air troops) air-force

shoubiao (hand watch) wristwatch

N1 depicts the form of N2:

bingshan (ice mountain) iceberg

bingtang (ice sugar) crystal sugar

kuamei (chunk coal) lump coal

zhuancha (brick tea) brick tea

N2 depicts the form of N1:

xuehua (snow flower) snowflake

langhua (wave flower) spray

bingkuai (ice piece) ice cube

shanfeng (mountain top) peak

N2 is used for N1:

caidao (vegetable knife) cleaver

jiku (machine store) hangar

yandou (tobacco cup) pipe

qiupai (ball paddle) racket

N1 is the habitat of N2:

haitun /hetun (sea/river) dolphin

shuiniào (water bird) aquatic bird

bihu (wall tiger) gecko

hainiu (sea cow) manatee

N2 is caused by N1:

shuizai (water disaster) flood

leihen (tear trace) tear stains

chehuò (vehicle misfortune) vehicle accident
xueyin (blood stamp) blood stain

N2 is produced by N1:

jidàn (chicken egg) egg

niunai (cow milk) milk

niuròu (cattle meat) beef

cansi (silkworm silk) silk

N1 is a metaphorical description of N2:

lóngtǐ (dragon body) emperor's health

tuoniao (camel bird) ostrich

huóchē (fire cart) train

chaiyou (firewood oil) diesel fuel

N1 is something that N2 has or contains:

mingpian (name strip) name card

shoutao (hand glove) glove

banma (stripe horse) zebra

cesuo (toilet place) lavatory

II. Derivations in Chinese and English

In both Chinese and English, many words are formed by adding affixes to roots. Roots are actually content morphemes or cores, carrying with them lexical meanings. Affixes could be either functional (grammatical) or semantic (lexical).

1. Functional (grammatical/phonetic) affixes

In Chinese, functional affixes may phonetically help balance words in pronunciation and grammatically indicate the plural form of pronouns. For example:

(1) prefix + root:

lao-(phonetic prefix): lao hu (tiger), lao shu (mouse), lao shi (teacher), lao xiang

(hometown fellow), lao zhang (Mr. Zhang), lao ye (grandfather), lao zei (old saying: bad guy).

a-(phonetic prefix): a yi (aunt), a ge (brother), a mei (sister), a ba (father), a san (name of a person, usu. the third born son).

zui-(grammatical prefix): zui hao (at best), zui huai (at worst), zui da (the biggest), zui jin (recently), zui gao (the highest), zui duo (at most), zui shao (at least).

(2) root + suffix

-zi(phonetic prefix): in lao zi (father), er zi (son), mao zi (hat), pang zi (fat man), dian zi (idea/proposal), pai zi (pat/rhythm), zhuo zi (desk), dao zi (knife), che zi (bike/car), hai zi (kid), tao zi (peach), li zi (plum).

-men(grammatical prefix): zan men (we), wo men (we), ni men (you plural form), ta men (they), ren men (people), gu niang men (girls), zhan shi men (soldiers).

In English, some suffixes are functional ones, they help change part of speech:

(1) nouns can be changed to adjectives by adding suffixes like “-al”, “-ous”, “-ful”, etc. For

example:

condition >> conditional, function >> functional, nation >> national;

danger >> dangerous, fame >> famous, courage >> courageous,

care >> careful, mouth >> mouthful, hand >> handful.

(2) verbs and adjectives can be changed to nouns by adding suffixes like “-ion”, “-ness”,

“-cy”, etc. For example:

generate >> generation, revolve >> revolution, evolve >> evolution,

precise >> preciseness, kind >> kindness, sad >> sadness, mad >> madness,

idiot >> idiocy, excellent >> excellency, bankrupt >> bankruptcy.

2. Semantic (lexical/content) affixes

Semantic affixes exist both in Chinese and English, they change the semantic meaning of words (Some semantic affixes in Chinese change both the meaning and parts of speech, therefore, these affixes in Chinese are called semi-affixes).

(1) semi-affixes in Chinese:

A. prefixes (they are usu. productive, functional and oriented):

ci- (next to/poor): as in ci da lu (subcontinent), ci yao (less important), ci pin (poor quality product), ci ri (next day), ci qiexian (sub-tangent).

ya- (second to): as in ya wenhua (subculture), ya jun (silver medal winner), ya redai (subtropical), ya zu (sub-tribe), ya wendai (sub-temperate), ya liusuan (sulphurous acid).

fei- (not): as in fei zhengshi (informal), fei fa (illegal), fei guanfang (unofficial), fei jinshu (nonmetal), fei shengchan (nonproductive), fei junshihua (demilitarize).

fan- (against): as in fan zhan (anti-war), fan geming (counterrevolutionary), fan gong (counterattack), fan bi (inverse ratio), fan dong (reactionary), fan kang (resist), fan she (reflex), fan shou (backhand), fan yi ci (antonym), fan su (countercharge), fan yu (irony), fan zuoyong (counteraction).

ban- (half/semi-): as in ban chengpin (semi-finished product), ban bian tian (half sky --- women in new China), ban daoti (semi-conductor), ban dao (peninsular), ban fengjian (semi-feudal), ban gongkai (semi-overt), ban guanfang (semi-official), ban jing (radius), ban qiu (hemisphere), ban tian (half of a day), ban ye (midnight), ban zidong (semi-automatic), ban tu (midway).

dan- (single/one): as in dan yi (unitary), dan du (alone), dan bian (unilateral), dan cheng (one way), dan ci (a word), dan diao (monotonous), dan fei (solo flight), dan jia (unit price), dan ju (simple sentence), dan shu (odd number), dan xibao (unicellular), dan xiang (individual event), dan yuan (unit).

shuang- (double/two): as in shuang bian (bilateral), shuang ceng (double-deck), shuang chun yin (bilabial sound), shuang fang (both sides), shuang gang (parallel bars), shuang hao (even numbers), shuang qin (parents), shuang shou (both hands), shuang yi ji (biplane), shuang yinjie (disyllable), shuang yuekan (bimonthly).

B. suffixes (they are also productive, functional and oriented)

-yuan (member/person): as in yan yuan (actor/actress), fuwu yuan (waiter/waitress), jiao yuan (teacher), dang yuan (Party member), chuishi yuan (cook), yao yuan (VIP), cheng yuan (member), zhi yuan (clerk), feixing yuan (pilot), jiashi yuan (driver), yanjiu yuan (researcher).

-min (person/folk): as in nong min (peasant), mu min (herdsman), yu min (fisherman), nan min (refugee), hui min (Hui nationality).

-xue (subject): as in wen xue (art), yuyan xue (linguistics), jingji xue (economics), shu xue (maths), wuli xue (physics), renlei xue (anthropology), hua xue (chemistry), shengwu xue (biology), shehui xue (sociology), kaogu xue (archeology), dongli xue (dynamics), tianwen xue (astronomy), zhe xue (philosophy).

(2) semantic affixes in English:

A. prefixes (prefixes modify the lexical meaning of the base. They do not generally alter the word-class of the base.)

un-(in-, im-, ir-, il-): as in unfair, unfamiliar, unusual, unofficial, unreasonable, inevitable, insecure, incapable, impossible, immovable, immature, irregular, irresistible, illegal, illiterate, illogical.

re-: as in recover, retell, revise, recount, recollect, reread, rewrite, rebirth, repeat.

semi-: as in semivowel, semi-infinite, semi-lunar, semi-metal, semi-manufactures, semi-desert, semi-dome, semi-annual, semi-proletariat, semiarid, semiautomatic.

super-: as in supermarket, superman, supernatural, super-conscious, super-conductive, super-cool, super-family, supersonic, superhighway, superheat.

tele-: as in telephone, telescope, telegram, telecommunication, television.

multi-: as in multilateral, multinational, multimedia, multi-vocal, multifunctional.

uni-: as in unilateral, universal, uniform, unicycle, unimodal, unisexual, univalent.

B. suffixes (most English suffixes change the word-class of the base, but some contain lexical meanings.)

-er (-or, -ee, -ist): as in worker, farmer, teacher, driver, lawyer, doctor, visitor, employer, employee, interviewer, interviewee, trainer, trainee, joker, scientist, socialist, capitalist, pianist, violinist, colonist, colonialist, chemist, linguist.

-less: as in careless, painless, stainless, joyless, hopeless, meaningless, useless, colorless, reasonless, childless, motherless, homeless, penniless, cheerless.

-man: as in postman, salesman, sportsman, workman, walkman, seaman, newsman, tradesman, marksman, merchantman, Frenchman, laundry-man, clergyman.

(3) repetition of words to form new ones (this is somewhat a special way of word-formation in Chinese)⁵:

AA-style (words in this style are mostly kin terms):

baba (father), mama (mother), gege (elder brother), didi (younger brother), jiejie (elder sister), meimei (younger sister), shushu/baibai/jiujiu (uncle), taitai (wife), xingxing (star/chimpanzee); cici (again and again), jianjian (piece by piece), tiantian (day by day), yueyue (month by month), niannian (year by year), jiajia (every household), huhu (every family); shuoshuo (to say), xiexie (to thank/write), tiaotiao (to jump), changchang (to sing), kankan (to see), zouzou (to walk).

ABAB-style:

taolun taolun (to have a discussion), canguan canguan (to pay a visit), duanlian duanlian (to take exercise), xuexi xuexi (to study), sikao sikao (to ponder)

III. Abbreviations in Chinese and English

Abbreviation is a way of word formation in the English language. It is also applicable in Chinese. But the word “simplification” or “word-clipping” could be a better one to denote abbreviation in Chinese. Let’s take a look at the following words:

Beijing dàxue >> bei dà (Beijing University)	huan jing bao hu >> huan bao (environmental protection)
chāoji shìchāng >> chāo shì (supermarket)	caise zhaopian >> cai zhao (colored photo)
minyong hangkong >> mín háng (civil aviation)	dadao biao zhun >> da biao (achieve standard)
zhanlan xiaoshou >> zhan xiao (exhibition for sale)	zaochen duanlian >> chen lian (morning exercises)
zhonghua renmin gong he guo >> zhong guo (People’s Republic of China)	zuo jia xie hui >> zuo xie (writers’ association)
zhengzhi xieshang >> zheng xie (political consultation)	canjia bisai >> can sai (participate in games)
waijiao buzhang >> wai zhang (foreign minister)	lieshi jiashu >> lie shu (martyr’s family)
guojia zichan guanli weiyuanhui >> guo zi wei (state property administration)	

English abbreviations include initialisms and acronyms

A. Initialisms (they are usu. pronounced letter by letter):

British Broadcasting Company >> BBC

European Union >> EU

International Olympic Committee >> IOC

Voice of America >> VOA

United Nations >> UN

United States of America >> USA

Greenwich Mean Time >> GMT

Central Intelligence Agency >> CIA

B. acronyms (they differ from initialisms in that they are pronounced as words rather than as sequences of letters):

North Atlantic Treaty Organization >> NATO

surface-to-air missile >> SAM

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization >> UNESCO

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries >> OPEC

IV. Blends in Chinese and English

Blending is a process of word-formation in which a new word is formed by combining the meanings and sounds of two words, one of which is not in its full form or both of them are not in their full forms. Blends can be found both in English and Chinese though the number of blends is small in the latter.

English blends:

Motorist + hotel >> motel

Europe + Asia >> Eurasia

Smoke + fog >> smog

news + broadcast >> newscast

Breakfast + lunch >> brunch

light + radar >> lidar

African + American >> Afro-american

situation + comedy >> sitcom

Lunar + astronaut >> lunarnaut

cosmology + astronaut >> cosmonaut

Taikong + astronaut >> taikonaut

flap + aileron >> flaperon

Chinese blends:

bu + yong >> beng (“not necessary”, embodied in the combination of two Chinese characters)

zhi + yao >> jiao (“as long as”, it’s a combination of two Chinese characters)

Yong kai shui tang >> cuan (“boil with hot water”, also a combination of two Chinese characters)

ba nu zi jie lai >> qu (“marry”, also a combination of two Chinese characters)⁶

V. Conversions in Chinese and English

Conversion is also known as word-class shift or functional shift, it involves shifting a word from one part of speech to another without changing its form. Both Chinese and English have conversion in word-formation. Take the following Chinese sentences for example:

A. jiao sun hou zai yeye de jian tou.

Lovely grandson monkey at grandpa’s shoulder.

(Here the Chinese word “hou” is used as verb, it means to “climb like a monkey.”)

B. zhe chang qiu sai you ta cai pan.

This (classifier) football game by him referee.

(“cai pan” is used as a verb here to mean “act/judge as a referee”.)

C. ta yan ci ji lie.

He utterance bitterly

(“yan ci” is a noun, but here it is used as a verb, it means to make utterances or to utter.)

There are similar class-shifts from noun to verbs in English, for example:

A. We can man 10 ships. (man: to provide men)

B. He plans to go to Japan. (plan: to make an arrangement)

C. John was orphaned at the age of six. (orphan: to become an orphan)

D. Please bottle some water for me. (bottle: to put into bottle)

Notice: Some adjectives in Chinese (not all of them) could be used as predicates in Chinese sentences while those in English could not. For example, we may say in Chinese:

A. ta de lian se cang bai.

Her face (color) pale

B. ta hen miao tiao.

She very slender

C. shui hen shen.

Water very deep.

Obviously, this does not work in English, because adjectives have to go with link verbs to serve as predicates in English. However, similarity between the two languages still exists in this aspect. In both languages adjectives could be used as nouns. But in English article “the” is put before an adjective to form a noun. Take Chinese for example:

A. qiong ze si bian.

Poor (leads to) consider change. (“poverty” will be used in English.)

B. qin lao shi ren cong ming.

Diligent makes one clever (“diligence” will be used in English)

C. jiao’ao shi ren luo hou, xu xin shi ren jin bu.

Proud makes one lag behind, modest makes him progress.

(“pride” will be used in English)

The following are two English sentences in which adjectives are shifted to nouns:

A. This is the school for the deaf and blind.

B. If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich.

(from Inaugural Address by J. F. Kennedy)⁷.

VI. Mutual loans in Chinese and English

With the development of science and technology, with the increasing exchange of culture and ideology, languages will inevitably supplement each other, especially with their words and vocabulary. On the one hand, many Chinese words went to English and were generally accepted, on the other hand, even more English words came to Chinese. The English language is extensively acquired by citizens in China, because the advanced science and technology are gaining their popularity not only in China but throughout the world.

1. Chinese loans from the English language:

1) phonetic translation:

bang (pound), suda (soda), qiaokeli (chocolate), sela (salad), sanmingzhi (sandwich), xiesidili (hysteria), aolinpike (Olympic), jita (guitar), baibai (bye-bye), katong (cartoon), tuteng (totem), shafa (sofa), da (dozen), kelong (clone), luoji (logic), dun (ton), leida (radar), nilong (nylon), bailandi (brandy), yinqing (engine), xianling (shilling), fei (fee), jiake (jacket), yopian (opium), keke (coco), xuejia (cigar), xiangbo (shampoo), beisi (bass), mangguo (mango), kaisimi (cashmere), mengtaiqi (montage), kafei (coffee), sha long (salon), fute (volt), sangba (samba), bangdi (bandage), jialun (gallon), disike (disco), anfeitaming (Amphetamine), jipu (jeep), pika (pickup), maikefeng (microphone), niguding (Nicotine), boyin (Boeing), oupeike (OPEC), jianeng (canon). Besides, there are many proper names of places and persons as well as brands of companies are phonetically accepted by Chinese, such as luoshanji (Los Angeles), niuyue (New York), lasiweijiasi (Las Vegas), kelingdun (Clinton), bushi (Bush), ligen (Reagan), fute (Ford), shashibiya (Shakespeare), haolaiwu (Hollywood), maidanglao (McDonald's), etc.

2) “phonetic + semantic” translation:

wutuobang (Utopia), julebu (club), youmo (humor), jianqiao (Cambridge), weitaming (Vitamin), mote'er (model), puke (poker), aizibing (AIDS), pijiu (beer), kabinqiang (carbine), kapiān (card), taifeitang (toffee), laiheng ji (leghorn), tuofu (TOEFL), dikejiating (dick), jiuba (bar), chetai (tyre/tire), tuokouxu (talk show), beilei mao (beret), baleiwu (ballet), gao'erfuqiu (golf), binqiling (ice-cream), dishi (taxi), bashi (bus), paidui (party), patuo (partner), laifuqiang (rifle), shahuqiu (shuffle), baolingqiu (bowling), hua'erjie (Wall street), xipishi (Hippies), disinileyuan (Disneyland), hanbao (hamburger), beifoli shangzhuang (Beverly Hill).

3) semantic translation:

ouyuan (Eurodollar), zhuixingzu (fans), gongjin (kilogram), meiyuan (US dollar), yingbang (British Pound), ouzhou zhaiquan (Eurobond), kongzhong keche (Airbus), niujin (Oxford), diguo zhuyi (imperialism), zhimin zhuyi (colonialism), shawen zhuyi (Chauvinism), feizaoju (soap opera), qingjing xiju (sitcom), lianbang kuaidi (FedEx), fulun she (Rotary club), da xiaotiao (the Great Depression), shanglaiti (sonnet), hong shizi (Red Cross), dianshi (television), lanqiu (basketball), shibao (times), jiguang (laser), jiaoxiangyue (symphony), gonghui (trade union), mianbao (bread), zhishang (IQ), heiren (black man), mangwen (Braille), jidutu (Christian), shengdan laoren (Santa Claus), xili (baptism), shengjing (Bible), jiaotang (church), qiaopai (bridge), zongtong (president), yiwen buming (has no money to one's name).

4) Direct loans (popular among the educated): UN, USA, UK, TV, WTO, NATO, W.C., IQ, OPEC, APEC, OK, UFO, BBC, MBA, NBA. IC, PC, CD, VCD, DVD, IT, SOS, EMS.

2. English loans from the Chinese language:

1) phonetic translation:

A. according to the standard Mandarin pronunciation: putonghua, jiaozi, kow-tow, weiqi, majiang, Beijing, coolie, ginseng (herb medicine), gaoliang (crop), qigong, wushu/gongfu (martial arts), chow mein (fried noodle), suanpan (Chinese calculator), kang (bed), mu (measurement of land), liang, jin (measurement of weight), li (measurement of distance), yuan, jiao, fen⁸ erhu (a musical instrument), chilin, xiucai (talent), yamen (government office in ancient China), dazibao (big-character poster, popular in the period of Great Culture Revolution), fenghuang (phoenix), pipa, erhu (musical instruments) , yang ko (rural folk dance), Wu Liang Ye (liquor), Moutai/Maotai (liquor), kaoliang (a kind of crops), yamen (administration in old times), feng shui (geomantic omen), yen (addition).

B. according to the Southern (or coastal) dialect pronunciation: tea, congou (tea), pekoe (tea), hyson (tea), oolong (tea), silk, pongee (silk), shantung (silk), litchi, cumquat (orange), loquat (musical instrument), chop suey (food), sampan (deck), cumshaw (thank), chin chin (please), tong (hall), Tai Chi, cheongsam (long dress), won ton, longan (a kind of fruit), Cantonese, Hainanese , Chingming (Pure Brightness, the 5th solar term), typhoon,

2) semantic translation:

bean curd, soya sauce, steamed bun, spring roll, moon cake, chopsticks, Chinese rose, Chinese yam, China grass, horoscope, mandarin duck, panda, phoenix, gold fish, joss house (temple), incense, firecrackers/fireworks, monk, tael, yellow jackey, acupuncture⁹, cupping, empty word, sworn brother, big character posters, tung oil, brick tea, Beijing Opera, Confucius, Daoism, Buddha¹⁰, Confucianism, Four Books, Five Classics, Eight

Legged Essay, Eight Power Allied Force, paper tiger, Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution, Little Red Book, capitalist roader, Gang of Four, Chinese herbal medicine. These words and phrases are “Creoles” at first, but as they are gradually accepted by the English speakers, and collected in the English dictionaries. Maybe it is better to call them “loans” in this case.

3. English with typical Chinese characteristics (reflection of reform and open policy): laid off workers, official profiteering, Two Civilizations, Four Modernizations, One China policy, triangle debts/chain debts, construct clean politics, macro-economic control system, a collective ownership employee, bourgeois liberalism, special economic (development) zone (or SEZ), Opening Up/Open door policy, reform and opening up program, non-state industries, state manufacturers, floating population, vegetable basket project, planned commodity economy, fairly comfortable standard of living, iron rice bowl, enterprise contracted production system, family contract responsibility system, township enterprises, knowledge economy, spiritual pollution, one country two system, the “one family, one child” policy. Precious food like “birds nest, bears paw”; work point, Great Wall, Red Guard, PLA men.

Besides, there are some words and expressions with conspicuous cultural traces of Chinese nationality: beggars chicken; barefoot doctor; reform through labor; work one's heart out. Funny idioms like: “people mountains and people seas”; “one arrow two hawks”. These words refract the specific culture connotation of Chinese nationality in the specific history periods, express some unprecedented concepts, and exhibit the English culture of “getting rid of the stale and taking in the fresh”. Consequently, the things that English has

absorbed are not only loanwords, but also the exotic culture character they refracted, which may explain why English has become the international commonly used language.

Mutual loans in the two languages are not as many as mutual loans, say, between French and English or between German and English. This is because Chinese and English belong to different language systems. Another reason is that China had carried out “lock door” policy for a long time, especially in the Qing Dynasty. Thus a language barrier was formed and the cultural exchanges were terminated as well. But after the open policy was carried out, modern Chinese are striving to develop China’s economy, and to catch up with the technologically advanced Western World. The Chinese language, as a result of the policy, is also regaining its own prestige after a long-time depression.

VII. **Newly-coined words:**

With the rapid development of science and technology, more and more frequent intercommunication among people is being conducted each day with the aid of Internet. A language revolution is going on in the virtual world. New words and expressions pop up everyday and are being spread at very high speed. For example: netter, nettie, net-writing, net-writer, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, (Wireless Fidelity), Hi-Fi, (High Fidelity), 3-G (Generation Three), PHS (Personal Handyphone System), Walkie-Talkie, Gotone, GPS (Global Positioning System), Monternet (Mobile + Internet), GPRS (General Packet Radio Service), SMS (Short Message Service), MMS (Multi-media Messaging Service), SIM (Subscriber Identity Module), GSM (Global System For Mobile Communications), WAP (Wireless Application Protocol), PAS (Personal Access System), CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access), pre-paid Phone Card, roaming, Voice Prompt, WLANs (Wireless Local Area Networks), DV (Digital Video), 3-D (Three-Dimension), LCD (Liquid Crystal

Display). In addition, many derived words and expressions with the joint of the prefix “cyber-”: cyber culture, cyber chat, cyber news, cyber punk, cyber space, cyber mania, cyber source, etc.

Since Watergate event of Nixon became a political scandal in 1972, new words grafted by the suffix “-gate” frequently appear in the television programs and media. For example: debategate, irangate, whitegate, cartergate, nannygate. Besides, derivations with the aid of the word “-speak” include: computer-speak, business-speak, sports-speak, bureau-speak, summit-speak, college-speak, olympspeak.

Chinese new words and expressions are derived with the new meanings of English words:

Window >> chuang hu >> dian nao shi chuang

mouse >> laoshu >> shu biao

memory >> jiyi >> nei cun

library >> tushu guan >> xinxi ku.

VIII. Conclusion:

Through a detailed comparison of word-formation between the two languages, we can see that similarity exists between the two although they belong to different writing systems, one is graphic and the other alphabetic; one is inflectional (English) while the other is not. Both languages have compounds, affixations, conversions, blends, abbreviations and loans. They are more or less similar in essence to each other in word formation. In the past, many Chinese words were borrowed into the English language, but in the modern age, more and more English words are coming into the Chinese language. What all this tells us is that science and technology are leading human society forwards, and that the world is making

progress in this way or that. Language (vocabulary in this connection) is in constant change so that it keeps pace with the development of human society. So in the long run, the mutual influences will continue as long as Chinese and English people communicate with each other. The trend is that there will be more and more loans and derivations in the two languages.

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Affixation on the contrary was productive in Old English and is still one of the most productive ways of word building in Modern English. Word-building is one of the main ways of enriching vocabulary. There are four main ways of word-building in modern English: affixation, composition, conversion, abbreviation. There are also secondary ways of word-building: sound interchange, stress interchange, sound imitation, blends, back formation.

4. According to the relations between the components compound words are subdivided into compound words. Chinese and English compounds: Definition and formation. In order to successfully identify compounds in both Chinese and English, it is important to know what are the basic constituents required to make a compound word. One kind of bound root is positionally restricted and selects A COMPARISON OF COMPOUNDING IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH 4. free morphemes, two examples in Pirani (2008) are listed in (2): (2) lao shi gong cheng shi. Another difference between English and Chinese compound words indicated by Lieber (2005) is that while English is highly productive in synthetic compounds, Chinese is not. In linguistics, word formation is the creation of a new word. Word formation is sometimes contrasted with semantic change, which is a change in a single word's meaning. The boundary between word formation and semantic change can be difficult to define as a new use of an old word can be seen as a new word derived from an old one and identical to it in form. See 'conversion'. There are a number of methods of word formation.