

Research on Conceptual Semantic Elements and Path Expansion of Modern Chinese Motive "V Lai" Movement Displacement Event Expression

Xiaofei Li^{1,2}, Xia Li²

¹International College of Chinese Studies, Shanghai Normal University, Shanghai, 200234, China

²Nanjing Normal University Taizhou College, Taizhou, Jiangsu, 225300, China

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Abstract: Modern Chinese "V Lai" can be used to express complex motion displacement events. This paper analyzes the characteristics of the conceptual semantic elements of the motion displacement event, such as the motion subject, the motion direction and the motion vector, the reasons and ways of motion, etc., and discusses the types of motion displacement expressions of "V Lai" in physical space and virtual space and the reasons for path expansion.

1. Introduction

In modern Chinese, the directional verb "Lai" is often used as a complement after the verb, which indicates that a person or thing moves to the speaker's foothold under the action of "V". Such as:

(1) These days, Chen Kunsheng "Ban Lai" a bed, "Yunlai" a sofa and "Kanglai" a box.

(2) Sometimes I see a small village among the green trees in the distance. From there, "Piaolai" smells of moisture and hemp. I don't know how to make people feel that there are happy people living there.

The "V Lai", which expresses the tendency of action, can be regarded as a movement displacement event. This paper will focus on discussing the characteristics of conceptual elements, expressions and the reasons for the expansion of displacement path expression of "V Lai" movement displacement events.

2. Conceptual semantic elements of motion displacement event expression of verb "V Lai"

Talmy (1985) thinks that sports events are composed of central components and non-central components. The central component consists of four elements: the moving body, the reference point of the movement, the path and the movement, while the non-central element consists of the way in which the moving body moves, the cause, the environment and the result state. When the movement involves displacement, the movement event may also have two backgrounds of "starting point" and "ending point". Sports events also involve the subject of cognitive activities, cognitive jurisdiction and reference point. When describing sports events, the speaker can highlight different components according to communicative needs.

The movement displacement event represented by "V Lai" involves the elements such as moving

body, path, starting point and ending point of movement, cognitive activity subject, etc. Among them, the displacement motion subject and motion path are the prominent foreground information, and the mode and motivation of motion are the background information.

2.1 Motion subject

The displacement subject of verb "V Lai" can be a concrete person or thing, or an abstract phenomenon, thought, idea, etc. For example:

(3) Geng Lin looked back at Lou Hong and found that she had new tears "Yongchulai".

(4) A wisp of evening wind "Songlai" the soft song of spring warblers, which gently awakened me in reverie.

2.2 Motion path

Chang Na (2018) thinks that the core concepts of spatial displacement expression of directional complement in Chinese expression are mainly "direction" and "vector". From the perspective of "direction", the movement trend of "V Lai" is different from other directional verbs, and the movement direction of the moving body indicated by general directional verbs is often objective and clear (for example, the movement direction indicated by "V Shang" is from low to high, and that indicated by "V Xia" is from high to low). However, the direction of motion represented by "V Lai" is subjective and uncertain, and it often takes the speaker as the reference point. The actual direction of motion of "V Lai" shows different changes with the speaker's foothold.

From the perspective of "vector", Talmy (2000) classified "vector" into three categories: departure, arrival and traversal. The displacement direction of the verb "V Lai" is opposite to that of "V Qu", which represents the vector "arrival", pointing from the starting point to the end point, and gradually "reaching" the speaker (reference point) from the position far away from the speaker.

2.3 Movement mode

In the verb "V Lai", the verb "v" is the movement mode and motivation of the movement subject. From the semantic features, there are different types of "v" in the verb-driven "V Lai".

2.3.1 The type of verb "V"

From the semantic features, the "v" in the verb "V Lai" is an action behavior that can be decided by the action sender, subjectively and freely, and has the common feature of [+autonomy]. In addition, from the corpus, most "V" has the semantic feature of [+displacement], and some [-displacement] verbs "V" can enter this structure. Accordingly, we divide the verb "V" in this structure into "displacement autonomous verbs" and "non-displacement autonomous verbs".

2.3.1.1 Displacement-like autonomous verbs. This kind of verb has the semantic features of [+autonomous] [+displacement] [+action], depending on the source of motive force. "V Lai" can be divided into two categories: displacement caused by self-power and displacement caused by other forces (external forces). We call the former "self-displacement autonomous verb" and the latter "other-displacement autonomous verb".

① Self-displacement autonomous verbs. These verbs include "roll, walk, run, climb" and so on. The motive force of the verb "V Lai" comes from the moving body itself, and "v" and "Lai" semantically point to the common agent component. Such as:

(5) Suddenly there was a loud noise from the mountain, and a huge stone rolled towards them from the hillside, with a "bang" sound.

Suddenly there was a loud noise from the mountain, and a huge stone "Gunlai" from the hillside

to them, with a "bang" sound.

(6) Once, when I was walking in Dongfeng Street in Taipei, I saw a woman "Zoulai" across the street, wearing a black coat and sunglasses. When I got closer, I realized that she was Hu Yimeng.

② The third person displacement autonomous verb. These verbs include "send, transport, take, lift" and so on. The motive force of the motion displacement of the verb "V Lai" comes from something other than the moving body. The verb "V" semantically points to the actor who acts, and the verb "Lai" semantically points to the patient of the verb "V". Such as:

(7) Before leaving, they often prepare all kinds of food for me, Zhuoma "Songlai" boiled eggs, Tashi "Songlai" hot sweet tea...

(8) In order to eliminate the mice, the expedition "Yunlai" four domestic cats. As a result, the number of mice gradually decreased, and the cats multiplied rapidly, which eventually became a disaster. 60,000 cats eat more than 600,000 birds every day.

2.3.1.2 Non-displacement autonomous verbs. Non-displacement autonomous verbs have the semantic features of [-displacement] [+autonomy] [+action]. These verbs include "cut, stir-fry, boil, cut" and so on. On the one hand, there is temporal succession between the verbs "V" and "Lai" (which can be understood as "V before Lai"). On the other hand, the verb "V" semantically refers to the action sender's agent, and "Lai" semantically refers to the patient of the verb "V". Such as:

(9) Zhu Wenhua frowned secretly, thinking, "Why do girls drink?" The old man in the shop "Qielai" pot-stewed meat for the three people one after another, and sent them to the hip flask so that they could eat and drink slowly first.

(10) Nowadays, when we are in the metropolis, except bamboo poles, there are bamboo shoots eaten by "Chaolai", and others are few and far between!

2.3.2 Frequency distribution of "V"

We randomly selected 1000 pieces of corpus from BCC corpus, and extracted 412 pieces of effective corpus with "Lai" as complement. Among them, there are 368 "v lai" (accounting for 89.3%), and there are V"98 different verbs "v" (86 monosyllabic verbs, accounting for 87.76%; There are 12 disyllabic verbs, accounting for 12.24%), and the analysis results are as follows:

First, from the frequency of use, there are 89 (90.82%) displacement autonomous verbs > 9 (10.8%) non-displacement autonomous verbs, 65 (73.03%) self-displacement autonomous verbs > 24 (26.97%) third person displacement autonomous verbs. It can be seen that the self-displacement autonomous verb is a classic prototype in the verb "V Lai".

Secondly, from the internal structure, the verb "v" and "Lai" have different degrees of tightness. Self-displacement autonomous verbs > third person displacement autonomous verbs > non-displacement autonomous verbs. Syntactically, it shows that no other elements can be inserted between the self-displacement autonomous verb and "Lai", and other elements can be inserted between the third-person displacement autonomous verb and the non-displacement autonomous verb after being combined with "Lai".

Thirdly, from the syllable point of view, the "v" in the verb "V Lai" is mainly monosyllabic, and only a few disyllabic verbs (such as "get up", "invite", "drive", "prepare" and "no" etc.) can enter it. There are no examples of polysyllabic verbs entering this structure in the corpus we searched.

3. Motion displacement event expression and extension path of verb "V Lai"

Chang Na (2018) pointed out that "the displacement event refers to the displacement event of the displacement subject in space, including the displacement event in physical space and the displacement event in virtual space."^[1] The verb "V Lai" can be used to express reality, concrete physical space displacement and abstract virtual space movement events.

3.1 Expression of motion displacement events in physical space

The characteristics of the expression of physical movement displacement events are that the elements of displacement expression are concrete and truly visible: the displacement subject is a specific person or thing, the displacement path is a visible realistic path, and the displacement end point is a specific place. The main forms of expression are:

① (Prep)+(N_{place}) +V Lai+(NUM)¹+N_{give}, Such as:

(11) At this time, a white goose “zoulai” by the courtyard. Seeing the big green beads, it rushed up and swallowed them in one gulp.

(12) You don't know, the wind here is very strong. Sand “gualai” from the desert will soon pile up on our back wall.

② (N_{give}) +V Lai+(NUM) +N_{receive}, Such as:

(13) Without a blackboard, Bi Guocai “tailai” two boards from home and painted them with pot smoke as a blackboard.

(14) A large company “yunlai” six sets of decorative goods at a time. On the way, two boxes of goods were stolen, and there was only one box left.

3.2 Motion displacement event expression in virtual space

Different from the actual expression of physical space movement displacement events, the elements expressed by virtual space displacement events show virtual features: the displacement subject is mostly abstract emotion or concept, the displacement path is a virtual path at the psychological level, and the end point of displacement is not a specific place. In the abstract virtual space, the expression types of motion displacement events of "V Lai" mainly include:

a) It is used to express the whole spatial movement events of items with low tactile property, and the syntactic expression is mostly “N_{give}+V Lai” and “(N_{place}) +V Lai+(NUM)”. Such as:

(15) When the spring “chuilai” of the talent market blows, the card doesn't work, and these people are going south and east one after another.

(16) Suddenly, the sound of a piano “Piaolai” in the distance, faintly like Beethoven's "Moonlight".

b) Highlight the end point of the movement and displacement of the moving object, which is used to indicate the completion of the action, the achievement of a certain goal, and the appearance of a certain result. The syntactic expression form is: “N_{give}+V Lai”. Such as:

(17) The young mother “Xinglai” from her sleep. She loves her husband and brings her a cup of hot milk.

c) Highlighting the vector characteristics of "arrival" in the table of moving objects, the verb "V Lai" can be used to express the harmony between subjects. The syntactic expression form is: NP1+“and”+NP2+V+de/bu+“Lai”. Such as:

(18) Tell your Wendi, I “shuobulai” to A Rong.

(19) How's Roger doing? I think he is "chudelai" with other children? If not, please tell me straight away.

On the other hand, it can indicate that the give subject is incapable or unaccustomed to “VN_{receive}”. Its syntactic form is: N_{receive}+N_{give}+V+no+“Lai”. Such as:

(20) I am an outsider. I have just joined the revolutionary work. I am doing jerky affairs. Maybe it's okay. Let me take the lead. I really “ganbulai”.

(21) Cardamom had to tell herself: "No, a bumpkin," “Chibulai” foreign bread. "

¹ NUM is a name phrase.

3.3 Cognitive analysis of "V Lai" motion displacement event

In the 368 "V Lai" corpus of motion displacement events extracted from BCC, there are 324 "V Lai" of motion displacement in physical space, accounting for 88.04%. There are 44 "V Lai" items representing the movement and displacement events in virtual space, accounting for 11.96%. Obviously, "V Lai" mainly expresses the displacement of a moving body in a specific physical space.

The expression of "Lai" in concrete physical space means that "people or objects move to the foothold where the speaker is located under the action of V". Through metaphor, the concrete displacement of the real physical space is projected into the abstract virtual space of psychology and thought, expressing the abstract virtual movement displacement. When the moving object in physical space moves from far to near to the speaker's position, the object is getting closer to the speaker (reference point), and when the distance reduction in concrete space is projected on people's psychology, the intimate and harmonious relationship can be extracted. As the intimate and harmonious relationship between things is further highlighted, two things close to each other will become more familiar, and give things will judge whether they are competent for a certain job. In addition, as the moving body approaches to the end of the movement (the speaker's foothold), the end of the movement is gradually highlighted. This verb can be used to indicate the completion of the action, the achievement of a certain purpose or the occurrence of a certain result.

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