

从汉字来的同源词

Cognates in Chinese and Chinese

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我是一个在学习中文的美国学生。我知道汉字最难，这是中文和英文最不一样的地方。可是很多学习中文的学生可能不知道中文和英文也有很多同源词。有一些汉字来自英文，有一些英语短语来自汉语。如果你明白西方和东方交流的历史，你会觉得这些同源词很有意思。

在世界历史上，欧洲人跟中国人因为贸易见面。最先是丝绸之路，再是英国占领的时代，然后是现代企业。贸易给我们大多描述行为的短语。例如，美国人常常说“kowitz”描述一个最服从的人。我们也用“kung ho。”有一个英国将军去工业合作社。看到很热情的工人，不明白为什么欧洲的工人很懒惰。所以，说“工合”描述中国人的行为。最后，英文短语“to lose face”从中国习惯来的。在中华文化，丢面子是一个家庭的耻辱。面子对中国人是很重要德。还有，西方文化比中华文化无礼。中国商人没有欧洲商人说笑的习惯。中国人听欧洲人说“humor”所以就把这个词翻译成“幽默”。

移民给我们很多食物词汇，因为在美国中国人开很多餐厅。在淘金时代，很多中国人从亚洲来住在旧金山。他们开很多餐厅。美国人很喜欢“炒“菜，也就是一盘油煎的菜。所以我们现在说“chow，”就是“炒“。一些食物的汉字从粤语来的。例如，“chop suey”是一个粤语汉字。是杂碎的意思。有很多从美国来的汉字。“可口可乐”是从“coca-cola”翻译的。一个奇怪的从中文来的英文是“ketchup”。这个翻译经过马来西亚的词，在那儿泡鱼的酱醋叫“keitsiap。”有的时候，中文喜欢用意思来翻译

一个外来词。比方说，“tomato”叫西红柿。这是因为中国人以前没有见过这个食物，因为是从“西方”来的，看起来像一个柿子，所以叫西红柿。

东方离西方很远，没有很多交流。这样的同源词像宝，我觉得学习这些词很重要。

Vocab List

同源 Tóng yuán– cognate

到处 Dàochù– everywhere

明白 Míngbái– understand

贸易 Mào yì– trade

例如 Lì rú– for example

欧洲 Ōu zhōu – Europe

亚洲 Yà zhōu – Asia

商人 Shāng rén – merchants

丝路 Sī lù – silk road

有礼貌 Yǒu lǐ mào– polite

服从的 Fú cóng de – submissive

热情 Rè qíng – enthusiasm

现代企业 Xiàn dài qǐ yè– modern business

将军 Jiāng jūn – general

介绍了 Jiè shào le – to introduce

工业合作社 Gōng yè hé zuò shè – industrial cooperative

丢面子 Diū miàn zi – to lose face

家庭的耻辱 Jiā tíng de chǐ rǔ – to dishonor the family

幽默 Yōumò – humor
词汇 Cíhuì – vocabulary
粤语 Yuèyǔ – Cantonese
淘金 Táojīn – gold rush
杂碎 Zásuì – leftovers
酱醋 Jiàng cù – vinegar sauce
行为 Xíngwéi – behavior
宝 Bǎo – treasure
描述 Miáoshù – describe
明白 Míngbái – understand
无礼 Wú lǐ – rude
移民 Yímín – immigration
翻译 Fānyì – translate
懒惰 Lǎnduò – lazy
德 Dé – virtue
说笑 Shuōxiào – joke
译成 Yì chéng – to translate into
时代 Shídài – era
翻译 Fānyì – translate
泡 Pào - to soak
外来词 Wàilái cí – foreign words

Chinese Cognates

I am an American student of Chinese. I know how difficult it is because Chinese characters and English words are nothing alike. However, cognates give Chinese students everywhere a lot of hope. There are some Chinese characters that originated from English, there are some English phrases that come from Chinese. If you understand the history of Western and Eastern cultural exchange, you will find these cognates is very interesting.

In world history, the Europeans first met with the Chinese because of trade. First is the Silk Road, and then the era of British occupation, then the modern business. Most of the cognates from that period describe behavior. For example, Americans often say “kowtow” to describe how submissive the Chinese people were. We also use the “gung ho.” A British general to industrial cooperatives. There, he saw how enthusiastic the workers were, which he couldn’t comprehend because Europeans are so lazy. So, we now say say “working together” to describe the behavior of the Chinese people. Finally, the English phrase “to lose face” used to come from China. In Chinese culture, losing face means to bring shame to your family. In China, this is very important. On the other hand, Western culture is more crude and loud than Chinese culture. Chinese businessmen did not have this habit. They heard them say “humor” and say “youmo”

Immigration gave us a lot of words about food because Chinese people opened many restaurants in America. In the gold rush, many Chinese people moved from Asia to live in San Francisco. They opened a lot of restaurants. Americans like their “chao”, a fried dish. So we now say “chow.” Some food words come from Cantonese. For example, “chop suey” is a Cantonese Chinese word. It means leftovers. There are also many characters from the United States. “Kekoukele” is a translation of “coca-cola.” A strange word from Chinese to English is “ketchup” traveling through Malaysia. There, vinegary fish sauce is called “keitsiap.” Sometimes, the Chinese use the meaning to translate. A tomato a “Western” because the Chinese people have never seen, and it looks like a persimmon.

The east is very far from the west, and they have not had a lot of cultural contact. So cognates are important, like rare treasure.