

The Phased Evolution of Hot Issues in the Study of Construction Grammar in China in the Past Two Decades

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Abstract: In the past two years, construction grammar has attracted much attention in China, with in-depth research and frequent hot changes. Based on this, the quantitative research method is adopted to integrate the synteny and diachronic dimensions, extract and analyze the keywords of the literature with the help of CiteSpace and other tools, and draw the graph. The aim is to reveal the hot issues and periodic evolution of construction grammar research in China from 2003 to 2023, and divide this period into three stages: the exploration period from 2003-2012, the development period from 2013-2017, and the reflection period from 2018-2023. The research shows that the research of construction grammar in China moves from multiple exploration to focusing on development, and then to deepening and expanding, which also provides stage-by-stage summaries and directional references for further research on construction grammar by practitioners in higher education in the future.

Keyword: Construction Grammar; Hot Issue; Stage Evolution; CiteSpace; Knowledge Graph

1. Introduction

In the past two decades, the research field of construction grammar has shown a significant active situation, and the academic circle has a rich discussion on "construction grammar". For example, Wen xu and Si Weiguo comprehensively sorted out the construction grammar literature published from 1985 to 2022, which provided reference for the future and domestic research of construction grammar.[1] Wu Shuqiong et al. conducted quantitative research on temporal cognitive linguistics based on the corpus, which opened up a new research path for the development of

construction grammar.[2] In addition, Zhang [3], Zhang [4], Li [5], Xia [6], Lu [7] and other scholars have successively conducted an in-depth discussion and analysis of the domestic construction grammar.

According to the above research results, according to the characteristics of different stages of development, we divided the domestic construction grammar research into three periods: 2003-2012 (exploration period), 2013-2017 (development period), and 2018-2023 (reflection period). In addition, we extracted and analyzed the construction grammar research literature of each time period, drew the knowledge map, showed the distribution status of hot keyword groups in each period, and then summarized the trajectory of their transfer evolution through durmonic comparison.

2. 2003-2012 (Exploratory Period) Hot Issues on Construction Grammar

623 articles related to the case study on the construction of CNKI China knowledge Network in 2003 and 2012 were selected and extracted, introduced into CiteSpace, and the relevant parameters were set to generate a co-occurrence graph of related keywords with 301 nodes and 418 lines. The high-frequency keywords were sorted and sorted out, and 37 high-frequency keywords with frequency ≥ 4 were obtained.

In general, the research of Chinese construction grammar in the exploration period presents a situation of multiple coexistence and interweaving, and the research focus is diversified. Specifically, the hot topics of structural case studies include:

2.1 A Study of Catchwords

In the study of Chinese construction, in addition to some ambiguous sentence patterns and daily expressions, the network popular construction accounts for a large part of the

research. The popular Construction involved in the case study of exploratory construction carry out different levels of language, including lexical Construction such as “X Gate” “X Control” and “Xiu X”, as well as textual Construction such as “every object” “roaring style” and “Zhen Huan style”, as well as those between words and texts, such as “there is an X called Y” and “X what X” and so on. Zhang Jianli and Zhu Junwei pointed out that the academic circles have conducted in-depth discussions on the long-term stable construction in language, such as two-object construction and resulting mobile construction, but the recent research on high-frequency protrusion construction in a short period of time is relatively insufficient.[8] For this new language phenomenon, the causes and reason of this popular language construction are studied from the aspects of its construction type, the mechanism of production, its construction meaning, and the motivation from the society.

2.2 The Study of Discourse Construction

The concept of discourse construction was first put forward by Ostman, who proposed that the research results of discourse and pragmatics should be fully learned from, and the corresponding views should be incorporated into the discourse construction grammar to establish the research view of discourse construction. YuanYe to the discourse construction grammar and discourse construction suppression is introduced, and points out that the context metaphor and mixed discourse construction grammar further enrich the power, discourse architecture grammar will become a unique new system of discourse linguistics. [9] It also officially opened the prelude of domestic discourse construction research, provides a new path for Chinese construction grammar research.

2.3 Quantitative and Statistical Research

The Chinese structural research mainly applies the quantitative statistical method of corpus, which is also one of the main features of the domestic structural research in the exploration period. It is also applied by the visual analysis software such as CiteSpace. The quantitative method is the investigation of the structural interaction relationship, presents the evolution process and theoretical framework of the

construction grammar research, and provides a relatively objective method, which makes up for the defects of the previous research on introspection and light data.

2.4 Diachronic Structural Research

From the perspective of research dimension, the study of construction grammar in the past is more temporal and less duration. Time research of Chinese architecture has made phased achievements, in recent years, academia gradually realize the importance of last research, last construction grammar research results increasing, focusing on the evolution of the construction as a whole, make up for the traditional grammar research only form or meaning the disadvantages of one aspect, and the previous construction grammar evolution of last factors focus less defects. At present, the extensive study of construction grammar in China pays more attention to language evolution, such as grammaticalization and lexicalization.

2.5 Research on Rhetorical Construction

The attention of rhetorical construction is revealed in the process of the study of grammatical formation. Rhetoric is one of the drivers of the development of formation, accompanying the whole process of formation grammar. The emergence of rhetoric construction makes the existing construction more widely distributed, used more diverse and used more frequently, and it is also one of the mechanisms to promote the deeper syntax of the conformation. Liu Dawei proposed the definition of rhetorical formation, that is, “all formation with inducible, as long as this inducible is not fully synalized in the formation.” [10] The construction grammar emphasizes the deduced combination of form and sense, while the rhetoric construction focuses on highlighting the inducible nature of the construction, which are at both ends of a continuum. The case analysis of rhetoric in the exploratory period has become the frontier of this stage, with many analysis on its cognitive mechanism and applied research.

2.6 Subjective Research

“Subjectivity” is the corresponding structural form or experience the corresponding evolution process to express the subjectivity of language, which belongs to the key field of

cognitive linguistics research. The subjectivism of Chinese construction refers to the fact that the study of Chinese construction mostly takes oral English as the research object. When explaining the construction of oral English, it usually involves the subjective quantity size, subjective evaluation degree and other subjective attitude measurement standards. The combination of subjectivism and formation theory provides an alternative explanation for the study of formation, also known as one of the features of such studies.

3. 2013-2017 (Development Period) Hot Topic of Construction Grammar Research

The development period of construction grammar research was in 2013-2017, which was in the five years of rapid development of science, education, culture and health. During this period, 302 keywords were used, and the total word frequency reached 2,606 times. Compared with the previous period, the total number of keywords decreased, but the average frequency of keywords in this period increased significantly. The least frequency was 2 times. “Construction” “Construction grammar” “grammaticalization” and

“constructive meaning” are still the four most frequently used keywords. There were 53 keywords used between 10 and 100 times, and 1466 times were used, the generated timeline mapping is shown in Figure 1.

The clustering of this period includes: the study of grammatical construction composed of “syntactic function” “rhetorical construction” and “interaction” ; the corpus study composed of “conceptual integration” “image schema” and “English-Chinese contrast” ; the subjective study composed of “grammaticalization” “constructive meaning” and “grammar teaching” ;the semantic study composed of “syntax” “categorization” and “pragmatics” The study of construction composed of “semantic function” “diachronic evolution” and “prominence”, and the study of lexicalization composed of “context” “word order” “semantic features” and so on. In the hot graph, the research on construction grammar teaching and language evolution has received widespread attention in each cluster, so it can be seen that the application and diachronic research of construction grammar is a hot topic in the academic circles during this period.

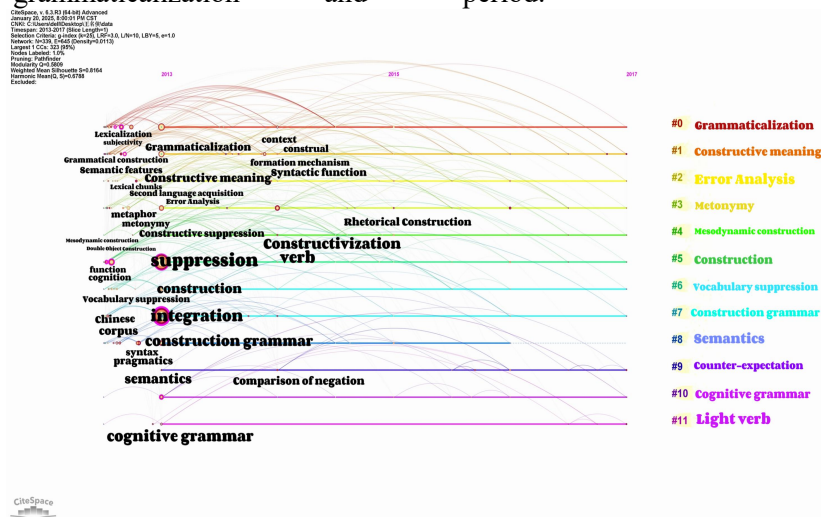


Figure 1. Timeline Map of Keywords from 2013 to 2017

In 2013, “semantic suppression” “motivation” “buzzword” “parody” “Chinese” and “asymmetry” continued the research hot spot of the previous period, and began to become a keyword with a high degree of mutation, and its frequency was also in the forefront, indicating that the study of construction grammar in China was relatively concentrated in this period, and the research topics were also concentrated. Among them, “semantic suppression” and “motivation” not only appear

earliest but also have the strongest degree of mutation, which indicates that the focus of domestic construction grammar research in 2013 and 2017 is still focused on the study of ontology theory. scholars continue to strengthen the in-depth development of the localization of construction grammar theory. 2013 and 2015 are the years of frequent hot words, and most keywords begin to surge. During this period, the research direction has been further refined, new theoretical research

methods and ideas have been continuously produced, second language acquisition has become a hot research direction, and the application of construction grammar has been further enhanced. High-frequency keywords such as “subjective quantity” “adverb” “prototype” “construction evolution” “marker” and “teaching method” are still in the stage of surge in 2017, which can be regarded as a hot field in the study of construction grammar at present. To a certain extent, it also represents the research orientation and frontier trend of the next stage.

Compared with the previous period, the degree of closeness between clusters and the influence of key nodes in each cluster have weakened in this time period. In terms of the overall layout of the graph, the significant nodes appeared in 2013-2015, and it can be assumed that in the above years, the domestic research activities on construction grammar were relatively active. To sum up, the hot issues of research in this period began to differentiate from the state of close concentration, the frequency of keyword use and clustering are no longer highly consistent, and a large number of new hot spots have emerged. the study of construction

grammar in China shows a trend of rapid development. Among them, bilingual teaching continues the research situation of the previous stage, and it is paid more attention to in this period, and there are many research results. At the same time, scholars gradually transfer the synchronic study of construction grammar to the the oretical study of diachronic construction grammar, and put forward new directions for the development of diachronic construction grammar and construction grammar.

4. 2018-2023 (Reflection Period) Hot Issues on Construction Grammar

Statistics were made on the keywords in the 2018-2023 period. In this period, there were 392 keywords used in the research literature, and the total frequency of words reached 3869 times, and the average use frequency was 9 times. There were 4 keywords with a use frequency of 100 times or more. “Constructivization” and “semantic” became the keywords with theme information and the highest use frequency, the generation of a time line mapping for this time period is shown in Figure 2.

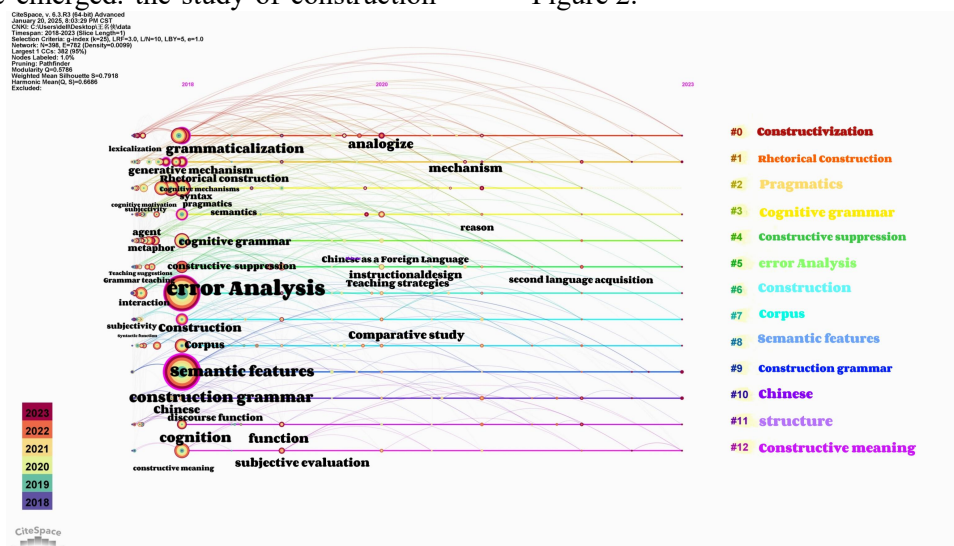


Figure 2. Timeline Map of Keywords from 2018-2023

Compared with the previous two periods, the timeline graph of this period has a stronger centrality. The high-frequency keyword groups that appeared in 2018 have the strongest centrality in the whole period of research, and appear in the research of each time node. The time map of the first two periods shows that the years at the beginning of each period tend to form high-frequency keywords with strong centrality, and with the passage of time, the

strong centrality keywords in other years become less and more scattered. The timeline map of this period shows that the number of strong central keywords in each year has a certain scale, and the centrality does not show a weakening trend, relatively evenly distributed in each year from 2018 to 2023. The comparison shows that the keyword clustering in this period has strong diversity and persistence, the keyword clustering in the

study of construction grammar is rich, and the selection path of the research object is from one to multiple.

The timeline graph of this period shows that high-frequency keywords such as “constructive meaning” “corpus” “cognitive mechanism” and “suppression” connect the three clusters of “construction” “rhetorical construction” and “construction grammar”. Among them, the interdisciplinary and interdisciplinary study of construction grammar is not only the research content of the timeline graph, but also the biggest hot topic in this period.

The three clusters of “construction” “construction evolution” and “error Analysis” have a high degree of overlap, and the basis continues the research content of the previous periods. Among them, “typology” is an important part of the study of this period, that is, the cross-linguistic contrastive study and typological study of Chinese and other languages in the world, which has become a new research hot spot and accounts for a large proportion.

“Pragmatic” clustering is also a hot topic of high-frequency keyword clustering in this period, and “individual difference” clustering takes “constructor” as the intermediary node and has a cross research object. This clustering is the continuation and deepening of pragmatic research in the first two periods, which is in the same plane as “syntax” and “semantics”. On this basis, we pay more attention to the pragmatic value of construction.

Through the above analysis of the timeline graph, we can see that the diversification research in this period continues the hot issues in the first two periods, and deepens and divides the hot issues in the first two periods, combined with the characteristics of the times and the needs of language development. This paper makes a multi-dimensional analysis and description of hot issues from different research angles and focuses.

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