

# A Review of the Research on the Development and Evolution of Chinese Language in the New Era

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## Abstract

The development of language is influenced by various factors including internal ones and external ones due to its social nature. With the in-depth development of globalization, the development of languages in the new era shows many new features, among which the most obvious is that they are more open and interactive. At the same time, it has also attracted much attention of the academic circles, and the theories of language development are abundant. This paper first defines language variation, and mainly combs the relevant achievements of language development research in contemporary from three aspects: language contact, grammaticalization and memetics.

**Keywords:** language variation, language contact, grammaticalization, memetics

## 1. Introduction

In the background of globalization and informatization in the new period, the development and evolution of language has entered a new stage. How to understand and grasp the forms and characteristics of language development in the new period is a new topic facing linguistic theory. Traditional linguistics pays more attention to the linear character and ordered state of language, whereas language is not a self-enclosing symbology. As the most active factor within the language system, the vocabulary develops and evolves accompanied by political, economic, social and cultural changes, showing explosive growth; grammatical changes are second; pronunciation is relatively stable.

### 1.1 Definition and Classification of Language Variations

#### 1.1.1 Definition of Language Variation

Language is an "ordered heterogeneity" and language variation is "a different way of saying the same thing" (William Labov, 1963). It is the "change and difference in the use of language" expressed through different pronunciations, vocabulary, grammar, style, or variations of language. Language variation, macroscopically refers to a language community, whose situation has changed because of the influence of various factors; microscopic refers to the same content, because of the different language users, different purposes of language expression, etc., caused by language variations, or different choices of codes and language styles.

Linguistic variation, from a macroscopic point of view, refers to a language community, because the linguistic situation of that language community has changed due to various factors (Chen Zhangtai, 1988). Language variation refers to the state of a language item in the discourse actually used (Chen Songcen, 1999). Language variation refers to the change and difference in the use of language, which is manifested through the use of various different language variants (Zhu Qijin, 1992). Language variation is the difference between the language in use and the change of social factors such as class, gender and age, or other linguistic factors including context (Tian Guisen & Sun Jianmin, 2009).

It can be seen that linguistic researchers generally believe that language variation is a form of language that people deviate from the conventional language when communicating, that is, the abandonment and deviation of language speakers from conventional languages in the process of using languages, which is a common dynamic language phenomenon that exists in languages. Language gradually produces a conventional model in the process of development, but language users often innovate the language for their own needs, creatively use a certain language, which leads to language variation, which is the result of the continuous emergence of new qualitative elements in language and the continuous demise of old qualitative elements. It is the existence of language mutations that prompts language to constantly inject fresh blood, constantly innovate and develop.

### 1.1.2 Classification of Language Variations

The English linguist Leach (1969) summarized linguistic variations into 8 types: phonological variation, lexical variation, grammatical variation, semantic variation, morphologic written variation, domain variation, dialect variation, and period variation. Labov believes that in addition to these classifications, language variation can also be divided into diachronic language variation and synchronic language variation, intra-linguistic variation and external language variation, verbal variation and non-verbal variation, oral language variation and literary language variation.

Language variation can be classified from three perspectives—due to the causes, it is classified into internal and external ones; second, according to the scope or level of mutation in the language system, it is classified into systematic ones, distributed ones, realizational ones and accidental ones (Chen Songcen, 1999). On the basis of the role in language society, it is mainly divided into three types namely symbols of speech communities, markers of stylistics, "stereotypes" (or "prejudices"). Language variation is divided into disordered ones and ordered ones, individual ones and partial-imitation ones, group imitation ones and speech-community ones, constant ones and occasional ones, conscious ones and unconscious ones, native ones and non-native ones (Ding Chongming, 2000). Guo Fenglan made the classification as follows: the constraints of language variation are non-verbal elements and linguistic elements, among which the former was called external factors and the latter as internal factors, and language variation will eventually have three results that are fractured variation, changes in progress, and completed changes (Guo Fenglan, 2006).

## 2. Language Contact and Variations

### 2.1 Overview of Language Contact

#### 2.1.1 About Language Contact

Language contact refers to the phenomenon that two or more languages are in contact amongst which one is chosen as a common tool of communication. It is not only a language contact relationship caused by the mutual contact between different nations and communities in social life, but also a language phenomenon that the two or more languages interact and penetrate each other in communication, resulting in changes in the phonetic structure, lexical system and syntactic structure of the language.

"From the historical point of view of the development and change of languages, there is no so-called pure language in the world." In the thousands of years of linguistic development, every language has been more or less influenced by the surrounding languages, and modern ones have come into contact with neighboring languages, resulting in the phenomena of borrowing language components, combining two languages or switching to other languages. It is true not only of independent ethnic and national languages, but also of contacts between the various dialects of the same language. It's a common phenomenon in language life and is one of the driving forces of language evolution. Different forms and different degrees of contact between various languages lead to mutual influence between languages, thus promoting the change and development of languages.

The term "language contact" was introduced by Martin in the 1950s after being proposed in the preface to Wainlech's *Language Contact*, and gradually replaced "linguistic mixture". In the 1980s and 1990s, it was widely used in the international linguistic community. Language contact includes both direct and indirect contact. The former refers to the use of spoken language in which people who speak two or more languages and their variants directly use a certain language or variant for verbal communication, mainly refers to face-to-face dialogue between people and bidirectional contact such as verbal communication by a certain means of communication, like telephone; the latter refers to one-way language contact through intermediaries such as written language or communication media.

#### 2.1.2 Contact Linguistics

The new discipline name of "Contact Linguistics" first appeared at the 1<sup>st</sup>. International Conference on Linguistic Contact and Language Conflict held in Brussels, Belgium in June 1979, and Wannlech's monograph "Language Contact" published in 1953 is a seminal work on contact linguistics, which established the theoretical basis of contact linguistics. In the 1990s, the discipline name "contact linguistics" frequently appeared in the works or papers published by various Chinese linguistics circles; after entering the 21st century, it was more widely used in linguistic works published in various countries. The Oxford Handbook of Applied Linguistics, published in 2002, mentions the definition and rationale of "contact linguistics", while the Chinese-linguist Yunford elaborated on the objects of "contact linguistics", the history of language contact, the scope of "contact linguistics", multilingual sharing, language preservation, word borrowing, code conversion, bilingual mixed languages, second language acquisition and language conversion, Pidgin and Creole (Yunford, 2003).

### 2.2 Research on Language Variation from the Perspective of Language Contact

China is a multi-ethnic and multilingual country, and the intricate relationship between languages and dialects in and around the territory provides a good fieldwork foundation for language contact research. In addition to the interaction between Chinese dialects, the contact and influence between Chinese and minority languages is also a very important language phenomenon, and the phenomenon of combined use of languages, mixed use of languages, and language conversion is common, and the characteristics of various language vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar have also changed.

The study of language contact in China began in the 1930s, and the book *Modern Chinese Grammar* by linguist Wang Li marked the entry of language contact into the field of Chinese studies. After the founding of New China, it generally attached importance to language variation caused by language contact, but it mainly focused on the excavation of language facts and did not discuss it theoretically. Since 1992, the Institute of Language of the Central Institute for Nationalities has continuously published *Introduction to the Relationship between Chinese and Minority Languages*, which analyzes the linguistic phenomena in the interrelationship between Chinese and minority languages in China, and explores the influence of them on each other.

Since the 1990s, with the further development of descriptive linguistics and historical linguistics, coupled with the extensive theory of language contact in western linguistics, Chinese scholars have begun to realize the importance of theoretically discussing the interaction between languages, and a large number of research articles and treatises on language mutation caused by language contact had been published or was published during this period. In terms of the theory and mechanism of language contact, scholars have proposed the theories of complementary, competition, and infectious mechanisms, circle layer law, qualitative relationship between language types and contact with specific cases in point.

### 2.2.1 Research on Language Contact Patterns

Traditional language contact can be divided into geographical contact and cross-geopolitical contact purely from geographical segmentation (Yuan Yong, 2013), that is, different language groups border each other geographically, and in the border transition area, people have frequent daily contact, and languages affect each other to produce variations, and gradually spread and spread within the population. There are roughly four types of linguistic geopolitical contact: diversion, hybrid, staggered, and islanded. Emerging language contact methods include network language contact and urban language contact. Contact linguists generally believe that the borrowing of linguistic components has a certain hierarchy or sequence, namely: lexical components (non-basic words) > syntactic/phonological components > morphological components. As the intensity of the contact increases, the borrowed ingredients and grades gradually increase. Network language is a multivariate hybrid system, and the degree of variation in each subsystem is similar to this order.

### 2.2.2 Research on the Phenomenon of Chinese Externalization

The specific representation of language contact is the borrowing and absorption of language components, and the vocabulary is the most sensitive and active component of the language system, which changes with the generation or transplantation of concepts. Therefore, word borrowing has undoubtedly become the most common phenomenon of language component borrowing and absorption. At present, there are more research results in Chinese-English language contact and Sino-Japanese language contact.

"是 VP 的时候" and "是时候 VP" are two forms of Chinese translation of English-related sentence patterns in the process of contemporary Chinese-English contact, in which the former conforms to the inherent grammatical rules of Chinese and the latter directly translates the word order of English (Liu Yun, 2018). The two forms are synonymous and competitive, and the literal translation form "是时候 VP" shows its advantages in competition. It focuses on the diachronic investigation related to the two forms, the consumption and competition between them and the innovative use of "是时候 VP". Zhang Huifang and Liao Meizhen (2020) divided the loanwords from Japanese in modern Chinese into three categories--borrowing sounds, shapes or meanings, of which the borrowing words in morphology account for the largest proportion, which is determined by the characteristics of the Japanese language itself and the background and way of the era in which the Japanese loanwords were introduced into Chinese (Zhang Huifang & Liao Meizhen, 2020). The morphology and meaning of loanwords from Japanese are often fairly uniform and with a high degree of integration while the emotional color of words and word classes are more diversified; its productivity enriches the Chinese vocabulary and accelerates the process of Chinese word embellishment; a large number of resurrected words promote the further development of the Chinese vocabulary system.

### 3. Grammaticalization and Language Variation

#### 3.1 Overview of Grammaticalization

##### 3.1.1 The Scope and Content of Grammaticalization

Although the definitions of grammaticalization in linguistic circles are not the same, there is basically a consensus on the scope and content of its research, including the following five aspects: (1) the grammaticalization of chapter structure; (2) the grammaticalization of phrases; (3) the grammaticalization of vocabulary (the change of real meaning to virtual meaning, the change of less virtual to more imaginary meaning, the meaning before and after evolution is almost at the same virtual level); (4) the grammar of pragmatic usage; (5) the accompanying phenomenon of grammaticalization—the weakening of speech (Ma Qinghua, 2003; Wang Fengmin, 2005); emphasizing grammar is not equal to virtualization, " grammaticalization brings not only semantic blur, but also brings weakness in speech, generalization in grammar, especially collocation, and dilution of pragmatics." (Liu Danqing, 2003); emphasizing the relationship between grammaticalization and language contact, arguing that "the grammatical process can be derived from internal factors of language or induced by language contact"; discussing "grammaticalization caused by contact" (Wu Fuxiang, 2009).

Grammaticalization and Lexicalization have similarities. Although they are different in evolutionary results, they are both conventionalization of language forms, both include the weakening or even disappearance of rationalization, and both may be weakened in phonetic forms, and both may be merged in form. They can occur on the basis of each other.

##### 3.1.2 Motives and Mechanisms of Grammaticalization

The motives and mechanisms of grammaticalization are roughly as follows: context-induced new interpretation, re-analysis, the characteristics of the word meaning itself, the change of syntactic position, the impact of context, the change of word meaning, the change of grammar (including the change of syntactic position, coordination relationship, syntactic function), the change of semantics, the change of pragmatics, the change of cognition (cognitive psychology), metaphor, reasoning, generalization, harmony, absorption, analogy, update, reinforcement, superposition, identification, weakening, displacement, inducement, etc. In short, the motives and mechanisms of Chinese grammaticalization generally include constraints on language structure, pragmatic factors, cognitive factors, and social factors (Ma Qinghua, 2003; Liu Danqing, 2003; Sun Xixin, 2002).

##### 3.1.3 Research Prospects of Grammaticalization

The introduction of grammatical perspectives in the study of Chinese grammar can not only deepen our understanding of the facts of the evolution of Chinese grammar, but also contribute to our in-depth understanding of the synchronic grammar system of Chinese (Wu Fuxiang, 2005). In the current and future research on Chinese grammar, the following four topics need to be studied: the study of structural grammar, the study of grammatical patterns, the study of grammaticalization of discourse markers, and the study of semantic evolution related to grammaticalization. Of course, grammatical research should also introduce nonverbal factors to make a fuss about "sociality"; "what is particularly valued in the study of variation is the 'social' variation" (Xu Daming's, 2007) and "social orientation" (Xie Zhengming, 2008) are undoubtedly useful attempts in this regard.

#### 3.2 Study of Language Variation from a Grammatical Perspective

##### 3.2.1 Grammatical Evolution of Adverbs

Wang Jing (2020) explored the source "贼" as a verb in the pre-Qin period, and analyzed the changes of its evolution process, syntactic function, word meaning, and part of speeches, which gradually blurred from verb "贼" to nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. In the bleaching process, the evolution from one to many can be used as a scale to observe the process (Wu Fuxiang, 2005). The usage of "贼", from a word with the meaning of an act, person, or thing in the real sense, to a modified component, is a one-to-many process.

Let's see variations in the combinatorial function of "贼". Part of the grammatical function of the word is to refer to what kind of combinatorial relationship exists with other words, and the "贼" is divided into verb "贼<sub>1</sub>", the noun "贼<sub>2</sub>", the adjective "贼<sub>3</sub>", and the adverb "贼<sub>4</sub>" according to different usages. "贼<sub>1</sub>" is combined with the noun to form a verb structure; "贼<sub>2</sub>" is often a noun as an agent in the sentence; "贼<sub>3</sub>" modifies the noun component; and the adverb "贼<sub>4</sub>" is combined with the adjective to form a structure of modification.

The change of the meaning of modern Chinese involves the expansion, reduction, transfer and change of the meaning of words and the change of emotional color. However, after the grammaticalization of real words, to a large extent, they often maintain some of the semantic characteristics of the original real words. The meaning of a real word can be divided into two parts, one part is the covering meaning and the other is detailed meaning, and after the real word is blurred, the loss involves detailed meaning while the covering meaning is still retained to a large extent (Chu Zexiang,

2002) Looking at the verb, noun, adjective, and adverb usage of "贼", there are three types of word meaning development--shifting, expanding and narrowing.

Similarly, "千万" was first normalized from a number word to adverb of degree, and then further blurred into an adverb of tone (Wu Yuanjia, 2019). The number word "千万" appeared in the Pre-Qin dynasty and represented exact or the approximate numbers. Under the combined action of various factors such as syntactic position changes, increased subjectivity, and increased frequency of use, the number it was reanalyzed as an adverb in the Tang Dynasty, and metaphor was an important mechanism for its grammaticalization. The grammatical path of "是" has roughly gone through the four stages of the emergence of back-referential usage, the establishment of syntactic formats, the generation of important features and the maturity of typical features (Yin Bingqian, 2020). In the process of grammaticalization of "是", the motivation is mainly the analogy of ordinary verbs and the existence of syntactic environment. It has had a profound impact on the entire Chinese grammar system, including the enhancement of the verb-centered format and its further development into a focal marker, which in turn led to the elimination of word order focal representation.

Due to the relative consistency of the process and mechanism of grammaticalization, the following literature review will not be expanded in detail.

### 3.2.1 Grammatical Evolution of Prepositions

Guo Chengjiao mainly discussed the grammaticalization of "按". It has undergone the evolution process from a verb to a preposition in the long-term diachronic evolution, and believes that the syntactic environment, word meaning changes, and frequency of use are the main reasons for its grammaticalization (Guo Chengjiao, 2019).

Xie Jijia uses the syntactic theory named "continuous environment" to study the grammatical process of "叫" and the conditions that lead to its grammaticalization. She believes that the semantic "compound" and "N1+ 叫 +N2+VP" formats provide a semantic basis and syntactic environment for their grammar respectively (Xie Jijia, 2020). At present, "叫" is still in the process of development, and the study of its grammatical order will provide some references for the teaching of Chinese as a foreign language and other fields.

Du Guanghui investigated the grammatical evolution of "自", believing that its original meaning is "鼻", and it derives two grammatical paths from this original meaning: one is "noun - emphasis pronoun - common pronoun - corresponding pronoun - adverb"; and the other is "noun - verb - preposition" (Du Guanghui, 2020). In addition, in the Middle Chinese Period, the end of the word "自" was prevalent, and the end of the word "自" was blurred in the environment of "adverb single sound + 自+ verb + (mood word / noun)".

## 4. Memetics and Network Language Variation

Since the 20th century, the Internet has become an indispensable part of people's work and life, and the exchange of information through the Internet as a medium has become more and more extensive. With the continuous progress of modern social science and technology and the deepening of informatization, the communication mode characterized by networking and digitization has brought a lot of convenience to people's information exchange, and has also changed people's lifestyles and ideological concepts at the same time. When people stepped into the Internet age, Network speech came into being as an emerging language. Observing the variation of online language through meme theory is a new attempt to explore the development of languages from a new perspective.

Memes are a kind of cultural genes that spread through imitation. Language is the carrier and expression form of memes, and mutations often occur during the replication and dissemination of language memes. Among the language components in which memetic variation occurs, word variation is the most active and distinct. Through the analysis of word variation based on meme errors or memetic intervention, it can be seen that strong memes play a decisive role in language meme variations. New words are often produced based on meme variation and the establishment of strong memes. Observing the phenomenon of word variation through the perspective of language meme theory and analyzing the reasons and laws of word mutation are helpful to explore the development laws and evolutionary trends of language from a new perspective, and at the same time it provides a new theoretical basis for language learning methods based on empiricism.

### 4.1 Overview of Memetics

Memetics is a new theory that explains the laws of cultural evolution based on Darwinian evolution (Ho, 2005). It attempts to "interpret the universal connection between things and the evolutionary laws of cultural inheritance from the perspective of diachronic and synchronicity." The most central term in memetic theory is meme (Richard Dawkins, 1976), and at the heart of this concept is imitation. Memetic phenomena are similar to genetic phenomena, and genes reproduce through inheritance. Memes are spread through imitation. Any piece of information, as long as it can be copied through "imitation", can be called a meme, such as: music - tunes, ideas - ideas, clothing styles - house

architecture styles, chain letters - emails, viruses - religions, etc.

Only memes that have successfully passed through four life cycles and have high performance values in fidelity, prolificity, and longevity are likely to win (Dawkins, 1976). That is to say, the strong meme replication factor replication must be precise, the dispersion must be widespread, and the replication must be long-lasting. When a certain language phenomenon is widely used as a meme and plays an active role in communication, these memes become powerful and can be continuously copied and disseminated; conversely, with the change of the environment, some inactive memes will gradually disappear and be forgotten. Generally speaking, when language is given a certain connotation, profound and significant influence, it is endowed with a strong vitality, and it can become a strong meme and be disseminated until that specific connotation disappears or is no longer noticed. Memes don't demand digital precision like genes, they just want to imitate.

The life cycle of a meme can be divided into four stages –assimilation, retention, expression and transmission. “Meme expression requires tangible carriers or media, and they should have strong stability to prevent information loss or deformation” (Xia Jiasi, 2003). Language memetics reveals the laws of language development and provides us with a new perspective on the evolution of language. Language meme theory mainly analyzes and explains language and its related phenomena from this theory, and applies the thinking mode of evolutionary theory to the analysis of language development, which is of enlightening significance for the study of network language variation. Linguistic variation is a pervasive socio-linguistic phenomenon.

#### 4.2 Memes and Language Memes

The term "模因" derives from the translation of the English word "meme" and its meaning refers to something similar to the role played by genes in the process of biological evolution in the transmission of languages, ideas, beliefs, behaviors, etc. (Darwin, 1976). Any piece of information that can be "copied" through a process broadly called "imitation" can be called a meme, and those linguistic information, cultural customs, ideas, or social behaviors that are constantly copied and disseminated can become memes, that is, "cultural genes." The word “meme” is now included in the *Oxford English Dictionary*, which means that the basic unit of culture is transmitted through non-hereditary means, especially imitation.

There were originally various translations of "meme" in the Chinese linguistic circles, such as “媒母”、“谜米”、“拟子”、“米姆”、“弥母”, etc. (Xiao Jian'an, 2000). He Ziran and others translated it as "模因", deliberately reminding people of it as an imitation phenomenon, and at the same time it is a phenomenon similar to genetic activity. In the field of linguistics, memetics explains the origin, acquisition, use, dissemination, variation and other linguistic and cultural categories of language from a new perspective. As one of the most important carriers of cultural information, language is a meme, and any part of it that can be copied and disseminated through imitation has the potential to become a language meme. The spread and development of language is essentially the process of language memes being copied continuously, and the way it is copied and disseminated is basically repetitive and analogous. Imitation, reproduction, and dissemination are the three characteristics of language memes (Ye Guoquan, 1992).

#### 4.3 Research on Network Language Variation from the Perspective of Memetics

Online language is a functional variant of language, and it has become a language variant used by specific groups (Qin Xiubai, 2003). The famous British linguist Jerich summarized 8 commonly used ones, namely phonological deviation, lexical deviation, grammatical deviation, semantic deviation, graph logical deviation, and language variation ( deviation of register ), dialectical deviation , and deviation of historical period (Jerich,1969). Among them, in particular, the memetic variation of the vocabulary is more direct and obvious.

##### 4.3.1 Phonological Meme Variants in Network Languages

The phonological characteristics of network language are mainly reflected in homophonic and Stacked sounds. On the one hand, most netizens use the Pinyin input method, in order to save time and input simply, they often choose the word that appears first on the screen, no longer choose the correct form. For example, 美眉( 妹妹), 斑竹( 版主), 稀饭( 喜欢), and so on. On the other hand, some netizens spontaneously communicate with dialect words. For instance, they replace "我" in Mandarin with "偶" in Shanxi dialect. Some young netizens like to use Chinese characters to express English harmonics, such as “趴”( party), “死壮”( strong), etc. There is also a type of digital harmonics, such as "1314" (一生一世), "8585" (别哭别哭), "7878" (去吧去吧) and so on. These Internet buzzwords are widely popular in the process of imitation and reproduction because of their humorous characteristics, and they have successfully achieved re-replication and re-dissemination, with a strong communicative effect.

Stacked sounds are another form of speech meme variation in network languages. In the virtual online world, netizens like to imitate the playful and cute style of Erxiang language, forming a superimposed tone variation. For example: "东东" (东西), "觉觉" (睡觉), “饭饭” (吃饭) and so on.

#### 4.3.2 Grammatical Meme Variants in Network Languages

In terms of form, the network language vocabulary breaks the pattern of Chinese written languages dominated by Chinese characters, and they are classified into concise alphabetic words, such as "Y" (why), "R" (are), "3Q" (thank you), etc.; mixed words with English initials and numbers, such as "B4" (before), "5G" (the fifth generation of communication equipment), etc.; abbreviations composed of Pinyin initials, such as "BT" (变态), "BH" (彪悍), etc. (Chen Yuan, 2003). Language variation is most evident in lexical ones, which is the most sensitive component of language, the fastest and most frequent component, and the same is true of online language variation.

#### 4.3.3 Lexical Meme Variants in Network Languages

Another change in the form of online language vocabulary is the grammar variation. Netizens, in order to communicate conveniently, break through the grammar convention, and thus there are some combinations of Chinese and English grammar. In English, when expressing the tense of action behavior, the verb ending should be suffixed "-ing", and netizens add "-ing" after some Chinese verbs to indicate a state in which they are currently in, such as "奋斗-ing", "失恋-ing" and so on. In addition, netizens often change the part of speech of words in sentences, using nouns and adjectives as verbs, such as "他很男人", "百度一下" and so on.

#### 4.3.4 Semantic Meme Variants in Network Languages

The variation of network language is not only reflected in the form, but also in the meaning of words. Netizens use their imagination to split and reorganize existing language materials, change the meaning of words or add new meanings, such as "可爱" (可怜没人爱), "亲情价"(买的再贵, 告诉爸妈时, 价格都很便宜),"贤惠" (闲闲的什么也不会). He Ziran classifies this situation as memetic phenotype propagation with the same form and different content (He Ziran, 2005). Such words have been copied and disseminated on a large scale because of their novelty and personality, and they have been copied and disseminated by netizens.

#### 4.3.5 Graphological Meme Variants in Network Languages

Netizens more commonly use symbolic emojis to express their joys and sorrows. For example, ":-)" means happy and humorous, ":(" means sadness; sometimes they use some letter combinations and Chinese characters to visually express their state of mind, for example, the English letter combination "orz" is like a person who kneels, indicating that the speaker worships or begs the other party. The Chinese character "囧" resembles the face of a frowning person and is therefore used to mean embarrassment or sorrow. Due to its dependence on graphics and pictures, this variation is compared into spoken expression, so the reproduction and dissemination of this meme is limited to network and written communication.

### 5. Conclusion

In short, as an open system, language is more prominent under the conditions of the new era, and the use and development of language and the internal structure are increasingly affected by external systems. In the new era, the interaction and influence of languages have become closer, and the patterns and characteristics of language development have undergone major changes, and these new characteristics can be explained by new theories. In particular, language memetics can provide us with new perspectives on observing and explaining the characteristics of new language development, and it also has stronger explanatory power.

Driven by the two factors of information conditions and the mentality of seeking innovation and seeking differences, the sensitive dependence of language development on the initial value is highlighted, and the development shows the characteristics of suddenness and rapid expansion of influence, which brings new challenges to the language standardization work in the new era.

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