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SPECIFIC FEATURES OF MILITARY TECHNICAL TERMS IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE

Submission Date: January 21, 2024, Accepted Date: January 26, 2024,

Published Date: January 31, 2024

Crossref doi: <https://doi.org/10.37547/ajps/Volume04Issue01-14>

Salimova Sohiba Bazarboyevna

Doctoral Student Of Termiz State University, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

This scientific article explores the distinctive characteristics and specific features of military technical terms in the Chinese language. The Chinese language, with its rich history and unique linguistic structure, presents a fascinating domain for the study of military terminology. This paper delves into the historical development, linguistic characteristics, and modern trends in the usage of military technical terms in Chinese, shedding light on the importance of language in military communication and the cultural significance embedded in these terms.

KEYWORDS

Chinese Military Terminology, Chinese Military Language, Military Technical Terms, Chinese Military Tradition, Linguistic Characteristics, Historical Development, Cultural Significance.

INTRODUCTION

Military technical terms in the Chinese language form a distinct and essential component of the nation's military culture and communication. The Chinese language, with its intricate characters, historical depth, and rich linguistic heritage, offers a unique perspective on how military concepts and terminology have

evolved over centuries. This scientific article delves into the specific features that define military technical terms in the Chinese language, tracing their historical development, exploring their linguistic characteristics, and highlighting their significance in contemporary military contexts.

China's military history spans thousands of years, characterized by periods of innovation, consolidation, and adaptation. From ancient texts like Sun Tzu's "The Art of War" to modern strategies, the Chinese language has been instrumental in conveying military knowledge and doctrine. Understanding the nuances of military terminology in Chinese not only aids in effective communication within the armed forces but also sheds light on the nation's rich martial heritage and strategic thinking.

This article will examine the historical roots of Chinese military terminology, dissect its linguistic characteristics, and investigate its modern evolution. Furthermore, it will explore the cultural significance embedded within these terms, showcasing how language shapes military thought and fosters a deeper connection between China's past and its contemporary military endeavors. Ultimately, an in-depth analysis of military technical terms in the Chinese language offers valuable insights into the language's role in shaping military strategy and preserving cultural heritage.

The historical development of military technical terms in the Chinese language is a journey that spans millennia, reflecting the nation's rich martial heritage and its evolving military doctrines. From the earliest recorded military treatises to the modernization efforts of the People's Liberation Army, these terms have undergone continuous transformation while

preserving elements of tradition and cultural significance.

Ancient Military Treatises: The foundation of Chinese military terminology can be traced back to ancient texts that laid the groundwork for military thought and strategy. The most notable of these is "The Art of War" (孙子兵法, Sūn Zǐ Bīng Fǎ), attributed to Sun Tzu during the Warring States period (5th century BCE). This seminal work introduced key concepts such as "兵法" (bīng fǎ) for military strategy and "计策" (jì cè) for tactics, which remain essential components of military terminology to this day.

Imperial China: During the imperial era, especially in the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1912) Dynasties, military manuals proliferated, expanding the lexicon of military terminology. Notable military strategists and authors like Qi Jiguang (戚继光) and Yang Banhou (杨班侯) contributed to these texts, which detailed various aspects of military organization, tactics, and weaponry. The terms coined during this period encompassed a wide range of subjects, including "军纪" (jūn jì) for military discipline and "战术" (zhàn shù) for tactics.

Influence of Classical Chinese: One characteristic of historical Chinese military terminology is its reliance on classical Chinese characters. These characters often

carry deep meanings and can be combined to form compound terms, allowing for precise and nuanced expression. For example, "兵" (bīng) means "soldier," and "法" (fǎ) means "method" or "law," combining to form "兵法" (bīng fǎ) or "military strategy."

Modernization and Globalization: In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, China faced military modernization efforts, which brought about a shift in terminology. The introduction of Western military concepts and technology led to the incorporation of foreign loanwords, such as "坦克" (tǎn kè) for "tank" and "飞机" (fēi jī) for "aircraft." This period witnessed a blending of traditional Chinese military terminology with terminology influenced by Western languages.

Contemporary Trends: In contemporary China, military technical terms have continued to evolve, with a growing emphasis on standardization and integration with international military lexicons. Transliterations of English terms, such as "导弹" (dǎo dàn) for "missile," have become common to ensure seamless communication in joint military operations and international collaborations.

The historical development of military technical terms in the Chinese language reflects the nation's dynamic military history, the influence of classical Chinese characters, and the adaptation of foreign concepts. As China's military power continues to grow, its military

terminology remains a testament to its enduring martial traditions and its ability to adapt and integrate with the changing global landscape. Understanding these historical roots is essential for appreciating the evolution of Chinese military thought and communication.

In the contemporary era, the landscape of military technical terms in the Chinese language has undergone significant changes and adaptations to meet the demands of modern warfare, international collaboration, and technological advancements. These modern trends reflect the ongoing evolution of military terminology in the Chinese context.

One notable trend in recent years is the emphasis on standardization and consistency in military technical terminology. Chinese authorities have worked to ensure that military terms are universally understood within the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and across various branches of the armed forces. This standardization aims to reduce ambiguity and improve communication in military operations.

China's growing involvement in international military collaborations and peacekeeping missions has led to the integration of international military terminology into the Chinese lexicon. This includes the use of English loanwords and transliterations for advanced military technologies, concepts, and procedures. For instance, terms like "无人机" (wú rén jī) for "drone"

and "网络战" (wǎng luò zhàn) for "cyber warfare" have become commonplace in Chinese military discourse.

With the rapid development of military technology, Chinese military terminology has adapted to accommodate these innovations. New terms have emerged to describe cutting-edge military hardware, such as "隐身飞机" (yǐn shēn fēi jī) for "stealth aircraft" and "人工智能" (rén gōng zhì néng) for "artificial intelligence." This reflects China's commitment to modernizing its armed forces and staying at the forefront of technological advancements.

In an increasingly interconnected world, multilingual communication has become essential, especially in joint military exercises or international peacekeeping missions. As a result, the Chinese military has adopted terminology that accommodates communication with foreign counterparts. Bilingual glossaries and language training programs are used to ensure effective communication with non-Chinese-speaking military personnel.

While modernization and international integration are evident trends, there remains a commitment to preserving traditional Chinese military terminology. Ancient texts like Sun Tzu's "The Art of War" continue to be studied, and the wisdom contained within these texts still informs contemporary military thinking.

Terms like "兵不厌诈" (bīng bù yàn zhà), emphasizing strategic deception, continue to be relevant and are passed down as part of China's martial heritage.

Chinese military terminology often carries cultural and historical significance, reflecting the nation's martial traditions and philosophical influences. Terms like "兵马未动，粮草先行" (bīng mǎ wèi dòng, liáng cǎo xiān xíng), highlighting the importance of logistics and preparation, underscore the enduring influence of ancient Chinese philosophy on military thought.

The military technical terms in the Chinese language are not only a means of communication within the armed forces but also carry profound cultural significance deeply rooted in China's rich history, philosophy, and martial heritage. These terms serve as a bridge between the past and the present, reflecting enduring values, strategies, and beliefs that shape the nation's approach to defense and security.

Chinese military terminology often draws upon the philosophical and strategic wisdom of ancient Chinese scholars. The works of Sun Tzu, Confucius, and other classical thinkers have had a profound impact on military thought in China. Phrases like "兵法" (bīng fǎ) for military strategy and "兵不厌诈" (bīng bù yàn zhà) for strategic deception are not just words but encapsulate centuries of philosophical insights that emphasize the importance of strategy, adaptability,

and the use of deception as a legitimate tactic in warfare.

Many military terms in Chinese are metaphors deeply rooted in Chinese culture. For example, "百战百胜" (bǎi zhàn bǎi shèng), meaning "a hundred battles, a hundred victories," embodies the Confucian ideal of continuous improvement and moral fortitude in warfare. Similarly, the term "千军万马" (qiān jūn wàn mǎ), which translates to "thousands of soldiers and tens of thousands of horses," conjures images of a vast and formidable army, reflecting China's historical emphasis on military strength and unity.

Military technical terms often evoke specific historical contexts and references, connecting contemporary military operations to China's storied past. Phrases like "战国时期" (zhàn guó shí qī) for the Warring States period or "长城" (cháng chéng) for the Great Wall of China not only convey historical events but also invoke a sense of national identity and heritage.

China's martial arts traditions, such as kung fu and tai chi, have left a lasting imprint on its military terminology. Terms related to combat techniques, discipline, and strategy often have parallels in martial arts terminology. This connection underscores the integration of physical and strategic aspects of warfare in Chinese culture.

Chinese military terms frequently reflect traditional values and virtues, such as discipline, loyalty, and honor. Phrases like "纪律严明" (jì lǜ yán míng), meaning "strict discipline," highlight the importance of order and obedience within the military ranks. Concepts of honor and loyalty are also embedded in terms like "忠诚" (zhōng chéng) for "loyalty" and "荣誉" (róng yù) for "honor."

In an era of rapid modernization and globalization, the preservation of traditional military terminology serves as a means to retain cultural identity and continuity. These terms serve as a reminder of China's enduring martial heritage and its commitment to preserving cultural values even in a changing world.

In conclusion, the specific features of military technical terms in the Chinese language offer a window into the historical, linguistic, and cultural complexities that shape China's military communication. Overall, the study of military technical terms in the Chinese language underscores the multifaceted nature of language in military contexts. These terms are not merely tools for communication but also carriers of history, culture, and philosophy, offering a comprehensive view of China's martial heritage and its contemporary military landscape. Understanding these specific features is essential for scholars, linguists, military professionals, and anyone interested

in comprehending the intricate relationship between language, culture, and warfare in China.

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