

Syntactic features of onomatopoeic words in the Chinese language (based on GENG ERLING'S views)

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Abstract: This article discusses the role of onomatopoeic words in Chinese sentence structure. It presents the views of prominent Chinese linguists on onomatopoeic words and illustrates their syntactic functions with examples. The study analyzes perspectives from the book *Modern Chinese Grammar*.

Keywords: Onomatopoeia, sentence components, subject, predicate, modifier, adverbial.

Introduction: Linguists have expressed different opinions regarding the syntactic role and function of onomatopoeic words in Chinese, based on their theoretical perspectives. Below, we analyze the syntactic role of onomatopoeia based on collected empirical materials.

Chinese linguist Geng Erling emphasizes that the primary function of onomatopoeia is to serve as an independent sentence. In this case, the onomatopoeic word itself constitutes a single sentence, followed by a period, question mark, or exclamation mark.

1. Functioning as an independent sentence: 当！当！当！上课铃响了。Jiring! Jiring! Jiring! The class bell rang.

2. Functioning as an independent component: Here, the onomatopoeic word appears at the beginning of the sentence, separated by a comma and intonation, without syntactic connection to the main sentence. “汪汪汪”，淘气狗叼着一根肉肠，得意地跑来了。Woof-woof-woof, the mischievous dog ran happily with a sausage in its mouth.

3. Functioning as an adverbial: As noted by Liu Yuehua (刘月华) and his team, onomatopoeia may appear with or without the particle 地。高玫瑰咯咯地笑起来，他要年过了才能回来。Gao Meigui burst into giggles; he could only return after a year.

In this example, 咯咯 modifies the verb 笑 (to laugh) as an adverbial. The 地 particle can be omitted after two-

and four-syllable onomatopoeic words but must be used after one- and three-syllable ones to maintain tonal balance in Chinese.

4. Functioning as a predicate: Onomatopoeic words often serve as predicates, sometimes with the particle 的。他生气了，咕嘟着嘴半天不说话。He was angry and muttered for a long time without speaking.

5. Functioning as a modifier: Here, an onomatopoeic word modifies a noun, requiring the particle 的 if it is monosyllabic。罐头飞呀飞，最后“咚”的一声，砸到野猪的头上。The cans flew and flew, and finally, "thud!" they hit the wild boar's head.

If the onomatopoeic word is polysyllabic, it connects directly to the noun without a particle。咕噜噜声中，还直将那女儿红喝个精光见底。Amidst the gurgling sound, he drank the entire Nu'er Hong.

According to Geng Erling, during the Tang and Song dynasties, the particles 低 or 地 were used to link onomatopoeic words with nouns, while by the Yuan dynasty, 的 became standard and gradually solidified.

6. Functioning as a complement (补语): Onomatopoeic words, linked to verbs with 得, describe the sound resulting from an action。我苦笑着说：你今天还没改老习惯。。。嘿，听你吭哧吭哧的，我没心情说了。I said with a bitter smile, "You still haven't changed your old habits..." Hey, hearing your

mumbling, I don't feel like responding.

7. Functioning as an object: In Chinese, onomatopoeic words do not directly function as nouns. However, in some cases, they become nominalized and act as objects. 先生又来了一个“嗤”。The gentleman let out another 'ha-ha-ha'.

Here, the onomatopoeic word forms a phrase with a numeral, nominalizing the sound expression.

8. Functioning as a subject: When an onomatopoeic word is the subject, the predicate is typically a verb such as 是, 表示, 像, or 好像. 滴答滴答是雨声, 叭叭叭叭是汽车喇叭声, 噼里啪啦是鞭炮声。 Tick-tock tick-tock – that's the sound of rain; pa-pa-pa-pa-pa – that's the car horn; crackle-pop – that's the sound of firecrackers.

9. Used in question-answer forms: Onomatopoeic words can be short answers, forming standalone sentences. – 青蛙鸣叫用汉语怎么说? – 呱呱。 – How do you say a frog's sound in Chinese? – Ribbit-ribbit.

Ma Zhen (马真), who referred to onomatopoeia as 象声词, identified three main syntactic roles:

1. Functioning as an independent sentence. “丁铃铃铃。。。突然电话铃响了。 Ring-ring-ring... Suddenly, the phone rang.
2. Functioning as an adverbial. 机器轰轰响。 The machine made a loud bang.
3. Functioning as a modifier with 的. 噼噼的鞭炮响。 Crackle-pop of firecrackers.

Similarly, Lu Jianming (陆俭明) and his team classified onomatopoeic words into four syntactic roles.

CONCLUSION

From the analysis of onomatopoeic words in Chinese, we conclude that their syntactic function depends on their connection to other sentence elements: they may act as adverbials when linked to verbs, modifiers or complements when connected to nouns, independent components, or even standalone sentences in dialogue.

The idea that words which primarily convey sounds rather than meaning are not subject to grammatical study is, in our view, insufficient justification for excluding them from morphological analysis. Every word, regardless of its meaning or function, holds a place in the language. If a word can be semantically analyzed, it belongs in the category of independent words; if it only serves a grammatical function, it should

be classified as an auxiliary word. If it fulfills both roles, it should be studied as an intermediate category within linguistics.

Although stylistics explores the psychological impact of sounds and their linguistic representation, it does not fully reveal their grammatical properties. Even if onomatopoeic words do not directly answer questions, they convey meaning and contribute to word formation in Uzbek and other languages. Since they carry meaning, we believe they should be included in the grammar of every language.

Onomatopoeic words, regardless of language, do not possess nominative characteristics or semantic meaning in the traditional sense, making it difficult to assign them a fixed syntactic role. However, they can be integrated into sentences with various functions depending on their connection to other elements.

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