

ANALYSIS OF THE USE OF NETWORK PARLANCE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF WORD FORMATION

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ABSTRACT

Network parlance refers to the language that first became popular on the Internet and has a certain deviation from the conventional language. Under the birth of the network environment, today's network parlance has developed into a new dialect. The characteristics of the network information age determine that the network parlance is not only very active in life but also can reflect social and cultural phenomena to a certain extent. From the perspective of sociolinguistics, this paper studies its origin and analyzes its characteristics from the perspective of word formation. The results show that the most frequently used word formation methods are functional shift and burrowing. From the perspective of the use trend in the past five years, the formation of network terms also shows the characteristics of diversification. Specifically, the frequency of using coinage and clipping is increased. This study holds that the word-formation of network parlance reflects the characteristics of the contemporary new language formation. That is, from the beginning of 2017, the expansion of the meaning of existing words and the absorption of other cultures gradually changed into the creation of new words and the use of short words simplified by existing words.

Keywords: network parlance, word formation, sociolinguistics

1. Introduction

According to the Modern Chinese Dictionary (Seventh Edition), network parlance refers to the language that first became popular on the Internet and deviated from the conventional language. With the birth of the network environment, today's network parlance has developed into a new "dialect." The characteristics of the network information age determine that network parlance is very active in life and can reflect social and cultural phenomena to a certain extent.

However, with the rapid development of the network, the network parlance updates frequently. For a long time, objectively, people are used to attributing the reason for the widespread network parlance to the development of the network. However, subjectively, few people discuss its popular reason from the perspective itself. From the formal point of view, the network parlance has words and sentences, in Chinese and foreign languages. From the content point of view, network language has things and actions, as well as notional and functional words. Therefore, from the perspective of network parlance itself, what causes its rapid development remains to be verified.

Therefore, the present paper studies the origin of network parlance from the perspective of sociolinguistics and analyzes its characteristics based on the theory of word formation.

Scholars have paid more attention to network parlance, and have made sufficient research on the ontology of “network parlance”. There are rich papers on “network parlance”, but there are still some gaps in the research of network parlance from the perspective of its origin. Therefore, the current issues intrigue certain theoretical significance and practical value.

Theoretically, from the perspective of network parlance itself, the present research can increase the literature on network parlance related to word formation and expand the research on network parlance.

Practically, in terms of network parlance, the selected corpus of this study is representative, which is helpful to further understanding the characteristics of network terms in the new network era.

Moreover, this current study explores the high-frequency network parlanges in real life, which can provide a reference for the teaching of practical terms in teaching Chinese as a foreign language. Finally, from the perspective of word formation, this study explores the commonness of high-quality network terms to help promote the construction of a healthy and civilized network language environment.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Definition of Word Formation

The first person to research word formation was Panini, who thoroughly described Sanskrit’s word-formation theory. There is not much material available now that compares Panini’s idea to others because word formation studies did not receive much attention at the beginning of the twentieth century.

An outstanding linguist named Lees dedicates himself to the study of Transformation Generative Grammar in 1960 to determine how words are formed to create a vocabulary. According to Lees, each word is a distinct type of embedded phrase and is therefore not an autonomous entity. Since Chomsky submitted a thesis in 1970, studies of word production have become increasingly important.

According to Baucer (1983), there is currently no distinct theory of word production and no consensus on the evidence relevant to the development of a theory. Stekauer explained word formation in 1998: By creating new name units and making full use of the word formation bases of naming units recorded in the Lexicon, it is thought that word formation is handled as an independent component, tied to the lexical factor that gives it.

According to Plag (2003), word formation is the process by which new vocabulary is created by building upon existing vocabulary. He paints a thorough picture of the classification of English word development.

Dai (2013) holds the stance that language learners must be aware of some knowledge of lexicology. It could help learners with unfamiliar words by connecting the unfamiliar words to familiar words and it could be a useful way to guess the meaning of the unfamiliar words.

As mentioned above, in recent years, many scholars have considered word formation from different perspectives, such as semantic, phonological, or syntactic perspectives. In a word, word formation refers to the internal structure of words, that is, the way and method of morpheme combination.

2.2 Previous Studies Related to Network Parlance

“Network parlance” is a special language phenomenon that depends on the network. Different from other common language phenomena, one of the most remarkable features is that network parlance is updated quickly, its life cycle is uncertain, and its context is uncertain. Network parlance is not born out of thin air. They all come from real language, either directly used or produced variants. However, this is not the “end point” of network parlance. Some network parlance with a strong vitality and high frequency of use return to real language. Therefore, the definition of network terms and their close relationship with real language are inseparable.

2.2.1 Previous Studies on the Language Specification of Network Parlance

Concerning the language specification of network parlance, the research can be roughly divided into two levels from the direction of investigation: student groups and social research.

In terms of language standardization, Liu (2016) and Zhang (2021) aimed at student groups have made some suggestions for on-campus network parlance standardization in the form of interviews, surveys, and questionnaires. They believe that the manifestations of the anomie of Internet language mainly include phonetic anomie, word collocation anomie, grammatical anomie, semantic anomie, punctuation anomie, and so on. To deal with the anomie of the use of network parlance, we can mainly strengthen the publicity of ideas, establish an institutional system, improve the operation mechanism, strengthen the construction of platforms, establish professional teams, scientifically classify information, and strengthen logistics support.

In addition, An (2010) and Wang (2021) also conducted a questionnaire survey at the social level, They believed that the role of parlance in the improvement of cultural soft power should not be underestimated. They expressed that in specific groups, there are rich forms of online language but the weak expression, fashionable language content but poor health, and full language emotion but lack of action. Therefore, they emphasized that the common force of communication elements is an important means to realize the standardization, health, and conscientization of parlance life.

2.2.2 Previous Studies on the Network Parlance of Education

The research on network parlance and education can be roughly divided into Chinese language and literature and Chinese as a foreign language.

Research on the Chinese language and Literature mostly focuses on the characteristics and causes of the network parlance itself (Zhang, 2003; Deng&Tang, 2012). In recent years, research has summarized the causes and characteristics of domestic network parlance. The method of these studies mostly focuses on case analysis and questionnaires. However, the relevant empirical research is relatively lacking

The other category focuses on the study of Chinese as a foreign language (Xu Pinxiang, 2013). The research on Chinese as a foreign language and network parlance is based on the high-frequency use of network parlance in daily life and the ability to translate certain cultural characteristics and characteristics of the times and discusses the integration of network parlance into Chinese as foreign language education.

2.2.3 Previous Studies on the Overview of Network Parlance

Most of the summary studies on network parlance focus on its development process and the language characteristics of network parlance. Looking at the research on the development of network parlance in recent years, we can find that scholars' attitude towards it has changed from negative to positive.

Zhang (2003) believed that network parlance is neither standardized nor scientific. Once it affects students, the consequences are extremely terrible. It also points out the importance of Chinese standardization, analyzes the emergence and current situation of network language and the problems it brings, and puts forward solutions, aiming to attract the attention of Chinese educators.

Wu (2003) commented on network parlance from a more objective attitude. There are four major contents in the study of Chinese Internet Language: first, the collection and collation of network parlance, and the emergence of three network parlance dictionaries. The second is about the concept and structure of network parlance. The structure has two forms: “network industry parlance” and “netizens’ commonly used parlance”, and netizens’ commonly used parlance are divided into seven categories and several subcategories. The third is about the four main reasons for the emergence of network language. Fourthly, the thesis pointed out there are nine attitudes towards network parlance. The combination of narration, comment, and discussion shows China's status network parlance research.

Min, Xu, Zhang & Sui (2016) accept network parlance in their article and proposed the possibility of writing a dictionary of network parlance. They expressed that with the rapid development of Internet applications, the use of network parlance is becoming more and more common, and network parlance is emerging in endlessly. A large number of network parlance in online texts have brought certain challenges to the application of emotion analysis, product recommendation, question and answer systems based on natural language processing, and the collection and construction of online dictionaries and related corpus is the breakthrough to solve such problems.

There are studies on the characteristics of network parlance, and different scholars have different classification standards according to different perspectives. For example, based on the collection and analysis of network parlance, Li (2005) studied the nature and characteristics of network words from the perspective of sociolinguistics. It is believed that the special terms of network technology and the special terms in network communication are different in nature, and the network language has the characteristics of diversity, simplicity, randomness, and so on. In addition, the research on the characteristics of network parlance also includes the case analysis of specific words. For example, Zhang (2021) studied the word “杠精” in network parlance. From his point of view, network parlance reflects the current popular culture and social facts. “杠精”, new network parlance, has the basic characteristics of persisting in a confrontational attitude, focusing on self-prominence, and longing for social interaction in social psychology. Communicating and interacting on the network shows the obvious characteristics of many logical fallacies, easy to be fierce and extreme, and tending to generalization and digitization.

The reasons for the formation of “杠精” groups can be explained from the aspects of individual liberation, circle phenomenon, group polarization, etc. At the same time, guidance should be strengthened from three aspects: improving the influence of mainstream culture communication, unblocking network information management channels, and strengthening network behavior guidance.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Questions

In order to investigate the network parlance from the perspective of word formation, the following questions are raised to be addressed in the present study:

Question 1: What is the word formation form of the network parlance?

Question 2: What are the characteristics of network parlance from the perspective of word formation?

3.2 Research Objects

The Chinese National Language Monitoring and Research Center was established on June 30, 2004. It is a research center jointly built by the Language and Text Information Management Department of The Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China and Beijing Language and Culture University. It is also the first research center in the national language resources and monitoring research series. The purpose of the center is to enable more scholars to have a more quantitative understanding of our language conditions, conduct dynamic analysis and management of national language resources, and use modern means to process and utilize them, to improve the influence of Chinese in the world.

The national language resources monitoring and research center is to promote the establishment and gradual formation of a long-term mechanism for real-time monitoring and normative guidance of social language life. This work, as a systematic project, has been included in the second round of the educational revitalization action plan of the Ministry of education. Its research results can be used as a reference for the formulation and adjustment of national language guidelines and policies, language standards, and norms, it can also provide consultation services for the masses to correctly use the language of the motherland, more actively and effectively promote and guide the healthy development of social language life.

Figure 1 Officially Published of the “Top-ten Network Parlance”



Therefore, in order to ensure the objectivity and representativeness of the research object, this study selects the “top-ten network parlance” published by the Chinese National Language Monitoring and Research Center. Since 2015, the agency has selected 10 online terms based on the national language resource monitoring corpus (online media) and more than 10000 netizens’ votes every year. Therefore, it has certain objectivity. At the same time, the news is officially forwarded and recognized by the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China every year which indicates the conformity of the official attitude toward it and the authority of the item.

Table 1 Network Parlance in Recent Five Years

Year	Network Parlance
2017	打call, 尬聊, 你的良心不会痛吗, 惊不惊喜, 意不意外, 皮皮虾, 我们走, 扎心了, 老铁, 还有这种操作, 怼, 你有freestyle吗, 油腻
2018	锦鲤, 杠精, skr, 佛系, 确认过眼神, 官宣, C位, 土味情话, 皮一下, 燃烧我的卡路里
2019	不忘初心, 道路千万条, 安全第一条, 柠檬精, 好嗨哟, 是个狼人, 雨女无瓜, 硬核, 996, 14亿护旗手, 断舍离

- 2020 逆行者, 秋天的第一杯奶茶, 带货, 云监工, 光盘行动, 奥利给, 好家伙,
 夺冠, 不约而同, 集美
- 2021 觉醒年代, YYDS, 双减, 破防, 元宇宙, 绝绝子, 躺平,
 伤害性不高, 侮辱性极强, 我看不懂, 但我大受震撼, 强国有我

The present study selected the “top-ten network parlance” published by the center in the past five years, a total of 50 network parlance, and the specific list is shown in the table.

3.3 Operational Definitions

As a new language emerging in the present era, network language has many classification methods. This study intends to use the word formation theory given by Dai (2018) in the “Addition of New Words” section of Chapter Seven “Vocabulary Changes” of *A New Concise Course on Linguistics for Students of English* to classify network terms from the aspect of word formation. The specific classification is shown in the table below.

Table 2 Dai’s (2018) Model of Word Formation

Name	Definition	Example
Coinage	The invention of a new word or phrase	Benz, Toyota
Clipping	The word formation process in which a word is reduced or shortened without changing the meaning of the word	gym, memo
Blending	The word formation process in which parts of two or more words combine to create a new word whose meaning is often a combination of the original words	Song, motel
Acronyms	An abbreviation formed from the initial letters of other words and pronounced as a word	WTO, OPEC
Burrowing	The word comes from other culture or nation	Brige, balckhumor,
Functional Shift	The word changing the initial meaning or part of speech of the origin word	to knee, a daily
Backformation-words	Shortened words created from longer words	edit, beg

The reasons for adopting Dai's classification of word-formation are two. First, it is operable which is comprehensive and detailed with specific examples. Secondly, it is widely used and practical. As mentioned in the previous chapter, many scholars do such kinds of research adopt his theory for analysis.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Word Formation form of Network Parlance

Based on Dai's theory, the analysis of the word formation form of network parlance in the recent five years is presented in this part. Reviewing each of their origins, meaning, and examples, the current part defines their word formation forms.

4.1.1 Word Formation form of "Top-ten Network Parlance" in 2017

According to the Chinese National Language Monitoring and Research Center, the "top-ten network parlance" in 2017 are "打call, 尬聊, 你的良心不会痛吗, 惊不惊喜, 意不意外, 皮皮虾, 我们走, 扎心了, 老铁, 还有这种操作, 怼, 你有freestyle吗, 油腻." The detailed analysis is presented below.

"打call" first came from Japan's entertainment culture. The original meaning is to cheer for the star idol. It was originally a dance or pep talk performed by otaku or Japanese Idol supporters, including jumping, clapping, waving arms, and rhythmic chanting. Now, in network parlance, it has evolved into the meaning of support, cheer, and so on.

Example 1 上冰雪、观冰灯、赏民俗——在华外国友人为冰雪中国年“*打call*。” (From Xinhuanet)

As the example shows, now, in network language, it has evolved into the meaning of support, cheer, and so on. In China, there is no such entertainment culture. We can see that with the localization of Japanese entertainment culture, "打call" should belong to "burrowing."

"尬聊" is a derivative of American street dance "尬舞". "尬舞" is the inflection of "较舞" in the Minnan dialect, and "较" means competition. In the Minnan dialect, the word "较" is pronounced as "尬".

Example 2 拯救职场“*尬聊*”小技能, 不谈天气, 不问吃饭了没. (From Sohu news)

After the emergence of "尬舞," many network words related to "尬" have been derived. For example, "尬酒", "尬歌," etc., "尬聊" is one of them. The original meaning of "尬聊" is to

quarrel by chatting. Later, the word refers to awkward chat, and the atmosphere fell to freezing. Therefore, it can be seen that “尬聊” is a mixture of the borrowed words “尬” and “聊.” Therefore, this word is both a burrowing and blending word.

Some netizens posted an article on social media, saying that Du Fu had written 15 poems for Li Bai in his life, but Li Bai responded that his poems were very few, but he wrote a poem “赠汪伦”. Therefore, many netizens humorously asked, “Li Bai, 你的良心不会痛吗?”.

Example 3 年终7问美国: *你的良心不会痛吗?* (From Sohu news)

你的的良心不会痛吗 change its initial meaning from asking to ridicule and roasting. It means to ask the other party “won’t you feel sorry for others?” Therefore, the word formation form of 你的的良心不会痛吗 belongs to the functional shift.

“惊不惊喜，意不意外” is a classic line from Stephen Chow’s film “All’s Well, Ends Well (1992).” Therefore, this network parlance is a burrowing word from a movie.

Example 4 “*惊不惊喜? 意不意外?*”小偷爬窗后和民警四目相对. (From Sohu news)

As reflected in the example, “惊不惊喜，意不意外” means that something has taken an unexpected turn. It is often used to ridicule some plots with dramatic reversals, which are beyond glasses and even ironic.

“皮皮虾，我们走” comes from the chat idiom between players in a game. It is popular on the Internet because of its humorous pictures, which are frequently used by netizens and computer game players.

Example 5 皮皮虾,我们走,一起去国知局注册商标. (From Sohu news)

“皮皮虾，我们走” means “bulabulabula, let’s go.” Here, “皮皮虾” has become anything or anybody, changing its original meaning of aquatic animals, so the parlance belongs to the category of functional shift.

“扎心了，老铁” comes from an online celebrity in the webcast. “扎心了” originally means to make people feel sad or uneasy. “老铁” means brother and friend in the dialect of northeast, China.

Example 6 扎心了老铁! 马云: 我不是首富 没时间花钱. (From Sohu news)

Now, “扎心了，老铁” means to use exaggeration to vividly express “Be distracted, brother.” Therefore, the word belongs to the category of functional shift.

“还有这种操作” became popular on the Internet because of the popularity of chat pictures containing the word “还有这种操作.”

Example 7 醉酒骑摩托上高速, *还有这种操作?* (From Sohu news)

The original meaning is to roast or praise some amazing game operation methods, and then it is used on the network to express various puzzling or surprising operation methods. Therefore, “还有这种操作” belongs to the category of functional shift.

The original meaning of the word“怼” in Chinese characters is to express psychological conflict and confrontation. Later, it means to respond with words or counterattack with actions in the network. Therefore, it is a functional shift word.

Example 8 美军重返索马里“保安宁”? 非洲网友怒怼 (From Xinhuanet)

“你有freestyle吗” In the audition for the domestic rap variety “Hip Hop in China”, the judges tested the contestants’ on-site adaptability and asked “你有freestyle吗”, which means can you improvise Rap.

Example 9 高温来袭, *你有freestyle吗?* (From Sohu news)

Rap then became a form of popular impromptu rhyming sentences on the Internet. The sentence “你有freestyle吗” is also used by netizens to ridicule the Internet star’s practice of saying this sentence when he saw the contestant. Then, it is a burrowing word burrowed from the media.

“油腻” is a word that already exists in China. It originally means grease, ointment, greasy dirt, and so on in Chinese words.

Example 10 无敌小鲜肉变“一拳超人” “偶像剧男主”成*油腻*大叔上班真会让人变丑? (From Xinhuanet)

Later, it refers to a general description of some people's characteristics in Internet language, including not paying attention to body maintenance, slovenly, rude conversation, etc. Therefore, “油腻” belongs to the category of functional shift.

4.1.2 Word Formation form of “Top-ten Network Parlance” in 2018

According to the Chinese National Language Monitoring and Research Center, the “top-ten network parlance” in 2018 are “锦鲤, 杠精, skr, 佛系, 确认过眼神, 官宣, C位, 土味情话, 皮一下, 燃烧我的卡路里.” The detailed analysis is presented below.

“锦鲤” is a kind of carp, and the original variety is *Cyprinus carpio*. In China, carp live long and have a unique beauty. It is said to have the characteristics of flourishing Feng Shui (风水).

Example 11 东莞体彩史上最大“**锦鲤**”现身! (From Xinhuanet)

As the example shows, today “锦鲤” refers to all things related to good luck, such as people with good luck, or things that can bring good luck. Obviously, “锦鲤” belongs to the functional shift.

“杠精” comes from the combination of the inherent words “抬杠” and “精怪”. In Chinese, “抬杠” means language provocation, verbal abuse, and cursing. “精怪” refers to non-human, non-ghost animals and plants that have been cultivated into non-intelligent and super-capable life.

Example 12 罗翔: 不跟“**杠精**”废话, 才是大智慧.(From Sohu news)

Therefore, “杠精” is blending parlance which refers to people who often get pleasure by raising the bar, people who always sing the opposite tune, and people who deliberately hold opposite opinions when arguing.

There are two usages of this word in network catchwords: one is to describe excellent things, and the other is to use it as homophony. In Chinese, the pronunciation of skr is similar to the Chinese words “死个” and “是个”

Example 13 你的表演太**skr**了.

你**skr** (是个) 狠人! (From Baidu)

According to the explanation in the American slang dictionary, skr was originally an onomatopoeic word that imitates the sound of the car rubbing against the ground when it drifts or swerves. This word is the mantra of many contestants in the Chinese show “China’s New Rap.” With the popularity of this program, skr has also become a popular word on the Internet. Apparently, skr is a burrowing word that comes from American culture.

“佛系” comes from a newly popular male variety – “佛系male“ introduced by a Japanese magazine. They look the same as ordinary people in appearance, but they often have the following characteristics in their hearts: their interests and hobbies always come first, and

basically, all things want to be done in the way and rhythm they like. They always think it's too troublesome to fall in love and don't want to waste time on it, nor do they want to make any girlfriends. They just like themselves and feel tired when they stay with girls.

Example 14 “告白墙”走红，家长该“佛系”还是“封禁”？ (From Xinhuanet)

After borrowing from Japanese culture, “佛系” mainly refers to the life attitude of pursuing inner peace without desire, sadness, or joy, light clouds, and light winds.

Some netizens posted a video on the Internet entitled “a fool sees a fool and thinks that the right person is a fool”: two boys are downstairs shooting three husky dogs lying on the roof with their mobile phones, while the Husky is looking at the downstairs coldly. Some netizens commented that “people who have confirmed their eyes do not want to be treated (确认过眼神，是不想理的人).” Then this parlance became popular on the internet.

Example 15 确认过眼神，TA是三星堆里最潮的崽。(From Xinhuanet)

“确认过眼神” is derived from a line in the song “Tale Of The Red Cliff” by Chinese singer JJ Lin (林俊杰) which reads “确认过眼神，我遇见对的人。” Later, this sentence was used by netizens for online comments and became popular. A means to be confirmed in the eyes. Therefore, the word formation way of “确认过眼神” is burrowing.

The word “官宣” has become popular on the Internet because domestic actors Zhao Liying and Feng Shaofeng have posted their wedding information on Weibo.

Example 16 官宣! 南宁2022年义务教育阶段学校这样招生。(From Xinhuanet)

The word “官宣” literally means “official announcement”, it is the clipping of “官方宣布”. It refers to the official announcement of a person or an organization to express the meaning of advertising. Hence, “官宣” is an acronym.

“C位” originally originated from the game field. It refers to the core characters in the later stage, who can make money in the early and middle stages of the game and lead the team to turn the tide in the later stage of the game.

Example 17 山钢机器人：抢占行业机器人产业“C位。” (From Xinhuanet)

Later, the word “C位” was more and more widely used in games and gradually turned to life. When a person is in the core position in the team, people call him the center position. In film and

television plays or variety posters, this position is also a high-ranking person. Hence, “C位” is both a functional shift and a burrowing word.

“土味情话” is a branch of “土味文化”. “土味文化” refers to some kinds of wonderful stories, funny jokes, and vulgarity from the people. Whenever you see such videos, the audience is more curious and sarcastic. On the one hand, they want to explore the vulgar content, and on the other hand, they are more like a sense of self-satisfaction from sarcasm.

Example 18 沙尘又要来了，今天最该说的**土味情话**。(From Sohu news)

“土味情话” refer to those love words that sound very meaty and boring and have some local feelings. Although it sounds boring, it is provocative. People name this new culture “土味文化”. Therefore, this kind of word belongs to the Coinage and blending.

“皮一下” is “usually used for unexpected turns in things and can be used to roast that it is very naughty. It is often used for funny content with reversal on Weibo.

Example 19 **皮一下**!塞维利亚官方宣布“签下”阿森纳吉祥物 (From Guangming Net)

This word already exists and originated from the dialect and became popular in-game interpretation. Especially, it was often used in the live broadcast of an online celebrity. Therefore, this word was first popular in the e-sports circle. Later, the scope of use gradually expanded, and it has become a common network language like a roast. Therefore, “皮一下” is categorized in the burrowing and functional shift.

“燃烧我的卡路里” comes from a line in the song “calories” sung by a Chinese women’s group. Because the melody of the song is brainwashed, it is widely spread Therefore, this is a borrowed word from the song

Example 20 “燃烧我的卡路里” 长春一公园建智能健身房免费对公众开放(From Xinhuanet)

This parlance has no other meaning beyond the literal meaning, so its use on the Internet is limited to topics related to weight loss and fitness.

4.1.3 Word Formation form of “Top-ten Network Parlance” in 2019

According to the Chinese National Language Monitoring and Research Center, the “top-ten network parlance” in 2019 are “不忘初心，道路千万条，安全第一条，柠檬精，好嗨哟，是个狼人，雨女无瓜，硬核，996，14亿护旗手，断舍离。” The detailed analysis is presented below.

The word “不忘初心”啊 clipping word originated from Bai Juyi of the Tang Dynasty’s “画弥勒上生帧记”: “所以表不忘初心，而必果本愿也。” It means that we should never forget the original intention, and we will eventually realize our original wishes.

Example 21 尤浩然: 童星出道 **不忘初心**. (From Xinhuanet)

“不忘初心” appeared in the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and became popular on the Internet: “the original intention and mission of the Chinese Communists are to seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation.”

“道路千万条，安全第一条” originated from a line repeatedly used in the movie *The Wandering Earth* which was later adopted by traffic police in many places as a traffic safety propaganda term.

Example 22 出游 **道路千万条** 消防 **安全第一条**. (From Xinhuanet)

As the movie became more and more popular, the parlance was also more and more fashionable. Netizens imitate this sentence pattern to create a variety of “×× 千万条，×× 第一条” has made this network term more widely used and disseminated.

“柠檬精” originally refers to a sugar-containing compound isolated from lemon juice, and also refers to gastric acid. Here, it means that lemons become monsters. It refers that people who like to be sour and jealous of others. Now, it is used to self mockingly express the multiple envies of others from appearance to inner, from material life to emotional life.

Example 23 神仙爱情!17万网友秒变“**柠檬精**”. (From Sohu news)

“柠檬精” is developed from “柠檬人.” “柠檬人” comes from the e-sports circle. Because of the quarrel between fans of different idols, there were many sour words. Later, people became refined and gradually developed the concept of “柠檬精.” Here, “柠檬精” is a blending of “柠檬” and “精怪” that metaphor for people who are a lemon becoming a monster.

“好嗨哟” comes from an online song of the same name. It was adapted by a short video master and matched with a very magical performance, which attracted many people to imitate and then heated the network. Hence, it is a burrowed word from the same name song.

Example 24 冰雕展、演艺秀、年货节.....这个冰雪节好嗨哟~ (From Xinhuanet)

Now, “好嗨哟” is used to express the state of being happy and excited.

“是个狼人” is a coinage. It evolved from “是个狠人”, which means “being crueller than a cruel person(比狠人再狠一点).”

Example 25是个狼人!高速路车流中,他躺拖挂车底修车.(From Sohu news)

It is usually used to tease someone who does not play cards according to common sense but can achieve miraculous results, giving people an unexpected and powerful feeling.

“雨女无瓜” is a coinage. It is a homophonic sound of “与你无关” which means “it has nothing to do with you.”

Example 26我单不单身,雨女无瓜! (From Sohu news)

It is an expression of nonstandard Mandarin with a dialect accent. This kind of expression looks cold and mysterious, and it is a bit confusing. In addition, the expression pack is very funny. It is usually used to resent or tease others.

“硬核” is the burrowed from English “hardcore.” Hardcore was first seen in the early 20th century and is used to describe the core and basic elements of something.

Example 27千钧一发! 飞渡激流、徒手搭梯……这波救援超**硬核**.(From Xinhuanet)

“硬核” originally described rap music as having a sense of strength or difficulty in games, and later described it as strong and tough. At the beginning of 2019, *The Wandering Earth* was called a “hardcore domestic science fiction film” by netizens, and then the word “硬核” was used by various major media.

“996” is an acronym that indicates the 996-working system (working from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., working for 6 days a week) without any subsidy.

Example 28对**996**说不!整治超时加班,国家出手了. (From Sohu news)

The company requires employees to work overtime according to the “996 working system,” and the company will not give any compensation, including overtime meals and evening taxi subsidies.

In the face of the outrage that some thugs threw the national flag into the sea in Hong Kong, CCTV news released the microblog topic “14亿护旗手” on the same day and put it on the top. Since then, “14亿护旗手” have become popular on the Internet

Example 29有种骄傲叫“中国红”!**14亿护旗手**让国旗永远飘扬. (From Sohu news)

The 1.4 billion flag bearers symbolize the 1.4 billion Chinese people. The flag bearer represents every Chinese who supports and cares for the motherland. Here, “14亿护旗手” is a functional shift word.

“断舍离” comes from the book *断舍离* written by Hideko Yamashita, Japan. Hence, it is a borrowed word from Japanese literature.

Example 30 网购太多被疑收破烂，人生要会断舍离。(From Xinhuanet)

Nowadays, “断舍离” refers to a kind of life attitude, which means to cut off and discard all those unnecessary, inappropriate, and outdated things, and cut off the attachment to them. Only after “断舍离,” people can we live a simple and refreshing life.

4.1.4 Word Formation form of “Top-ten Network Parlance” in 2020

According to the Chinese National Language Monitoring and Research Center, the “top-ten network parlance” in 2020 are “逆行者, 秋天的第一杯奶茶, 带货, 云监工, 光盘行动, 奥利给, 好家伙, 夺冠, 不约而同, 集美.” The detailed analysis is presented below.

“逆行者” first appear in the explosion accident of the dangerous goods warehouse in Tianjin Binhai New Area in 2015. In 2020, due to the sudden emergence of COVID-19, the word “逆行者” began to be widely used, and the meaning of the word began to be generalized. It refers to the person who walks in the opposite direction and is often used to refer to the strong person who stands up in the face of danger.

Example 31 勇做抗疫“逆行者”. (From Xinhuanet)

Hence, the word “逆行者” is a coinage designed to refer firefighter fighting the fire, a fighter fighting the flood, a volunteer fighting the earthquake... It is the general name of heroes.

“秋天的第一杯奶茶” refers to the arrival of autumn on the Internet. Lovers, friends, or family members send red envelopes in the name of inviting milk tea to express their intimate feelings.

Example 32 “秋天的第一杯奶茶”喝出千亿元大市场。(From Xinhuanet)

It can be seen that the meaning of“秋天的第一杯奶茶” is changed, and a cup of milk tea is used to replace all kinds of care, which means that in this cold autumn, there is a person who cares about himself. Hence, “秋天的第一杯奶茶” is a functional shift word.

“带货” is a coinage used by celebrities, online celebrities, Internet marketers, etc. to promote products through live video and other channels.

Example 33全球连线 | 听康巴小伙用歌声带货. (From Xinhuanet)

“带货” refers to the promotion of commodities by celebrities, online celebrities, and Internet marketers through live video and other channels. People from all walks of life have joined the live broadcast and delivery ranks to help local economic development.

On January 28, 2020, the three-way signal of CCTV video was surrounded by tens of millions of netizens. The equipment broadcast the construction site of “huoshenshan” hospital, a hospital for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases in Wuhan. The workers are fighting against the clock day and night. Although the netizens cannot come to the scene to help, they also add an identity to themselves: “云监工”. That is, to “supervise” the construction progress of the hospital through the live camera.

Example 34国网云监工: “身轻如燕”除隐患.(From Xinhuanet)

“云监工” is a coinage and blending which consist of a coinage “云” and blending with “监工”. It refers to netizens who supervise work through the network (watching the live broadcast, etc.)

“光盘行动” is a coinage. It was proposed in early January 2013. The “光盘行动” is initiated by a group of people who are enthusiastic about public welfare. The purpose of the “光盘行动” is that no more orders in the restaurant, no more orders in the canteen, and no more cooking in the kitchen.

Example 35践行光盘行动, 引领新“食”尚.(From Xinhuanet)

“光盘行动” means to eat up everything on the plate. The “光盘行动” aims to help people cultivate the habit of saving, cherishing food, and opposing waste.

“奥利给” is a coinage invented from the converted version of “给力奥.” It became popular on the Internet because when an online celebrity during a live broadcast or video recording, added “奥利给” at the beginning or end.

Example 36画出“爱”的支持, 为战疫喊出“奥利给” .(From Xinhuanet)

As an exclamation, “奥利给” contains a variety of emotional colors such as praise and cheer. This word is equivalent to “cheer up” today.

“好家伙” was a common modal particle in crosstalk at first, which means exclamation. Later, crosstalk came into public life, and the word was also widely used.

Example 37好家伙！你的手机居然这么脏！（From Xinhuanet）

Today, when netizens roast about something or are surprised at something, they usually add “好家伙” to emphasize it.

“夺冠” indeed is a clipping and the complete version is “夺取冠军” The word is popular because of the 夺冠of the same name, which shows the tenacity of several generations of Chinese women’s volleyball players.

Example 38欧洲女足锦标赛：英格兰夺冠。(From Xinhuanet)

“夺冠” means to win the championship. Generally used for competitions.

“不约而同”，originally, refers to the agreement of views or actions without prior consultation. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the meaning of the word has changed and is frequently used.

Example 39防疫成语新解:有人约你请说“不约而同”。(From Sohu news)

Today, “不约而同” means no dating and no gathering. It has become a common rule.

“集美” was originally taken by Mr. Tan Kah Kee, a patriotic overseas Chinese. It refers to the 集美Town, which means “gathering the beauty of the world.”

Example 40集美们,这批卫生巾出事了！（From Sohu news）

Later, a short video network celebrity pronounced “姐妹” in Chinese as“集美” because of its special accent. After that, the word became popular on the Internet and had the meaning of “集美.”

4.1.5 Word Formation form of “Top-ten Network Parlance” in 2021

According to the Chinese National Language Monitoring and Research Center, the “top-ten network parlance” in 2017 are “觉醒年代, YYDS, 双减, 破防, 元宇宙, 绝绝子, 躺平, 伤害性不高, 侮辱性极强, 我看不懂, 但我大受震撼, 强国有我.” The detailed analysis is presented below.

2021 is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the communist party. To celebrate this moment, the film and television media have launched various programs. *觉醒年代* is one of the most popular TV dramas in 2021. The popularity of the play has aroused people's attention to the word "觉醒年代." Hence, the word is a burrowing word that comes from the film and television culture

Example 41 少年罗瑞卿的“*觉醒年代*”.(From Xinhuanet)

觉醒年代 tells the story from 1915 to 1921. Today, “觉醒年代” reflects that the contemporary youth should shoulder the heavy responsibility of inheriting the red gene and building a socialist modern power.

“YYDS” is the Pinyin abbreviation of “永远的神” in Chinese. Hence, it is an acronym. The word comes from a commentator's praise of the game players in the game live broadcast. Later, it was widely used by the public.

Example 42 包揽金银X8，中国健儿yyds！(From Xinhuanet)

As an adjective, “YYDS” can be used not only to praise people, but also to praise countries, institutions, and organizations, and then extended to events, events, and things. Everything can become a God.

The term originates from the relevant policies put forward by the government to solve the problems of excessive quantity, low quality, and function alienation of school work, which can not only not achieve the effect of reviewing the old and learning the new, but also occupy the normal exercise, rest and entertainment time of students.

Example 43 “*双减*”一年看变化——什么样的作业，才是好作业(From Xinhuanet)

Therefore, “*双减*” is a clipping word and the complete version is “减轻义务教育阶段学生过重作业负担和校外培训负担.”

“破防” is the clipping of “破除防御”. In the early days, it was mostly used in the military field. It has the meaning of breaking the enemy's defense and winning.

Example 44 *破防*了！这些随餐卡片藏着“爱心密码”(From Xinhuanet)

Now it refers to the emotional impact caused by some things or information, and the psychological defense is broken. Hence, “破防” is a functional shift word.

“元宇宙” was born in the science fiction *Avalanche* in 1992. The novel describes a huge virtual reality world, where people use digital avatars to control and compete with each other to improve their status. Up to now, it still describes the advanced future world. Therefore, “元宇宙” is a burrowing word from American literature.

Example 45 桌对话：共话元宇宙时代文化数字化高质量发展(From Xinhuanet)

“元宇宙” now refers to the Internet application and social life form formed by the promotion of technologies such as XR (extended reality), digital twin, blockchain, and AI (Artificial Intelligence). At the present stage, the meta-universe is still an evolving and developing concept

“绝绝子” is a coinage that comes from a network social platform.

Example 46 当冬奥场馆邂逅中国浪漫，真**绝绝子**! (From Xinhuanet)

Now “绝绝子” has two meanings: one is excellent which describes excellent things; the other is too bad which is used for ridicule.

“躺平” is a clipping. It originated from the word “躺平任嘲”. It was born in 2016 or earlier. It is a term used by fans in the entertainment industry to express that lie-down and let you laugh.

Example 47 创新求胜，绝不“躺平”——疫情下浙江企业持续提升“续航力” (From Xinhuanet)

Nowadays, “躺平” means that no matter what reaction the other party makes, there is no wave in your heart. There will be no reaction or resistance to this, indicating submissive psychology.

In an online video, two men are sandwiching dishes with each other, while the other woman at the same table appears very lonely. Therefore, some netizens teased that “伤害性不高，侮辱性极强”.

Example 48 爆笑!体坛那些“伤害性不大侮辱性极强”的瞬间(From Sohu news)

Later, it was used as an adjective by netizens to make fun of something. Although there was no substantial harm, it was very embarrassing. Therefore, it is a functional shift word.

“我看不懂，但我大受震撼” is the comment of director Ang Lee on a film and television work in the documentary *Trespassing Bergman* (2013).

Example 49 我看不懂,但我大受震撼:582亿元把同行拉飞,自己却差点崩掉? (From Sohu news)

Nowadays, netizens use it as an adjective to express one's incomprehension and shock at something confusing. Therefore, it is a functional shift word.

“强国有我” originates from the solemn oath of young students at the Tiananmen Square celebration to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China.

Example 50 无锡惠山: 传承红色基因 童心筑梦 **强国有我** (From Xinhuanet)

“强国有我” is a coinage, which expresses the solemn vows made by the young generation to the party and the people, and shows the ambition, backbone, and strength of Chinese youth in the new era.

4.2 Features of Word Formation in Network Parlance

Through the analysis of the previous part, we can see that the word-formation of network parlance is covered in various classifications. The specific number of network parlance under different word formation forms is shown in the table below.

Table 3 General Features of Word Formation in Network Parlance

Name	Network Parlance	Number
Coinage	雨女无瓜, 逆行者, 带货, 光盘行动, 奥利给, 绝绝子, 强国有我	7
Clipping	官宣, 夺冠, 双减, 破防, 躺平	5
Blending	柠檬精, 杠精	2
Acronyms	996, YYDS	2
Burrowing	打call, 惊不惊喜, 意不意外, 你有freestyle吗, skr, 佛系, 确认过眼神, 燃烧我的卡路里, 不忘初心, 道路千万条, 安全第一条, 好嗨哟, 硬核, 断舍离, 好家伙, 觉醒年代, 元宇宙	15
Functional Shift	你的的良心不会痛吗, 皮皮虾, 我们走, 扎心了, 老铁, 还有这种操作, 怼, 油腻, 锦鲤, 14亿护旗手, 秋天的第一杯奶茶, 不约而同, 集美, 伤害性不高, 辱性极强, 我看不懂, 但我大受震撼	14

Backformation-words		0
Multiple-way	尬聊, C位, 皮一下, 土味情话, 云监工	5

As shown in the table, it can be seen that the most frequently used word-formation in the network parlance is burrowing, which counts 15 in the total of 50. The source of those parlanges is various, for example, some of them are from other cultures of different countries like skr comes from America, and “佛系” comes from Japan; some of them are from literature or media, like “道路千万条, 安全第一” from the film, and “元宇宙” comes from literature.

The second frequently used word formation in the network parlance is the functional shift. The way of shift is also quite different, for instance, some phrases are shifted as adjectives, like “伤害性不高, 辱性极强”, “我看不懂, 但我大受震撼”; some words are containing more meaning like “锦鲤” and “油腻.”

Coinage and clipping are seated on the third and fourth. These two are quite different in root since coinage is a new word and clipping is usually shortened from the already existing word. Therefore, the network parlance under these two has the same features. Besides, blending and acronyms are the most less used word formation form, and there is no parlance formed in the way of backformation.

Last but not least, there are five network parlanges formed in multiple ways. There are three multiple ways of these five parlanges. First, it uses the way of blending and burrowing like the parlance “尬聊.” Second, it uses the way of functional shift and burrowing like “C位” and “皮一下.” Third, it uses the way of coinage and blending like “土味情话” and “云监工.”

5. Conclusion

5.1 Findings of the Study

In general, except for backformation words, the network parlance covered all the forms of word formation. The present thesis argues that because of the features of Chinese characters, there is seldom parlance created in the way of shortened from the longer words. Burrowing and functional shift are the most and second most frequently used word formation forms of all the “top-ten network parlance” in recent five years. There are two major sources of the burrowing word: one is literature, and the other is film. There are two ways of functional shift words changing their meaning: one is phrases changed into adjectives, and the other is nouns containing more meanings. In addition, from the form of word formation of network parlance in the past five years, it can be seen that functional shift and burrowing are the main forms from 2017, and gradually become involved in every form by 2021, and the number of coinage and clipping has

increased. The present study believes that because the existing word cannot fully satisfy the current demand of people and people tend to find a more economic way of speaking online.

Specifically, the word formation forms of the “top-ten network parlance” in 2017 are mainly functional shift and burrowing. During this time, it can be seen that a lot of shifts and borrowings are sourced from the game live. The word formation form of the “top-ten network parlance” in 2018 begins involving other forms but functional shift and burrowing are still the main parts. This time, burrowing surpasses the functional shift and becomes the most frequently used form. It can be seen that starting at this time, the network parlance lay stress on other cultures to rich its contents. The word formation “top-ten network parlance” in 2019 started using coinage and the functional shift is hurried reduced. The word formation “top-ten network parlance” in 2020 mainly use coinage. The word formation “top-ten network parlance” in 2020 changed to using more clipping.

5.2 Implication of the Study

To sum up, this study analyzes the network parlance in the past five years from the perspective of word formation, which helps to further understand the generation of new words and the characteristics of network parlance in the new network era. Specifically, the study found that the most frequently used word formation form in network parlance are functional shift and burrowing. From the perspective of the use trend in the past five years, the formation of network parlance also shows the characteristics of diversification. Specifically, the frequency of using coinage and clipping is increased. Therefore, this study believes that the word-formation of network parlance reflects the characteristics of the contemporary new language formation. That is, from expanding the meaning of words and absorbing other cultures in 2017, it gradually changed to creating new words and using simplified short words.

5.3 Limitations and Suggestions of the Study

In fact, the composition of network parlance is relatively complex, the origin is difficult to verify, and the meaning of network parlance changes rapidly. Therefore, it is difficult to judge the word formation form of each network parlance. In order to avoid the inaccuracy of the judgment, this study investigates the source, meaning, and composition of each term. However, due to the complexity of its causes and the limitations of the lack of experience of researchers themselves. The results may be subjective. In order to avoid such subjectivity, future research can use questionnaires or invite other users to analyze and discuss the word formation form of each term.

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