

The Inheritance and Deviation of the Subjective Construction

“You Bei X Dao (有被X到)”

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Sentence “bei” (“被”字句) and “bei xx” (被xx) provide syntactic and semantic basis for the generation of the construction “You Bei X Dao (有被x到)”. They are in a continuum and have family similarity. The sentence “bei” is a typical member, while “bei xx” is an atypical member. Because the construction “You Bei X Dao” has a single function and less attention, it is at the edge of the continuum and is a marginal member. However, it has certain research value in the inheritance and innovation of “bei” and “bei xx”.

Keywords: “bei” sentence, “bei xx”, construction “You Bei X Dao”, inheritance, deviation

Introduction

In recent years, “you bei gandong dao (有被感动到)” and “you bei jingyan dao (有被惊艳到)” have frequently appeared on social platforms. They are often produced due to special contextual needs and represent a special pragmatic meaning. This is a new expression method based on the popularity of “bei xx”. According to the observation, the syntactic element after “bei” can be a verb, an adjective, or a noun, and we use “x” to represent their collection. Because the overall meaning of “You Bei X Dao” is not the simple addition of “you (有)”, “bei (被)”, “x”, and “dao (到)”, but a kind of integration, with the characteristics of construction, so it is called the construction “You Bei X Dao”. The construction “You Bei X Dao” not only inherits the sentence “bei” and “bei xx”, but also shows some characteristics of its own, with both development and innovation. Therefore, it will continue to explore deeply, hoping to clarify their development context.

Through the collection of literature, the research on “bei” sentence can be roughly divided into the research on “bei” sentence, the research on “bei xx”, and the research on the construction of “You Bei X Dao”. Among them, the study of “bei” sentence is very sufficient. Since the 1920s, the study has been carried out without interruption, and the number is the largest. There are also many researches on “bei xx”, with about 200 literatures. There are few researches on the construction “You Bei X Dao”, and only one paper has been found, Li Huimin (2021). Although both of them are involved, there are also literatures on the comparative study of the two constructions. For example, Zheng Lin (2012) compared the modern Chinese “bei” sentence and “bei xx”, but the three are included into a prototype category and regarded as the study on the inheritance and development of “bei” sentence, but no relevant literature has been found yet. Therefore, it is very necessary to explore the inheritance, breakthrough, and innovation among them.

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Analysis of the Component of the Construction “You Bei X Dao”

Goleberg points out that

Construction is a pair of form and meaning. If C is a construct, then and only if C is a pair of form and meaning <Fi, Si>, and some aspects of form or meaning are not strictly predictable from its component parts or other previously predictable constructs. (Niu, 2011, p. 81)

Although in “You Bei X Dao”, “you” represents the critical point, it still has passive meaning. The passive function is assumed by “bei” and “x”, but on the whole, this passive meaning is weakened by “you” and “dao”, which indicate the subjective degree. In addition, the subject is mostly the first person, so the passivity is greatly reduced and the subjectivity is obviously improved. This level of semantics cannot be deduced from the four parts of “you”, “bei”, “x”, and “dao”. Its whole meaning is greater than the sum of its parts, so “You Bei X Dao” is a construction.

Invariant Terms “You (有)”, “Bei”, “Dao (到)”

“You”. Dong Xiufang (2004) analyzed the grammaticization of the auxiliary verb “you” in modern Chinese, and believed that “you” tends to express a positive attitude, so “you” as a future occurrence will also express a positive attitude. Although the existence of “zhe (着)” may block the appearance of the auxiliary verb “you” to a certain extent, since the two are not identical, “you” cannot be completely replaced. It has its own value of existence. She also pointed out that there are two reasons why “you” may appear in Mandarin. Firstly, “you” is an auxiliary verb in Cantonese and other southern dialects, which is often used to form “you + VP”. Secondly, the appearance of “you” may fill the vacancy of the auxiliary verb system of “you mei you” and “meiyou” in Mandarin. Chen Yehong (2006; 2007) believed that “you” produces the grammatical meaning of “affirmation, emphasis and confirmation” in the process of virtualization. This all reflects the subjectivity of “you”; holding on to this views include Lan Bixian (2009), Wang Guoshuan and Ma Qingzhu (2008), Wu Wenying and Xia Liping (2002).

“Bei”. As for the part of “bei”, Shi Chunhong (2013) thought that “bei” is more like a verb. In addition, some scholars believe that they are auxiliary words, such as Zheng Qingjun (2010), and adverbs. Because it is too complicated, it will be discussed in another article later.

“Dao”. Luo Yaohua (2015) believed that the semantics of “dao” is blurred along the trajectory of “arrival space→arrival time→arrival result/degree”. Chang Ying (2012) analyzed the imaginary path of “dao”, believing that “dao” after “V” becomes imaginary along the space domain to the time domain, and then from the action to a certain degree to the behavior, resulting in a result and then representing the imaginary meaning of psychological perception. In addition, “v dao” established a mental perception domain that can represent a degree.

Variable Term “X”

The “x” in the construction “You Bei X Dao” can be divided into the following three categories according to the parts of speech.

“X” is a verb. This category of verbs can be subdivided into transitive verbs, intransitive verbs, and mental activity verbs. Mainly refers to a certain psychological feeling or expression of a high degree of meaning. For example:

(1) I am really inspired by you. I do not know why. Every time I see your text, I feel a sense of power.

我真的有被你鼓舞到，也不知道为什么，每次看到你发的文字都感到了一股力量感。(BCC微博语料

库)

(2) She tried ancient costume for the first time. Liu Yuxin was amazed by her white costume as if she were a swordswoman in a costume drama.

首次尝试古装，身穿白色古装的刘雨昕好像是古装剧里的侠女，有被惊艳到。(BCC微博语料库)

(3) I think cloud video blowing candles to wish a happy birthday is really warm heart, and I have been envied.

我感觉云视频吹蜡烛祝生日快乐真的很暖心，有被羡慕到。(BCC微博语料库)

The “x” in the constructions of the above three examples are transitive verb, intransitive verb, and mental activity verb respectively.

“X” is an adjective. Adjectives are mainly qualitative adjectives, which mainly express the speaker’s physiological feeling and psychological feeling, reflecting the two slightly different semantic meanings of “to” mentioned above. For example:

(4) The fish was so delicious that the person concerned said he was overstretched.

这个鱼太好吃了，当事人表示有被撑到。(BCC微博语料库)

(5) Their concert really can’t be taken as a song, because they are really handsome by the dance!

他们的演唱会真的不能当听歌，因为真的有被舞蹈帅到啊！(BCC微博语料库)

Above sentences show the subjectivity of the construction.

“X” is a noun. Some nouns with strong characteristics can enter the construction. For example:

(6) When we had dinner last night, the two of us and my sister together, he first bought the meal and took the tableware, and took the spoon for me, I think this detail is really impressed me.

昨天晚上吃饭的时候，我们两个和师妹一起，他先买好了饭拿了餐具，又给我拿了勺子，真的有被细节到。(BCC微博语料库)

(7) A true lover of singing never cares about others.

真正爱唱歌的人从不顾他人死活，有被内涵到。(BCC微博语料库)

The words “xijie (细节)” and “neihan (内涵)” appear in the example sentence. In fact, two simple nouns are used to express two complex events. This actually has something to do with the idea of “Mingdonghuan (名动互含)” in people’s minds. Xu Shenghuan (2001) pointed out that noun-verb interinclusion is because the semantic contents of nouns and verbs are mutually inclusive, so it is possible for nouns to be converted into verbs. We think the same should be true of “xijie” and “neihan”.

It is not difficult to see that construction has rich expression forms and is semantically selective to “x”. “X” can only be used for verbs that represent mental activity, intransitive verbs that can represent changes in mental state, qualitative adjectives that represent subjective feelings, and nouns with strong characteristic meanings.

The Form and Construction Meaning of the Construction “You Bei X Dao”

There is a difference in form between the construction “You Bei X Dao” and “bei” sentence. You Shu (2016, p. 27) proposed five basic formats of modern Chinese quilt sentences: “A bei BV”, “A bei B le (了)/zhe (着)/guo (过)”, “A bei B VR”, “A bei B VO”, “A bei B VP1VP2” (where A is NP1 and B is NP2). The construction “You Bei X Dao” cannot be included in any of them in form, which is a departure from the sentence “bei”. But the blanking of NP1 and NP2 is the same. You Shu (2005) analyzed the disappearance of NP1 and NP2; it is believed that NP1 has two cases of occurrence and omission, and NP2 has three cases of occurrence, omission, and implication, and so does the construction “You Bei X Dao”. For example:

(8) I'm impressed by you, I wish you good luck.

我有被你惊艳到, 愿你行大运。(BCC微博语料库)

(9) Every day I'm blown away by art!

每天我都有被艺术熏到!(BCC微博语料库)

(10) I was moved by you. Life can be as hot as a boxing, or as light as a game.

有被你感动到。人生可以热烈如一场拳击, 也可以轻盈如一场游戏。(BCC微博语料库)

(11) I felt happy, although we cannot see each much time.

有被开心到, 虽然见一面少一面。(BCC微博语料库)

In the example sentence, it can be seen that the form of the construction “You Bei X Dao” is not the same as the sentence “bei” or “bei xx”, but it can also be found that the form of the construction is closely related to the subjectivity reflected by the construction. Their order of subjectivity increases: (11) > (10) > (9) > (8). When both NP1 and NP2 appear, the semantic understanding is fixed. When one of them appears, it has space for imagination and increases subjectivity. When neither NP1 nor NP2 appears, the construction is the most concise, the imagination space is the largest, and the subjectivity is the strongest.

The construction “You Bei X Dao” mainly expresses a subjective attitude of the speaker, including psychological feeling and certain degree of recognition of modality. It can be manifested in the following two small aspects.

Firstly, the construction can represent subjective feelings. For example:

(12) The fish was so good that the subject said he was stretched until.

这个鱼太好吃了, 当事人表示有被撑到。(BCC微博语料库)

(13) I'm really cute by this!

真心有被这张萌到!(BCC微博语料库)

In the example sentence, “too much fish” is a subjective quantity; there is no definite standard. In Example (13), “I” think the photo is “cute”. This is just her opinion. It does not mean that everyone is the same, so it is a subjective feeling.

Secondly, the construction can indicate a high degree. For example:

(14) The Yearning Life, is romantic.

《向往的生活》, 有被浪漫到。(BCC微博语料库)

(15) I saw a pure white kitten on the road. It was very cute.

在路上看到了一只纯白色的小猫, 有被可爱到。(BCC微博语料库)

The two sentences are both extremely subjective.

Compared with the sentence “bei” and “bei xx”, although the construction can also express negative meaning, the most obvious feature of the construction “You Bei X Dao” is “subjectivity”. The main pragmatic function of the construction “You Bei X Dao” is to express the speaker's subjective feelings and evaluation. The “bei” sentence and “bei xx” indicate the undesirable consequences of the speaker's passivity.

Conclusion

The construction “You Bei X Dao” reflects the speaker's subjective attitude, is a reasonable catharsis, and sometimes also reflects a helpless. “Bei xx” has a strong dependence on the context; out of context, meaning is unclear, but also reflects its flexibility and versatility. When the subject and object do not appear, construction is more subjective, can produce a variety of understanding, and is also a kind of flexibility. The construction “You

Bei X Dao” is in a marginal position, with fewer functions compared with “bei xx”, so there are fewer literature studies, which coincides with its low attention. “Bei xx” is more of a negative, false, negative, and ironic expression. The construction “You Bei X Dao” is relatively simple, but is also widely used because of its simplicity. This is inseparable from the language of economy, innovation, and analogy principle. This form really shows that the meaning of words is infinite. It doesn’t happen in a vacuum. “Bei xx” is a transitional stage. The sentence “bei” and “bei xx” provide syntactic and semantic basis for the generation of the construction “You Bei X Dao”.

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