

# Transdisciplinary Features of Cognitive Linguistics

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**Abstract:** Transdisciplinarity is a new orientation of interdisciplinary research. Cognitive linguistics is often regarded as the cross-disciplinary studies of languages and symbols using many theories and methods of related subjects such as the linguistics, psychology, anthropology, biology and other disciplines. From the perspective of transdisciplinarity, the transdisciplinary features of characteristics and the methods of cognitive linguistics is analyzed, providing a direction for the development of linguistics and semiotics.

## Introduction

Cognitive linguistics began in the 1980s. Germany's first international cognitive linguistics conference and the journal of cognitive linguistics published in 1990 marked the maturity of cognitive linguistics. Cognitive linguistics is regarded as a fusion of cognitive psychology and linguistics. It mainly studies how to obtain language and knowledge and the human's process of thought by analyzing the human in information storage, thinking, use of cognitive strategy in the process of understanding and talking to reveal the structure and organization of thinking.(Zhang Chun-hui, 2011:39) The research goal of cognitive linguistics is to explore the actual content of human cognition, reveal the relationship between cognition and language, and the secret of human cognition. (Wen Xu, 2002:91) Wang Yin argues the cognitive linguistics should be studied from two aspects of the cognitive and physical experience, mainly focusing on the concept and significance of research structure, trying to explore the cognitive style behind the language facts, thus making a unified, newly-developing interdisciplinary subject. Above all, cognitive linguistics is generally considered as the interdisciplinary study of theories and methods of exploring psychology, anthropology, biology and other disciplines to study. The exploration and research of the related theory in cognitive linguistics embodies the transdisciplinarity.

## The concepts of transdisciplinarity and the research at home and abroad

The transdisciplinarity is a kind of combined and overall effect. It puts forward creative solutions to all kinds of complicated problems in the reality, rather than a simple superposition or mix of disciplinary information (Somerville, 2000).It will break discipline knowledge inside and outside the boundaries of different knowledge, integrating them into a more comprehensive knowledge form, highly combining subject knowledge and non-subject knowledge.

The concept of transdisciplinarity was first proposed by Piaget in 1972. Jantsch (1972:99) thinks transdisciplinarity is based on axiom (introduced from objective level) and the emerging of epistemology mode, coordinating all disciplines and interdisciplinarity in educational and innovative system. Gibbons et al. (1994)thinks the study of transdisciplinarity is beyond the original theoretical concept and the paradigm of the subjects, reshaping the basis of related cognitive and social practices, not just the simple use of the theory and method of existing discipline.He thinks it is a continuous, original and compromise research.

The domestic contribution to the academic research on transdisciplinarity includes Hu Zhuang-lin, Jiang Yi-min, Li Ying and Jjiang Feng-hua etc. Hu Zhuang-lin has carried on the detailed comparison between the multidisciplinarity, interdisciplinarity and crossdisciplinarity, and also he has studied the characteristics, application status and systematic linguists of

transdisciplinarity on a detail and systematical scale. Jiang Yi-min (2009) has demonstrated the knowledge production mode. Li Ying (2013), based on very discipline concept, elaborated the reflection of the language and thinking and analyze the cause of the college English teaching mode.

## **Transdisciplinarity of cognitive linguistics**

Cognitive linguistics, as a rapidly developing forefront discipline, it has a strong and inclusive interdisciplinarity and also it can solve the puzzles involving language, cognition and so on. Whether in broad or narrow perspectives, cognitive linguistics has been regarded as a mutual penetration between linguistics and other disciplines. Its transdisciplinarity no doubt exists.

Cognitive linguistics emphasizes the combination of both language and cognition, and also pays more attention to integration of various kinds of social practice. Cognitive linguistics is applied to supplement at the theoretical level and even the development of other genres of language theory, in order to inspire and enrich the linguistics, and further enrich the theory of linguistics. Cognitive linguistics, as well as other disciplines, focus on practical applications, such as foreign language teaching, Chinese research and artificial intelligence, etc., to meet the needs of the society directly. Cognitive linguistics research and the reflexivity and its dynamic of practice is self-evident.

The dynamic development of cognitive linguistics determines the nature of its diversity. And its essence determines the diversity of its research objects, such as involving psychology, pedagogy, linguistics, neuroscience, cognitive science, philosophy and logic, etc. The simple superposition of these disciplines cannot constitute cognitive linguistics. It starts from a specific problems related to language and cognition, and reshapes one or several related disciplines of knowledge using different research methods and means, then explores the solution of the problem by the comprehensive utilization of research tools in existing knowledge he has reserves, in order to gain a whole transdisciplinary understanding of the subject. But it doesn't say there is no destination in the study of cognitive linguistics at random drift, it is a multiple and multi-level research. The super alignment of cognitive linguistics, that is the possibility of cross and integration of cognitive linguistics and other disciplines, is bound to be on the trend of diversification of related discipline research value. The chain pluralism can make cognitive linguistics answer any questions related to cognition and language, and dig up any other internal academic potential that contemporary theoretical linguistics framework is less than.

The interdisciplinary, dynamics, diversity and its wide research task and scope of the cognitive linguistics makes the transdisciplinary characteristics of it more prominent. Cognitive linguistics has been widely used by human in social linguistics, human linguistics, literature, language acquisition and foreign language teaching, and many other related fields, forming emerging research areas with characteristics of multidisciplinary even transdisciplinary such as cognitive poetics, cognitive social linguistics, cognitive culture and so on.

Cognitive linguistics includes three research methods: experiential view, prominence view and attentional view.(Zhang Chun-hui, 2011:39) Experiential view emphasized the importance of cognitive experience in the process of category, and it thinks that the study of language should take a more realistic and empirical way. Prominence view thinks, the application of graphics and background lies in the analysis of preposition meaning and syntactic structure analysis. Attentional view is the distribution of attention when cognitive subject organizes the information. These three methods are highly consistent in essence. First of all, experiential view includes prominence view and attentional view. Cognitive experience to some extent influences the image schema etc in the process of typical phenomenon, family resemblance and the category. Instead people perceive the cognitive subject through the sense organ. While the cognitive process is influenced by perception perspective, emotional factors and the influence of weight, color, material properties. This is the relationship between prominence view and attentional view.(Zhang Chun-hui, 2011:41) Second, experiential view and prominence view is based on experience. Both image schema and framework, scripts, the event framework and perspective are the basic cognitive structure human interacts with the outside world, and also is the product of cognitive experience. Third prominence view and attentional view are closely linked and inseparable. Attentional view contains the composition of

prominence view, while prominence view has the factors of attentional view. The above three research methods reflect the different aspects of cognitive linguistics study. It must be sure, any isolated study of language and cognition is not to achieve effective results. In this sense, transdisciplinarity occupies a pivotal position in the study of cognitive linguistics.

## Conclusion

To sum up, the nature of the characteristics and research methods of cognitive linguistics both reflect the characteristics of transdisciplinarity. Transdisciplinarity is not only the need of scientific innovation, reflects the requirements of the times, and is the developing direction of modern linguistics, but also is the goals of the development of linguistics. With the continuous development of various disciplines, transdisciplinarity will continuously deepen academic development. We must understand it comprehensively and correctly, so as to promote our research and practice.

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