

Research on Emerging Web-based Subjective Evaluation Construct “mou ren wu shi dong X de”

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Received: 22 October 2023; Accepted: 19 November 2023; Published: 27 December 2023

Abstract:

“Mou ren/wu shi dong X de” is an emerging online subjective evaluation construction, which is analyzed in this paper in four aspects based on the theory of construction grammar. Syntactically, the choices of “X” in this construction are mainly nouns, verbs, and phrase structures, with a few cases of adjectives or pronouns; the syntactic functions are mainly independent sentences, with a few cases acting as objects or clauses in complex sentences. In terms of semantic analysis, the original construct meaning is “seemingly praising but actually satirizing someone/something who doesn’t pretend to understand X, in order to achieve irony, flirtation and other meanings”, and then it can also express positive meanings; the semantic features include subjective coloring, evaluating and judging, and highlighting and emphasizing. In terms of pragmatic features, on the basis of judging the type of language as “written language in network language”, the article concludes that its pragmatic functions are: focus highlighting function, subjective evaluation function, and title eye-catching function. Finally, the article explores the formation process and motives of the construction, which is mainly formed by the combination of “ni dong de” and “shi.....de”, and the motives are: the psychological demand for newness and simplicity. The motives are: the psychological demand for newness and simplicity, the social function of “beyond words” and the help of network platform.

Keywords

Constructs, “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”, Subjectivity, Evaluation

1. Introduction

In the past six months, the construction “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” has rapidly become popular on the Internet due to its unique sentence structure and intriguing connotations, and has become an emerging Internet construction that is mainly favored by young people. This construction meets the three criteria proposed by Zhang Yisheng (2020:12) [1] for determining popular constructions: it has a stereotypical sentence or structure; the replaceable parts are analogous; and it is

produced in the contemporary era and widely circulated. From this, it can be determined that “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” is an emergent network construction.

Regarding the organization of the corpus of the construction “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”, the author did not find any examples in CCL and other corpora, which shows that this construction appeared at a later time and is an emerging construction. According to the author’s microblogging topic, “ni shi dong X de” collects 62 entries, and “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” collects 1,775 entries, which shows that this construction has been used very frequently and is popular among netizens. The research on this construction has not been found on the China Knowledge Network (CNN), so the academic community still needs to further explore it. In this paper, we intend to analyze this construction systematically from various perspectives, including syntax, semantics, pragmatics, derivation mechanism and cognitive motivation, based on the collected corpus.

2. Syntactic Analysis of the Construction “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”

2.1. Selection of “X” by “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”

“mou ren/wu shi dong X de” consists of a constant and a variable, the constant includes “mou ren/wu”, “shi”, “dong”, “de”, and the variable is the unknown “X”, which is the focus of our understanding of this structure. According to the corpus, the unknown item “X” of this structure is mainly nouns, verbs and phrase structures, and a few adjectives and pronouns, and most of them are neutral words, and the whole has a subjective evaluation nature. Next, we will analyze the structure in detail from the aspects of expressive function, number of syllables, affective color, semantic features and so on.

2.1.1. “X” as a noun

The structure of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” can go into nouns in the vast majority of cases. For example:

- 1) Xie Zhiyao ni shi dong tao lu de.
- 2) ni shi dong hai bao de.
- 3) Xu Minghao ni shi dong shi shang de.

Based on the above examples we can find that X can be filled by both abstract and concrete nouns, and it is mostly concrete nouns that express opinions about a specific thing. When abstract nouns enter the structure, the phenomenon of abstract noun concretization is produced in specific contexts. For example, the background of example 3) is that Xu Minghao recorded a video in which he wore a pair of colorful socks while dressed in a suit, and this sense of contrast attracted a lot of fans and netizens to discuss it, and the microblogging topic #Xu Minghao ni shi dong shi shang de# was read as much as 503,000 times, and the “shi shang” here refers specifically to the “shi shang” shown by the star’s sense of contrast in the context. The “shi shang” in this context refers to the “shi shang” shown by the star’s contrasting style, which expresses the meaning of flirting.

2.1.2. “X” as a verb

According to the corpus collation, it is found that “X” as a verb is also more common, and almost all of them are action verbs, and the author has not yet found the emergence of verbs that express abstract meanings in the corpus collated by the author. For example:

- 1) dian ran wo wen nuan ni shi dong jian ji de.
- 2) fang xin dang yang ni shi dong fan zhuan de.
- 3) Zhang Jiayuan ni shi dong cai fang de, shun jian tai jie di qi le ya!

According to the above examples of “jian ji, fan zhuan, cai fang, wei xie”, we can find that syllabically, this type of verbs are mainly two-syllable words. At the same time, most of these verbs can be followed by the object, can be used as the predicate or the predicate center, in the sentence with the specific context can be regarded as the omission of the object. In terms of emotional color, neutral words are predominant, with a few positive or negative words appearing. In terms of semantic features, they all have semantic features such as [+specificity] [+controllability] [+subjectivity]. In addition, in a sense, it can be argued that the verb as “X” has been “nominalized” under the “suppression” of the construction, and the verb that enters the construction is activated by the semantic “meaning” and “subjectivity” of the verb. The verb that enters the construction is activated by the semantic features of “meaning” and “concreteness”. Thus, the use of the verb in the construction implies a flirtatious, evaluative, ironic meaning of “something caused by the action”.

2.1.3. “X” as a phrase structure

In addition to nouns and verbs, it is also common for “X” to appear as a phrase structure in constructions, mainly involving verb-object phrases, paratactic phrases, subject-predicate phrases, and joint phrases, with verb-object and paratactic phrases predominating, and subject-predicate and joint phrases appearing less frequently. Specific examples are as follows:

- 1) ni shi dong bao shui jiao de. (verb-object phrase)
- 2) ni shi dong Tianjin ying yu de. (biased phrase)
- 3) Di Lireba shi dong yan shen ya po de. (subject-predicate phrase)
- 4) Zhu Yun ni shi dong yue du li jie de. (coordinated phrase)

It can be seen from the above example sentences that in the case where X is a phrase, it can be understood as a whole “chunk of speech”, i.e., a whole event is expressed through the phrase, and the event is concrete and not abstract. From the point of view of semantic features, it has the semantic features of [+holistic] [+concrete].

2.1.4. “X” as an adjective or pronoun

X for adjectives and pronouns is rare overall. Examples are as follows:

- 1) Chen Zheyuan ni shi dong chen wen de.
- 2) Changsha ni shi dong wei mei de.
- 3) “dian ran wo wen nuan ni” shi dong da jia de.

Adjectives are divided into adjectives of nature and adjectives of state. We can find that the adjectives that enter the structure of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” are mainly

state adjectives. So why is it inappropriate for a nature adjective to act as an X? This has to do with the differences between the two and the overall nature of the construction. State adjectives focus on describing the state of an event or thing, and the nature they represent has a quantitative component, i.e., they indicate a deepening of the degree, have a strong implication of subjective evaluation, and are a vivid form of the state of affairs, in order to achieve the effect of controlling the range of characteristics of the object being described. Therefore, state adjectives are very much in line with the semantic character of the construction [+ subjectivity]. On the contrary, the nature adjective simply expresses the nature and lacks a definition of the thing or things specifically described in the construction, i.e., it expresses a quantitative range, not a definite standard. Taking 2) as an example, if “wei mei” is replaced by “mei” here, it will not emphasize Changsha's uniqueness as the only one in the whole of China. Therefore, in context, the adjective “wei mei” cannot be replaced by the adjective “mei” simply because the adjective “nature” has the accuracy of description, while other words such as “mei” and “jue mei” have the accuracy of description. The other words such as “mei” and “jue mei” are unable to emphasize the beauty of Changsha.

In the use of pronouns, personal pronouns such as “we, I” are mainly used, and we have not yet searched for the use of interrogative pronouns and demonstrative pronouns. This is similar to the reason for the use of adjectives, as personal pronouns indicate more specific contents, while questioning pronouns such as “who, where” and demonstrative pronouns such as “this, that,” etc. indicate vague meanings, and the use of pronouns with specific meanings is obviously more in line with the context of the construction.

To summarize, there are various kinds of “X” in the construction, mainly nouns, verbs and phrase structures, and the phrase structures are mainly verb-object phrases and subject-predicate phrases; adjectives, pronouns, subject-predicate phrases and conjunctive phrases are used infrequently, and more and more emerging hot words on the Internet have entered into X along with the hot use of these words on the Internet. From the perspective of semantic features, X as a whole highlights the semantic features of [+subjective] [+descriptive] [+controllable], which is consistent with the overall connotation expressed by the construction.

2.2. Syntactic function of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”

The syntactic function of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” is relatively simple compared to other constructions, mostly as a stand-alone sentence, and in a few cases as an object in a single sentence or a clause in a complex sentence.

2.2.1. Independent sentences

“mou ren/wu shi dong X de” is most often used as a stand-alone sentence, obviously because it has the subject “mou ren/wu” in it, and because the construction, together with the intonation of the sentence, is a complete single-sentence construction, and therefore, especially in the simple language environment of the Internet, it is used very frequently. Therefore, especially in the Internet, which is a language environment that seeks simplicity, this construction is used very frequently to form a separate sentence. Examples are as follows:

- 1) ni shi dong he nai cha de kuai le de.
- 2) ni men shi dong shang wang ke de.

This construction focuses on emphasizing X, which, together with the tone of the sentence, forms a complete single sentence. The tone of the sentence reflects the subjective attitude and mood of the speaker and is linked to a specific tone. The tone of the sentence associated with the structure “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” is declarative, which corresponds to the use of a period. The word “sentence” in this context refers to a clause in the general sense, i.e. a single sentence. Once the structure has formed a sentence (clause) by attaching a sentence tone to it, it is independent and is not included in another clause.

2.2.2. Acting as an object

“mou ren/wu shi dong X de” as a whole in a sentence often acts as an object, mainly indicating the object that the subject is trying to describe or specify, usually appearing after the words “said, expressed, said, felt”. For example:

- 1) Wang Yujun shuo Han Xilin ni shi dong ba zong wen xue de.
- 2) Zhang Jingyi said Li Xun ni shi dong zen me shang ren de.
- 3) Li Guangjie shuo Cao Lixin shi dong xi jie de.

2.2.3. Filling clauses

“mou ren/wu shi dong X de” can also act as a clause in a compound sentence. Clause and complex sentence are a set of relative concepts, and when the construction serves as a clause, it tends to indicate a subjective evaluation, emotional attitude, or effect on an event or thing. For example:

- 1) Tang Yan han hua Guo Jingfei: ge ni shi dong tao lu ren de.
- 2) “dian ran wo wen nuan ni” shi dong tui la de, Li Xun bei Zhu Yun fan liao de fan ying ke si wo le!
- 3) gen gong zhu yi qi ti yan deng Li Xun chu yu de jian ao gan, “dian ran wo wen nuan ni” shi dong ti yan shi zhui ju de!

As we can see from the above examples, “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” as a clause mainly appears in compound sentences containing two or three clauses, and the distribution position is not fixed, either in the first sentence or the last sentence. When it is in the first sentence, the structure mainly attracts the reader’s attention through its unique and interesting structure, and at the same time leads to the content of the next clause, which makes the reader curious and interested in the content of the compound sentence. When in the last sentence, it is mainly the summary and echo of the previous clause, with a unique sentence structure to play the sublimation effect.

3. Semantic Analysis of the Construction “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”

3.1. Constructive meaning of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”

Clarifying the construct meaning is at the heart of the study of constructions, and in conjunction with the previous analysis it can be learned that there are two understandings of that construct meaning. See the examples below:

- 1) ni shi dong jian fei de.
- 2) Li Xun shi dong fen shou de.

3) nian qing ren shi dong fan xiang san jian tao de.

First of all, let's look at 1) and 2). Combined with the online context of microblogging topic, the actual meaning of “ni shi dong jian fei de” is: you should follow the standard of losing weight but you don't do it, which contains the emotion of helplessness and disdain, and is pejorative; the subject of 2) is the male protagonist of the TV drama “Ignite Me to Warm You”. The subject of 2) is the hero of the TV drama “Light Me Up and Warm You”, who is criticized by netizens for being “the one who knows how to break up” due to his overly resolute indifference in the drama, which contains the emotion of complaint and dissatisfaction and is pejorative. From the above two examples, it can be seen that the construction originally says “dong”, but the actual meaning is a sarcastic comment on “bu dong”, or the speaker's subjective emotion of dissatisfaction and complaint about the content of the speech, which is a typical construction meaning.

Example 3) of the “fan xiang san jian tao” refers to the university students returning home for the New Year to help the villagers in the village to buy oximeter, N95 masks, antigen, for the elderly who do not know how to access the Internet to solve the urgent problem of epidemic prevention, to express the affirmation and praise. The meaning here is able to be understood directly from the literal content, and analyzed from the perspective of composition, this is atypical compositional meaning. Currently, with the popularization of the Internet, this construction expresses less and less negative emotions, on the contrary, the situation that the table flirting is actually positive increases, and more and more netizens use this construction to express the mentality of flirting and even affirmation and approval.

In this construction, lexical and construct meanings interact with each other, constrain each other, and interact with each other. According to Shi Chunhong (2012: 4) [2], “In the process of lexical items entering the construct, if the function and meaning of the lexical items do not match with the prototypical function and meaning of the construct, the construct will make the construct and lexical items fit together by adjusting the sides that the lexical items can emphasize.” In “mou ren/wu shi dong X de,” there is both a construal that suppresses lexical meaning and a lexical restriction on the meaning of the construal. In this construction, whether X expresses a positive or a negative meaning, under the suppression of the original meaning of the construction, the meaning expressed by the construction is an ironic one that expresses disguised negation, which reflects the suppression of lexical meaning by the construction. On the contrary, the constant term “shi dong.....de” in the construct expresses a strong subjective evaluation and emphasizes the meaning, which plays a restrictive role.

3.2. Semantic features of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”

3.2.1. Subjective color meaning

Mr. Shen Jiaxuan (2001) [3] has pointed out that “subjectivity” refers to a characteristic of language, that is, discourse always contains more or less elements of the speaker's “self”, that is to say, the speaker expresses his or her own position, attitude and feelings towards a passage while uttering it, thus leaving a mark of the self in the discourse. That is to say, the speaker expresses his/her position, attitude and feelings towards the passage while uttering it, thus leaving a mark of self in the discourse. According to the corpus analysis, it can be seen that “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” has a clear subjective color meaning, because the constant term “mou ren/wu

in the construction “shi” “understand” and “de” together are the speaker’s description of the target, i.e., in clarifying that the target understands or doesn’t understand X, the speaker indicates his/her own position at the same time, either sarcastically or contemptuously, either affirmatively or praiseworthily. Take the following two sentences as an example:

- 1) Hang Zhou ren shi dong lang man de.
- 2) Dong Bei ren shi dong chi xi de.

Obviously, both sentences are a subjective evaluation of what Hangzhou people and Northeastern people do, to present the characteristics of “Hangzhou people know how to be romantic” and “Northeastern people know how to eat”, the overall positive color, and subjectivity is very strong.

3.2.2. Evaluating judgmental meanings

Evaluative judgment is also a part of “subjectivity”. Regarding “evaluative judgment”, Mr. Qi Huyang (2003) [4] points out that the so-called evaluation refers to the speaker’s attitude and judgment towards the content of the speech. Let’s look at the following two examples:

- 1) “Feng Chui Ban Xia” shi dong yin yang guai qi de.
- 2) jia xiang jing shen jiao luo shi dong zhi yu ren xin de.

The “yin yang guai qi” and “zhi yu ren xin” in the above sentences are both a kind of judgment on their respective objects, “yin yang guai qi” is a pejorative term to summarize the complexity of the characters’ emotions in the drama, which is a pertinent and accurate assessment. It is a fair and accurate evaluation to truly reflect the ups and downs of the drama “Feng Chui Ban Xia” and its intricate network of characters; “zhi yu ren xin” is a high praise to the hometown as it brings a spiritual snuggle to every homesick outsider from the spiritual corners of the hometown. Therefore, the subjective evaluation of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” is very obvious.

3.2.3. Highlighting Emphasis of Meaning

The meaning of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” is emphasized because it contains the structure of “shi.....de”, but if “shi.....de” is removed, the sentence becomes “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”. If the structure “shi.....de” is removed, the sentence becomes “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”, taking (25)(26) as an example, it becomes “Hang Zhou ren dong lang man” and “Dong Bei ren dong chi xi”, which obviously lacks the modifying and emphasizing function of the adverb “shi” in front of “dong”, as well as “de” and “shi”. The combination of “shi” and “shi” constitutes completeness.

4. Pragmatic Features of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”

4.1. Type and distribution of corpora

The so-called “style” is a language style formed to meet the needs of different communication fields, which is an indirect embodiment of the laws of rhetoric. According to the results of the survey, “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” is mainly distributed in online platforms such as microblogging, wechatting, etc., or in daily oral communication, and the main type of its distribution is the network style. However, because the expression form of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” tends to be written, the author categorizes it as “written language in network language”.

The author also searched for the key words “ni shi dong” and “shi dong.....de” in the official public numbers and websites of People’s Daily, but did not find any content. This shows that the current “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” has not yet been paid attention to and used by the official corpora, which also confirms that it belongs to the category of network corpora, and the current usage environment is dominated by a more relaxed and lively entertainment and leisure atmosphere. So, based on the current situation, does the generation and development of the construction “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” have a good or bad impact on the linguistic environment? Mr. Shi Chunhong (2010) [5] points out that the linguistic value of Internet languages, from a broad perspective, includes: providing new linguistic components and rules; adjusting certain existing components and rules; and promoting the widespread use of certain expressions. Combined with the examples cited earlier, “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” generally has a positive impact on the language environment, promotes language development and enriches the online language environment. Here, the author also predicts that in the near future, the use of this construction will spread to all types of corpora.

4.2. Pragmatic Functions

4.2.1. Focus highlighting function

The focus is the part that the speaker attaches most importance to and wants to emphasize. Fang Mei (1995) [6] has pointed out that the focus of a sentence is the semantic center of gravity of the sentence, and since the information in a sentence is often arranged according to the principle of old to new, the closer the information is to the end of the sentence, the newer the content is. Therefore, when “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” appears at the beginning of a sentence or paragraph, it has the function of highlighting the focus, presenting the core content of the story to the reader or listener in a straightforward manner, and then leading to the detailed introduction below.

4.2.2. Subjective evaluation function

This function is very similar to the “subjective color meaning” and “evaluative judgment meaning” in the semantic features explained in the previous section. Combining these two semantic features, we can conclude that “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” has a subjective evaluation function. When this construction is used, it can clearly show the subjective feeling that the speaker wants to present to the listener about someone/thing, no matter someone/thing “dong” or “bu dong”, according to the speaker's personal opinion, he/she uses “dong” as the subjective will to put “X” on the listener. Whether someone/object “dong” or “bu dong”, the speaker, according to his/her personal opinion, adds “dong” as his/her subjective will to the object of the narration, and the meanings expressed can be divided into two kinds of situations, i.e., the sarcastic rejection of “not understanding and pretending to understand”, and the support and praise of “understanding”.

4.2.3. Headline eye-catching function

As a very frequently used construct in the network environment, its “eye-catching title function” in various news media is very critical. Chen Jingyuan (2019) [7] points out that “eye-catching” is the first step to attract readers’ attention. Nowadays, the network environment has been disturbed, in this era of “chaos and confusion”, if you want to achieve “eye-catching”, the first thing you need is to have a concise and

innovative news headlines. In this paper, the quoted corpus is from the microblogging topic, equivalent to the nature of the title, readers see a concise and novel topic with a different meaning, will trigger curiosity and click into the browsing or even with the topic of tweeting.

5. Analysis of the Formation Process and Motivation of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”

5.1. Formation process

Any construction has a corresponding basis for its formation. It is proved that “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” mainly emerged in two places: one is from comrade Chuan Jianguo, whose famous saying “wo shi dong X de” spread all over the Internet; the other is from the movie “Farewell My Concubine”, in which there is a line: there is a man named Aoki, who knows the theater. The second is from the movie “Farewell My Concubine”, in which the line “There’s a man named Aoki, he knows the theater” is still well-known today. From a grammatical point of view, “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” is mainly evolved from “ni dong de” and “shi.....de”. The combination of the two forms a new construction. There have been many studies on the two forms.

In the study of “ni dong de”, academics mainly recognize it as a discourse marker or Internet buzzword. The term “ni dong de” first originated from the vulgar demands of netizens seeking images in the “pornographic photo incident” in 2008, and the term was quickly used on a wide scale. Since then, “ni dong de” has been limited to spontaneous use by netizens, and during the 2014 Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the spokesperson for the CPPCC, Lv Xinhua, said “ni dong de”, which attracted widespread attention. Eventually, “ni dong de” was selected as one of the top ten Internet buzzwords of 2014 by Bite the bullet. More than eight years have passed since then, but “ni dong de” is still known and used by the public, and has not been forgotten by the public in the waves of the Internet. Its hot use has also triggered extensive attention from scholars in the academic world. For example, Yang Guoping (2016) [8], in the article “Evolution and Functional Study of the Discourse Marker ‘ni dong de’”, explored that the evolution of the Internet buzzword “ni dong de” into a discourse marker has gone through the two major processes of conceptual semantic deflation and discourse pragmatic assignment. The meta-pragmatic assignment of this discourse marker lies in the following: social communication “bu ke shuo” of secrecy and humor; shared context “bu yong shuo” of hint and reminder; discourse interaction “bu ke shuo” of delay and invitation. The reason for the pragmatic function lies in the explicit marking function and interpersonal maintenance function of the discourse. Zhou Mingqiang and Cheng Jing (2017) [9], in the article “The Pragmatic Function of Emphatic Discourse Marker ‘ni dong de’”, said that the emphatic discourse marker “ni dong de” is often used together with the “introductory”, and its position is the same as the “introductory”. Its position is more flexible, but it mostly appears at the end of the sentence; sometimes some variants are also used; it mainly emphasizes from the aspects of manner and emotion, and is subdivided into fourteen aspects of emphasizing function, such as commenting, narrating, implying, being happy, being close to, flirting with, being sad, inquiring, being helpless, praising, being dissatisfied, reasoning, demonstrating, avoiding, and so on. Zhu Dongyi (2015) [10], in her article “A Default Semantic View of the Discourse Marker ‘ni dong de’”, based on the theory of default semantics proposed by Jaszczolt, mainly concludes that “ni dong de” as a discourse marker participates in the complete

(CPI1 + SCD1 + CD) and (SCD2 + CPI2), which is involved in the construction of the whole default semantics before and after the turn. Three factors, namely, the psychology of the principle of concision, the psychology of tacit agreement in pragmatic reasoning, and the psychology of attribution in implicit interpretation, contribute to the use of “ni dong de” by communicators in the turn of speech. Yang Songmei and Zhong Qinglun (2015)[11] “Pragmatic Analysis of the Discourse Marker “ni dong de” in Weibo” mainly defines the discourse marker “ni dong de” and interprets its pragmatic functions, i.e., the function of discourse organization and the function of interpersonal interaction. The author only takes four papers as representatives, from which we can see that the research on “ni dong de” mainly focuses on the evolution of discourse markers, the analysis of their pragmatic reasons, and their expressive meanings. “ni dong de” is widely loved and used by the public for its concise words and meaningful connotations, and later on, it also contributed to the formation of the construction of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”.

The study of “shi.....de” is more ancient than that of “ni dong de”. For example, Zhao Shuhua mainly categorizes “shi.....de sentence” into three types: the first type of “shi” is the main verb in the predicate, and “shi” is the main verb in the predicate. The first type of “shi” is the main verb in the predicate, “shi” plus “.....de” constitute the predicate; the second type of “shi” is the main verb in the predicate. The second type of “shi” is not the main verb in the predicate, put in front of the verb or gerund to emphasize, “de” after the verb to express the dynamic; the third type of “shi” and “de” both indicate the tone, “de” is always at the end of the sentence, “shi.....de” can be used in adjectives or verbs predicate sentence. Zhang Baolin (1994) [12], in his article “Analysis of the Ambiguity of the Sentence “shi.....de”, says that the sentence is ambiguous, and the author supports the view of “dichotomy”, saying that the ambiguity is caused by structural ambiguity and functional ambiguity. The author supports the view of “dichotomy” and says that the causes of ambiguity are structural ambiguity and functional ambiguity, the influence of the subject and the influence of the object. Finally, the author proposes the methods of disambiguating ambiguous sentences: focus presupposition method, presupposition analysis method, and transformation analysis method. Lv Bisong (1982) [13], “A few questions about the “shi.....de” structure” discusses three aspects respectively: first, “shi.....de” structure in the sentence, expressing the past tense, the tone of affirmation and certainty and comparing the two; secondly, exploring the relationship between the “shi.....de” structure expressing the past tense and the had Finally, to explain the difference between sentences with the structure “shi.....de” and those with the structure “de” as the object of “de”. The difference between sentences with “shi” structure and “is” structure as object. Qi Huyang et al.'s (2005) [14] paper “A Review of the Research on “shi.....de” Sentences” focuses on the definition and categorization of “shi.....de” sentences. Sentence is defined and classified, the study of “shi”, the study of syntactic function, pragmatic analysis, comparative study, research characteristics and other six aspects of the “shi.....de” sentence research is summarized and analyzed. Wang Wenying (2018) [15] in the article “Two Focus Structures of “shi.....de” Sentences” analyzes the differences in syntactic distribution and semantic interpretation through the exclusivity test, the predetermined clause test, the position of negatives, the position of modals and commentary adverbs, and the syntactic distribution and semantic interpretation of internal and external gerunds, Criteria such as the ability to transform into “of” before the object in the “is V's O” sentence confirmed that “shi.....de” contains two different types of focus structures: one type is limited to a single constituent after “shi” (narrow focus), which expresses exclusive focus; the

other type of focus is the whole predicate part in the middle of “shi.....de”, which expresses informative focus; and the other type of focus is the whole predicate part in the middle of “shi.....de”, which expresses informative focus. The other type of focus is the whole predicate part in the middle of “shi”, which expresses informational focus (wide focus). In general, there are numerous studies on “shi.....de”, which is not a new topic, but is still of interest to scholars and remains one of the core issues in linguistic research. Regarding the construction of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”, the role and connotation of “shi.....de” is mainly to emphasize the usage and meaning of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”. By emphasizing “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”, it expresses a reverse ironic connotation and has the effect of strengthening the tone.

The profound connotation of teasing or even irony expressed by “ni dong de”, combined with the emphasized meaning expressed by the structure of “shi.....de”, has been combined and evolved through the language and spawned in the Internet environment to form the unique and novel construction of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”. Through the combination and evolution of language and the birth of the Internet environment, the unique and novel construction of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” has been derived. Mr. Shen Jiaxuan (2006) [16] classified the integration of constructions into two types: “similar integration” and “related integration”. “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” belongs to “related integration”, i.e., “ni dong de” and “shi.....” are not similar in meaning, but are correlatives that are reanalyzed when they are used together to describe the same subject. At first sight, this construction has a sense of déjà vu, and it is this state of being unintelligible and its meaningful connotation that triggers its widespread use by netizens and its rapid spread in the Internet media.

5.2. Motivation analysis

5.2.1. Psychological appeal for newness and simplicity

Along with the development of the times and social changes, Internet languages are widely loved by the public, especially young people, for their qualities such as fast updating speed, novelty and uniqueness. Gu Jianmin (2011: 21) [17], in his article “An Analysis of the Modal Perspective on the Propagation of Internet Popular Words”, said, “They (Internet popular words) are usually created by some netizens who are inspired by them, and then frequently quoted, reproduced, or adapted by the general public, so that they become popular both on the Internet and in real life. Internet buzzwords mostly use humor to comment on world affairs and people’s feelings, praise and blame all kinds of life, and have such linguistic and psychological characteristics as economy, efficiency, innovation and entertainment.” “mou ren/wu shi dong X” is fully in line with the language psychology of young netizens who are looking for newness, simplicity and differences, and the fact that it has not yet been popularized in the People’s Daily and other political periodicals and newspapers shows that it will take some time to popularize the new formula; even though the formula consists of the phrases “ni dong de” and “shishi” and “ni dong de” and “ni dong de” and “shi” and “ni dong de”. Although the composition is a combination of “ni dong de” and “shi.....de”, it also summarizes the speaker's psychology of irony and contempt or praise and affirmation in very concise words, which is also in line with the public’s “seeking simplicity” psychology from this perspective. From this perspective, it is also in line with the public’s “simplicity” mentality, which is also very much in line with the principle of economy of language.

5.2.2. The social function of "beyond words"

The “meaning beyond words” here is equivalent to the function of “metaphor” in language. Zhao Yanfang (2001:101-102) [18] has pointed out that “metaphorical thinking ability is a kind of creative thinking ability produced with the cognitive development of human beings, which is the highest stage of cognitive development and an indispensable cognitive ability for people to know the world, especially abstract things.” So what is “beyond words”? Wu Weiwei (2011) [19] said in her paper “Metaphorical Semantic Exploration of Popular Phrases” that “extra-verbal meaning” actually refers to using one kind of thing to understand another kind of thing, which has also been made into a metaphor in language, as a way for people to recognize, understand and describe new things, and as a means of solving the contradiction between symbols’ finiteness and information’s infiniteness. The original meaning of “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” cannot be understood from the literal meaning of the word, but its metaphorical meaning can be read out from the phrase “shi dong.....de”, i.e., to despise and exclude people or phenomena that don’t pretend to understand, to despise and exclude them. The original meaning cannot be understood from the literal meaning of the phrase “is to understand”. Along with the increase in the frequency of use, it is now more often used to express positive emotions or to flirt with jokes, and has become a classic expression of “saying the opposite of what you want to say” through continuous dissemination.

5.2.3. Web-based platforms to facilitate it

Online platforms are known for their novel themes, rich content and fast spreading speed. With the increasing number of Chinese netizens, the use of online platforms has long been taken for granted and integrated into every aspect of social life. With the help of online media platforms, the phrase “mou ren/wu shi dong X de” has spread rapidly, and more and more netizens have begun to use this construction to express their attitude of teasing, irony or praise. In the dissemination process of online platforms, we should pay attention to the scientific attitude, do not “let loose”, pay attention to the standardized use of online terms.

6. Conclusions

This paper mainly analyzes the choice of “X” in the emerging Internet subjective evaluation construction “mou ren/wu shi dong X de”, its syntactic function, semantics and characteristics, formation process and motivation, etc. The construction has been widely noticed and used by netizens due to its richness in connotation, special structure, and diversity in usage. This construction has been widely noticed and used by netizens because of its richness in connotation, special structure and diversity in usage, and it has become a popular expression in the Internet with a high frequency even though it has only appeared in the past six months. At present, the scope of application of this expression is still mainly concentrated on social media platforms such as microblogging, WeChat, QQ, etc. It remains to be seen in time how it will develop in the future, and whether it will evolve from being used by a part of the group to being accepted by the whole range of people.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

Funding

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial or not-for-profit sectors.

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