Chinese Lexicology
(2018-19)

Course outline (preliminary)

Background

This course provides theoretical and practical introductions to Chinese lexicology, covering general and uncommon aspects of Chinese words, including word formation, semantic and grammatical structure of words, lexicalization, development and evolution of lexical items over time and in terms of linguistic and cultural contact, relationship between sound and meaning, metaphors, and the cultural dimension of words. It will also deal with issues closely related to L2 Chinese vocabulary teaching and learning such as vocabulary size, method of defining words and vocabulary acquisition and growth.

Learning outcomes:

On completing this course, students will:

1. be able to analyze and appreciate basic concepts in Chinese lexicology, including zi (字) and word (詞) in different contexts; compound and complex words; idiomatic expressions; lexical meaning, metaphorical meaning and grammatical meaning; synonymy; antonymy; hypernymy; hyponymy; word structure and word formation;
2. have an overall understanding of Chinese word development over time and across different Chinese speech communities;
3. gain familiarity with new approaches and methodologies in lexicology including aspects of lexical semantics;
4. gain knowledge of computational basis for lexicology and lexicography, and of multilingual and bilingual learner dictionaries;
5. develop enhanced abilities to deal with pedagogical issues in the teaching of Chinese vocabulary.

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