



Peculiarities of Making Nouns Using Suffixes in Chinese (On the Example of Suffixes 家 “Jia” and 者 “Zhe”)

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Abstract

There are two types of affixes in modern Chinese - prefixation and suffixation. In Chinese, suffix words are formed by the addition of an independent meaning morpheme and a suffix. There are not many suffix morphemes that make a noun in Chinese. However, some of them are distinguished by their productivity, one of which is the suffixes 家 “jia” and 者 “zhe”. This article discusses the features of the formation of words belonging to the noun phrase in modern Chinese through the suffixes 家 “jia” and 者 “zhe”. To achieve this goal, the author turned to various sources, analyzed only the specific features of these suffixes, considered the grammatical features of lexical units formed by the suffixes 家 “jia” and 者 “zhe”, and as a result proved the relevant conclusions with examples.

Keywords: *Affix Directive; Root Morpheme; Correlation; Morpheme; Reduction; Suffix; Form-Forming Morpheme; Etymology; New Word-Forming Morpheme*

Introduction

There are two types of affixes in modern Chinese - prefixation and suffixation. In Chinese, suffix words are formed by the addition of an independent meaning morpheme and a suffix. There are not many suffix morphemes that make a noun in Chinese. However, some of them are distinguished by their productivity, one of which is the 家 “jia” and 者 “zhe” suffixes.

The suffix 家 “jia” basically makes nouns denoting persons engaged in a particular activity. The core of this morpheme is etymologically related to a morpheme meaning 家 “jia” “family”.

The Main Findings and Results

The word-forming 家 “jia” morpheme has completely lost its original lexical meaning in the words belonging to the noun phrase, but has retained its etymological tone in the words belonging to this semantic series. As a result of our research, we have come to the conclusion that through this suffix, words belonging to the noun phrase are formed based on different constructions. Including: 1) [A quality + 家 “jia” suffix = at] As an example, we give the following words: 专家 “zhuanjia” “specialist”,

“expert”, This word is made up of 专 “zhuan” “special” adjectives and 家 “jia” suffixes, forming 专家 “zhuanjia” words “specialist”, “expert”.

2) [Verb A +家 “jia” suffix = noun], for example: The word 作家 “zuojia” “writer” is formed by 作 “zuo” verbs “to do” and 家 “jia” suffixes to form the word “writer”. The word 画家 “huajia” “creator” is formed by the suffix 画 “hua” “to draw” +家 “jia”.

3) [A noun +家 “jia” suffix = noun], for example: 音乐家 “yinyuejia” the word “musician” 音乐 “yinyue” through the suffix “music” +家 “jia”; The word 哲学家 “zhexuejia” is formed by the suffix 哲学 “zhexue” “philosophy” +家 “jia”.

4) [AB (complex verb formed on the basis of the object-object model) +家 “jia” suffix = noun], for example: The word 文艺学家 “wenyixuejia” “composer” is a word belonging to a group of verbs formed on the basis of a verb-object model 20 formed the word “composer” through the suffix 作曲 “zuoqu” “to create music” (作 “zuo” “to make” +曲 “qu” music) +家 “jia”;

5) [AB (complex noun formed on the basis of subject-predicate model) +家 “jia” suffix = noun], for example: The word 文艺学家 “wenyixuejia” “literary” is formed by 文艺 “wenyi” suffix “literature” +家 “jia”. Some linguists (Jia Xiaolong, “Chinese Grammar,” Yao Yapin, “Development Trends in Chinese Linguistics,”) argue that the word is formed by “学家 “xuejia” suffix [1, p. 193]. As an example, the authors cite 16 words such as 中文学家 “zhongwenxuejia” “Chinese scholar”, 语言学家 “yuyanxuejia” “linguist”. If we study these words in terms of their internal structure, we come up with a word that means 中文学 “zhongwenxue” “Chinese studies” based on the verb 中文 “zhongwen” “Chinese” + 学 “xue” “to read”. This word is based on the subject-predicate model of the word addition method. By adding 家 “jia” suffixes to this word, 中文学家 “zhongwenxuejia” words meaning “Chinese scholar” are formed.

In turn, the word 学家 “xuejia” means “scientist” and is a word belonging to the noun family. The word is formed on the basis of the verb-object model of the method of word addition by the suffix 学 “xue” “to read” +家 “jia”.

From the above it can be concluded that all of these words are formed by 家 “jia” suffixes. 学 “xue” in the word structure is a morpheme that is part of the word base [Gaojihanyu: 2009, p. 56, 42].

At the same time, this suffix, in addition to words denoting persons engaged in a particular activity, also makes nouns denoted without reference to human activity. In this case, the tone of this suffix is reduced. Examples of this are given in various sources, for example: 老人家 “laorenjia”. This word is formed by the suffix 老人 “laoren” “old man” +家 “jia” to form the word “old man”, and is used as one of the forms of politely addressing an old man: 您老人家 “Nin laorenjia” “You gentlemen”. 亲家 “qingjia” (亲 “qing” “near” +家 “jia” suffix) means “parents of the bride and groom”, “relatives”, 行家 “hangjia” (行 “hang” “profession” +家 “jia” suffix) means “knowledgeable”, “master” and so on.

The suffix 者 “zhe” is similar to the 家 “jia” suffixes in its semantic-morphological properties, forming lexical units that fall into the category of nouns. The etymological tone is preserved in the derivative words.

Jen Xuelyan points out that the 者 “zhe” morpheme is a suffix in all two-syllable words in ancient Chinese [Jiaxiaolong: 2001, pp. 334-338].

The suffix 者 “zhe” should be added to the list of productive word-formation tools. These suffixes basically make up a very large number of nouns denoting persons engaged in a particular activity, as well

as persons with a particular socio-political outlook. The following lexical units are examples of this phenomenon in the word-formation system of modern Chinese: 唯物论者 “weiwulunzhe” “materialist”, 新闻记者 “xinwen jizhe” “reporter”, 作者 “zuozhe” “author” and so on.

The suffix 者 “zhe” also makes a number of words that are not related to the activities and socio-political views of individuals, for example: 强者 “qiangzhe” “strong (man)”, 弱者 “ruozhe” “weak (man)”, 能者 “nengzhe” “capable”, “able (man)”, 消费者 “xiaofeizhe” “Consumer”, 爱好者 “aihaozhe” “passionate”, “amateur”.

Through this suffix, words belonging to the noun phrase are formed on the basis of different models. In particular:

1) In all words formed on the basis of the model [A (verb) + 者 “zhe” suffix = noun], the first morpheme serves as a commentary on the activity of the person, for example: 读者 “duzhe” words are formed by the suffix 读 “du” “to read” + 者 “zhe” and mean “reader” has The word 编者 “bianzhe” is formed by the suffix 编 “bian” “to edit” + 者 “zhe” and means “editor”. Other examples: 译者 “yizhe” “translators”, 学者 “xuezhe” “scientists”, 劳动者 “laodongzhe” “laborers”, 剥削者 “boxuezhe” “exploiters” and so on.

2) [A (adjective) + 者 “zhe” suffix = noun]: 强者 “qiangzhe” “strong (man)”, 弱者 “ruozhe” “weak (man)”, 老者 “laozhe” “old man”.

3) In addition to the above two models, our research has shown that there are words based on the model [A (noun) + 者 “zhe” suffix = noun] with 15 suffixes. For example: 唯物论者 “weiwulunzhe” “materialist”, 新闻记者 “xinwen jizhe” “reporter”.

However, directives in Chinese are also made through the same suffix [Hashimova: 2019]. In doing so, they can represent not only a person, but also a specific object. For example: 前者 “qianzhe” “in front of (object)”.

Conclusion

It can be concluded from the above:

1) The suffix 家 “jia” basically makes nouns denoting persons engaged in a particular activity. The core of this morpheme is etymologically related to a morpheme meaning 家 “jia” “family”. At the same time, this suffix also makes noun that are expressed without reference to human activity. In this case, the tone of this suffix is reduced. Using the suffix 者 “zhe”, he creates a very large number of noun, mainly denoting persons engaged in this or that activity, as well as persons with a certain socio-political outlook. At the same time, with the help of 者 “zhe” appendices, a number of words are made that are not attributed to the activities and socio-political worldview of individuals.

2) The morpheme 家 “jia” of the word-maker completely lost its original lexical meaning in the words belonging to the noun phrase, but retained the etymological tone in the words belonging to this semantic series.

3) As a result of our research, we have come to the conclusion that through this suffix, words belonging to the noun phrase are formed based on different constructions. Using the 家 “jia” suffix, words belonging to the noun phrase are made based on a total of five constructions: [A adjective + 家 “jia” suffix = noun], [A verb + 家 “jia” suffix = noun], [A noun + 家 “jia” suffix = noun], [AB (compound

verb formed on the basis of the object-predicate model) +家 “jia” suffix = noun], [AB (complex noun formed on the basis of the subject-predicate model) +家 “jia” suffix = noun].

The suffix 者 “zhe” is used to make nouns based on a total of three models: [A (verb) +者 “zhe” suffix = noun]; [A (adjective) +者 “zhe” suffix = noun]; [A (noun) +者 “zhe” suffix = noun].

4) In Chinese, it is a word that has an independent meaning, not 学家 “xuejia” suffix. The word is formed on the basis of the verb-object model of the method of word addition with the suffix 学 “xue” “to read” +家 “jia”. At the same time, these 家 “jia” suffix, in addition to words denoting persons engaged in a particular activity; also make nouns denoted without reference to human activity. In this case, the tone of this suffix is reduced.

5) The suffix 者 “zhe” is similar to the suffix 家 “jia”, and by its semantic-morphological feature forms lexical units that fall into the category of nouns. The etymological tone is preserved in the derivative words.

6) The suffixes 家 “jia”, and 者 “zhe” should be added to the list of productive word-formation tools.

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