An inter-disciplinary approach to constitutive role of metaphors in “shared knowledge” of China-US trade relationship discourse

ABSTRACT

Shared knowledge, known as “inter-subjectivity” in constructivism and “common-sense” in the post structuralism of international relations, lacks explicit dimensions while explaining the role of “inter-subjectivity” or “common-sense” in shaping state behaviour. Alexander Wendt’s (1999) constructivism of IR emphasizes the agency of actors in inter-subjective meaning-making processes, but downplays the important constitutive status of language and discourse in forming “inter-subjectivity”. Post structuralism of IR acknowledges the ontological role of language and discourse, but totally ignores the role of cognition in mean-making processes of “common sense”. Also, discourse oriented IR studies lack serious linguistics theory and big quantitative corpus study. By emphasizing the constitutive role of metaphors in forming “shared knowledge” in the case study of Clinton-Jiang dominant discourse, this study tries to bridge gaps in international relations and from conceptual metaphors in discourse

RESEARCH QUESTION

• How metaphors relating to the key words vary across Chinese and English language: Metaphor Similarity VS Metaphor Difference?

• How Chinese and English metaphors relating to target key words constitute the “shared knowledge” in Clinton-Jiang dominant discourse?

CORPUS

• CORPUS SIZE

STEP ONE: Comparing American primary corpus (Political documents and Congressional records) with reference corpus OANC, 541 CKIs are sorted out in Wmatrix with a threshold p < 0.0001; critical G2 value = 15.13. The 541 CKIs are classified into 8 clusters using Wmatrix and SPSS (Gabrielato 2018):

STEP TWO: Identify metaphoric source domain of Keywords in Chinese and American discourse using Sketch Engine

STEP TWO: Metaphor identification method:

• Cameron & Maslen (2010)’s + MIP, adapted MIPVU

• Corpus based reference dictionary: Xindai Hanyu (XDHY)+ Macmillian dictionary

• Chinese language Segmentation tool: ICTCLAS

STEP THREE: DATA RESULTS

STEP FOUR: INTERPETATION of shared knowledge constituted by metaphors

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METAPHOR CODING EXAMPLE

Reference


