

# Exploring the Teaching of New Internet Words in International Chinese Language Teaching

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**Abstract:** *With the advent of the information age and the rapid development of Internet technology, the Internet has become an indispensable part of people's life and study. In this context, a large number of new vocabularies have emerged and spread rapidly, including a large number of new words on the Internet. These new Internet words have enriched the modern Chinese vocabulary system in a unique way and have brought a great impact on traditional Chinese teaching. Therefore, how to better teach new words on the Internet has become an urgent problem. This paper discusses how to integrate new Internet words into the teaching of Chinese as a foreign language, hoping to provide some reference opinions for colleagues engaged in the field of Chinese as a foreign language education.*

**Keywords:** *Chinese, International teaching, New words on the internet, Teaching and learning*

## 1. Introduction

With the rapid development of information technology, the Internet has become an indispensable part of people's life and study. As a special form of language, Internet neologisms have unique characteristics in their production and dissemination. Therefore, it is necessary and important for foreign students to know and master a certain number of new words on the Internet. Some scholars have already discussed the teaching of Internet neologisms, but most of them are limited to the exploration of vocabulary teaching methods under the traditional classroom teaching mode. This paper will combine the author's own practical experience and relevant literature to propose a set of suitable solutions for teaching new words on the Internet, hoping to better promote the promotion and application of new words on the Internet in teaching Chinese as a foreign language.

## 2. Characteristics, Sources and Classification of New Words on the Internet

### 2.1. Characteristics of New Words on the Internet

(1) Strong topicality. New words on the network are produced along with the development of Internet technology and information technology, with distinctive characteristics of the times. For example, the term "net popularity" first appeared in the e-sports circle, referring to players who performed well in game competitions; now it generally refers to people who have certain popularity in certain fields or aspects and are sought after by the public. (2) Highly innovative. The birth of new words on the Internet is inseparable from the creativity and imagination of Internet users, and many new words are made up of a combination of vivid and imaginative words, such as "Pi" which means funny, and "God" which is used to describe people with superb abilities or high realm. These new and unique expressions not only enrich our language expressions, but also stimulate students' interest in learning Chinese [1]. (3) Good simplicity. New words on the Internet are usually short and concise, easy to spread, and in line with modern people's pursuit of a highly efficient and fast-paced lifestyle. At the same time, new words on the Internet also pay more attention to the rhetorical effect, by using some special grammatical structures and vocabulary collocation to achieve a more attractive effect. For example, the word "give strength" is originally a northeastern dialect, but after being widely used on the Internet, it has become a nationwide network term. (4) Large regional differences. Different regions have different online cultural atmosphere and social environment, so there are big differences in the application of online neologisms in each region. Take "oddball" as an example, the word originated from Douban group and has become popular on all major social networking platforms in Chinese mainland, and is even used by netizens in many countries. However, in Europe and the United States,

the term is not commonly used [2].

## **2.2. The Origin of Internet Neologisms**

Internet neologisms are a linguistic phenomenon produced and popularized on the Internet. They attract the eyes of the majority of Internet users with their unique and novel forms, and become an indispensable part of people's daily life. Internet neologisms have the following main sources: (1) Sinicization of foreign words. With the accelerating globalization process and the increasingly frequent exchanges between China and other countries in the world, more and more foreign cultures have entered China and been absorbed and integrated, including a large number of foreign vocabulary. After these words were introduced into China through various ways, some of them were gradually localized and formed some new words on the Internet, while others were directly translated or paraphrased into Chinese, such as "fan" (fans), "cool" (cool) and so on. (2) Old words are given new meanings. Many new words on the Internet are derived from existing words or phrases given new meanings. For example, "geek" originally referred to a man who liked to stay at home and not go out, but now it can be used to describe a young man who is addicted to video games, anime and other entertainment activities. In addition, there are many other examples, such as the verb "to praise", which was originally used to express recognition and praise of someone's work, but later it was also used to express support or approval of someone's behavior. (3) Application of abbreviated word formation. In order to improve input efficiency and expression speed, many words in modern Chinese have adopted abbreviated word formation to form new words. For example, "BTW" is the abbreviation of "by the way", "GF" is the abbreviation of "girl friend" and so on [3]. This way of word formation not only makes new words on the Internet more concise and clear, but also accelerates their spread and popularity. (4) The use of number and letter combinations. On online social networking platforms, words made up of special characters, such as "@" and "\$^\*", often appear. These symbols are usually only used in specific contexts and do not have any actual meaning. However, when these characters are used in combination with numbers or English words, they can often convey a certain meaning. For example, "886" means "bye bye", "520" means "I love you" and so on.

## **2.3. Classification of New words on the Network**

From the perspective of linguistics, new words on the Internet can be divided into the following categories: abbreviations, old words with new meanings, foreign words and compound words. Among them, abbreviation is the most common form, such as "MP3" means "music player", "BLK" means "psychopathic killer" etc; Old words with new meanings are new words formed by transforming or giving new meanings to old words, such as "moonlighters", which refers to people whose monthly income is only enough to cover basic living expenses. Foreign words are Chinese translations of foreign words or phrases, e.g. "TOEFL" means "English Proficiency Test" etc; Compound words are new words made up of two or more independent linguistic units, such as "playing call" to cheer for someone, etc [4].

## **3. The Necessity of Teaching New Words on the Internet in Chinese International Teaching**

### **3.1. New Words on the Internet are an Important Part of Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language**

With the development of information technology and the Internet, the vocabulary people use in daily communication has also changed. Especially in recent years, the emergence of a large number of new words on the Internet has attracted widespread attention. These new words have attracted more and more foreign students' interest in learning Chinese with their unique expressions and novel semantic contents, and have become a part of Chinese teaching for foreigners that cannot be ignored. Therefore, it is of great importance to study the application of new Internet words in teaching Chinese as a foreign language. First of all, as a product of the times, new Internet words reflect all aspects of social life in contemporary China. An in-depth study of new Internet words can help international students better understand the ideology, cultural background and social habits of the young generation in contemporary China, and help them adapt and integrate into the Chinese social environment more quickly [5]. Secondly, the richness and variety of language forms and usage of new Internet words make them a valuable teaching resource for teaching Chinese as a foreign language. Teachers can use multimedia tools to introduce new Internet words into the classroom and let students experience the fun and charm of them, thus stimulating their enthusiasm for learning. In addition, new words on the

Internet can effectively promote the fun and personalization of teaching Chinese as a foreign language and improve students' learning enthusiasm and initiative. Finally, new words on the Internet are also a kind of vivid and lively corpus, providing real and natural language materials for teaching Chinese as a foreign language. By collecting, organizing and analyzing new words on the Internet, we can not only deepen students' understanding of Chinese phonetics, grammar and semantics, but also broaden their knowledge, increase their reading volume and improve their Chinese language proficiency.

### ***3.2. New Internet Words are a Difficult Part of Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language***

In traditional language teaching, teachers have already explained and used some basic vocabulary in depth. However, with the development of the times, more and more new things have emerged, including new words on the Internet. These new words not only have distinctive characteristics of the times, but also express people's emotion and attitude and other information in a vivid, simple and convenient way. Therefore, they have become an indispensable part of communication in modern society. However, due to their special nature, new words on the Internet have also become a difficult task for foreign students to learn Chinese. First of all, the number of new words on the Internet is huge and difficult to master. The word first appeared on catfishing.com, and then was widely spread and entered into daily life [6]. According to statistics, there are now nearly 50 "give a damn" word groups on the Internet. It is difficult for international students to grasp such a large number of new Internet words in a comprehensive and systematic way if they are not covered in the teaching. Secondly, the new words on the Internet are in various forms and difficult to remember. Some words are formed by means of abbreviations, old words given new meanings, etc., while others are formed by combining numbers, letters and various symbols. This kind of diverse construction makes the new words on the network more complicated and more difficult to remember. For example, the word "fan" originally referred to a plant, but nowadays it can be used to represent a group of people who fervently admire a certain celebrity. In addition, new words on the Internet often use harmonics, pictograms and other techniques to increase the fun, which further increases the difficulty of learning. Finally, new words on the Internet are time-sensitive and difficult to update in time. The continuous progress of Internet technology has prompted people to create a large number of new words on the network, which often come from hot events, popular phrases and so on. However, many new words only exist for a short period of time, and then they will disappear quickly or be replaced by other more common words. In this way, the new Internet words learned by international students may be outdated and cannot meet the actual communication needs. To sum up, as an important part of international Chinese language education, the practical application value of new Internet words cannot be ignored [7].

### ***3.3. New Internet Words are Hot Topics for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language***

With the development of information technology and the Internet, more and more new words on the Internet have emerged. These emerging words have attracted the attention of a large number of young people with their unique forms and novel contents. In the context of globalization, new Internet words have become an indispensable part of contemporary Chinese culture and have also aroused strong interest among foreign students when learning Chinese. Therefore, it is important to study new Internet words and explore corresponding teaching methods. First of all, as a special linguistic phenomenon reflecting the changes and development of modern social life, it is very difficult for foreign students to understand and grasp the rich connotation and usage of new words on the Internet. If teachers can incorporate new Internet words into classroom teaching, through systematic explanation, analysis and practice, students can understand these new words comprehensively and deeply, which will not only help them better integrate into the current era, but also help them improve their Chinese language skills. Secondly, new words on the Internet are inherently very current, and they are often derived from the latest and hottest events or popular phrases, which determines that they are inevitably sought after by the majority of young people. Therefore, introducing new Internet words in teaching Chinese as a foreign language not only conforms to the law of language learning, but also can stimulate students' enthusiasm for learning, and is also conducive to enlivening the classroom atmosphere and enhancing students' sense of participation.

#### **4. Current Situation and Problems of Teaching New Internet Words in International Chinese Language Education**

##### ***4.1. The Current Situation of Teaching New Internet Words in International Chinese Language Education***

With the development of information technology and the Internet, more and more new words on the Internet are emerging. In this context, how should teachers of Chinese as a foreign language respond to this challenge? At present, scholars at home and abroad mainly focus on the following aspects of research on new Internet words: first, they analyze the characteristics, structure and classification of new Internet words from the perspective of linguistics; second, they explore the impact of Internet language on society and its standardization from the perspective of sociology; third, they study the psychological factors of people's use of new Internet words in online communication from the perspective of psychology. These research results provide a theoretical basis for our in-depth understanding of new words on the Internet. However, there is a lack of systematic research on the application of new Internet words in the field of teaching Chinese as a foreign language, especially at the level of specific classroom practices. Therefore, this study aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current situation of teaching new Internet words in international Chinese language teaching through questionnaires and interviews, and to propose corresponding solution strategies.

##### ***4.2. Problems of Teaching New Internet Words in International Chinese Language Education***

In the actual process of teaching Chinese as a foreign language, we found some problems in teaching new words on the Internet. The first problem is that teachers do not know enough about new Internet words and lack the background knowledge and teaching experience to integrate these new words into classroom teaching; the second problem is that students have different degrees of acceptance of new Internet words, some students may understand them easily and can use them flexibly, while others have difficulty in grasping their meanings and usage. This requires teachers to adopt different teaching methods for different levels of students to solve this problem. Besides, teaching materials are also one of the important factors affecting the effectiveness of teaching new words on the Internet. At present, there are many textbooks about new words on the Internet, but most of them only focus on the inclusion of new words, ignoring the explanation and consolidation of old words, which will not only make students feel tedious, but also reduce their interest in new words on the Internet [8]. Therefore, when choosing teaching materials, we should pay more attention to the principle of combining old and new words and progressive development, and also pay attention to language standardization, avoiding the use of unstandardized or too remote words.

#### **5. Teaching Strategies of New Internet Words in International Chinese Language Teaching**

##### ***5.1. Strengthen the Teaching of New Words on the Internet***

In the field of international Chinese language education, the teaching of new words on the Internet should be given enough attention. Teachers can teach these new words through various ways, such as classroom lectures, reading materials and exercises. At the same time, students need to have a certain vocabulary in order to learn new words on the Internet better. Therefore, we also need to pay attention to improving students' vocabulary level in the teaching process. In addition, teachers can use different teaching methods for different types of new Internet words: some new Internet words are easier to understand, such as "give strength", while others are more difficult, such as "praise". Therefore, when teaching, we need to take corresponding measures with specific situations. In addition to traditional teaching methods, modern technology also provides more possibilities for teaching new words on the Internet. For example, the use of multimedia technology for video presentation or audio playback can enable students to understand new words on the Internet in a more vivid way. In addition, some online dictionaries or corpus platforms also provide rich resources of new Internet words for teachers and students to use. In conclusion, new words on the Internet are the inevitable product of contemporary social development, and their teaching should not be limited to traditional classroom teaching, but should make full use of various emerging media and constantly innovate teaching modes to meet students' diversified needs.

### ***5.2. Increase Students' Interest in Learning***

When teaching new words on the Internet, teachers can use various ways to stimulate and cultivate students' interest in learning the course. For example, by showing some interesting and vivid examples or relevant pictures and videos through multimedia technology, students can have a more intuitive feeling of the origin, usage and cultural connotation behind these new Internet words. In addition, interactive classroom activities such as group discussions, role plays, speech contests, etc. can be organized to guide students to actively participate and give full play to their creativity and imagination, thus further enhancing their enthusiasm and initiative in learning new Internet words. In addition, they can also combine real-life cases to explain the scenarios and meanings of new Internet words, so as to help students better understand their meanings and their application values, and thus improve their practical application ability.

### ***5.3. Improve Teachers' Professionalism***

When teaching new words on the Internet, teachers need to have high language literacy and cultural cultivation. First of all, teachers should have an in-depth understanding of new Internet words and be able to accurately grasp their meanings, usage and background knowledge. Teachers also need to improve their intercultural communication skills in order to understand the cultural backgrounds and idioms of their students' native countries. In addition, teachers need to constantly learn and update their vocabulary to keep abreast of the emergence and changes of new words on the Internet so that they can use them more comfortably in the classroom. To further strengthen the teaching force, the education department can encourage teachers to participate in various forms of academic exchange activities by organizing relevant training and providing incentives to broaden their horizons and enhance their professionalism. In addition, schools can also adopt a combination of "bringing in" and "going out" methods, inviting experts and scholars from home and abroad to give lectures or guide practical work, so as to promote experience sharing and cooperation and innovation among teachers. Only in this way can the overall quality of teachers be improved and the quality of teaching new words on the Internet be steadily improved.

### ***5.4. Improve the Teaching Methods of New Words on the Internet***

In the actual teaching process, we should adopt a variety of teaching methods to teach new words on the Internet. For example, multimedia technology can be used to explain these new words on the Internet, and students can also collect relevant information and explain the meaning and usage of the words in simple and easy-to-understand language. In addition, there are other teaching methods, such as simulation and role-play, which are good teaching methods. As long as these teaching methods are used appropriately and reasonably, they will definitely have a positive and effective impact on students' learning of new words on the Internet. To sum up, in view of the emergence of new words on the Internet in the field of Chinese international education, teachers need to constantly update their knowledge reserves and teaching concepts, and at the same time adopt scientific and reasonable teaching methods to guide students to understand and master these emerging words faster and better. We believe that with the joint efforts of all teachers and students, the new Internet words will become an indispensable part of the international Chinese language education [9].

### ***5.5. Establish a Teaching Evaluation System for New Internet Words***

When new Internet words are used in Chinese teaching materials and classrooms, effective teaching evaluation should be conducted. This can not only help teachers understand students' mastery and adjust the content and methods of teaching in time, but also promote learners' better mastery of new Internet words and their ability to use them. Therefore, we suggest that the corresponding assessment standards and methods should be clearly specified when formulating the syllabus of new Internet words. For example, new Internet words can be included in HSK exams or other language proficiency tests to test students' mastery of new Internet words and their ability to apply them in practice. In addition, various competitions or activities, such as "Internet dictation contest", can be held to stimulate students' interest and motivation in learning. At the same time, we should make full use of modern technology, such as online practice system and intelligent correction network, to provide students with more convenient and efficient learning ways, so as to continuously improve the teaching effect of new words on the Internet.

## 6. Conclusion

This paper discusses how to teach new words on the Internet in Chinese language teaching materials and classrooms through research and analysis of new words on the Internet in the field of Chinese international education. First of all, we should clarify that Internet neologisms are a new form of language produced by the development of contemporary society, which has the characteristics of being contemporary and innovative. Secondly, teachers need to have certain knowledge of the Internet in order to better integrate new Internet words into their teaching. Finally, different teaching methods can be used for students at different stages, for example, multimedia technology can be combined with pictures or videos to show students at the primary level; at the intermediate level, activities such as dialogues or group discussions can be set up to consolidate what they have learned; at the advanced level, students can be guided to create and communicate their own works. In conclusion, new words on the Internet have been widely used in all aspects of people's lives, so it is necessary to introduce new vocabulary in the process of teaching Chinese as a foreign language, so that learners can grasp the most cutting-edge expressions in time and improve their intercultural communication skills.

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