

A Survey on Differences between Chongqing Dialect and Putonghua

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ABSTRACT. *Chongqing dialect belongs to the northern language family. Although it sounds simple and easy to understand, there are still many differences compared with Putonghua. This paper will analyze the differences between Chongqing dialect and Putonghua in the following three aspects: pronunciation, vocabulary and syntax structure. Thus providing some guidance for those people who live in it Chongqing dialect Spoken area when learning Putonghua, and also helping those who can't speak Chongqing dialect but are interested in it have a better understanding of it.*

KEYWORDS: *Chongqing dialect; Putonghua; Differences*

1. Introduction

Putonghua, also known as Mandarin, is the official language of China. It is the modern standard Chinese with Beijing pronunciation as its standard pronunciation, Mandarin dialects as its vocabulary base and the model modern vernacular writing as its grammatical norm. While due to ethnic diversity, there are a variety of dialects in China, one of which is Chongqing dialect. Chongqing dialect belongs to the branch of the northern dialects. Chongqing dialect and Putonghua are basically the same in pronunciation and meaning, but at the same time, there is a big difference between Chongqing dialect and Putonghua. Therefore, the article aims to sort out the differences in pronunciation, vocabulary, and syntax between Chongqing dialect and Putonghua in order to help Chongqing people learn Putonghua better and help those who can't speak Chongqing dialect but are interested in it have a better understanding of it.

2. Literature review

2.1 Researches conducted from the macro perspective

2.1.1 Researches conducted from the synchronic perspective

Researches conducted from synchronic perspective explore the phonological

characteristics of a dialect in a certain place, and focus on the phonological changes in a certain place at a certain time.

Dai Wei holds the belief that although Chongqing was established as a municipality directly under the Central Government, there are many similarities between Sichuan and Chongqing in tradition, geography, and humanities, so there is an inseparable relationship between Sichuan dialect and Chongqing dialect. Therefore, he thought that "Bashu dialect" was more suitable to describe the language used in these eras than "Sichuan dialect" or "Chongqing dialect" (Dai&Zhou, 1991). In addition, he compared the similarities and differences between Chongqing dialect and Putonghua in tone, rhyme, and the tone value, and he also summarized the phonetic characteristics of Chongqing dialect. Dai Wei's researches are the first to explore and analyze the phonetic characteristics of Chongqing dialect.

Zhong Weike also analyzes the phonetic characteristics of Chongqing dialect with the dialect spoken in the main urban area as the research object, and his conclusion is roughly the same as that of Dai Wei and Zhou Wende. In addition, Han Weiwei has done a collation and induction to the previous research.

2.1.2 Researches conducted from the diachronic perspective

Yang Haiming is the first scholar to pay attention to the phonetic changes of Chongqing dialect. In 1995, he conducted a survey on the pronunciation of residents in the main urban area, and he compared these phonetic data with other data which was collected 40 years ago and divided the pronunciation of Chongqing dialect into two categories: the old school and the new school. By comparing the old school and the new school from sound, rhyme, and the tone value aspect, he pointed out that "The new school is characterized by the retention of less ancient sound, and the consonant has the tendency to decrease, which is similar to the standard pronunciation (Yang, 1995)."

Compared with Yang Haiming, Zeng Xiaoyu's investigation spans longer time and her investigation content is also richer. She compared the sound, rhyme, and tone value system of Chongqing dialect by using the data collected 70 years ago, collected in the 1960s and collected in the last 20 years. She draws the conclusion that "Over the past 70 years, the structural system of Chongqing dialect speech has been fairly stable. We can say that the consonant system basically remains unchanged and the vowel system changes slightly. Changes in the tone system is more noticeable (Zeng, 2013)." She also predicts that "Because of the development of the municipality, the dialect spoken by citizens from old urban area may expand its influence (Zeng, 2013)."

Zhang Shuang used the "1957 Dangjiang Dialect Survey Report" as a comparative data to analyze the sound-changing items in Chongqing dialect. He (Zhang, 2013) pointed out that the external factors of the sound change mainly

include some social factors such as the educational level, the influence of other dialects from those more developed places, word frequency, etymology, and personal age, while internal factors mainly include the structure of the phonology and the influence of the phonetic components.

Chen Yu compared the pronunciation of Putonghua and the Chongqing dialect from the perspective of the influence of Putonghua on dialects. She advised that Putonghua should be prompted in dialect-spoken areas so that Chongqing dialect can “move towards” to Putonghua (Chen, 2015).

All these researches show that changes in Chongqing dialect are mainly because of the acceleration of urbanization and it is a tendency that Chongqing dialect is becoming increasingly similar to Putonghua. Scholars have a unified analysis of the causes and they believe that such changes are influenced by external factors - the influence of Putonghua, and also the balance of the internal structure. Therefore, changes of Chongqing dialect is the result of the interaction of external and internal factors.

2.2 Researches conducted from the microscopic perspective

Most of the researches conducted from the microscopic perspective describe the local sound, rhyme and tone value. The main researchers include Zhong Weike and Zhang Huishu from Jiangjin, Huang Yating from Qijiang, Wu Liyou from Kaixian, Zhang Shuang from Dianjiang, Yi Jie and Wang Ying from Wanzhou, Zou Yu from Xiushan and Wang Huan from Wansheng. Their researches mostly use traditional research methods to describe the initials, the finals, the tones, and the coordination of sound, and tone value. They recorded homophones or monosyllabic notes by comparing Putonghua and the dialect or comparing dialect with ancient sounds. To sum up, these studies have accumulated rich data for recording and reserving Chongqing dialect.

3. Analyses and Discussion

Through reading a lot of literature, the author finds that, at present, researches are done by domestic scholars just shows us some general discussion on Chongqing dialect, which mainly focuses on such subjects as introducing the concept of Chongqing dialect and features. Therefore, this paper will fill up the blank of preliminary researches by comparing Chongqing dialect with Putonghua from pronunciation, lexicon and syntax aspect.

3.1 Differences between Chongqing dialect and Putonghua on pronunciation

3.1.1 Tones are similar, but the values of the tone are different

Chongqing dialect, like Putonghua, has four tones. However, the tone values of Chongqing dialect is quite different from that of Putonghua. The corresponding situation is as following (Table 1) :

Table 1 Tone Values of Putonghua and Chongqing dialect

Items	The level tone	The rising tone	Falling-rising tone	Falling tone
Putonghua	5-5	3-5	2-1-4	5-1
Chongqing dialect	4-4	2-1	4-2-2	2-1-4

From the table above we can know that Chongqing dialect has an overall low tone value when compared with Putonghua. Although the Chongqing dialect is easy to understand, it is not easy to speak it well if one is not from Chongqing since the tone of Chongqing dialect is significantly different from that of Putonghua. So no matter people learn Putonghua in Chongqing dialect-spoken area or people learn Chongqing dialect from other areas beyond Chongqing, it is of necessity to conduct special pronunciation correcting training.

3.1.2 Nasal consonant and later consonant are not divided

To understand the reason why Chongqing people can't tell the nasal consonant and the later consonant, we need to first clarify a concept - the phoneme variant. Similar but different phonemes in phonemes are derived from the actual language. The /n/ and /l/ sound in Chongqing dialect are a kind of free variants in phonemes. Traditionally, people hold the belief that there is only later consonant in Chongqing dialect. But in fact, people just mixed the nasal consonant and the later consonant in the Chongqing dialect. They can pronounce both nasal and later consonant although there is no obvious difference. For example (Table 2):

Table 2 Typical examples of mutual replacement of /n-/ and /l-/ in Chongqing dialect

Items	blue	south	Cow
Putonghua	lan	nan	nai niu
Chongqing dialect	lan/nan	nan/lan	lai liu

Meanwhile, the author found that /n-/ and /l-/ has different rules in different districts and counties within Chongqing. It is because /n-/ and /l-/ are mixed, which leads to failing distinguishing meanings, which makes it more difficult for Chongqing people to learn Putonghua.

3.2 Differences between Chongqing dialect and Putonghua on the lexicon

3.2.1 The grammatical features of reduplicated words in Chongqing dialect

Within Chongqing dialects, the words that are more uniquely distinguished from Putonghua are reduplicated quantifiers. The pronunciation of most overlapping quantifiers are almost the same as Putonghua, but most of them are changes in pitch. In the former examples, the meanings of these quantifiers are mostly smaller or few .

The use of these quantifiers is generally preceded by “a” in Putonghua, for example, the “a little” in Putonghua and the “a little bit” in the Chongqing dialect.

3.2.2 The grammatical features of non-reduplicated words in Chongqing dialect

In Chongqing dialect, there are some special uses for quantifiers, which are often shown by not using numbers before quantifiers and using non-reduplicated words as quantifiers. For instance, adjectives such as “big” or “small” are added before quantifiers to form adjective and quantifier phrases, which can be used as predicates, attributives, and adverbials in Chongqing dialect..

Another feature is omitting the usage of “one” before quantifiers. In both Putonghua and Chongqing dialect, quantifiers can omit “one” at the end of a sentence and as an object or complement.

3.3 Differences between Chongqing dialect and Putonghua on syntax

The differences between Chongqing dialect and Putonghua are mainly reflected in interrogative sentences. The main differences are as following examples (Table 3):

Table 3 Differences between Chongqing dialect and Putonghua in sentence structure

Items		Yes-no questions	Wh-questions	Rhetorical question
Putonghua	Features	The structure of yes-no question sentences in Putonghua is basically the same as that of declarative sentences, and its general signs are as following: there is significant ascending intonation and there are specified mood words such as “吗”, “吧” etc.	The wh - question of Putonghua is to use the interrogative pronouns such as "who, what and how" to replace the doubts of the unknown part. The speaker hopes that the other party will reply to the unknown part (interrogative pronoun), and the sentence should use a rising tone.	"Is it true?" Is it not?are often used in Putonghua to express rhetoric tone, and the modal article is always used.

Chongqing dialect	Examples	1. 你知道这件事吗? (Do you know this?) 2. 他明天走吗? (Will he leave tomorrow?) 3. 你想送给她东西吗? (Do you want to give her something?)	这是什么? (What is this?) 2. 你怎么啦? (What happened to you?) 3. 你什么时候去学校? (When are you going to school?)	1. 难道你敢打我吗? (Do you dare to beat me?) 2. 你以为我真不懂吗? (Do you think I don't understand?)
	Features	The yes-no questions in Chongqing dialect don't use the modal particle “吗”, but the use of “嗦, 哈, 哈, 唛, 哇” which often has the meaning of speculation and a positive tone.	The difference between wh - question and Putonghua in Chongqing dialect is mainly reflected in the use of interrogative pronouns.	In Chongqing dialect, adverbs such as “莫非” and “硬是” are usually used, and the mood words are “哇, 哈, 嗦” and so on.
	Examples	1. 你晓不晓得这件事? (Do you know this?) 2. 他明天走哇? (Will he leave tomorrow?) 3. 你想给她送点儿东西嗦? (Do you want to give her something?)	1. 这是啥子? (What is this?) 2. 你哪们的? (What happened to you?) 3. 你哪个时候去学校? (When are you going to school?)	1. 莫非你敢打我吗? (Do you dare to beat me?) 2. 你以为我硬是不懂哟? (Do you think I don't understand?)

From examples in the above table, we can see that the difference between Chongqing dialect and Putonghua in expressing doubt mainly lies in the difference of mood words. The words in Chongqing dialect are much richer than that in Putonghua and these words are 嘛、噻、哟、喃、噎、哦、呀、哎. Because some words can't be found in Putonghua, Chongqing people tend to use these words when speaking Putonghua. Therefore, when learning Putonghua, people should try to correct this speaking habit and avoid using these modal words into Putonghua.

4. Conclusion

In a summary, there is a big difference between Chongqing dialect and Putonghua in terms of the diversity of pronunciation, dialect vocabulary and sentence structure. Specifically, Chongqing dialect has an overall low tone value; the nasal consonant and the later consonant are often mixed; the frequency of the use of reduplicated quantifiers are much higher and different mood words are used to express doubt. When Chongqing people learn Putonghua, they should keep this knowledge in mind. Finding out these differences between Chongqing dialect and Putonghua is not only beneficial to Chongqing people who will learn Putonghua but also helpful to those who can't speak Chongqing dialect but are interested in it.

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