# The Role of Metaphors in Shaping Cultural Identity and Values: A Philosophical Exploration in Academic Thesis Writing

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Abstract: This study makes use of a diachronic corpus to deeply analyze the collaborative phenomena and semantic evolution processes of cultural metaphorical words in academic writing. Through a systematic analysis of the corpus of papers from different periods, it reveals the characteristics of the distribution and collaborative patterns of cultural metaphorical words, sorts out the trajectories, laws, and influencing factors of semantic evolution, and explores the interrelationship between their collaboration and semantic evolution. The research results provide a new perspective for understanding the dynamic interaction between language and culture in academic writing, and contribute to deepening the understanding of literary research and the mechanisms of language evolution.

Keywords: Diachronic Corpus; Cultural Metaphorical Words; Collaboration; Semantic Evolution

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the vast realm of literature, language is like a mine of endless treasures, and cultural metaphors are the jewels that shine brightly. They are not only the essence of language, but also the carrier of culture, carrying the wisdom and emotion of a nation and an era. Traditional metaphor research is often limited to the synchronic level, which is like observing things on a slice of time, and it is difficult to capture the evolution of metaphor in the long history. The emergence of diachronic corpora provides us with a new perspective, which is like a time machine, allowing us to travel through time and space to trace the development of cultural metaphors. With the vigorous development of cognitive linguistics, metaphor is no longer seen as a mere rhetorical device, but as an important way for humans to perceive the world. Metaphors help us understand abstract concepts and complex worlds by mapping one conceptual domain to another. For example, the metaphor "time is money" connects the concept of time to the concept of money, allowing us to understand the abstract concept of time through the familiar concept of money. In literary works, metaphors are ubiquitous, which enriches the connotation of the work and enhances the expressiveness of the work (Trim, 2014). However, there are still many

deficiencies in the diachronic dimension of cultural metaphors. On the one hand, the existing research often focuses on the evolution of a single metaphor word, and lacks the discussion of the synergistic relationship between multiple metaphor words. In fact, in the actual use of language, multiple cultural metaphors are often related to each other and influence each other, working together to build a complex semantic network. On the other hand, we do not have a deep enough understanding of the mechanism and law of the evolution of the semantic evolution of metaphors. Semantic evolution is not random and disorderly, but is constrained by a variety of factors, such as social and cultural changes, and the development of people's cognition. This study focuses on the following aspects: first, systematically combing the use of cultural metaphors in different historical periods, and analyzing their frequency and distribution characteristics; The second is to explore the synergistic relationship between multiple cultural metaphors and reveal their interaction in semantic construction and expression. The third is to comprehensively analyze the mechanism and law of the semantic evolution of cultural metaphors, and explore the various factors affecting the semantic evolution. Through these studies, we hope to provide new perspectives and methods for the study of literature, enriching and deepening our understanding of the relationship between language and culture (Gevaert, 2005).

## 2. THEORETICAL BASIS

### 2.1 Overview of Diachronic Corpus

Diachronic corpus, as an important tool in the field of language research, carries a wealth of linguistic information and provides a valuable resource for us to reveal the development and evolution of language. It is a corpus that collects linguistic material in chronological order, and is designed to reflect the use and changing trends of language in different historical periods. Unlike synchronic corpora, which focus on the state of language in a specific period, diachronic corpora span a long-time span and can show the dynamic changes that occur in language over time (Taylor, 2022). Diachronic corpora have unique characteristics. The corpus spans a wide period of time, from ancient times to modern times, which allows researchers to comprehensively observe the evolution of language over a long period of time. These corpora come from a variety of different text types, such as literary works, historical documents, newspapers and

magazines, daily oral records, etc., and the rich sources ensure the diversity and representativeness of the corpus, which can reflect the language usage habits of people in different fields and different classes (Rissanen, 1989). Diachronic corpora play a pivotal role in language research. It provides an empirical basis for the study of language evolution, and researchers can analyze the changes in vocabulary, grammar, semantics and other aspects by comparing corpora in different periods, so as to deeply explore the mechanism and law of language evolution. For example, through the analysis of Old English, Middle English, and Modern English corpora, we can clearly see the evolution of English vocabulary formation, simplification of grammatical structures, and semantic expansion and transfer. In lexical research, diachronic corpora can help us understand the generation, development, and disappearance of words, as well as the changes in lexical meaning. For example, the word "sacrifice", which in ancient Chinese mainly referred to sacrificial or sacrificial objects, usually whole animals of solid color, has been expanded to include the sacrifice of one's own life for the sake of justice, and this semantic evolution can be seen through the relevant texts in the diachronic corpus (Hilpert & Gries, 2016). Diachronic corpora are also of great significance for cultural studies. Language is the carrier of culture, and through the study of languages in different historical periods, we can reveal the social and cultural background, people's ideological concepts and value orientations at that time (Hilpert, 2017). For example, from the descriptions of etiquette, clothing, architecture, etc. in ancient literary works, we can understand the social system and cultural traditions of the time; Through the analysis of emerging words and buzzwords in modern corpus, we can grasp the cultural trends of contemporary society and people's lifestyles.

## 2.2 Cultural Metaphor Theory

Cultural metaphor, as a unique linguistic and cognitive phenomenon, is deeply rooted in a specific cultural soil and carries rich cultural connotations and national wisdom. It refers to the way in which people use one thing to understand and express another in a particular cultural context by systematically mapping one conceptual domain to another. This mapping is not arbitrary, but is based on shared life experiences, values, and cognitive patterns among people in that culture. In Chinese culture, for example, the "dragon" is often seen as a symbol of imperial power, dignity, and auspiciousness, a cultural metaphor derived from ancient legends of the dragon's powerful and mystical image, as well as its special status in feudal dynasties. When we say "the true dragon son of heaven",

we are using the cultural metaphorical relationship between the "dragon" and the "emperor" (Kövecses, 2010). The image of the "dragon" was used to express the dignity and authority of the emperor. There is a certain difference between cultural metaphors and everyday metaphors. The everyday metaphor is more based on the universal physical experience and cognitive basis of human beings, and is a relatively common and natural metaphorical expression. For example, the everyday metaphor of "time is money" is widely understood in different cultures, as people can sense the preciousness and finitude of time, which has similarities with the value and scarcity of money. Cultural metaphors, on the other hand, have a stronger cultural specificity, which is closely related to the history, traditions, religions and customs of a particular culture, and can often only be accurately understood in the context of that culture. Take, for example, the "olive branch" in Western culture, which is seen as a symbol of peace, a cultural metaphor derived from the biblical story of Noah's Ark, where the dove holding back the olive branch signifies the subsidence of the flood and the arrival of peace. It can be difficult for people who don't understand the Western cultural background to understand the metaphorical connection between "olive branch" and "peace" (Gannon, 2001). Cultural metaphors play an important role in semantic evolution. It is one of the important drivers of semantic expansion and change. With the development and change of society and culture, people's cognition and experience are constantly enriched, and the original vocabulary and concepts cannot meet the needs of expression, so cultural metaphors come into being. Through cultural metaphors, a word can acquire new semantic connotations, thus achieving semantic evolution. For example, the concept of "Internet" originally only referred to the interconnection between computer networks, and with the popularization and application of Internet technology, it has gradually become a symbol of information exchange, social interaction, business activities and other fields, "Internet". The semantics of the term have also been greatly expanded. This semantic evolution process is based on people's new experiences and new cognitions in the Internet age, connecting the Internet with various related fields through cultural metaphors, thus giving the "Internet" a richer semantics (Zeilig, 2022).

## 2.3 Theories of Semantic Evolution

Semantic evolution, as an important part of language development, has always been one of the core areas of linguistic research. It refers to the change in the meaning of words in the course of history, which is

influenced by a variety of factors, presenting a complex and diverse pattern. Common patterns of semantic evolution include metaphor, metonymy, semantic expansion, semantic contraction, and semantic transfer, among others. Metaphor is the process of mapping one conceptual domain to another, thereby giving a word a new meaning. For example, the word "foot of the mountain", which originally referred to the bottom of the mountain, uses a metaphorical way to map the conceptual domain of "mountain" and "human body". Because the feet of the human body are located at the bottom of the body, the "foot of the mountain" is used to indicate the location of the bottom of the mountain. Metonymy is based on the proximity of things, using one thing to refer to another related thing. For example, the "White House" was originally the building where the President of the United States worked and lived, and because of its close connection with the U.S. government, people often use the term "White House" to refer to the U.S. government, which is a kind of metonymic semantic evolution (Drave et al., 2019). Semantic expansion refers to the gradual expansion of the range of meanings of words to cover a wider range of content. For example, "Jiang" originally referred to the Yangtze River, and "He" originally referred to the Yellow River, but later their meaning was expanded to refer to all the larger rivers. Semantic narrowing is the opposite of semantic expansion, where the range of meaning of words gradually shrinks (Evans, 2006). For example, "gold" refers to metal in ancient times, while in modern Chinese, it usually refers specifically to gold. Semantic transfer refers to the transfer of the meaning of a word from one category to another. For example, the word "sacrifice" has shifted from ancient times to mean sacrificial animals to modern times to mean the sacrifice of one's own life for a righteous purpose. Semantic evolution is influenced by a variety of factors. Socio-cultural changes are one of the important factors leading to semantic evolution. With the development of society, new things, concepts, and phenomena are constantly emerging, and in order to express these new contents, the meaning of words will change accordingly. In today's technological development, many new words and terms have emerged, such as "cloud computing" and "artificial intelligence". The emergence of these words not only enriches the expression of language, but also reflects the role of social and cultural changes in promoting semantic evolution. The development of people's cognition also affects semantic evolution. As people's understanding of the world deepens, so does the understanding and classification of things, which leads to changes in the meaning of words. For example, in ancient times, when there was limited knowledge of celestial bodies, the word

"star" may have referred to all luminous celestial bodies in the sky in general, but with the development of astronomy, people have classified celestial bodies more precisely, "stars". The meaning is also gradually narrowed down to refer to the star. Factors within the language, such as phonetic and grammatical changes, can also trigger semantic evolution. For example, some words have changed their meaning due to phonetic evolution; Changes in grammatical structure may also affect the function and meaning of words in sentences (Bainbridge, 2004).

## 3. METHODS FOR CONSTRUCTING AND ANALYZING DIACHRONIC CORPUS

The construction and analysis of diachronic corpus is an important means to study language evolution and related fields in depth. In terms of construction, it is necessary to first clarify the research goal and direction, which determines the direction of the next steps. For example, if we study the evolution of cultural metaphors in ancient literary works, the time span may be from the pre-Qin period to the Ming and Qing dynasties, and the field focuses on literary works, as shown in Figure 1.
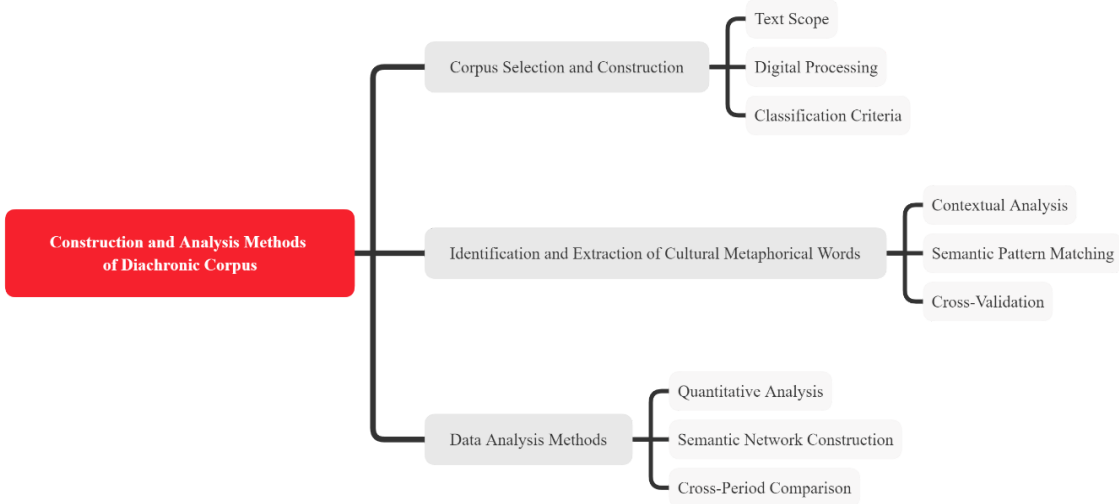


**Figure 1:** Methods for Constructing Diachronic Corpora

### 3.1 Selection and Construction of Corpus

In order to further explore the synergy and semantic evolution of cultural metaphors, this study carefully selected and constructed a representative diachronic corpus. We have selected a wide range of texts covering different historical periods, including ancient literary works, historical documents, scholarly works, modern literary works, newspapers and magazines. These texts come from a wide range of sources, spanning from

antiquity to the present day, and provide rich linguistic material for research. In terms of ancient literary works, we have included classic works such as the Book of Songs, Chu Ci, Analects, Mencius, Zhuangzi, and Shiji. These works not only have an important position in the history of literature, but also contain rich cultural connotations, and are valuable resources for the study of ancient cultural metaphors. For example, the poems in the Book of Songs use a lot of metaphors, using natural things as metaphors for people, reflecting the life, emotions and thoughts of people at that time. "Guan Guan Ju Dove, in the river island. My Fair Lady, Good Gentleman", here the harmony of the dove is used as a metaphor for the love between men and women, vividly expressing the ancients' yearning for beautiful love (Hilpert & Gries, 2016). In terms of historical documents, we have selected important historical books such as "Zizhi Tongjian" and "Twenty-four History". These documents record the political, economic, and cultural conditions of various historical periods, and contain many cultural metaphors that are closely related to the social background of the time. Through the analysis of these documents, it is possible to understand the use of cultural metaphors in different historical periods and the socio-cultural changes they reflect. For example, in the Zizhi Tongjian, the word "dragon" is often used as a metaphor for the emperor, reflecting the supremacy and mystery of imperial power during the feudal dynasty (Partington, 2010). Academic works are also an important part of our corpus, such as ancient linguistic works such as Shuowen Jie Zi and Erya, as well as modern and modern linguistics and literary research works. These works have important reference value for the study of the semantic evolution and theoretical interpretation of cultural metaphors. Shuowen Jie Zi provides a detailed explanation of the original meaning and extended meaning of Chinese characters, which helps us understand the semantic origin and evolution of cultural metaphor words. Modern literature, newspapers and magazines provide material for the study of contemporary cultural metaphors. We have collected the works of modern literary masters such as Lu Xun, Lao She, and Ba Jin, as well as articles from mainstream newspapers and periodicals such as People's Daily and Guangming Daily. These texts reflect the cultural landscape of modern society and people's language habits. In Lu Xun's works, metaphors are often used to criticize social reality, such as the metaphor of "cannibalism", which profoundly reveals the darkness and cruelty of feudal society. To construct a corpus, we first digitize the collected texts and convert the paper texts into electronic texts for subsequent analysis and retrieval. Then, professional corpus tools were used to annotate and classify the text,

including the time, author, genre, theme and other information of the text, and the classification was carried out according to the dimensions of historical period and text type. Through this processing, we construct a well-structured and rich diachronic corpus, which lays a solid foundation for subsequent research.

3.2 Identification and Extraction of Cultural Metaphors

Accurate identification and extraction of cultural metaphors from the constructed diachronic corpus is a key part of this study. We use a combination of methods to ensure accuracy and comprehensiveness of identification and extraction. The method based on contextual analysis is one of the important means to identify cultural metaphor words. The understanding of cultural metaphor words often depends on a specific context, and through the analysis of the context, it is possible to determine whether a word has a metaphorical meaning and the metaphorical concept it expresses. For example, in the phrase "he overcame obstacles in the mall and finally succeeded", the word "overcoming obstacles" literally means to remove the thorns, and in this context, it is used as a metaphor for overcoming difficulties in business competition and showing a spirit of courage. By analyzing the whole sentence and the context, we can identify "overcoming obstacles" as a cultural metaphor (Rissanen, 1992). Lexical semantic analysis is also an effective way to identify cultural metaphor words. With the help of semantic analysis tools and dictionaries, we perform semantic analysis of words in the corpus to look for words with semantic transfer or expansion. A word that originally denotes a concrete thing or concept, but is used in some contexts to denote an abstract, related concept, often implies the existence of a metaphor. The original meaning of the word "bridge" refers to a building erected on the water or in the air to facilitate the passage of pedestrians, vehicles, etc., while in the expression "bridge of cultural exchange", "bridge". It is used as a metaphor to connect the bonds between different cultures, enabling a semantic transfer from concrete things to abstract concepts. We also used a pattern-matching based approach. By summarizing the common linguistic expression patterns of cultural metaphors, such as "A is B", "B like A ", " B of A ", etc., search and match in the corpus, so as to quickly filter out possible cultural metaphors. Expressions such as "time is money", "he is cunning like a fox", "ocean of knowledge", etc., all conform to these common metaphorical patterns, where "timeWords such as "fox" and "ocean" all have metaphorical meanings in their corresponding expressions. When extracting cultural metaphors, we first use the above methods to analyze

the texts in the corpus sentence by sentence and mark all possible cultural metaphors. Then, the flagged words are further screened and validated to exclude those words that do not have metaphorical meaning in a specific context. For some words with ambiguous semantics or controversial meanings, we refer to multiple authoritative dictionaries and related research literature, and conduct in-depth analysis in combination with the context to determine whether they are cultural metaphors. After such processing, we extracted a large number of accurate and reliable cultural metaphors from the diachronic corpus, which provided rich data support for subsequent data analysis and research.

3.3 Data Analysis Methods

After successfully extracting cultural metaphor words, we used a variety of statistical analysis methods to process the data in depth to reveal the synergy and semantic evolution of cultural metaphor words. Frequency analysis is one of the most important methods we employ. By counting the frequency of cultural metaphors in different historical periods, we can understand how active they are in use in different eras, so as to discover the development trend of cultural metaphors (Musolff, 2015). If a cultural metaphor appears more frequently in a certain historical period, it means that it has a high degree of attention and importance in the society and culture at that time. However, if its frequency shows significant changes in different periods, it may reflect the influence of socio-cultural changes on its use. Taking the word "revolution" as an example, the frequency of the word "revolution" increased significantly during the period of social change in modern China, which was closely related to the political changes and ideological emancipation of the society at that time, reflecting people's criticism of the old system and the pursuit of the new society. (Partington, 2012). Co-occurrence analysis is also an important tool in our research. By analyzing the co-occurrence relationship between cultural metaphors, we explore their synergy in semantic expression. If two or more cultural metaphors often appear in the same context at the same time, there may be some semantic connection between them, working together to express a particular concept or topic. When describing economic development, cultural metaphors such as "take-off", "rise" and "prosperity" often appear together, which together depict the rapid development and prosperity of the economy from different perspectives, reflecting the synergistic effect of these metaphors in semantic expression (Goatly, 2022). Semantic network analysis is a more in-depth analysis method that can visually demonstrate the semantic relationships between cultural metaphors. We

use the semantic network analysis tool to construct a semantic network by using the extracted cultural metaphor words as nodes and the semantic relationships between them as edges. In this network, the size of the nodes indicates the importance of the cultural metaphor (e.g., frequency of occurrence, etc.), and the thickness of the edges indicates how close the semantic relationship is. Through the visual analysis of the semantic web, we can clearly see the hierarchy between cultural metaphors, the core metaphors, and the interconnections between them. Cultural metaphors such as "heart", "love", and "pain" may be at the heart of a semantic network of emotional expressions, along with other related metaphors such as "sweetness", "Sadness" and "warmth" are connected to each other through various semantic relationships to form a complex and orderly semantic network, which helps us deeply understand the synergistic mechanism of emotional expression Chinese metaphor words (Jiang et al., 2016). We also used the method of comparative analysis to conduct comparative studies of cultural metaphors in different historical periods and different text types. Through comparison, we can find the differences and commonalities of cultural metaphors in different contexts, and further reveal the law of their semantic evolution. When comparing cultural metaphors in ancient and modern literary works, we may find that some ancient cultural metaphors may have changed in semantics, although still used in modern works; At the same time, some new cultural metaphors will also appear in modern literary works, reflecting new things and new ideas in contemporary society. This comparative analysis helps us to fully understand the evolution and development trend of cultural metaphors in the long course of history. Fourth, the analysis of the synergistic phenomenon of Chinese metaphor words in thesis creation (Sheramatovich, 2024).

## 4. DISTRIBUTION CHARACTERISTICS OF CHINESE METAPHOR WORDS IN DIFFERENT PERIODS

Through an in-depth analysis of the papers in different periods in the diachronic corpus, we find that there are significant differences in the number and type of cultural metaphors. In ancient papers, the number of cultural metaphors is relatively small, but the types are rich and diverse, and most of them are closely related to the social and cultural background of the time. In the academic papers of the pre-Qin period, cultural metaphors that use natural phenomena as metaphors often appear, such as

"Tianxingjian, a gentleman is constantly striving for self-improvement", and the operation of "heaven" is a metaphor for the quality of a gentleman who should have a striving for progress. The cultural metaphors of this period reflect the ancient people's reverence for nature and the importance of moral cultivation, and embody the philosophical idea of "the unity of heaven and man" (Wang et al., 2019). Over time, by the Tang and Song dynasties, the number of cultural metaphors increased. In the treatise on the theory of poetic creation, a large number of image-based cultural metaphors have appeared. For example, "How much sorrow can you have? Just like a river of spring water flowing eastward", the metaphor of "sorrow" is "a river of spring water", and the endless sorrow is described through the continuous spring water. The increase in cultural metaphors during this period was closely related to the prosperity of literature and art at that time and the pursuit of emotional expression by literati (Lu & Wang, 2017). In modern times, with the transformation of society and the emancipation of the mind, the number of Chinese metaphor words in papers has increased significantly. In the papers on politics, economics, culture and other fields, many cultural metaphors with the characteristics of the times have appeared. In essays on social change, words such as "revolution" and "liberation" are often used as metaphors to express criticism of the old system and yearning for a new society. In the field of science and technology, the emergence of metaphors such as "information superhighway" and "knowledge explosion" reflects the impact of scientific and technological development on people's way of thinking and language expression (Yu, 2003). In terms of type, most of the cultural metaphors in ancient papers are derived from traditional cultural elements, such as myths and legends, historical stories, Confucian classics, etc. On the other hand, the cultural metaphors in modern papers are more influenced by Western culture, modern science and technology, and social trends, and many new metaphor types have emerged, such as cultural metaphors based on business concepts and network terms (Yu, 1981). These changes in distribution characteristics not only reflect the development and evolution of the language itself, but also reflect the social and cultural changes in different historical periods.

## 4.1 The Synergistic Mode of Chinese Metaphor Words in the Same Period

In the papers of the same period, cultural metaphors often express specific themes or ideas through a variety of synergistic patterns, forming an organic semantic whole. Among them, a common synergistic pattern is semantic complementarity. Multiple cultural metaphors describe the same

concept from different perspectives and complement each other, making the expression more comprehensive and richer. In essays on education, cultural metaphors such as "beacon of knowledge", "key to wisdom", and "mentor of the soul" often appear at the same time. "The Lighthouse of Knowledge" emphasizes that knowledge is like a lighthouse that illuminates the way forward and guides the way; "The Key to Wisdom" highlights that wisdom is like a key, which can open the door to the unknown and help people gain knowledge; "Mentors of the Heart" focuses on the important role of educators in shaping the hearts and minds of students (Shao, 2024). These metaphors work together to illustrate the importance of education in knowledge impartation, wisdom enlightenment and spiritual shaping from different levels, forming a synergy of semantic complementarity. Another synergistic mode is the metaphor chain. A number of cultural metaphors appear in a certain logical order, forming a chain of metaphors and gradually deepening the theme of expression. In essays that discuss social development, such a metaphorical chain may appear: "Society is a giant ship that sails, the leader is the captain, the people are the crew, the difficulties are the wind and waves, and the development is the voyage". This metaphorical chain takes "society" as the core, and constructs a complete metaphorical system by metaphorizing it as a "giant ship", and metaphorizing leaders, people, difficulties and development as captains, crews, wind and waves, and voyages, respectively. Along this chain of metaphors, we can clearly understand the relationship between the various elements in the process of social development, as well as the challenges and goals of development, so that the abstract concept of social development becomes more concrete and vivid. Another synergistic model is metaphor networking. Multiple cultural metaphors intertwine with each other to form a complex semantic network that collectively expresses a complex theme or idea. In the essay on cultural exchange, cultural metaphors such as "cultural bridge", "collision of ideas", "integration of civilizations" and "feast of cultures" are related to each other and form a metaphorical network. "Cultural Bridges" emphasizes that culture plays a role in connecting and communicating between different groups; "Collision of Ideas" highlights the mutual impact and inspiration of different ideas in the process of cultural exchange; "The integration of civilizations" reflects the result of cultural exchange, the mutual integration and innovation between different civilizations; "A Feast of Culture" depicts the richness and beauty of cultural exchange from the perspective of feeling and experience (Honeck & Temple, 1994). These metaphors are semantically related to each other, and together they construct the rich connotation of cultural

exchange from different aspects, so that readers can understand the meaning and value of cultural exchange from multiple perspectives.

4.2 Case Study: Take [Specific Literary Field Or Work] as an Example

Taking the dissertation in the field of ancient Chinese poetry research as an example, we can deeply analyze the synergistic use and effect of cultural metaphors in the creation of dissertation. In many research papers on Tang poetry, the cultural metaphors of "poetry history", "poetic soul" and "poetic rhyme" often appear together to explain the unique charm and value of Tang poetry. he metaphor of "poetry history" compares Tang poetry to a piece of history, emphasizing that Tang poetry has the function of recording social reality and reflecting the style of the times. Many Tang poems realistically depict the political, economic, and social life of the time, such as Du Fu's "Soldiers' Chariots", which shows the social turmoil and the suffering of the people during the Anshi Rebellion of the Tang Dynasty through the description of war scenes and the suffering of the people. The use of the metaphor of "poetry history" in this paper can make readers deeply realize that Tang poetry is not only a literary work, but also an important material for studying the history of the Tang Dynasty, highlighting the value of Tang poetry from a historical perspective (Jiang, 2018). The Soul of Poetry" gives Tang poetry the concept of soul, a metaphor for the spiritual connotation and emotional power contained in Tang poetry. Tang poems are full of rich emotions such as the poet's thoughts on life, love for his family and country, and praise for nature. Li Bai's poems are bold and free, full of romantic feelings, reflecting his pursuit of freedom and ideals, which is a manifestation of the "poetic soul" of Tang poetry. The use of the metaphor of "poetic soul" in the paper can guide readers to dig deep into the spiritual world behind Tang poems, feel the emotional pulse of the poets, and make readers' understanding of Tang poems more in-depth and delicate (Geng, 2021). "Poetry rhyme" is a metaphor for Tang poetry as an art form with a unique charm, emphasizing the beauty of Tang poetry in terms of language, rhyme, rhythm, etc. Tang poems have a rigorous rhythm, harmonious rhyme, and are catchy to read, with a high degree of musicality. Wang Wei's landscape poems, the language is fresh and natural, and the rhythm is beautiful, such as "After the new rain in the empty mountain, the weather is late in autumn." The bright moon shines among the pines, and the clear spring stone flows upstream", through the description of the natural scenery, it creates a quiet and distant artistic conception, showing the beauty of the poetry of Tang poetry. Discussing "poetic rhyme" in the paper can allow readers to

appreciate Tang poetry from the perspective of artistic aesthetics and experience the unique linguistic charm of Tang poetry (Nugent, 2020). hese three cultural metaphors are "poetic history", "poetic soul" and "poetic rhyme". In the research papers of Tang poetry, the connotation and value of Tang poetry are comprehensively explained from the three dimensions of history, spirit and art. Their synergistic use makes the analysis of Tang poetry more in-depth and comprehensive, and enables readers to understand the unique charm of Tang poetry more systematically, enhances the persuasiveness and appeal of the paper, and provides rich perspectives and profound insights for the study of Tang poetry.

## 5. EXPLORATION OF THE SEMANTIC EVOLUTION OF CULTURAL METAPHORS

5.1 The Trajectory and Law of Semantic Evolution

Through the in-depth analysis of the diachronic corpus of Chinese metaphor words, we find that their semantic evolution presents a certain trajectory and law. The semantic evolution of many cultural metaphor words follows a path from the concrete to the abstract. Take the word "Dao" as an example, its original meaning is "road", which is a very specific concept, such as "the road is also the world". "Tao" refers to the actual road. Over time, the semantics of "Dao" gradually became abstracted and were used to denote the principles and laws in the philosophical sense, such as "Dao Ke Dao, Extraordinary Dao", where "DaoIt has transcended the concrete concept of the path and has become an abstract philosophical concept that embodies the exploration of the nature and laws of all things in the universe. This semantic evolution from concrete to abstract reflects the deepening of people's understanding of the world and the need for language to express abstract concepts (Pleyer et al., 2024). Semantic evolution also presents two main patterns: radial and interlocking. Radial evolution refers to the extension of the original meaning of a word in many different directions to form a number of related meanings, and these meanings are radially distributed around the original meaning. The word "head" originally refers to the uppermost part of the human body or the anterior part of the animal, such as "headache" and "dizziness". From this original meaning, it derives the meaning of "chief", such as "chief" and "chief", because the chief is in the primacy of a group, similar to the head of the human body; It also derives the meaning of "beginning", such as "beginning" and "starting from the beginning", because the beginning is

the starting point of the development of things, just as the head is the beginning of the human body. There is a certain relationship between these extended meanings and the original meaning, and a radial semantic network is formed around the original meaning (François, 2008). Chaining evolution refers to the gradual evolution of the meaning of a word from one meaning to another, forming a continuous chain, and the latter meaning is based on the previous meaning and gradually develops. The word "soldier" originally meant a weapon, such as the "soldier" in "short combat", which refers to a weapon. With the development of wars and military activities, the meaning of "bing" gradually evolved to denote a person holding a weapon, that is, a soldier, such as "recruiting soldiers". Later, it was further extended to military and warfare, such as "war and chaos" and "paper talk" (Wang & Zhong, 2023). This kind of semantic evolution of the chain type reflects the continuity and inheritance of word meaning in the process of historical development, and also reflects the impact of changes in social life on language.

5.2 Factors Influencing Semantic Evolution

Semantic evolution is influenced by a combination of factors, among which sociocultural factors play a crucial role. Socio-cultural change is an important driving force for semantic evolution. With the development and progress of society, new things, concepts and phenomena are constantly emerging, and in order to express these new contents, the meaning of words will change accordingly. In today's rapid development of science and technology, the word "cloud" originally refers to the natural phenomenon of small water droplets or Xiaoice crystals formed by the liquefaction of water vapor in the atmosphere when it is cold, and gather together to float in the air. But with the advent of cloud computing technology, "cloud" has been given a new meaning, representing an internet-based computing mode and service model, such as "cloud storage", "cloud computing", "cloud services". And so on. This semantic evolution reflects the profound impact of technological progress on social life, as well as people's need to recognize and express new technological concepts. Historical events can also have a profound impact on the semantic evolution of cultural metaphors. Major historical events often change people's lifestyles and values, resulting in changes in the meaning of relevant words in the language. In modern China, the word "revolution" originally had a broad meaning, referring to the change of the mandate of heaven, the implementation of change in response to the mandate of heaven. However, with the outbreak of a series of revolutionary movements such as the

Xinhai Revolution, the meaning of the word "revolution" gradually focused on the political movement that overthrew the old regime and established a new society, and became a symbol of the pursuit of national independence and social progress in modern Chinese history. This semantic evolution is closely related to the development process of China's modern history, reflecting people's ideological concepts and goals in a specific historical period (Vydaichuk et al., 2024). Changes in people's perception are also important factors affecting semantic evolution. As human beings continue to deepen their understanding of the world, the understanding and classification of things will also change, resulting in a change in the meaning of words. In ancient times, there was limited knowledge of celestial bodies, and the word "star" may have referred to all luminous celestial bodies in the sky. However, with the development of astronomy, people have classified celestial bodies more precisely, and the meaning of "star" has gradually narrowed down to refer to stars, while other celestial bodies have more specific names, such as "planets", "satellites", and "comets". And so on. This evolution of semantics reflects the impact of the improvement of human cognitive level on language, and also reflects the accurate reflection and expression of language on the objective world (Xu et al., 2021).

5.3 Mechanism Analysis of Semantic Evolution

The semantic evolution of cultural metaphor words is mainly achieved through mechanisms such as metaphor expansion and metonymy. Metaphor expansion is one of the important mechanisms of semantic evolution. Metaphor is the mapping of features from one conceptual domain to another based on similarities between things, thus giving new meaning to words. Take the word "baggage" as an example, its original meaning refers to the cloth or bag that wraps clothes, and is a specific physical concept. Later, extended metaphorically, "baggage" was used to denote mental stress or burden, such as "mental baggage" and "psychological baggage". This is because mental stress and burden are similar to the actual baggage in the characteristic that it brings a sense of heaviness to people, and through metaphorical mapping, the semantics of the word "baggage" are expanded to be able to express more abstract concepts (Tianying & Bogoyavlenskaya, 2023). etonymy is also an important mechanism that leads to semantic evolution. Metonymy is the use of one thing to refer to another related thing based on the proximity between things. The "White House" was originally the building where the President of the United States worked and lived, and because of its close proximity to the U.S. government, people often used the term "White

House" to refer to the U.S. government. This semantic evolution of metonymy makes the word "White House" not only represent a concrete building, but also carries the abstract concept of the U.S. government, enriching the semantic connotation of the word (Nerlich, 2010). In some cases, metaphor expansion and metonymic mechanisms interact to drive the semantic evolution of cultural metaphors. The term "foot of the mountain" is first used to map the conceptual domain of "mountain" and "human body" through metaphor, because the feet of the human body are located at the bottom of the body "The foot of the mountain" to indicate the base of the mountain, which is the process of metaphorical expansion. In practice, "foothill" is often used to refer to the area at the foot of the mountain, which is based on the semantic evolution of the proximity between the "foothill" and the area at the foot of the mountain, through the metonymic mechanism (Pleyer et al., 2024). This mechanism of metaphor expansion and metonymic interaction makes the semantic evolution of cultural metaphor words more complex and diverse, and further enriches the expressive ability of language.

## 6. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CULTURAL METAPHOR WORD SYNERGY AND SEMANTIC EVOLUTION

### 6.1 Synergies Promote Semantic Evolution

The synergistic relationship between cultural metaphors acts as a catalyst for the occurrence and development of semantic evolution. When multiple cultural metaphors emerge in synergy, they can influence and complement each other, thus providing more possibilities for semantic evolution. Cultural metaphors such as "engine", "booster" and "carriage" are often used in conjunction with each other in discourses on economic development. "Engine" is often used as a metaphor for the core driving force of economic development, which has a strong driving force and efficient operation ability, such as "scientific and technological innovation is the engine of economic development", emphasizing the key role of scientific and technological innovation in economic development. "Booster" highlights the auxiliary and accelerating role of economic development, such as "government policy support is a booster of economic development", indicating that policy support can provide additional impetus for economic development and make it develop faster and better. In this context, "carriage" is often used as a metaphor for the overall framework or carrier of economic development, such as "traditional industries are the carriages of economic development", which means that

traditional industries carry an important basic role in economic development (Luppi et al., 2022). The synergistic use of these cultural metaphors makes the concept of "economic development" richer. They describe economic development from different perspectives, complement each other, and form a complete semantic system. In this process, the semantics of each metaphor word are further expanded and deepened because of the synergy with other metaphor words. The "engine" is no longer confined to the concept of mechanical realm, but has been given a more abstract meaning of economic power; The semantics of "booster" and "carriage" have also expanded from the original concrete things to the economic field, and have taken on new metaphorical meanings. This synergy breaks down the limitations of the semantic expression of individual metaphors and creates a broader space for semantic evolution, allowing language to express complex concepts and ideas more flexibly and accurately.

6.2 The Impact of Semantic Evolution on Synergistic Patterns

Semantic evolution is like an invisible hand, profoundly changing the synergistic patterns of cultural metaphors (Zhang et al., 2024). When the semantics of a cultural metaphor word evolves, the semantic relationship between it and other metaphor words will also change accordingly, resulting in the adjustment and change of the synergistic pattern. Taking the word "network" as an example, in the early days, "network" mainly referred to a web-like structure formed by threads connected to each other, such as "fishing nets" and "spider webs". At this time, it is closely related to concepts such as "line" and "connection", and in collaborative expression, metaphors related to these concepts often appear together, forming a synergistic mode based on physical structure. With the rapid development of information technology, the semantics of "network" have undergone a huge evolution, and it has gradually been used to refer to virtual information exchange platforms such as computer networks and the Internet. In this new semantic context, "network" is closely linked to concepts such as "information", "communication" and "sharing". The synergy model has also changed radically. Nowadays, we often see expressions such as "the network is the superhighway of information", "the network is the bridge of communication", "the network is the platform for knowledge sharing", etc., "the network with "highways", "bridges", "platforms". and other new metaphors have emerged synergistically, forming a new collaborative model based on information and communication (Huang et al., 2017). This change of synergy mode reflects

the influence of semantic evolution on the combination and expression function of cultural metaphor words, so that cultural metaphor words can better adapt to the new semantic environment and express new concepts and ideas more accurately.

6.3 Dynamic Processes of Interaction

In order to more intuitively show the dynamic process of the interaction between cultural metaphor words synergy and semantic evolution, we construct the following model: cultural metaphor words are regarded as nodes, and the semantic relationship between them is regarded as the edge connecting nodes, forming a semantic network. In the initial state, the synergistic pattern between cultural metaphors is relatively stable, and the semantic network presents a relatively orderly structure (Guliyev, 2021). ith the influence of social and cultural changes, the development of people's cognition and other factors, the semantics of some cultural metaphors have begun to evolve. This evolution is like a redefinition or adjustment of a node in the semantic web, resulting in a change in the way and strength of the connections between that node and other nodes. When the semantics of "cloud" extend from natural phenomena to the field of cloud computing, the node "cloud" is related to "computing" and "storage". services" and other nodes, while the connections with some originally related natural phenomenon nodes are relatively weak (Gannon, 2001). The node changes caused by semantic evolution will further affect the structure of the entire semantic network, leading to changes in the synergistic patterns between other cultural metaphors. In order to adapt to this change, cultural metaphors are recombined to form new synergistic patterns, thus bringing the semantic web to a new state of relative stability. In this process, cultural metaphors interact with semantic evolution, constantly promoting the development and evolution of language, forming a dynamic and continuous process. This dynamic process not only reflects the close connection between language, socio-cultural and human cognition, but also provides an important perspective for us to deeply understand the nature and development of language.

# 7. CONCLUSION

With the help of an in-depth analysis of diachronic corpora, this study has achieved important results in the synergy and semantic evolution of cultural metaphors. In the dimension of paper creation, the distribution of cultural metaphors highlights the characteristics of the times. In the papers

of different historical periods, the number and type of cultural metaphors are significantly different, which are closely related to the social and cultural background of the time. Most of the cultural metaphors in ancient essays are derived from traditional cultural elements, reflecting the ancients' thinking on nature, morality, philosophy and other aspects. The cultural metaphors of modern and modern papers are deeply influenced by Western culture, modern science and technology, and social trends, reflecting the changes of the times and the innovation of ideological concepts in the papers of the same period. These models help cultural metaphors to explain complex concepts more comprehensively and deeply, and enhance the persuasiveness and expressiveness of the paper. Taking the research papers of ancient Chinese poetry as an example, cultural metaphors such as "poetry history", "poetry soul" and "poetry rhyme" are used in synergy to interpret the connotation and value of Tang poetry from the three dimensions of history, spirit and art. In terms of the semantic evolution of cultural metaphors, it presents a trajectory from concrete to abstract, mainly following two modes: radial and interlocking. For example, the word "Dao" has evolved from a concrete "road" concept to an abstract philosophical concept, reflecting the deepening of people's understanding of the world. The multiple extended meanings of the word "head" are radially distributed around the original meaning, and the meaning of the word "soldier" continues to develop through chain evolution. Semantic evolution is affected by a variety of factors, such as social and cultural changes, historical events, and changes in people's cognition. Cloud computing technology has promoted the semantic expansion of "cloud", historical events such as the Xinhai Revolution have changed the meaning of the word "revolution", and the development of astronomy has led to "stars".Semantic narrowing. The synergy of cultural metaphors and semantic evolution are closely intertwined. The synergistic relationship promotes the emergence and development of semantic evolution, and the collaborative use of multiple cultural metaphor words creates more possibilities for semantic evolution, so that language can express complex concepts more flexibly. Semantic evolution inversely affects the synergistic pattern, and when the semantic meaning of a cultural metaphor changes, its synergistic mode with other metaphor words will be adjusted accordingly to adapt to the new semantic environment.

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