

## Analyzing the Distinctive Speech Patterns in Zhuangzi and Their Philosophical Significance

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this paper is to deeply analyze the unique modes of speech adopted by Zhuangzi, a Chinese philosopher in pre-Qin period, and the profound philosophical implications of these modes of speech. With his unique metaphors, fables, exaggerations and dialogues, Zhuangzi skillfully integrates abstract philosophical thoughts into vivid images and plots, making these thoughts more vivid and easy to understand, and at the same time bringing readers speculation and enlightenment. Through an in-depth analysis of Zhuangzi's texts, this study will reveal how his way of speaking helps to convey his unique views on nature, life, and the world. In the second chapter, we will examine Zhuangzi's unique way of speaking in detail. He often uses metaphors to connect abstract concepts to everyday life. For example, he uses the metaphor of the butterfly dream to express the illusory and impermanence of life. His fables often use metaphors such as animals and natural phenomena to show complex philosophical thoughts through vivid images. In addition, Zhuangzi highlights the limitations and illusory nature of the real world through exaggeration, thus triggering the reflection on authenticity. Through opposition and dialogue, he presents the diversity of things and urges people to think about problems from different angles. The third chapter will deeply explore Zhuangzi's core philosophical thoughts. He put forward the concept of free inaction, advocated to put down the utilitarian mentality, conform to nature, in order to achieve inner peace and freedom. In addition, Zhuangzi's concept of relative has an important expression in his works, he stressed that people's ideas vary according to their circumstances, so there is no absolute standard. His view of change and illusion emphasizes the fluidity and impermanence of things and reminds people to go beyond the surface phenomenon to find the essence. The fourth chapter will explore the relationship between Zhuangzi's way of speaking and the meaning it conveys. We will delve into how his way of speaking reinforces the expression of his core ideas and leads the reader to think deeply on multiple levels. By combining philosophical ideas with vivid metaphors, Zhuangzi makes abstract concepts more approachable and helps readers understand them in depth. Chapter Five will study how Zhuangzi's thought influenced the later generations. His unique way of speaking and core philosophical views have had a profound impact on later philosophers and thinkers. His relative concept is still enlightening in modern philosophy and guides us to examine the rationality of different views. To sum up, this paper reveals Zhuangzi's unique views on nature, life and the world through in-depth analysis of his unique ways of speaking and philosophical implications. Zhuangzi's way of speaking not only injected vitality into ancient philosophy, but also has important value in contemporary thinking, guiding us to think about the profound philosophical questions about man and nature, life and the universe.

**Keywords:** Philosophical Implications, Language Philosophy, Speech Patterns,

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Zhuangzi (c. 369 BC - C. 286 BC), one of the Chinese philosophers in the pre-Qin period, left a profound influence on the history of Chinese thought with his profound philosophical thoughts and unique ways of speaking. His book *Zhuangzi*, with its allegory, metaphor, exaggeration, dialogue and other unique expression techniques, has provided rich thinking materials for future generations to explore life, nature and the universe and other issues. The purpose of this thesis is to probe deeply into Zhuangzi's unique way of speaking and the philosophical implication behind it. Zhuangzi's way of speaking not only made his thoughts full of interest and inspiration, but also injected vivid images into his philosophical thoughts, making the abstract concepts more concrete. He takes creatures and phenomena of nature as metaphors, and expresses his thoughts through contrast and exaggeration, which makes his views deeply rooted in the people and unforgettable. Through opposition and dialogue (Ames, 1994), he reveals the diversity and complexity of things, providing readers with the possibility of thinking about problems from multiple angles. In this paper, we will analyze Zhuangzi's unique ways of speaking and the core philosophical thoughts conveyed by these ways. Chapter two will explore Zhuangzi's figurative and allegorical techniques in detail, revealing how these methods of expression enriched his thoughts and made them more vivid. The third chapter will deeply analyze Zhuangzi's exaggeration and fantasy techniques, and explore how these techniques highlight his unique observation of human nature and the world (Graham, 1989). Chapter four will explore the philosophical ideas presented by Zhuangzi through opposition and dialogue, and how these techniques lead readers to think deeply about problems (Ivanhoe, 2002). In Chapter five, we will explore the influence of Zhuangzi's way of speaking on the thoughts of later generations. His unique expression and core ideas have had a profound impact on later philosophers, cultural figures and literary works (Kirkland & Girardot, 2004). In addition, Zhuangzi's way of speaking is still enlightening in contemporary thinking, guiding us to think deeply about the relationship between man and nature, life and the universe (Dmitriev et al., 2020; Kohn, 2018). Through the discussion of Zhuangzi's unique way of speaking and philosophical implication, this thesis will help us to understand Zhuangzi's thought more deeply, and provide a new perspective and inspiration for the discussion of contemporary philosophy

and culture (Adib et al., 2021; Roth, 2004).

## 2. ZHUANGZI'S UNIQUE WAY OF SPEAKING

Zhuangzi's work Zhuangzi is unique in ancient philosophy with its unique way of speech and imaginative expression. His speech style not only enriched the content of his thoughts, but also made his ideas deeply rooted in people's hearts. This chapter will deeply explore Zhuangzi's unique ways of speaking, including metaphor, allegory, exaggeration, antagonism and dialogue, and analyze the application of these methods in his works and the profound philosophical views they convey (Watson, 1968).

### 2.1 Use of Metaphor and Metaphor

Zhuangzi made extensive use of metaphors and metaphors, blending abstract philosophical ideas with vivid images. He concretized abstract concepts by borrowing natural phenomena and the characteristics of plants and animals. For example, in the passage "The Language of Suitcase", he takes the pleasure of a big fish traveling in every river as an example, expressing the idea that one should conform to the way of heaven and go with the flow (Zhuangzi & Ziporyn, 2009). Through metaphor, Zhuangzi makes the abstract truth vivid and perceptible, and guides the reader to understand its connotation more deeply (Yu, 2007).

### 2.2 Allegory and Symbolism of Animal Images

Allegory is another important way of expression of Zhuangzi. Based on animals and natural phenomena, he reflects human nature, morality and social issues through the depiction of animal images. In "On All Things", he takes the butterfly dream as an allegory to explore the theme of illusory life and freedom. These animal images not only enrich his works, but also have profound symbolic significance in Zhuangzi's philosophy, giving intuitive images to abstract thoughts (Firdos & Meng, 2022).

### 2.3 Use of Exaggeration and Fantasy

Zhuangzi often exaggerates the limitations and illusory nature of the real world by means of exaggeration and fantasy, which arouses readers' thinking about reality and illusory nature. In his article "Autumn Water", he compares life to "autumn water is the same color in the sky", contrasting time and the brevity of life. Through exaggeration, he emphasizes the brevity of life and inspires people to cherish the moment. At the same time, he expresses people's detached attitude through fantasy, such as "the

greatest joy without joy", so that readers can think about the possibility of human nature in a fantastic atmosphere (Ceazón et al., 2021).

## 2.4 Display of Opposition and Dialogue

In his works, Zhuangzi often shows the diversity and complexity of things through confrontation and dialogue. He uses opposites, such as the dialogue between Xu Wuquan and Nanhua in Xu Wuquan, to compare people's subjective views and objective facts and reveal the relativity of things. Through dialogue, he shows the collision and exchange of different points of view, encouraging readers to examine issues from multiple perspectives. This method of confrontation and dialogue makes Zhuangzi's thought more colorful. Through an in-depth analysis of Zhuangzi's unique way of speaking (Chen, 2006), this chapter will reveal how he vividly expresses abstract philosophical thoughts through metaphors, fables, exaggerations, antagonisms and dialogues. These unique ways of expression not only make his thoughts more appealing, but also provide readers with a multi-dimensional and multi-level thinking path, guiding us to conduct a deeper exploration of nature, life and the universe.

## 3. THE CORE IDEA OF ZHUANGZI'S PHILOSOPHY

Zhuangzi's philosophy is unique in the history of ancient Chinese thought. He constructs a unique world outlook and life attitude through the core ideas of free inaction, relative concept, change and unreal view. In this chapter, we will delve into Zhuangzi's core ideas and analyze his profound insights into nature, life and the universe (Chen, 2005).

### 3.1 Concept and Connotation of Free Inaction

Zhuangzi's idea of freedom and inaction stems from his deep observation and reflection on nature. He advocated that man should imitate nature and let go of utilitarian desires and excessive efforts in order to achieve inner peace and freedom. Zhuangzi took nature's inaction as a model, and believed that people should pursue inner freedom instead of excessive pursuit of fame and fortune. Through free inaction, he calls for people to adapt to the laws of nature and achieve harmonious symbiosis with nature (Li, 2012; STAECK et al., 2022).

### 3.2 Relative Concepts and The Meaning of "the Same Dream"

Zhuangzi's relative concept reflects his cognition of the pluralism of the

world. He emphasized that everything is relative and there is no absolute standard. He mentioned in "Carefree Travel" that "the same dream, regardless of the west and east", conveyed that people's ideas vary from person to person and should not be limited. This concept leads people to transcend narrow views, embrace diversity, and recognize the multiple dimensions of things (Qiu, 2010).

### 3.3 Philosophical Significance of Change and Illusory View

Zhuangzi emphasized the change and illusory nature of all things, and he believed that everything is constantly changing and there is no constant essence. He reveals the impermanence and diversity of things through the depiction of water flow and butterfly changes. Zhuangzi's view of change makes people understand the dynamic nature of things and get rid of their attachment to the inherent ideas. His illusory view leads people to go beyond the surface phenomenon and explore the essence of things (Qian, 2006).

### 3.4 Reflection and Limitation of Human Nature

Zhuangzi reflected on the illusory nature and limitation of human nature by means of fantasy and opposition. He expressed the transcendent attitude of man with "the utmost joy and no joy", emphasizing that he could transcend the bondage of emotion and desire and achieve inner peace (Zhou, 2022). By comparing the characteristics of different animals, he reveals the self-limitation and social role of human beings. This kind of reflection encourages people to transcend artificial boundaries and pursue inner harmony. By exploring the core ideas of Zhuangzi, this chapter presents his unique views on nature, life and the universe. Through the core ideas of free inaction, relative concept, change and illusory view, Zhuangzi provides people with a way of thinking beyond conventional thinking, and guides us to re-examine the relationship between ourselves and the world, as well as the real value of life (Suresh et al., 2022; Zhou, 2009).

## 4. AN ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ZHUANGZI'S MODE OF SPEECH AND IMPLICATION

There is a close relationship between Zhuangzi's way of speaking and the meaning he conveys. With his unique metaphors, fables, exaggerations and dialogues, Zhuangzi turns the abstract philosophical views into concrete and vivid ones, and enhances the expressive effect of his thoughts. In this chapter, we will analyze the relationship between Zhuangzi's way of

speaking and the meaning he conveys, and explore how he uses these techniques to reinforce his core philosophical views and provoke readers to think deeply on multiple levels (Zhao, 2008).

#### 4.1 Pictorial Expression of Parable and Allegory

Zhuangzi is good at using metaphors and fables to present abstract philosophical thoughts in vivid images. He creates vivid metaphors by connecting human emotions and behaviors with natural phenomena. For example, he expressed the illusory and impermanence of life with the metaphor of butterfly dream and expressed the transience and illusion of life by depicting the blending of butterfly and dream. This pictorial expression makes Zhuangzi's views more appealing and easier for readers to understand and empathize with (Zhao, 2013).

#### 4.2 Exaggeration and Fantasy Thinking Guidance.

Exaggeration and fantasy are an important part of Zhuangzi's way of speaking, and he often uses these techniques to highlight the limitations of the real world and guide readers to think about the relationship between the real and the unreal. By exaggerating the limitations of reality, he invites readers to reflect on social conventions and personal desires. For example, he expressed people's detached attitude with "the utmost joy and no joy", advocating that people get rid of their attachment to the outside world and pursue inner peace. At the same time, he creates fantastic situations through fantasy, enabling readers to think about human nature and reality from unconventional perspectives. These techniques make the meaning of Zhuangzi more profound and multi-faceted.

#### 4.3 Thought Collision Between Opposition and Dialogue

By means of confrontation and dialogue, Zhuangzi brings different viewpoints and thoughts into collision, thus showing the diversity and complexity of things. In the form of dialogue, he reveals the relativity and diversity of human concepts. For example, in Xu Wuquan, through the dialogue between Xu Wuquan and Nanhua, Zhuangzi reveals different people's viewpoints and circumstances, which triggers readers to think about the absolute and the relative. This approach of confrontation and dialogue makes Zhuangzi's works more reflective and revelatory, encouraging readers to examine issues from multiple angles.

#### 4.4 Rich and Multi-Level Interpretation of Meaning

The way of speech of Zhuangzi injects rich philosophical thoughts into

his works, and also provides space for multi-level interpretation of meanings. Through a variety of expression techniques, he integrates multiple levels of thought into his works, so that readers can interpret them from different angles. This richness makes Zhuangzi's works open, and readers can dig deeper into the meaning according to their own understanding and experience. Through an in-depth analysis of the relationship between Zhuangzi's modes of speech and the meanings conveyed, this chapter reveals how Zhuangzi concretizes abstract philosophical thoughts through metaphors, allegories, exaggerations and dialogues, and provokes readers' deep thinking on multiple levels. Zhuangzi's way of speaking not only enriched his thoughts, but also allowed readers to think more extensively and deeply when thinking about life, nature and the universe.

## 5. THE INFLUENCE OF UNIQUE WAYS OF SPEECH ON LATER GENERATIONS

Zhuangzi's unique way of speaking not only attracted attention in his time, but also had a profound influence on later generations. Through metaphor, allegory, exaggeration and dialogue, he innovatively combined philosophical thought with literary expression and exerted an important influence on the philosophy, literature and culture of later generations. This chapter will deeply analyze the influence of Zhuangzi's way of speaking on later generations, and explore how he influenced philosophical thought, literary creation and cultural inheritance.

### 5.1 Influence on later philosophical thoughts

Zhuangzi's unique way of speaking has exerted a wide influence on later philosophical thoughts. Through metaphor and metaphor, he visualized abstract philosophical views and influenced the expression of later philosophers. His core ideas, such as free inaction, relative concept and change concept, provided important ideological resources for later generations of Taoism, Buddhism and cultural philosophy. Zhuangzi's way of speaking inspired later philosophers to think about human nature, nature and the universe, and influenced the development of Chinese philosophical thought.

### 5.2 Influence on later literary creation

Zhuangzi's unique way of speaking also had a profound impact on the

literary creation of later generations. With allegory, animal image and exaggeration, he endowed the later literary works with new forms of expression. His speech style inspired the creation of later literati and influenced the development of Chinese classical literature. Zhuangzi's way of speech also produced a unique expression technique in later poetry, prose and novels, which made literary works more colorful.

### 5.3 Influence on the cultural inheritance of later generations

Zhuangzi's way of speaking has played an important role in the inheritance of Chinese culture. Through confrontation, dialogue and metaphor, he presents diverse thoughts and cultures. This mindset has influenced the inclusiveness and diversity of later cultures. Zhuangzi's views encouraged people to go beyond traditional concepts and embrace change and multiculturalism, providing spiritual support for cultural exchanges and integration in later generations.

### 5.4 Implications for contemporary thinking

Zhuangzi's unique way of speaking is still of enlightening significance in contemporary times. His thoughts and expressions lead people to think deeply about nature, life and the universe. In today's fast-paced society, Chuang Tzu's free inaction and detached attitude are still relevant, reminding people to look inward and pursue inner peace. His way of speaking also provides new perspectives and innovative ideas for contemporary philosophical and cultural exchanges. By deeply analyzing the influence of Zhuangzi's unique way of speaking on later generations, this chapter shows his important position in philosophical thought, literary creation and cultural inheritance. His way of speaking not only resonated in his time, but also had a profound impact on the development of thought, literature and culture in later generations.

## 6. CONCLUSION

Zhuangzi's philosophical thought and unique way of speaking have deeply influenced the culture, philosophy and literature of ancient China and later generations. Through the analysis of Zhuangzi's speech mode and meaning, we can draw the following conclusions and further understand his profound influence on human thought. Zhuangzi's way of speech is a unique way to express his thoughts. Through metaphor, allegory, exaggeration and dialogue, he transformed abstract philosophical concepts



into concrete and vivid. This intuitive and vivid expression breaks through the difficult problems of traditional philosophy and makes his ideas more accessible and easy to understand. His verbal art not only made his works fascinating at the time, but also left a remarkable cultural legacy for later generations. Zhuangzi's way of speech is closely related to his core philosophical thoughts. His concept of freedom and inaction is highlighted through exaggeration, leading people to transcend the pursuit of utility and seek inner peace and freedom. His relative concept is reflected in the dialogue, stimulating people's exploration of multiple thinking. These techniques not only give his works a unique depth of thought, but also make it easier for readers to draw inspiration from deep thinking. Zhuangzi's unique way of speaking has had a profound influence on later generations. His thoughts not only influenced the development of ancient Chinese philosophy, but also penetrated into literary creation and cultural inheritance. His speech art inspired later literati and influenced the creation style of poetry and prose. At the same time, his ideas of free inaction and relative concept have provided profound philosophical resources for later thinkers and influenced the course of the history of Chinese philosophy. Finally, Zhuangzi's way of speaking is an important way to inherit his thought. He passed on profound philosophical thoughts to posterity with his vivid words, so that it not only stayed in the rational level, but also triggered emotional resonance. His way of speaking has been continuously fermenting in philosophy, literature and cultural inheritance, providing inspiration for people to explore life and pursue truth. Zhuangzi's unique way of speaking and thought contribution will continue to inspire people's thinking and continue his important position in the course of human wisdom.

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