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# PARSING 'BLOCKED'

# **Zhang Cheng**

WuChang University of Technology, Wuhan, China

In recent years, the word "blocked" has appeared frequently in the media in Mainland China. "Blocking" is widely used in various fields, and the object of blocking is also diverse. There are people, things, action behaviors, and even abstract concepts, but they have one thing in common: they all have negative meanings. The author quotes a large number of examples from major networks and newspapers, based on the perspective of social and cultural context, using empirical methods, mainly from the "blocked" source and meaning. Analyzing the reasons of epidemic spread of the word 'blocked', the author describes the socio-cultural psychological characteristics reflected in this process, does a theoretical analysis of "blocked". It is the objective need of social development and the development of language itself; therefore, the "blocked" epidemic is not only a linguistic phenomenon, but also a social phenomenon, which reflects certain social, cultural, and psychological characteristics. \*\*Keywords:\*\* blocked, Chinese language, mass media, social culture, translation.

# Introduction

In recent years, a word that most Chinese-speakers were not familiar with has appeared frequently in domestic news media, especially in news and article titles. This word is "blocked." In the search engine "Google", if using the keyword "blocked" to search all Chinese web pages, there were as many as 178,000 search results. The popularity of the word "blocked" is evident. E.g:

- 1. Deng Jianguo Angrily Blocked Ni Ruisi (People's Network February 01, 2017)
- 2. Korean mobile phones are banned, domestic mobile phone is harmless (Sina.com, June 16, 2009)
- 3. DPP wants to block mainland TV media. Four sets of Central TV programs will be blocked from broadcasting in Taiwan. (China Network, November 02, 2014)

# **Experiment**

#### I. The origin and significance of "blocked"

There have been two waves of the introduction of Japanese words in Chinese. One was at the beginning of the last century, when Western learning spread to the east, and a lot of new things appeared in Chinese society. They required the Chinese system to generate words referring to them in a short time. Many words of modern Chinese are imported from Japanese, such as science, democracy, and cadres. Japanese words entered Chinese for the second time after the reform and opening up. Unlike the previous introduction of a large number of Chinese words, almost all Chinese words introduced into mainland China after the reform and opening up were re-introduced from Hong Kong and Taiwan. For example: bento, cooking, parenting, etc. "Blocking" was introduced into mainland China from Hong Kong and Taiwan during this period. The term "blocked" is included in the Dictionary of Contemporary Hong Kong and Taiwan Terms, and its meaning is far from simple as "forced blocking". The dictionary provides a more detailed explanation of "blocking" in modern Chinese:

① Reject, veto; this government should take responsibility for relief, but unexpectedly banned these women to prevent them from being promoted to formal cleaners.

2 Removal and dismissal; after the senior executive has ordered the blockade of Fang Fang, he hosted the show yesterday.

Also known as "blocked out", this baseball term. [1] [2] [3] [4]

But through the analysis of the collected corpus, we found that the meaning of "blocking" has been newly developed. E.g.

- 1. In order to effectively block the "Gunner" Hubei adult high test fingerprints (Sichuan Online March 28, 2017)
  - 2. Downside space has been blocked (China Securities Journal, May 13, 2012)
- 3. Block the zero down payment, what is the future of housing loans? (China Construction News, June 07, 2011)
- 4. Poor venue affects confrontation Football Association will block "vegetable field" stadium next year (Sina.com, November 06, 2010)
- 5. Complaints keep coming! Cruise companies want to block Wushan Little Three Gorges (Chongqing Evening News, October 13, 2013)

It can be seen from the examples that "blocking" is widely used in various fields, and the object of blocking is also diverse. There are people, things, action behaviors, and even abstract concepts, but they have one thing in common: they all have negative meanings. This is not what the implementers of the blocking action is like [5]. In general, "blocking" has the following meanings:

# (A) take measures to force someone or an institution or organization to withdraw from the field For example:

1. "Song of Liang" was concluded at the new song launch conference Hong Kong New City blocked Jay

- 1. "Song of Liang" was concluded at the new song launch conference Hong Kong New City blocked Jay Chou (China News Network, December 5, 2016)
  - 2. Central People's Broadcasting Station will block Tian Zhen (Netease May 12, 2014)
- 3. Hunan will implement cadre resignation system to block "peace officials" (Guangxi government website February 27, 2014)

# (B) Seal-up, prohibition of sales and operations, etc.

For example:

- 1. 47 black clinics in Shiyan were blocked overnight (People's Network November 7, 2017)
- 2. People in Nanjing eat more than 2 tons of snakes every day. The operation of wild animals is urgently blocked (Beijing Morning Post, June 06, 2013)
- 3. Rat drug poisoning cases increase, Hubei issues new rules to block "drug rats" and so on (China News Network, December 06, 2009)
- 4. Intel lifts legal sword to block VIA chipset in the German market (Internet Weekly, November 01, 2012)

# (C) Prohibiting or refusing a specific behavior

For example:

- 1. Jinan banned marriage by bus to welcome relatives (Volkswagen Daily, September 21, 2010)
- 2. Rejected "Sale News" Chinese women's football team blocked media interview (Beijing Entertainment News, September 25, 2003)
  - 3. Supermarket's chicken slaughter will be banned (Shenzhen Evening News, June 18, 2018)
  - 4. Sugar and Wine Club Blocks Outreach (elong.com)

#### (D) Defend or defeat or eliminate opponents in the competition

For example:

- 1. "Best Defender" comes back to block Vieri and Juventus has an unprecedented line-up (Sina.com, March 11, 2018)
- 2. "Big Palm" blocked the eagle After the game, the US media spoke highly of "Little Giant" (Qingdao News Network February 24, 2016)
- 3. An airline instructed some travel agencies to "block" China Eastern Airlines. (Chinanews.com) **(E.) strangle**

# For example:

- 1. The State Environmental Protection Administration talks about blocking piranhas: alien species are the enemy of biosecurity (China Youth Daily, December 26, 2012)
- 2. Landing rights of Sunshine TV are in danger of being blocked (China Business Times) April 04, 2013 As mentioned above, "blocking" was originally a baseball term. It is "a method of baseball that causes the other runners to automatically get out." The so-called "out" was originally a term used in baseball games. The attacking opponent loses the right to continue the attack [6]. From this point, it can be seen that the core semantic attributes of "blocking" should be summarized as: (a), [action in progress], (b), [the right to continue to lose]. Looking at the various uses of "blocking", it can be found that regardless of the context in which "blocking" is used, it is related to these two semantic attributes: the blocking of the singer is the loss of the right to continue performing on the stage; the blockade of "rat rat strong" is to make it lose its right to continue selling in the market; the blockade of piranha is to make it lose its right to continue to survive in our country. At the same time, we should also see the difference between "blocking" and blocking in baseball: In baseball games, the party that blocks is the same as the other party that is blocked, and the current popular "blocking" is mostly the behavior of the strong side against the weak side. [7]

#### **Results and discussions**

# 2. Reasons for the "Blocking" popularity

# (A) Objective needs of social development

Human society is always developing, and some new things will inevitably appear in it. Of course, the language as the most important communication tool for human beings will follow the pace of social development. As the famous linguist Chen Yuan said, "Everything new in the social system appears, whether it is a new system, a new measure, a new trend of thought, a new substance, a new concept, a new tool, a new action, in short, this new things must be shown in the language in every possible way". When the new act of blocking occurs in society, there must be words to refer to it, so that "the name and reality match", and the word "blocked" has come already [8].

# (B) The development of language itself

The popularity of "blocking" is inseparable from the development of Chinese itself. Colorfulness is a very important feature in language. Pursuing new colors and styles is an important way for new words to appear. In modern Chinese, the closest meaning to "blocking" is "strangling". In fact, the explanation of "blocking" in "Modern Chinese Dictionary" is: strangulation, complete prohibition. However, if you compare "blocking", "banning", and "strangling" in detail, you will find that "blocking" can spread so quickly and is inseparable from its own characteristics: the original meaning of "blocking" is to cultivate soil for trees. The commonly used meaning in modern Chinese is sealing and closing. "Kill" is to make a living thing lose its life, that is, to die. These two words are used together to close off and kill the opponent. And "blockade" and "strangle" are only part of the meaning of "block". "Blockade" is the use of coercive force to cut off contact and communication with the outside world. The purpose of blockade is only to "lock" and not to cause the subject to die or destroy. "Strangle" is often used to metaphorically destroy and suppress things in development. The method adopted is not very clear. So we can say that "blocking" is the sum of the meanings of the words "blocking" and "strangling." "Seal" is the way to "kill", and "kill" is the purpose and result of "seal" [9].

In addition, the word "blocked" comes from sports competitions. When it is used for things other than competition events, it also brings the characteristics of tension and excitement that are unique to sports events. What the news headlines seek is to be concise and meaningful. This is also one of the reasons why many sports jargons enter everyday language life, such as: "short and fast", "smash" and so on [10].

Since blocking is often used to refer to the behavior of a strong party against a weak party, often with a domineering, it is natural to generate a new word "blocking order." E.g.

- 1. Strict implementation of the "banning order" The national team expelled the reporter of the Football News ("Oriental Sports Daily" January 11, 2014)
- 2. Investigation on "Blocking Order" in Outdoor Advertising in Chengdu (Law and Life Magazine, March 05, 2004)

- 3. Interpretation of Carrefour's "Blocking Order" (People's Network June 19, 2016) In addition, the use of modifiers before "blocking" has also appeared, such as:
  - 1. Chen Pez was "soft-banned"? (Southern Metropolis Daily, January 21, 2011)
- 2. Andy Lau accused of breach of contract in performing arts may be "completely blocked" (Guangzhou Daily Ocean News June 19, 2014).

# 3. Social, cultural and psychological characteristics reflected in the "blockade" epidemic

An important attribute of language is its "social" nature. One of the basic characteristics of the sociality of language is society's restriction and choice of language. Such restrictions and choices are reflected in the development of language, which is restricted by society, the use of language by society, and the reaction of language to society.

Another important attribute of language is its cultural attributes. One of the basic characteristics of the cultural attributes of language is the restriction and choice of culture on language. Language from another perspective, language is the carrier of culture, and language is the expression of culture. Therefore, it is said that what kind of cultural attributes there are will be language forms.

Another important attribute of language is its "psychological" nature. An important feature of the psychological nature of language is the psychological constraints on and choice of language. Language is abstract, but its specific manifestation is a speech act. Speech is essentially a psychological process or a thinking process. Therefore, the person's mental or thinking state determines the person's speech performance, and thus determines the characteristics of language use. In turn, human language also has an adverse effect on people's psychology or thinking, restricting their psychological processes and restricting their thinking processes.

The popularity of "blocking" is not only a linguistic phenomenon, but also a social phenomenon, which reflects certain social, cultural, and psychological characteristics. We know that "blocking" comes from sports competitions, and competitions are about rules. Any violation of rules must be punished. With the further development of the reform, we are soberly aware of the importance of system and concept software construction, and people pay more and more attention to the "rules of the game." The popularity of "blocking" reflects this awareness of people: respect for the rules. Each field has its own rules of the game, and each member must follow the rules of the game, and if they violate the rules of the game, they must pay corresponding penalties. For a society, the most fundamental rule is the law. A society can develop healthily and smoothly. The construction of the legal system cannot be ignored. The popularity of "blocking" reflects people's requirements for the construction of the legal system [11].

But, at the same time, we should also be aware that the legal system is based on equality and freedom, and any acts of banning must not override laws and rules. It should not come at the expense of fairness and freedom. Therefore, not all objects can be "blocked", for example:

- 1. "Central" can't deter "Local". A county withholds and bans "People's Daily" from being distributed (blog China Net September 23, 2017)
  - 2. Court "killed" six reporters (Zhongji Media, December 12, 2018).

#### Conclusion

The above two examples are not suitable for "blocking". We know that the reporter's right is to interview and the media's right is to report directly originates the legal permission of the state administrative department and are protected by law. Blocking the media and journalists is a violation of the media's right to report and to interview reporters. For ordinary people, journalists and the media are one of the important channels for them to obtain public information and express their opinions. This kind of blocking is actually a deprivation of the public's "right to know" and "right to speak." When the media is banned and the audience is lost, and the audience loses the truth because the media is banned, this cannot be said to be a sadness of the civilized society.

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**Zhang Cheng** was born in September 1972, associate professor, PhD candidate of Chinese philosophy, research interests: education and oriental culture. Personal teaching and research situation: personal monograph "Leading the New Road-A Guide to the Founding of the University of China Independent College"; academic journals such as the Journal of Wuchang Institute of Technology have published more than 20 scientific research and teaching papers, "Analysis of "Blocking" from the Social and Cultural Context" and "On the Philosophical Beauty of the Teaching Language of Applied College Teachers".

# «БҰҒАТТАЛҒАН» ТАЛДАУ Джан Ченг

WuChangТехнологиялық Университетің қытай философиясының доцент, Ухань қ., Қытай

Соңғы жылдары «бұғатталған» сөзі Қытайдың Мэн-де бұқаралық ақпарат құралдарында жиі пайда болды. Автор негізгі желілер мен газеттердің әлеуметтік-мәдени контекстке негізделген эмпирикалық әдістерді қолдана отырып, негізінен «бұғатталған» Қайнар мен мағынадан, эпидемиялық себептерден және әлеуметтік-мәдени психологиялық сипаттамадан мысалдар келтіреді. Ол - «бұғатталған» туралы теориялық талдау жасаңыз, тілдің дерексіз екендігін нақтылаңыз, ал маңызды ерекшелік - әлеуметтік-мәдени психология бойынша тілді шектеу және тандау. Бұл әлеуметтік дамудың объективті қажеттілігі және тілдің дамуы, демек, «бұғатталған» індет - тек тілдік құбылыс қана емес, сонымен бірге белгілі бір әлеуметтік, мәдени және психологиялық ерекшеліктерді бейнелейтін әлеуметтік құбылыс.

Түйін сөздер: блок, қытай тілі, БАҚ, әлеуметтік мәдениет, аударма.

### РАЗБОР СЛОВА "ЗАБЛОКИРОВАНО"

# **Джан Чэн** Технологический университет WuChang, г.Ухань, Китай

В последние годы слово «заблокировано» часто появляется в различных средствах массовой информации Китая. Автор приводит большое количество примеров из крупных сетей и газет, с точки зрения анализа социального и культурного контекста и использованием эмпирических методов. Это объективная необходимость общественного развития и развития самого языка. Поэтому эпидемия слова «заблокировано» является как лингвистическим, так и социальным феноменом, который отражает определенные социальные, культурные и психологические характеристики современного китайского общества.

**Ключевые слова:** блок; китайский язык, СМИ, социальная культура, перевод.

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