



Research Paper

Corpus Study of the Adverb of Degree 'Feichang' in Chinese and English Parallel Corpus

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Abstract

The use of a parallel corpus for Chinese and English adverbs is still rarely explored, especially when comparing the Chinese adverb *feichang* with its English equivalents. 'Feichang' literally means "very", but English has various other words to convey the same words. The aim of this study is to compare the grammatical structure and semantic meaning of the Chinese adverb 'feichang' with its English equivalents using Chinese-English parallel corpus. To obtain the data, we used 50 sentences that contain the word 'feichang' in Chinese and English from the PKU parallel corpus. All sentences are related to the computer field. These sentences were then analyzed using AntConc, a concordance tool, to examine the grammatical structure and semantic aspects of the phrases. The findings showed that in Chinese, the adverb 'feichang' occurs in adjective and verb phrases. Meanwhile, in the English corpus, these phrases are rendered differently in five types of phrases: adjective, noun, verb, prepositional, and adverbial. Moreover, the word 'feichang' itself is rendered in a different lexicon, even though the meaning is the same. The results implied that one language can offer more varieties in expressing similar ideas, and parallel corpus can be a good source for analyzing these differences.

Keywords: *Corpus; Adverb of Degree; Phrases; Feichang; Parallel Corpus*

INTRODUCTION

Corpus is defined as a collection of written or spoken material stored on a computer and used to determine how language is used in real life. From the corpus, we can study how language systems work. Corpora are increasingly used in applied language systems to accurately depict community usage patterns that overcome constraints and play a crucial role in recent significant changes in language instruction (Al-Hamzi et al., 2020; Dunn, 2022).

Corpora are also commonly used in language or linguistic research. With a linguistic corpus, we can analyze language structure, word use, and linguistic patterns more deeply. Corpus-linguistic studies enhance system-oriented, grammar-based research in linguistic typology, improving students' grammar understanding and validating linguistic rules within a specific language domain, as seen in academic writing (Alamri, 2022; Zubaidi & Martensson, 2021; Schnell & Schiborr, 2022).

Besides a monolingual corpus, there is also a parallel corpus, which contains a collection of original texts in L1 and their translation in L2. Parallel corpora are central to translation studies and contrastive linguistics. Parallel corpora can help us improve the quality of translation of a language by using valid data sources in large quantities.

In contrastive linguistics, parallel corpora can be used to compare the structure of phrases or sentences in two languages, for example, Chinese and English. As an example, the Chinese word 非常 *feichang* that is an adverb of degree means 'very', typically occurs in adjective phrases (*feichang* + adjective) or verb phrases (*feichang* + verb). Yet, in English, the word *feichang* can be translated as *very*, *extremely*, *significantly*, *so*, and so on depending on the context and content.

In this study, we compare the adverb of degree *feichang* in a parallel Chinese English corpus. First, we examine the syntactic structure of phrases that contain *feichang* in the Chinese corpus. Then, the rendering of *feichang* in the English corpus will also be analyzed in terms of its grammatical structure and semantic meaning. Thus, we formulate the following research

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questions: 1. What are the syntactic structures of '*feichang*' in Chinese sentences. 2. What syntactic structure and semantic meaning are used in their English equivalents?

This study is crucial to carry out because up to now there have been only a limited number of studies on the comparison between Chinese and English adverbs of degree. Most research focuses on the study of the adverb of degree in one particular language, not dual languages at the same time. Moreover, such study using Chinese-English parallel corpus was even more scarce. Therefore, the present study is expected to provide a broader and more structured picture of the study of adverbs of degree in Chinese and English and fill the research gap in the study of parallel corpus. In addition, in learning, the usage of corpus can enhance students' knowledge at any academic level by effectively using computers for corpus-based language analysis (Roberto, 2023).

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Chinese-English parallel corpus is a valuable tool for bilingual lexicography, language study, and instruction, and cross-language information processing. It provides rich examples of translations, facilitating realism and socialization in translation teaching for teachers and students (Baobao, 2004; Yuguang et al., 2020). In other words, translators should not only translate the source language into the target language but also convey cultural implications (Ying, 2022).

Adverbs of Degrees of English and Chinese

Adverbs of degree are an element of intensifiers for speakers to make their utterances more expressive and to strengthen the meaning stronger (Carter, 2011). Adverbs may add more information to a verb, an adjective, another adverb, and a clause to indicate the time, manner, place, degree, and frequency of something (Indhiarti & Chaerunnisa, 2021). Similarly, Dezhi, (2020) stated that degree adverbs may modify lexical items such as verbs, adjectives, adverbs, positions, conjunctions, and numerals.

Adverbs have three functions: telling the circumstances of the clause, expressing the speaker's feeling on the said clause, and linking one clause or part of the clause with another clause (Biber et al., 2012). Therefore, adverbials can be classified as circumstance adverbial, stance adverbial, and linking adverbial. Adverbs of degree are subcategorized under circumstance adverbial, which purpose is to answer questions such as 'how far/how much/how many'. These degree adverbials were previously called intensifiers that function to indicate the intensity scale of lexical items, either high or low (Quirk, 1972).

Research on the adverb of degree can be divided into several research aspects. One aspect is measuring the frequency of use, in which the use of degree adverbs is divided into three types: regular use, low frequency use, and high frequency use (Qiong, 2018). Another aspect of research is measuring the formality of adverbial intensifiers, as done by Wachter (2012). Additionally, Yilmaz and Dikilitas (2017) studied the appropriateness of these intensifiers for English learners. Moreover, Indhiarti and Chaerunnisa, (2021) specifically examined the collocational tendencies of four adverbs of degree: very, really, quite, and pretty, which are often used in informal contexts.

Research on the adverb of degree is also numerous in modern Chinese. One researcher who examined the quantity of degree adverb found that adverbs of degree can denote quantity when used singly, including both subjective and objective quantities, explicit quantity and implicit quantity, which cause large and small differences (Wachter, 2012).

In Mandarin, there are several adverbs of degree, such as 很 *hen*、非常 *feichang*、更 *geng*、十分 *shifen*、有点儿 *you dian er*、太 *tai*、最 *man*、比较 *bijiao*、挺 *ting*、多么 *duo me*、and 多 *duo* (Dezhi, 2020). One example of the most commonly used adverb of degree is the word 非常 *feichang*. Semantically, there are three connotations of *feichang*: high degree of expression, overlapping adjective, and not very (Xuwang, 2023). In addition to its various semantic

connotations, the word *feichang* can also be analyzed in terms of its syntactic positions. In analyzing students' errors, Yang (2012) found that students often make mistakes in putting *fetching* between two phrases, as in “自然而然各族群交往非常频繁 *ziran er ran gezu qun jiaowang feichang pinfan* (naturally, various ethnic groups interact very frequently). Meanwhile, from a semantic aspect, *feichang* can have 20 meanings, such as indicating significantly, awful, solely, and others (Ba, 2020).

When comparing the syntactical patterns of adverbs of degree in Chinese and English, several key differences emerge. With regard to adverbs of degree, English and Chinese show a distinct syntactical pattern. In English, the adverbs of degree are usually placed before the adjective or adverbs they modify. For example, “very beautiful” or “extremely fast”. However, in Chinese, the adverb of degree usually precedes the verb or adjective it modifies. For example, 非常漂亮 (fēicháng piàoliàng) 非常快, which translates to “very beautiful” (fēicháng kuài), means “very fast”. In Chinese, the word *feichang* can be combined with a verb such as in *feichang yao*, which literally means “very need”. However, this construction is not found in English. Adverb of degree does not commonly attach directly to a verb, as in its Chinese counterpart. To make the sentence grammatical, this adverb of degree should be changed to other intensifier -ly adverbs, such as extremely or seriously. Thus, the phrase *feichang yao* can be rendered as “extremely need” rather than “very need”, which is ungrammatical in English. The variance of syntactical patterns highlights the importance of understanding the specific grammatical structures and word order requirements in each language (Nan, 2020).

Several studies have shown that the use of degree adverbs is problematic for foreign language learners. For example, Su (2016) studied the use of intensifiers using three corpora. This study compared the use of four intensifiers (rather, fairly, quiet, and pretty) between English learners and Chinese native speakers. Su found a difference in the acquisition and preference of these intensifiers between Chinese native learners of English and English native speakers.

Chinese adverbs of degree, particularly '*feichang*' will be problematic for foreign language learners studying Chinese because of the different syntactical patterns, distributional patterns, and semantic equivalents in English. Therefore, this study is crucial to provide a more comprehensive description of the syntactical patterns of '*feichang*' and to show the complexity of its English equivalents.

Parallel Corpus

Currently, many observers value the corpus in their research. From the corpus-based analysis, the frequency of occurrence, sentence placements, and appearance of stance adverbs can occasionally substitute one another and appear in various sentence contexts. In the level paraphrasing dataset, the quality of data can be carefully monitored and evaluated (Hsieh & Reynolds, 2019; Zhang et al., 2019).

Parallel corpora are usually used in corpus translation studies. Parallel corpora aid in comprehending and analyzing translated texts, particularly in machine translation models that use sufficient training data (Xu, 2022; Zhai et al., 2020). By comparing the grammatical parallels and contrasts in a corpus of six translated texts, the translators' styles can be discovered (Wang, 2023; Wang & Wang, 2022).

The benefits of bilingual parallel corpora in translation teaching can also aid students in understanding course content, gaining knowledge through discussions, and building translation skills (Rongrong, 2019; Zining, 2023). In addition, the development of a Chinese-English bilingual corpus, its theoretical significance, and practical applications in terminology extraction, machine translation, and emergency management (Sidi et al., 2022). High-quality and accurate data input can alleviate the workload of data processing personnel, improve efficiency, and better serve tourists in scenic areas (Yanqi, 2023).

Corpora are important in vocabulary teaching, statistical machine translation, and data processing (Chunwei, 2022; Li, 2019; Ruoshuang, 2021). The bilingual specialized corpora can help translators master common terminology and address translation practice challenges (Sidi et al., 2022). Related to this literature review, some previous studies have provided insight into archetypes and parallel corpus studies. By understanding the conceptual framework built by previous studies, we can investigate more profound and relevant questions to broaden our understanding of adverbs, for example, the comparison of adverbs in Chinese and English.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses the Peking University (PKU) data corpus ¹by examining 50 comparisons for the Mandarin word ‘*feichang*’ and comparing it with the English word in this parallel corpus (Weidong et al., 2019).

2023/8/8 11:11 非常-语料库搜索

提示: 输入更多关键词可以获得更精确的结果

非常

最多显示字数: 左 100 右 100 结果排序: 无 搜索 在结果中搜索

使用说明 | 普通查询 | 高级查询

搜索: “非常” 共有 1340 条结果, 这是第 1 - 50 条。[搜索用时: 19.0 毫秒]

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1	语音识别和三维视频与音频在PC机上的实现将变得 非常 重要, 因为它们影响到最终用户。	Speech recognition and the enabling of 3D video and audio on PCs will become extremely important, because they affect end users.
2	除开销 非常 小外, FDDI是一种成熟的和得到广泛支持的主干网技术。	In addition to having very little overhead, FDDI is a mature and widely supported backbone technology.
3	实际上, 内部业务使用的Intranet将 非常 流行, 以至于有人预计, 它将成为最重要、使用最广泛的Internet之一。	In fact, internal business use of the intranet will become so popular that some estimate it will be one of the most important and widespread uses of the Net.
4	万能服务器对用户定义的数据类型的开放支持, 给IS部门 非常 大的灵活性来适应变化的用户要求和需要新型数据类型的技术。	The Universal Server's open support for user-defined data types gives IS far more flexibility to adapt to changing user demands and to technologies requiring new data types.
5	对数据流来说, 碰撞和排队不是问题, 它们能坐下来等待重发, 但交互语音对时间 非常 敏感。	Collisions and queues are not a problem for data traffic, which can sit and wait to be resent, but interactive voice is extremely time-sensitive.
6	这些技术的关键是它们对距离 非常 敏感。	The key to all these technologies is that they are very sensitive to distance.

Figure 1. CLL Corpus Platform

The parallel corpus data were then submitted to the corpus software tool Antcont (Anthony, n. d.) separately for each language. First, the concordance lines of the word ‘*feichang*’ in Chinese were noted in the form of sentences containing Key Word in Context (KWIC) and saved in an excel file. These data were then classified on the basis of the grammatical structure of the phrases containing the word ‘*feichang*’ and its following words. A similar technique was applied to the English sentences; the sentences were also classified based on the grammatical structure of the phrases that are considered as the rendering of the Chinese phrases with ‘*feichang*’. Then, the English sentences were categorized into five phrase structures: Adjective Phrase, Verb Phrase, Prepositional Phrase, Adverbial Phrase, and Noun Phrase. The sentences in each category were then processed further using the corpus tool Antcont to determine the lexical components of each structure. From this analysis, we find, for example, that the word ‘*feichang*’ is rendered into several words, such as very, too, and so. Thus, the concordance with KWIC is done for each word, such as for the word “very”, as can be seen in the following figure. From this concordance line, we can see that “very” can be followed by adjectives (simple, large) or adverbs (clearly, timely). The concordance analysis was performed for every word found in the KWIC.

¹ Z. Weidong, G. Rui, C. Baobao, C. Yirong, and C. Long, 2019, The building of the CCL corpus: Its design and implementation, *Corpus Linguistics*, Vol.6, No.1, pp.71-86

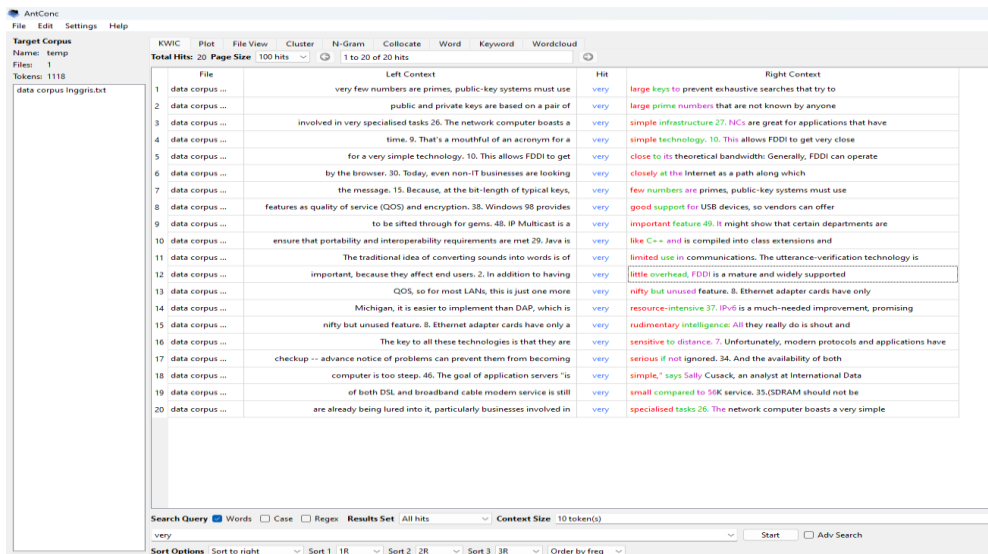


Figure 2. Concordance of ‘very’ in AntConc

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In the Chinese corpus, the adverb ‘feichang’ is put in two phrase structures: AP (adjective phrase) = adverb + adjective, and VP (verb phrase) = adverb + verb + noun phrase (NP). As stated by Nan (2020), ‘feichang’ usually precedes an adjective such as ‘feichang hao’ or a verb such as ‘feichang yao’. Meanwhile, based on its semantic meaning, ‘feichang’ only has three connotations: high degree of expression, overlapping adjective, and not very (Xuwang,2023). In contrast, another Chinese scholar claims that ‘feichang’ has 20 meanings (Ba, 2020).

In the parallel English corpus, on the other hand, the word ‘fetching’ itself is rendered to various word classes, thus making the structure of English sentences more variable and complex. However, we do not find 20 different meanings in the English equivalents of ‘feichang’. Moreover, in contrast to Nan (2020) study, the equivalents of ‘feichang’ occur in five phrase structures in English. Therefore, the following results are presented based on the phrase structures in English sentences: Adjective Phrase, Verb Phrase, Noun Phrase, Prepositional Phrase, and Adverb Phrase.

Adjective phrase

There are 42 samples of Chinese sentences in which ‘feichang’ is followed by an adjective, thus forming an adjective phrase. In the English corpus, the same structure of adjective phrase is used; however, there are varieties of lexicons to render the word ‘feichang’, such as using simple adverbs (very, so, too) in 25 samples and -ly adverbs (extremely, sufficiently, etc.) in 11 samples.

Table 1. Phrase Structure of ‘feichang’ in Chinese and English corpus

Chinese	English
Adjective Phrase (feichang + adjective)	Adjective Phrase (adverb + adjective)
<i>Feichang hao</i>	<i>Very sensitive</i>
Verb Phrase (feichang + verb)	Verb Phrase (adverb + verb)
<i>Feichang xuyao</i>	<i>Extremely happy</i>
	Noun Phrase (adjective + noun)
	<i>High efficiency</i>
	Prepositional Phrase (preposition + NP)
	<i>In a nutshell</i>

Chinese	English
	Adverb Phrase (adverb + adverb) <i>Very quickly</i>

In this Chinese sentence the word 'feichang' is followed by 敏感 *mingan* (means sensitive), which is positioned in the structure: 对 *dui* (preposition 'to') + 距离 *juli* (noun 'distance') + feichang + *mingan* (adjective) which means 'very sensitive to distance.' In English, 'feichang' is rendered as 'very' to show the degree. It is followed by an adjective 'sensitive' and a prepositional phrase 'to distance'. Thus, it forms an adjective phrase. The meanings of both phrases in Chinese and English are similar, while the position of the prepositional phrase exchanges with the adjective phrase.

Table 2. Adjective Phrase 1

Chinese	English
1. 这些技术的关键是它们对距离[非常]敏感 Zhexie jishu de guanjian shi tamen dui juli [feichang] <i>mingan</i> .	The key to all these technologies is that they are very sensitive to distance.

In Chinese sentence, 'feichang' is placed before the adjective 重要 *zhongyao* (means important). The word 'feichang' is rendered as 'extremely' in English to emphasize its importance. Both sentences carry the same meaning, and the structures are also similar, which is an adjective phrase consisting of an adverb (extremely) and an adjective (important).

Table 3. Adjective Phrase 2

Chinese	English
语音识别和三维视频与音频在PC机上的实现将变得 [非常]重要, 因为它们影响到最终用户。 Yuyin shibie he sanwei shipin yu yinpin zai PC jishang de shixian jiang bian de [feichang] zhongyao, yinwei tamen yingxiang dao zuizhong yonghu	Speech recognition and the enabling of 3D video and audio on PCs will become extremely important because they affect end users.

The adverb phrase *feichang gaoxiao de shiyong cunchuqi* 高效地使用存储器, consists of adverb (*feichang*) plus the adjective (*gaoxiao*) + 地 + *shiyong* 使用 (verb meaning usage). Thus, the word *feichang* modifies the adjective *gaoxiao*, which literally means 'very efficient'. This phrase is rendered into 'extremely efficient' in English, which basically conveys the same meaning as the original.

Table 3. Adjective phrase 3

Chinese	English
Java数据库的实现也必须是可扩展的, 以支持大量的 用户, 因此, 需要[非常]高效地使用存储器。 Java shuju de shixian ye bixu shi kekuozhan de, yi zhichi daliang de yonghu, yinci, xuyao [feichang] gaoxiao de shiyong cunchuqi	The Java database implementation must also be scalable to large numbers of users and, therefore, requires extremely efficient memory usage.

Verb Phrase

In the Chinese corpus, there are **three** sentences that include the word ‘feichang’ followed by a verb, thus forming a verb phrase. In English, a similar structure of verb phrases, which consist of verb + adverb, also occurs. Sometimes, the adverb can be placed before or after the verb.

Table 4. Verb Phrase 1

Chinese	English
更高容量的CD-RW更有意义，将[非常]有可能成为可移动介质的下一个标准。 Geng gao rong liang de CD-RW geng you yi yi , jiang [fei chang] you ke neng cheng wei ke yi dong jie zhi de xia yi ge biao zhun.	The higher capacity CD-RW makes more sense and will have a good chance of becoming the next standard for removable media.

In this sentence ‘feichang’ is followed by the verb phrase 有可能成为 *you keneng chengwei* (literally have + can+ become). Therefore, in this pattern, this ‘feichang’ just describes the phrase *you keneng*, which can be interpreted as ‘very able to’. In the English corpus, it is not rendered as “very able to be become”. Instead, the structure is changed into the verb phrase “will have” followed by the noun phrase “a good chance of becoming”. In particular, the adverb *feichang* can be equalized to the word good, but when it is attached to the word *you keneng* (have possibility), the resulting phrase becomes “have a good chance of”, in which ‘good’ is used to emphasize the possibility of becoming.

Table 5. Verb Phrase 2

Chinese	English
由于先进流量管理带来的好处它[非常]适合关键业务的高速服务 Youyu xianjin liuliang guanli dai lai de haochu ta [feichang] shihe guanjian yewu de gaosu fuwu.	It is ideally suited for business-critical, high-speed services because of the benefits of advanced traffic management

The word ‘feichang’ in this sentence is placed in the structure 它[非常]适合 *ta feichang shihe*, which literally means it (is) very suitable. This phrase is rendered in English using passive voice ‘it is ideally suited’, in which the word *feichang* is translated as ‘ideally’. However, the meaning produced remains the same.

Prepositional Phrase

An adjective phrase in Chinese can also be rendered into a prepositional phrase in English. A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition plus a noun phrase. There are **three** English sentences that use this structure.

Table 6. Prepositional Phrase 1

Chinese	English
我们拥有的信息[非常]丰富，堆积在数据库里，通过宽带网源源不断地流到桌面系统 Wo men yong you de xin xi [fei chang] feng fu , dui ji zai shu ju ku li , tong guo kuan dai wang yuan yuan bu duan di liu dao zhuo mian xi tong	Information we have is in abundance , piling up in databases and streaming onto desktops over broadband networks.

The adjective phrase 非常丰富 *feichang fengfu* contains the word *fengfu*, which means large. This phrase describes the previous NP *women yongyou de xinxi* (the information that we have), so the word ‘feichang’ depicts the amount of information that is very large. In its English counterpart, the adjective phrase ‘very large’ is changed to a PP ‘in abundance’. The noun ‘abundance’ has the same meaning as “large.” This structure is used because the English sentence maintains the main idea ‘the information that we have’ in the beginning of the sentence, as in the Chinese sentence.

Table 7. Prepositional Phrase 2

Chinese	English
千兆位以太网的出现[非常]及时。 qianzhao weiyi taiwang de chuxian [feichang] jishi.	Gigabit Ethernet could not happen at a better time.

The adjective phrase [非常]及时 *feichang jishi* contains the word *jishi*, which means punctual (timely), which can be interpreted as something that is happening in time or very timely. In its English counterpart, the adjective phrase is changed into the prepositional phrase ‘at a better time.’ The main idea is similar, but in the English sentence the word ‘better’ is added to emphasize the sense of punctuality of time.

Adverb Phrase

An adverb phrase consists of two consecutive adverbs, usually positioned after a verb, to modify the verb. The first adverb functions as an intensifier of the second adverb. In the English corpus, there are **three** sentences that use this structure.

Table 8. Adverbial Phrase 1

Chinese	English
今天,甚至非IT的公司也[非常]关注因特网, 把它看作做生意都要走的道路 Jīntiān, shènzhì fēi IT de gōngsī yě [fēicháng] guānzhù yīntèwǎng, bǎ tā kàn zuò zuò shēngyì dōu yào zǒu de dàolù	Today, even non-IT businesses are looking very closely at the Internet as a path along which to conduct business.

The verb phrase 非常关注因特网 *feichang guānzhù yīntèwǎng* consists of the adverb *feichang* (very), the verb *guanzhu* (focused) and a noun *yīntèwǎng* (internet), which conveys the idea that non-IT businesses focus their attention on the internet. This phrase is rendered into an adverb phrase ‘very closely’ which modifies the verb ‘are looking’. In general, these two phrases convey the same ideas.

Table 9. Adverbial Phrase 2

Chinese	English
华尔还指出, Perl的表达式语法[非常]接近C语言表达式语法; Huaer hai zhichu, Perl de biaoda shi yufa [feichang] jiejin C yuyan biaodashi yufa.	Wall also points out that Perl's expression syntax corresponds quite closely to C expression syntax;

The word ‘feichang’ in this sentence is followed by *jiejin*, forming the adjective phrase *feichang jiejin* (very close to), which modifies the noun phrase “C yuyan biaodashi yufa C语言表达式语法 (C expression syntax). In its English counterpart, the structure is shifted into an adverb

phrase 'quite closely' which modifies the verb 'corresponds', that is not present in the original sentence. However, the meaning produced remains the same.

Noun Phrase

A noun phrase usually consists of a determiner, an adjective, and a noun. In the English corpus, there are five sentences that use noun phrases to render the adjective phrase with *feichang*.

Table 10. Noun Phrase 1

Chinese	English
很多公司, 不管是老的还是新的, 在这一领域都提供[非常]好的产品	A host of vendors, old and new, offer excellent products in this area.
Hen duo gongsi, bu guan shi lao de haishi xinde, zai zhe yi lingyu dou tigong feichang hao de chanpin.	

The adjective phrase 非常丰富 *feichang hao de chanpin* literally means products that are very good, or excellent products. In this case, the phrase *feichang hao* modifies the products. In the English sentence, this phrase is rendered as a noun phrase (adjective + noun) 'excellent product'. The word 'excellent' replaces the word 'very good', which carries the same meaning.

Table 11. Noun phrase 2

Chinese	English
随着设计用于接入因特网的无线手持设备数量的增加, [非常]需要一种更快、更好的无线通信技术。Suizhe sheji yongyu jieru yintewang de wuxian shouchi shebei shuliang de zengjia [fei chang] xuyao yizhong gengkuai genghao de wuxian tongxin jishu	As the number of wireless handheld devices designed to access the Internet increases, there is a serious need for faster and better wireless communications technology.

In this sentence 'feichang' is followed by the verb phrase 需要一种更快、更好的无线通信技术 (*xuyao yizhong gengkuai genghao de wuxian tongxin jishu*) (literally need + something + faster + better + communication technology). Therefore, in this pattern, this 'feichang' just describes the phrase *xuyao*, which can be interpreted as 'need'. Thus, this phrase can mean 'badly need'. However, in the English corpus, the verb phrase is changed into the noun phrase 'a serious need'.

CONCLUSIONS

This study aimed to answer two research questions: what are the syntactic structures of 'feichang' in Chinese sentences? and what are the syntactic patterns and semantic meanings of its equivalents in English?

The findings for the first research question show that in Chinese, all adverbs of degree collocate with or are followed by adjective and verb word classes, thus forming either adjective phrases or verb phrases. The majority (84%), however, are adjective phrases in which the word 'feichang' is followed by an adjective. Thus, we conclude that the adverb of degree 'feichang' can only occur in adjective and verb phrases in Chinese.

However, these phrases were variably translated into English using all types of phrases available in the English corpus, such as adjective phrases, verb phrases, prepositional phrases, adverbial phrases, and noun phrases. In fact, the majority (72%) use adjective phrases consisting of degree adverbials and adjectives. Interestingly, the adverbs of degree used also vary, such as

very, too, extremely. The second step is changing the adjective phrase into a noun phrase, which consists of 10 %. The rest, 6% each for using prepositional, verb, and adverbial phrases. Even though different structures were used, the meaning of the phrases in both corpora remained constant. Thus, semantically, there is no alteration of ideas. In other words, the message of the original Chinese sentences is transferred in their parallel corpus in English.

These findings imply that one structure in Chinese can be represented in various structures in English without losing its original message. Comparing the structure of adverbs of degree in two languages using the parallel corpus can be an interesting activity to be applied in the language classroom. Corpus utilization can be a practical way to obtain real-life data for language learning and language research.

LIMITATION & FURTHER RESEARCH

Because the corpus data are limited in number and topic (only related to computer field), there might be some possibilities of error or incorrect analysis. Moreover, this study only examines the grammatical structure of 'feichang' in phrase level, not at the clausal or sentential level. Therefore, for further research, it is possible to investigate the adverbs of degree by extending their collocational range so that the clausal structure or sentential structure can be covered.

Finally, parallel corpus can be an invaluable source for researching, examining, and comparing every aspect of language. Doing so will broaden our understanding of different languages and help us make meaningful teaching materials, evaluate translations, and most importantly, acknowledge the differences in cognitive reasoning among diverse languages.

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