A Study of Narrative Confrontation between the Prosecution Party and the Defense Party in Criminal Trial Discourse Based on Construal Theory

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Abstract: *To ascertain the truth is the main goal of a criminal trial. In criminal trials, narration plays a very important role, for evidence chains are constructed when the prosecution side and the defense side represent the fact of the case and evidence usually by way of verbal narration. However, in this process, the prosecution party and the defense party may produce different versions of narrative or even confrontation due to their different purposes and positions. Based on the construal theory, this paper is intended to explore the narrative confrontation between the prosecution party and the defense party in the investigation discourse of the trial of Lao Rongzhi's alleged intentional murder case from four aspects: scope and background, perspective, salience, and specificity. What's more, with the assistance of KH Coder software, the co-occurrence of words between the prosecution party and the defense party in the narrative at the trial investigation stage is also analyzed in order to objectively visualize the differences in salience and specificity between the two parties in the narrative. It is found that there is evident confrontation between the prosecution party and the defense party and different images of the defendant are constructed in their narratives in court trial process. The prosecution party mainly activates the conceptual domain of "murder demon", makes the intentional murder of Lao Rongzhi become salient from an objective construal perspective, and uses highly specific representation of details to describe the case process, constructing the image of Lao Rongzhi as a "murder demon". The defense party mainly activates the conceptual domain of "victim", highlights the inadequacy of the prosecution party's evidence from a subjective construal perspective, and uses details of lesser specificity to obscure the course of the case, creating an image of Lao Rongzhi as a victim. The analysis of courtroom discourse from a cognitive perspective not only helps people understand the construction of courtroom narratives in a scientific way to give full play to the function of the courtroom, but also helps to promote the substantive process of China's courtroom trial so that the claims of the prosecution party and the defense party can be fully displayed to contribute to the judge's scientific and just judgment.*

Keywords: *construal theory; courtroom discourse; narrative confrontations*

1. Introduction

Narrativity is not only a means of language expression, but also belongs to cognitive toolkit, it constitutes one of the large categories in which we understand and construct the world[1]. Any case brought to court presents a story of wrongdoing. Witnesses expect to tell stories, lawyers and jurors transform evidence into stories, and even judges deliberate with the help of stories[2]. However, in the court trial process, different litigants may construct different versions of "stories" based on the evidence they collect from their own perspectives of cognition; thus, the narrative confrontation may arise.

The case of Lao Rongzhi's alleged intentional murder, kidnapping and robbery has attracted widespread attention in the society. The defendant, Lao Rongzhi, claimed that she was young and inexperienced, and had been controlled both physically and mentally by Fa Ziying for a long time, and she had nothing to do with the seven deaths and should not have been sentenced to death. The prosecutor considered that the facts of the crime were clear, the evidence was solid and sufficient, and that he should be held criminally accountable for the crimes of murder, kidnapping and robbery. In addition, in the trial process, there are great differences in the stories constructed by the prosecution party and the defense party. Taking the case of Lao Rongzhi as an example, this thesis probes into the courtroom narratives and the construal structure of the criminal trial, and expounds what narrative versions the prosecutor party and the defense party construct and how they construct different versions of narrative based on construal theory, so as to contribute to scientific construction of the courtroom discourse.

2. Theoretical frameworks

Cognitive linguistics is an approach to the study of language based on experiences gained from people's interactions with the external world and people's understanding and conceptualisation of those experiences, or it is an emerging interdisciplinary philosophical discipline, which takes bodily experience and cognition as its starting point, and centres on the study of conceptual structures and meanings, and strives to find the cognitive modalities behind the facts of language, and to provide a unified explanation of language through the structure of knowledge and the modalities of cognition, etc[3].

Construal is one of the core concepts of cognitive linguistics. It is in a sense equivalent to "conceptualization" and refers specifically to the way in which speakers "present conceptual representations" [4]. Construal originates from the term "image/imagery". In Langacker's opinion, "I understand the term image and its derivatives in a third (and somewhat idiosyncratic) manner: they describe our ability to construe a conceived situation in alternate ways—by means of alternate images—for purposes of thought or expression" [5]. "Imagery" later is defined as "our capacity to construe the same content in alternative ways [6]. Since "image" contains multiple meanings and is easy to be confused with the term in cognitive psychology, Langacker replaces "image" with "construal" and he divides construal theory into five dimensions, which are scope, background knowledge, perspectives, prominence, and specificity [7]. Wang Yin [8] argued that there are similarities between scope and background, which can be discussed together. In summary, Langacker's version of construal theory consists of four dimensions: scope and background, perspective, prominence, and specificity.

In the case of Law Rongzhi's suspected intentional homicide, kidnapping and robbery, the focus of the debate between the prosecution party and the defense party was whether Lao Rongzhi had an independent sense of guilt, whether she killed on purpose, or whether she was coerced by Fa Ziying. Based on Langacker's construal theory, this paper analyses the narratives of the prosecution party and the defense party and how and why the narratives of the two parties present different versions of narratives and the narrative confrontations, from four dimensions: scope and background, perspective, prominence, and specificity.

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Data Collection

Since 1996, Fa Ziying, together with Lao Rongzhi, has committed crimes in Nanchang, Wenzhou and Hefei, brutally killing seven people. On December 28, 1999, Fa Ziying was sentenced to death and executed by firing squad. On November 28, 2019, Lao Rongzhi, who had been on the run for 20 years, was caught in Xiamen, which became a national sensation. On September 9, 2021, the Intermediate People's Court of Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, heard the case of Lao Rongzhi's alleged intentional murder, kidnapping and robbery and sentenced the defendant to death at first instance. Lao Rongzhi was not satisfied with the verdict and appealed to the Jiangxi Provincial High People's Court. The court of second instance upheld the death sentence. CCTV's program "*Xian Chang*", which produced four episodes of live video recordings of the first trial, opened up to the public and reported the process of the trial.

In this paper, the above-provided pictures and video clips about the case of Lao Rongzhi have been transcribed into a total of more than 100,000 words of text. In the process of doing so, the data is collected and the corpus is constructed. And then the author extracts the statements made by the prosecution party and the defense party during the investigation stage of the court. The main reason for selecting the evidence presentation and cross-examination sessions between the prosecution party and the defense party during the court investigation stage is that at this stage, the two parties present their evidence and question each other on the details of the evidence presented, arguing the focal points that were in dispute at the time of the case, and the narrative is more complete, allowing the facts of the case to be restored as far as possible.

3.2. Research Methods

This paper is a case study of the courtroom discourse in the case of Lao Rongzhi. The qualitative and quantitative research methods are used to study how the narrative confrontations between the prosecution party and the defense party are formed and constructed in terms of the four dimensions of construal theory: scope and background, perspective, prominence and specificity.

The qualitative analysis illustrates the cognitive processes of producing different narrative versions by analyzing the examples selected from the courtroom discourse.

The purpose of the Quantitative analysis is to analyze the narrative discourse of the prosecution party and the defense party, to understand the details and the focus of the different narrative contents, and to present the co-occurrence network with the help of the software KH Coder.

KH Coder is free software for quantitative content analysis or text mining. The discourses of the prosecution party and the defense party during the investigative stage of the trial were entered into KH Coder software, and the word co-occurrence network of the noun categories of the discourses of both sides of the trial investigation were obtained, analyzed and compared. In this study, the software was used to obtain the co-occurrence network of words in the discourse of the prosecution party and the defense party during the investigation phase of the courtroom, in order to further objectively present the narrative focus of the two narrative versions. In addition, the degree of association between the selected word and other words in the text can be obtained via the Internet.

4. Results and discussion

Wang Yin [9] argues that Langacker did not consider the order of cognition when discussing these four dimensions: specificity, focusing, prominence and perspective. Instead, Wang Yin has a unique insight into the relationship between these four dimensions and classifies them from macro to micro according to the rules of human cognition. Firstly, when people express themselves, they usually have a large background or context to support them, and the thing expressed will relate to a certain domain or domains, so it is necessary to identify a scope and background. Secondly, we have to ensure the point of entry, or perspective, where the expression or discussion is needed. And then, it is not easy for a person to express all the information about the thing they want to express. They can only choose the parts that are important and salient in relation to the context; and finally, it can also give a detailed or brief description of the thing to be expressed. Therefore, this thesis will discuss the construction of the facts of the case by the prosecution party and the defense party and the narrative confrontation between them, in terms of scope and background, perspective, prominence and specificity.

4.1. The scope and background of the parties' courtroom narratives

Scope and background here refer to the configuration of the relevant scenes and activated conceptual domains involved in a linguistic expression [9]. Each expression activates a conceptual domain, and the broad content of the activation is referred to as the scope. When describing a scene, in order to satisfy the needs of the expression, one finds and identifies a set of conceptual domains that match the content of the expression, and within these conceptual domains one identifies the basis for the concept of meaning chosen for the expression. Background refers to some of the necessary underlying encyclopedic cultural knowledge that one needs in the process of analyzing the meaning and structure of a linguistic expression. Language is the most direct way and means of expressing the meaning of a concept. The use of language by both the prosecution party and the defense party in the courtroom to recreate a narrative of the same facts of the case helps the judge to understand the facts of the case and thus facilitates the judge to make a fair decision. Thus, the narrative activity of the trial is also a cognitive activity. As the prosecution party and the defense party are based on different backgrounds, the understanding of the case begins with the subjective understanding. In the process of understanding, the prosecution party and the defense party combine their existing background knowledge to form their own perceptions. As a result, there is a difference between the activated conceptual domains and the most relevant ones.

The prosecution's narrative was much broader, as they sought to link the entire incident to social context and values in order to strengthen the case against Lao Rongzhi for her crimes.

At the beginning of the narrative of the prosecutor, we can see that the prosecution party first activates the conceptual domain of "killer devil". In the prosecution's narrative, the concept of "using cruel methods" is activated first, and then the concept of "causing suffering to others" is activated to construct a scene in which Lao Rongzhi and Fa Ziying kill the victim in a cruel way and bring suffering to his family, driving them to a desperate situation, which has a terrible social impact.

What is activated in the subsequent narrative is the conceptual domain of "Anti-detection awareness" to deepen the activation of the conceptual domain of the "killer devil". The activation is followed by "Lao's evasive attitude to details of the full case" "bringing people to the site by taking detours" "burning the scene to destroy the fingerprints" "Having a base camp for hiding after a crime and" "independently

evading national investigators for 20 years", which built up the idea that Lao Rongzhi has committed many crimes, not only killing many victims, but also trying to conceal the crime in various ways and evading justice after the arrest of his accomplice, Fa Ziying. In the courtroom, Lao is uncooperative, saying that she cannot remember the facts of the case, but then repeatedly changing her opinion in the presence of hard evidence.

The defendant, on the other hand, focuses more on details and personal psychological descriptions, and they try to prove through concrete evidence such as witness testimonies and physical evidence that Lao Rongzhi did not kill subjectively but was coerced by Fa Ziying to become an accomplice.

At the beginning of the narrative of the defendent, we can see that Lao Rongzhi mainly activates the concept of "victim", and successively activates the concepts of "young age" "lure" "gentle, kind, timid" "control and being take advantage of" to tell the story of how she was lured into committing the crime by Fa Ziying, thus attributing her crime to being coerced into committing the crime by Fa Ziying, and that she did not commit the crime subjectively and she herself was a victim.

Thus, we can find that the scope and background of the narratives of the prosecution party and the defense party are very different and even confrontational. The prosecution party emphasizes that Lao Rongzhi is a "killer" with a strong sense of anti-investigation, who committed the crime on her own initiative and tried to evade the law, while the defense party shows that the defendant is also a "victim" who has been lured and coerced by Fa Ziying for a long time, without any subjective intention to commit the crime, and should not be held guilty of being an accessory to the crime.

4.2. The perspective of the parties' courtroom narratives

According to Wang Yin[9], with the scope and background of the description, one has to consider the perspective from which the object is viewed. Perspective is the way people see things, and it is related to the position between the observer and the observed. If conceptualization involves the observation of a scene, perspective constitutes the viewing arrangement, the most salient aspect of which lies in the vantage point of view held. The viewing arrangement refers to the relationship between the viewer and the object of observation. The same objective situation can be observed and described from a number of different points of view, resulting in different ways of perceiving it and possibly in formal differences. The comprehensive term point of view can be divided into two specific concepts, namely the vantage point and the orientation of observation. Closely related to vantage point is a subtle but important aspect of construal known in CG as subjectivity vs. objectivity. Imagine yourself in the audience of a theater, watching a gripping play. All your attention is directed at the stage, and is focused more specifically on the actor presently speaking. Being totally absorbed in the play, you have hardly any awareness of yourself or your own immediate circumstances. This viewing arrangement therefore maximizes the asymmetry between the viewer and what is viewed, also called the subject and object of perception. In this polarized arrangement, where the asymmetry in viewing role is maximized, the viewing subject is said to be construed with maximal subjectivity and the object with maximal objectivity. Subjective construal is characteristic of the viewer's role as such—as an offstage locus of perceptual experience that is not itself perceived. Conversely, objective construal characterizes the onstage focus of attention, which (at least in that capacity) does not engage in viewing. By virtue of being attended to, an entity construed objectively is clearly more prominent than it is when construed subjectively.

From the description of the Nanchang case, it can be seen that the event is observed by the public prosecutor from a location outside the case, and it is clear in chronological and logical order when (at noon on 28 July) and where (Rental house and Xiong's house) and by whom (Lao Rongzhi and Fa Ziying) for what (seeking wealth) and in what way (Strangled Xiong's family to death) and by whom (Xiong's family) to produce what result (Xiong's family died on the same day and their belongings were taken away). This viewing arrangement creates an objective construal expression because the viewer, the prosecutor, is not present on the scene and therefore there is an inconsistency and a large distance between the viewer and the viewed. The prosecution's objective construal expression of the case is intended to provide the the trial judge with a clearer and more intuitive understanding of the entire process of the case, and also to provide the basis for the trial judge to find Lao Rongzhi guilty of being an accomplice to the crime.

After the prosecutor described the overall situation in Nanchang Case, she questioned Rongzhi about specific details of the case. We can see the defendant Lao Rongzhi, described the case from vantage point inside the case, based on her own psychological change of observation orientation of the circumstances of the case at the time, and formed her own viewing arrangement through this point of view. It is clear

that she places great emphasis on her own psychological state at the time, describing her acquaintance with the victim and stressing that the victim followed her into the rented house of his own free will, that she did not know that Fa Ziying was going to kill him, that she regretted the kidnapping for money and felt it immoral to do so, and that she was very nervous and confused when Fa Ziying asked for her assistance. The viewer, the defendant places herself on the scene of the crime and is doing on-the-scene observation and narrates her own experience of the event, so that the viewer is consistent with the viewed and forms a subjective understanding. The victim was at the scene of the crime and, through this subjective interpretation, described the details of the event and her psychology on the scene in order to emphasize the truthfulness of her descriptions and, through this description, put all the blame for the murder of the victim and the crime on Fa Ziying, emphasizing that she did not have the intention to kill and did not know how Fa Ziying had committed the crime, and that she was simply a "victim" who had been coerced and hoodwinked, not an accomplice.

The narratives of the two parties show that they adopt different perspectives to describe the case. The prosecution party, not being involved in the case, describes the case from a vantage point outside the case, based on the orientation of time and logical sequence, forming a perspective of objective construal expression, in order to enhance the authenticity of the narrative, activating the conceptual domains of "killer" and "anti-detection awareness". The defense party, on the other hand, describes the case from the vantage point at the time of the case, based on their own psychological changes in the circumstances of the case, forming a subjective construal expression to highlight the truthfulness of their descriptions, and at the same time showing that they were in a trance and under coercion, thus activating their own conceptual domain of "victim" and emphasizing that he did not commit the crime subjectively and was not an accomplice.

4.3. The prominence of the parties' courtroom narratives

Prominence is the result of people giving more attention to one or more parts of a situation when judging it, and is a reflection of cognitive style. Different ways of selecting perspectives for the same situation produce different units of conceptualized meaning and salience. When these units of meaning are mapped onto language, they reveal differences in linguistic structure. Often, the most salient participant becomes the subject of the sentence and the secondary focus becomes the object or other elements of the sentence [10]. Zhang Shujing [11] points out that "nouns or noun phrases often carry the release of new information in discourse, and are capable of expressing a particular topic in their own right." We input the discourses of the prosecution party and the defense party at the trial investigation stage into KH Coder software respectively, filtered out the high-frequency words in the narratives of both parties, limited the noun categories, and obtained co-occurrence network of the high-frequency words in the narrative versions of both parties. The size of the bubbles in the co-occurrence network indicates the frequency of occurrence of the words; the larger the bubble, the more frequently it occurs. The solid lines between bubbles represent strong co-occurrence relationships between words, and the dashed lines represent weak co-occurrence relationships.

By analyzing the semantic network diagram of the noun categories of the trial investigation discourse between the prosecution party and the defense party, it is clear that the two parties have different opinions on whether Lao Rongzhi is an accomplice to the crime, and therefore their narratives are significantly different in prominence. The prosecutor's narrative contains four main clusters, each consisting of the high-frequency words "confession" "courtroom" "note" "Shasha" and its strong co-occurrence words. The high frequency words that strongly co-occur with the highest frequency word "confession" are "fact" "evidence" "accomplice" "crime", etc. According to Zhang Shujing[11], the probability of co-occurrence between words is proportional to their semantic bonding, and the higher the frequency of co-occurrence, the clearer the contextual meaning provided by the pairing. However, the theme of the prosecution narrative is to discuss the facts of Lao Rongzhi's crime. In particular, "woman" connects the clusters centered on the high-frequency word "confession" with those concentrated on the high-frequency word "Shasha", showing that the prosecution cites several detailed evidence at the scene "knife" "rope" "wire" and "room", indicating that Lao Rongzhi was abducting the victim and tying her up with tools. She cut the telephone line to prevent the victim from calling the police, which showed her strong sense of anti-detection, and she also later took all the victim's belongings, which was an intentional act of murder. The clustering of "rope", "corpse" and "note" shows that the prosecution presented evidence that Lao Rongzhi coerced the victim, Mr. Yin, into writing a note to his family. The note indicated that if the person who came did not return within the prescribed time, his accomplices would make sure that he would die faster than the person who had just died. However, in consistency with the confessions of Fa Ziying and Lao Rongzhi and the records of the scene investigation, Mr. Yin indeed died faster than Mr.

Lu. Also, when Mr. Yin died, his neck was surrounded by the wire. The killing method was not in line with Fa Ziying's usual mode of operation and was more in line with the characteristics of female operation. The prosecutor therefore concluded that both Lao Rongzhi and Fa Ziying were the main perpetrators and were criminally responsible for the death of Mr. Lu and the death of Mr. Yin as a result of intentional homicide and kidnapping.

In contrast, the defense party's narrative is also clearly prominent. It emphasizes that Lao is a "victim" who was controlled by Fa Ziying to commit the robbery and did not participate in the intentional murder. The defense narration consists of three main clusters, each of which is composed of the high-frequency words "confession" "police" and "life" connected to their strong co-occurring words. The clusters are composed of the high-frequency word "confession", which is connected to the high-frequency words "fact" "identification" and "scene". The defense party argued that Lao Rongzhi only committed the robbery at the scene and was also coerced by Fa Ziying, and that she was also a victim. "Victim" connects the clustering of the high-frequency word "confession" to the clustering of the high-frequency word "life", showing that the defense party emphasizes that Lao Rongzhi did not rent rooms in various places in order to have a base camp for the crime, but rather to have a home. It was a way of life for her, trying to settle down in the city. In the cluster centered on the high-frequency word "police", the defense party argued that Lao Rongzhi's confession in the public security department was suspected of being an induced confession, and that many of the statements were made under the guidance of the police and could not be taken as evidence, thus emphasizing that Lao Rongzhi was not an accomplice but only a victim.

As can be seen from the above, the narratives of the prosecution party and the defense party are very different and confront each other. The prosecution party's narrative highlights the substantive murder of Lao Rongzhi and the details of the case, characterizing Lao Rongzhi's actions as intentional murder. While the defense party's narrative highlights the objection to the prosecutor's evidence, emphasizing the incompleteness and lack of credibility of the prosecution's evidence in order to overturn the prosecution's chain of evidence, branding Lao Rongzhi's actions as "coerced by Fa Ziying".

4.4. The specificity of the parties' courtroom narratives

Language and emotion are inextricably linked, as emotional factors are embedded in multilingual discourse, and language in turn constructs the emotional patterns of individuals. Individuals' appreciation, expression and communication of emotions in different languages is partly related to their previous experiences and partly to a range of psychological and sociological factors[12]. Similarly, the understanding of emotional expressions is related to personal experience and psychological development (the scope and background mentioned above). When a person is more familiar with a concept, the cognitive domain can be activated to a greater extent in his or her mind. When he explains it in words, it becomes more detailed, and vice versa. At the same time, this is closely related to the degree to which the individual observes the external world. When he observes the external world more closely, the more detailed information he can obtain. Consequently, there are different degrees of specificity in the interpretation of the same thing.

When this concept is applied to language, it is reflected in words, phrases and sentences. The courtroom narrative, as an off-the-record descriptive genre, is conducted by both parties, away from the scene of the situation [13]. The narratives of the prosecution party and the defense party are therefore subject to conjecture and reduction according to their own positions on the course of the case, so that the narratives of the prosecution party and the defense party may differ and even confront each other, all of which are closely related to the specificity.

The prosecution party activates the conceptual domain of the "killer" during the investigation stage of the courtroom, describing the case from a perspective outside the case, highlighting every detail and every piece of evidence that emerges in the case, so that the narrative is more detailed in its description of what happened in the case. For example, the prosecutor's questioning of the defendant about whether he had asked the victim Mr. Yin to pay money and write a note to his family, and whether he had bought a freezer to use in the murder to hide the corpse, which are all very detailed parts of the case. In the semantic network of the prosecution party. We can also see a large number of hyponyms like "rope), "knife" "wire" "bankbook" "mobile phone" "note" and so on, so the prosecutor's narrative is very detailed, so as to enhance the objectivity and comprehensiveness of the description, forming the image of Lao Rongzhi as a "killer", in order to facilitate the provision of evidence for the multiple convictions.

The defense party, on the other hand, after activating the conceptual domain of the "victim" during

the investigation stage of the courtroom, started from the perspective of the psychological changes at the time of the case, highlighting Lao Rongzhi's faulty memory and nervousness, state of entrapment at the time, so as to show that she lacks of subjective awareness of the murder and she is also a victim. Thus the narrative of the case process is very sketchy and has a low resolution. For example, when the prosecutor asked questions about the details of the case, the defendant's answers were "I don't remember", "his purpose was to seek money" "mental fear" "I did not want to cooperate with the criminals in the kidnapping", but did not answer the questions about the process and details of the case. The semantic network of the defense party also shows that the hypernyms words "objection" "impression" "fact" "scene" appear relatively frequently and there are not a large number of the hyponyms like rent apartment, reflecting only fuzzy facts. The defendant uses this narrative of low detail to obscure some of the facts of the case, to better reflect the coerced mental state of herself at the time and to form the image of "victim" in order to reduce her responsibility for the crime.

5. Conclusions

Based on Langacker's construal theory, this thesis explains the narrative confrontation between the prosecution party and the defense party in the courtroom investigation discourse of Lao Rongzhi's case based on four dimensions of construal: scope and background, perspective, prominence and specificity. It is found that the prosecution party first activates the conceptual domain of "killer", describes the case from an vantage point outside the case, describes the case according to the temporal and logical sequence of observation, forms the perspective of objective construal expression, highlights and presents the substantive killing behavior of Lao Rongzhi and the details of the case in a highly detailed language narrative, and characterizes Lao Rongzhi's behavior as intentional murder, forming the image of Lao Rongzhi as a "killer".

The defense party, on the other hand, first activated the conceptual domain of "victim", describing the case from the vantage point inside the case at that time, according to its own psychological changes in the observation orientation, forming a subjective construal expression perspective, highlighting the objection to the prosecution evidence, emphasizing the incompleteness and lack of credibility of the prosecution evidence, using a narrative of low detail to blur some facts in the case, reflecting the mental condition of Lao Rongzhi at that time under duress, without subjective crime intention, forming the image of Lao Rongzhi as a "victim".

In this paper, the four dimensions of cognitive construal theory, namely scope and background, perspective, prominence and specificity, are used to analyze the narrative confrontation between the prosecution party and the defense party in the criminal courtroom discourse, combining cognitive linguistics with the courtroom discourse and opening up a new perspective in the study of China's courtroom discourse. Modern courtroom adjudication is inevitably the result of joint communication between the prosecution party, the defense party and the judge, and criminal courtroom narratives should receive special attention. Only in this way can we effectively observe the degree of substantive participation of the prosecution party and the defense party in the courtroom trial, and know whether the adjudicator in the courtroom trial is impartial and exceeds his authority [14]. Substantiation of court trials is the focus of the new round of judicial system innovation [15], and is the concrete implementation of the Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Several Major Issues in Comprehensively Promoting the Rule of Law, which "promotes the reform of the trial-centered litigation system". The scientific construction of the courtroom narrative is an important strategy to promote the substantiation of the courtroom, which can give full play to the function of the courtroom, so that the claims of both sides can be fully displayed, so that the judge can maximize the understanding of the claims of both sides, facts and reasons, laying the foundation for the judge's scientific and legal judgment, so that the people can feel the fairness and justice from each judicial case. Therefore, the analysis of the confrontation between the prosecution party and the defense party in the courtroom narrative from the perspective of cognitive linguistics will help the scientific construction of the courtroom language and promote the process of the substantiation of the courtroom in China.

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