A Summarize of Cognitive Linguistics Research in Japanese and English in Our Country in the Past Ten Years —— Based on 9 Foreign Language Journals on CNKI

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Abstract: *The cognitive linguistics research in our country has achieved fruitful results, but there are few summarize of cognitive linguistics research in the field of foreign languages in the past ten years. This paper makes a review of the cognitive linguistics research in the Japanese and English fields in the past ten years (2012-2021) of 9 foreign language journals on CNKI, and summarizes the characteristics of the development of cognitive linguistics research in the Japanese and English fields in our country: (1) Reviews are scarce. (2) Language phenomenon explanation research accounts for the largest proportion. (3) The number of discourse and literature analysis research and comparative study in English field far exceeds that in Japanese field. Furthermore, this paper puts forward several suggestions for the development of cognitive linguistics in the future: (1) Pay attention to the balanced development of various research types in the field of Japanese. (2) Strengthen the combination of cognitive linguistics and teaching practice. (3) Empirical study on promoting cognitive linguistics.*

Keywords: *Cognitive Linguistics, Field of Foreign Language, Comparison. Summarize*

1. Introduction

In the early 1990s, the theory of cognitive linguistics was introduced to China, and after 30 years of development, cognitive linguistics has become one of the hot spots of linguistic research in China. At present, the research achievements of cognitive linguistics in Japanese field are not widely seen in China. Wang Xin (2016) made a relevant survey on the research of domestic cognitive linguistics, searched on www.cnzhi.com with the keywords of "Chinese Cognitive Linguistics Research Review" and "Domestic Cognitive Linguistics Research Review", and downloaded 16 related papers. He pointed out that most of the 16 articles mentioned are research papers that focus on English or Chinese or Chinese English contrast, while those that focus on Japanese or Chinese Japanese contrast are not mentioned at all. English and Japanese can be said to be the first and second largest languages in the foreign language field in China, which is reflected in the number of research literature, researchers, learners and so on. Therefore, by sorting out the cognitive linguistics related research in English and Japanese, we can roughly find out the current research situation in the field of foreign languages in China and make further thinking[1-6].

2. Overview of Cognitive Linguistics

At present, cognitive linguistics has not finally formed a complete systematic discipline, and the understanding of cognitive linguistics is also different from each other. Therefore, a strict and complete definition of cognitive linguistics has not been formed yet. Wang Yin (2006), a famous Chinese linguist, defined cognitive linguistics in a narrow sense as: based on the basic contents, methods and perspectives studied by famous cognitive linguists and his own understanding: It adheres to the philosophy of experience, takes body experience and cognition as the starting point, focuses on the study of conceptual structure and meaning, and strives to seek the cognitive mode behind language facts, and gives a unified interpretation of language through cognitive mode and knowledge structure.

Zhang Hui and Zhu Liang (1999) regard cognitive linguistics as a new research method to explain language phenomena. Zhang Hui and Zhu Liang (1999) further point out that: The so-called "cognition"

refers to the way people perceive the world and form a concept of everything in the world, as well as the experience formed on this basis; Cognitive linguistics is a language study based on it.

3. Cognitive Linguistic Studies in the Last Decade

Through the tireless development of previous scholars, the research of cognitive linguistics in China has been greatly developed and has also achieved fruitful results. So far, Chinese scholars (mainly English scholars) have published many comprehensive articles on cognitive linguistics. However, there are few literatures that review and summarize the research situation of cognitive linguistics in the foreign language field in China in the past ten years, and as Wang Xin (2016) mentioned, there are still very few researches on Japanese cognitive linguistics. Therefore, this paper will focus on the current status of cognitive linguistics research in the field of foreign languages (Japanese and English) in the past ten years, in order to further reflect on some research topics of cognitive linguistics in China[7-12].

3.1. Literature information

Before searching relevant literature, this paper formulated literature screening criteria from the following perspectives: journal source, research field, literature type, publication time, to ensure reasonable and effective literature search. Specific instructions are shown in Table 1:

Table 1: Literature Information

a.Journal source	Journal of Foreign Languages, Foreign Languages, Foreign Language Studies, Foreign Languages and Foreign Language Teaching, Journal of the PLA Institute of Foreign Languages, Foreign Language Teaching and Research, Journal of Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Journal of Xi'an International Studies University, Japanese Learning and Research (both representative journals in Japanese and English fields).
b.Research field	In the field of Japanese and English, the relevant literature in the field of Chinese is excluded.
c.Document type	The included literature should be research papers, excluding review articles.
d.Date of publication	The published year of the literature is from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2021, excluding the literature beyond the time range.

3.2. Document arrangement

After identified the source of literature periodicals, "cognitive linguistics" as key words, in China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), respectively by the keywords as a subject, title, keywords and the search term to the involved nine foreign language class journal papers were retrieved and according to the standard for the artificial selection, Finally, 116 literatures (40 in Japanese and 76 in English) that met the above screening criteria were obtained. After collecting the relevant literature, this paper analyzes the data by combining the first level coding and the second level coding. Specifically, during the first level coding, 116 collected literatures were read through and feature coded, including the following variables: author, year of publication, source of literature, research topic, and research method. The purpose of first level coding is to facilitate further analysis. In the second level coding stage, the first level codes in the research topic are checked and combined, and finally the analysis results are obtained.

4. Statistical results

4.1. General trends of cognitive linguistics in Japanese and English

It can be seen from Figure 1 that from 2012 to 2021, the literature related to Japanese cognitive linguistics shows a dynamic downward trend. Specifically, from 2012 to 2016, the number of articles fluctuated around the number of five articles per year, and after 2016, the overall trend showed a downward trend. However, from 2012 to 2016, the research on cognitive linguistics in the field of English showed an upward trend, and after 2016, it showed a dynamic downward trend[13-17].

It can be seen that in the past five years (2016-2021), the attention paid to cognitive linguistics in the foreign language field in China showed a downward trend, especially in the Japanese field, and the number of publications even reached zero in 2020. Therefore, cognitive linguists in foreign language field in China need to further explore new research perspectives and growth points.
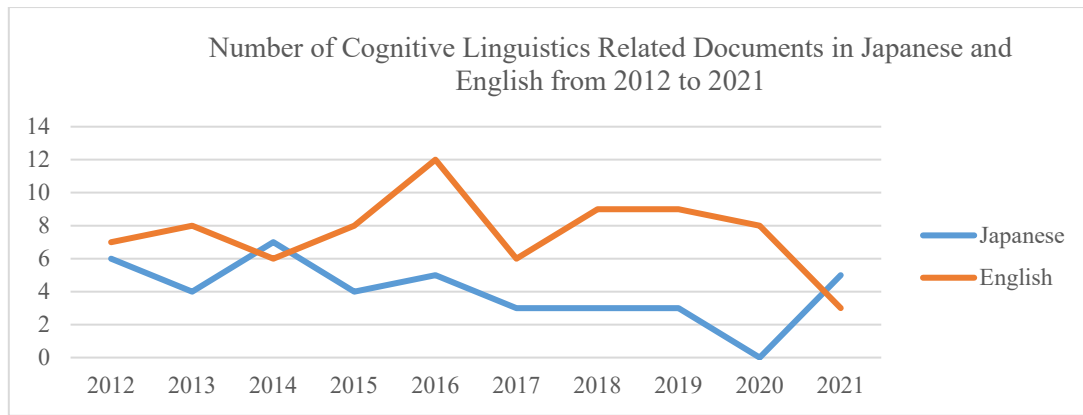
Figure 1: Line Chart of the Number of Cognitive Linguistics Related Documents in Japanese and English from 2012 to 2021

4.2. Types of Cognitive Linguistic Studies in Japanese and English

Through reading through the collected literature and coding and merging according to its content, we found that cognitive linguistics research in Japanese and English can be divided into six categories, and the number and proportion of each type of research are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: The number and proportion of research types in cognitive linguistics in Japanese and English

Research type	Instructions	Number	Proportion (%)
Research on the interpretation of language phenomena	The study of using cognitive linguistics theories to explain various linguistic phenomena.	Japanese:23 English:25	Japanese:57.5 English:32.9
Review Studies	The review and summary of previous studies.	Japanese:2 English:2	Japanese:5.0 English:2.6
Theoretical research	To supplement, expound or propose a new theory of cognitive linguistics.	Japanese:3 English:3	Japanese:7.5 English:4.0
Comparative study	The comparative study between two languages.	Japanese:6 English:17	Japanese:15.0 English:22.4
Teaching research	The research of combining cognitive linguistics with practical teaching, exploring new teaching models, applying cognitive theory to explain problems in practical teaching situations, etc.	Japanese:4 English:10	Japanese:10.0 English:13.2
Discourse Text Research	The study of discourse and text analysis using the theory of cognitive linguistics.	Japanese:2 English: 19	Japanese:5.0 English:25.0

In the process of classifying the collected documents into research types, some documents involve multiple types of research. When we classify these documents, we will classify them according to the contents emphatically discussed in the documents. For example, although Xu Yong (2012) involved the contrast between English and Chinese, the focus of his research was mainly on the interpretation of anaphora, a grammatical phenomenon, by using the framework theory model of cognitive linguistics. Therefore, this paper was classified as a study on the interpretation of linguistic phenomena.

Through the comparative analysis of the types of cognitive linguistics research in Japanese and English, we can find some characteristics of the development of cognitive linguistics research in Japanese and English in the past decade, which will be discussed in detail below.

4.2.1. There is a lack of review studies in both fields

From Table 2, we can see that in the past decade, no matter in the Japanese field or in the English field, there has been a lack of comprehensive research in cognitive linguistics. In the field of Japanese, Zhu Lixia (2018) made a comprehensive study. Zhu Lixia (2018) summarized and reviewed the previous studies on ellipsis in Japanese from the perspectives of national linguistics, functional linguistics and cognitive linguistics, and pointed out that there are two consensus on ellipsis: First, ellipsis is a common phenomenon, which should be studied at the level of language use. Second, the phenomenon of ellipsis may not really be the process of language "ellipsis", and the so-called "ellipsis" is just a name[18-23].

In the field of English, Xue Xuhui (2012) made a relatively comprehensive study of English language blocks. Specifically, this paper first quotes the arguments of domestic and foreign scholars to elaborate and define the theoretical background and concepts related to lexical chunks. Then, under the guidance

of Ungerer, F.&Schimid, H. J. and Rosch, E.'s theories on cognitive linguistics, categorization and conceptual representation, this paper makes a more detailed and systematic cognitive sorting, review and classification of English chunks.

Summary research is a review and summary of previous research results, which can help us reflect on the problems and gaps in previous research, so as to promote the further development of related research. At present, there is a lack of review studies in the field of Japanese and English, so it is necessary to pay more attention to this kind of research in the future.

4.2.2. The research on the interpretation of linguistic phenomena in both fields accounts for the largest proportion

In the field of Japanese and English, the number of studies on language phenomenon explanation was the largest, with a total proportion of 57.5% and 32.9%, respectively.

In the field of Japanese, the main research contents of this kind of research include semantic polysemy and semantic extension (Li Jingjing 2014; Liqin Shao 2014; Zhu Xiuli, 2014), Semantic Discussion of Idioms (Wu Hong, 2012; Hsu Zhen 2016) and so on.

The research content in the English field is similar to that in the Japanese field. The difference is that there are many studies on translation strategies in the English field (Xiao Kunxue 2013; Wu Yue 2019) and a large number of studies on construction (Zhang Yi 2018; Zeng Guocai 2014).

Whether in Japanese or English, the proportion of linguistic phenomenon interpretation research is the largest. This phenomenon should be related to the strong explanatory power of cognitive linguistics for linguistic phenomena compared with previous linguistic schools. By using the theories of cognitive linguistics, cognitive linguistics scholars try to get a unified explanation of language phenomena.

To sum up, the large number of language phenomenon interpretation studies indicates that the relevant conceptual theories of cognitive linguistics have been widely applied to solve language problems, and have achieved fruitful results. The value and significance of this kind of research has been recognized and valued by the foreign language circle in China.

4.2.3. The number of discourse text analysis and comparative studies in the English field far exceeds that in the Japanese field

As shown in Table 2, the number of discourse text analysis studies and comparative studies in the English field accounted for 25.0% (19 articles) and 22.3% (17 articles) respectively, while in the Japanese field, the number accounted for 5.0% (2 articles) and 15.0% (6 articles).

The research on discourse text analysis is mainly divided into discourse research and text research. Among them, the study of political and economic discourse has become a hot spot in this kind of research. Scholars use the concepts and related theories proposed by cognitive linguistics to explore the conceptual structures related to language use and the functions of ideology, home view and legitimization of these conceptual structures in the discourse context.

Zhang Xinyuan (2015) analyzed the persuasion strategy in Hillary Clinton's election manifesto from the perspective of prototype and categorization theory in cognitive linguistics. It points out that Hillary Clinton appropriately used the concept of prototype and categorization in her election declaration, not only integrating herself into the American middle class as a member, but also shaping herself as a defender of the rights and interests of the American people.

This kind of research combines cognitive linguistics with critical discourse analysis. By analyzing discourse, it can be said that it is a new research topic in recent years to further investigate the ideology behind discourse. This kind of research also conforms to the social and empirical transformation trend of cognitive linguistics, and further reveals the diversity and possibility of applying cognitive linguistics to practice.

In addition to the discourse text analysis research, the number of comparative studies in English field is much larger than that in Japanese field. Among the comparative studies, the number of lexical comparative studies is the largest in both Japanese and English fields.

Tang Yanling (2017) used the focus and prominence theory in cognitive linguistics to compare the similarities and differences between "where" and "where" in terms of their interrogative and non interrogative usages. On this basis, it summarizes the grammaticalization rules that the inherent objective meaning of question words in Chinese and English is disappearing and the derived subjective meaning is increasing.

In addition to the comparative study of vocabulary, there is also the comparative study of grammar (Wu Hong 2021; Zhang Lifei 2020) and so on.

Xu Long (2009) pointed out that theoretical contrastive study can usually be carried out on the basis of similarities and differences of language types, and its results can lead to a deeper study of language typology, and finally make us have a deeper understanding of the nature and laws of language. It can be seen that comparative studies are of great significance for understanding the nature and rules of language. However, cognitive linguistics scholars in the field of Japanese have paid relatively little attention to this kind of research, and more attention should be paid to this kind of research in the future[24-27].

4.3. Research methods

According to the classification criteria of research methods by relevant scholars (Li Zhixue, Li Shaoshan 2003), this paper divides the collected cognitive linguistics research in recent 10 years into empirical research and non-empirical research. Empirical research is based on a certain sample, using quantitative, qualitative or a mixture of the two methods; Non empirical research often does not rely on data collection, and mainly adopts expository methods, including experience summary, method discussion and review research (Zhang Jun 2020). The distribution of cognitive linguistics research methods in Japanese and English from 2012 to 2021 is shown in Table 3, Figure 2, Table 4 and Figure 3 below:

Table 3: Statistics of cognitive linguistics research methods in Japanese from 2012 to 2021

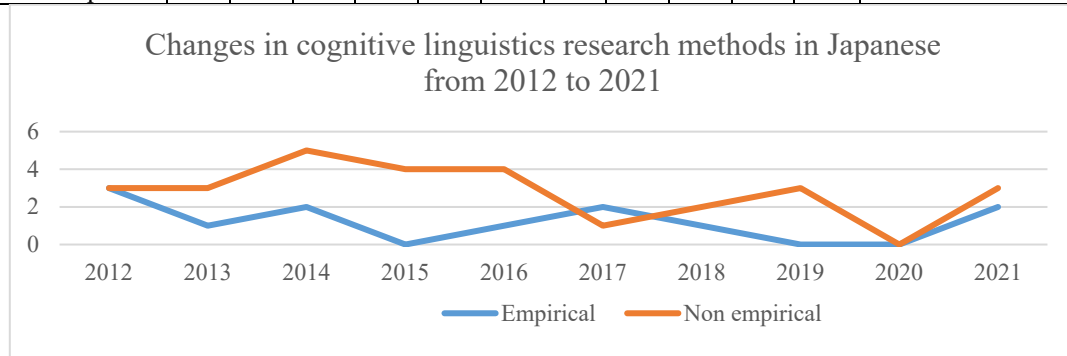|	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total	The percentage / %
Empirical	3	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	0	2	12	30.0
Non empirical	3	3	5	4	4	1	2	3	0	3	28	70.0

Figure 2: Research methods of cognitive linguistics in Japanese from 2012 to 2021

Table 4: Statistics of Cognitive Linguistics Research Methods in English from 2012 to 2021

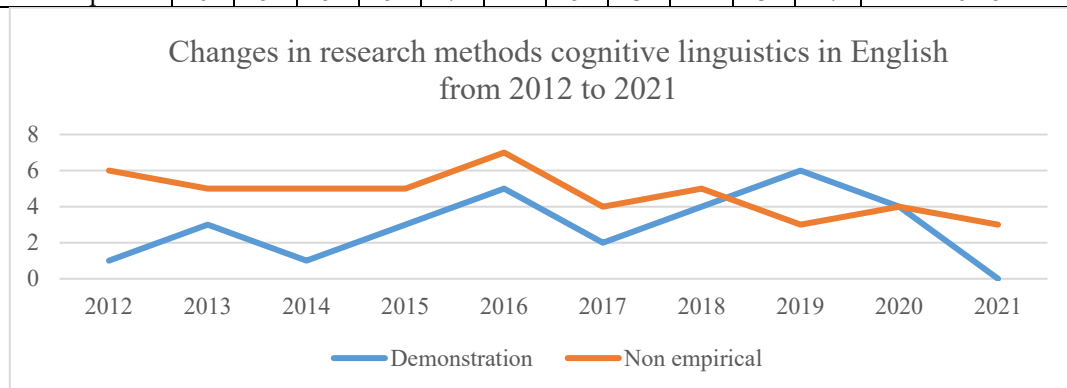|	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total	The percentage / %
Demonstration	1	3	1	3	5	2	4	6	4	0	29	38.2
Non empirical	6	5	5	5	7	4	5	3	4	3	47	61.8

Figure 3: Changes in cognitive linguistics research methods in English from 2012 to 2021

From Table 3 and Figure 2, Table 4 and Figure 3, we can see that in terms of research methods, non empirical research in Japanese and English cognitive linguistics has been in the mainstream (70% in

Japanese and 61.8% in English) in recent 10 years, and the number is far greater than empirical research. In addition, from the line chart, there is no obvious tendency to increase the empirical research in the field of Japanese and English. This result is inconsistent with the new trend of empirical turning in cognitive linguistics research in the past 20 years proposed by Shu Dingfang and Zhang Lifei (2021). Therefore, we can say that the empirical transformation of cognitive linguistics research in Japanese and English has not yet been completed.

5. Suggestions and prospects

By reviewing the cognitive linguistics research in the Japanese and English fields in China in the past 10 years (2012-2021), it is not difficult to see that certain achievements have been made in the cognitive linguistics research in the Japanese and English fields, but there are still some problems that need to be paid attention to and urgently solved. In this regard, this paper puts forward some suggestions.

5.1. Pay attention to the balanced development of various research types in the Japanese field

Through statistical analysis, it can be found that the types of cognitive linguistics research in the field of Japanese are relatively single, mainly focusing on the interpretation of language phenomena, accounting for as much as 57.5%. However, other research types are relatively few, especially the review and theoretical research.

In the field of English, although the number of studies on the explanation of language phenomena is the largest, the proportion is far less than that of the Japanese field. Compared with the Japanese field, the proportion of studies on discourse text analysis and comparison is also larger. Although the number of summary research and theoretical discussion research is very rare, as in Japanese, it can be said that cognitive linguistics research in English is more comprehensive and covers a wider range. In the future, more attention should be paid to the comprehensive and balanced development of various research types in the Japanese language field.

5.2. Strengthening the combination of cognitive linguistics and teaching practice

Through the statistical analysis of cognitive linguistics research in Japanese and English, it can be found that there are relatively few teaching studies in both fields.

Since the end of the 20th century, scholars at home and abroad have applied the basic theories of cognitive linguistics to the study of second language acquisition and teaching. For example, Mori Shanxin (2008) explored the expansion mechanism of the meaning system of case auxiliary words in Japanese from the perspective of cognitive linguistics, and pointed out that cognitive linguistics theory can promote the understanding and acquisition of case auxiliary words. Liang Xiaobo and Li Yongzhong (2006) theoretically discussed the enlightenment of prototype category theory on foreign language polysemy teaching, and believed that the theory has a positive guiding role in polysemy teaching.

It can be seen that cognitive linguistics theory has a broad application prospect in the field of second language acquisition and teaching. However, in the past 10 years, there are not many studies on cognitive linguistics teaching in the fields of Japanese and English, which also shows that researchers are not aware of applying cognitive linguistics theory to teaching practice to test its feasibility and effectiveness, which needs to be further strengthened in the future.

5.3. To promote the empirical transformation of cognitive linguistics

As discussed in Section 4.3, the number of empirical studies in both Japanese and English is much lower than that of non-empirical studies.

Empirical research starts from empirical research, and will conduct systematic and scientific research and analysis on sample data. The research results are more scientific and reliable (Li Jiongying, Li Qing 2016). In other words, empirical research often does not only stay at the theoretical stage, but also supports the argument by collecting sample data. For example, the emerging corpus linguistics research is a kind of empirical research, in which researchers collect and analyze data from corpus to explore the laws of language.

Empirical research makes research results more accurate and reliable, which is in line with the accuracy and scientific nature required by linguistics research. Therefore, the cognitive linguistics

research in foreign languages should pay more attention to empirical research in the future.

6. Conclusion

This paper reviews and reflects on the papers on cognitive linguistics in Japanese and English published in foreign language journals in China in the past decade, aiming to summarize the current situation and shortcomings of cognitive linguistics in foreign language field in China. In the past decade, cognitive linguistics research in foreign languages in China has shown the following characteristics: (1) The number of studies on the interpretation of language phenomena in Japanese and English is the largest. (2) There are few reviews and theoretical studies in these two fields. (3) The number of discourse text analysis studies and comparative studies in the English field is much larger than that in the Japanese field.

Although the cognitive linguistics research in the field of foreign languages in China has made great achievements in recent years, there are still many areas to be improved. This paper puts forward the following suggestions: (1) Pay attention to the balanced development of various research types in the Japanese field. (2) Strengthen the combination of cognitive linguistics and teaching practice. (3) Promote the positive transformation of cognitive linguistics.

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