

## 論字義釐定之困難

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### 摘 要

釐訂語言裡某一特定字辭之意義絕非是簡單的。本文以中英文為例，討論字辭意義釐定所蘊含之困難。根據研究者分析，釐定字辭之意義涉及三種文字之特性及十個意義影響因素。文字之三特性為：

- 一、文字之意義一直轉變。
- 二、文字極少獨立出現。
- 三、文字有不同之接受程度。

十個影響因素為：

- 一、字辭典提供了字辭之定義。
- 二、對於某一字辭，不同字辭典提供了不同之定義。
- 三、某些字辭會形成複雜語意世界。
- 四、某些字辭會因修辭技巧之應用而改變原有意義。
- 五、語用法有時可超越字辭正式用法。
- 六、英語充滿同義字。
- 七、同義字不易分辨。
- 八、不同字典以不同角度辨別同義字。
- 九、非相似字或同義字常出現於同一脈絡。
- 十、個人偏好影響用字。

作者或讀者在了解或解讀文字意義時，會受到以上三個文字特性及十個影響因素之干擾。

**關鍵詞：**困難、字辭意義之釐定、字辭特性、影響因素

## On the Difficulty of Postulating Word Meaning

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### Abstract

Postulating the meaning of a word in a language is by no means easy. With English and Chinese words as examples, the present study aims to pinpoint the difficulty inherent in word meaning postulation. According to the researchers, postulating the meaning of a content word in a language involves 3 characteristics pertaining to the nature of words and 10 factors which may influence the meaning of a word in its practical application. The 3 characteristics are:

1. Words are always in a process of change.
2. Words seldom exist alone.
3. Words have their respective degrees of acceptance.

The 10 factors are:

1. Words have their definitions in dictionaries.
2. Dictionaries may provide different definitions of a word.
3. Words may develop into a semantic world.
4. Words may be used for rhetoric purposes, thus enriching and animating languages.
5. Usages may overrule traditional etymology.
6. English is abundant in synonyms.
7. Synonyms are hard to differentiate.
8. Different dictionaries provide different semantic differentials.
9. Non-similar or non-synonymous words may occur in the same context.
10. Personal preference may be at work.

The 3 characteristics of the nature of words and 10 influencing factors of word meaning may individually or jointly exert influence on writers' and readers' understanding and decoding of the meaning of a specific word.

**Keywords:** Difficulty; Postulation of word meaning; Characteristics of words; Influencing factors