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Re-Discussion on Defining Standards of Chinese Noun-Quantity Compound Word

TIAN Jialu[a]*; ZHANG Xiancheng[b]

[a]Doctoral Candidate, Institute of Ancient Chinese Language and Documents, Southwest University, Chongqing, China.
[b]Professor and Doctoral Supervisor, Institute of Ancient Chinese Language and Documents/Research Center of Unearthed Literature, Southwest University, Chongqing, China.
*Corresponding author.

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Abstract
Chinese noun-quantity compound word is a special structural style in Chinese compound words. Based on the previous research, this paper attempts to define the six standards of Chinese noun-quantity compound word, which is more comprehensive and perfect.

Key words: Chinese noun-quantity compound words; Defining; Standard

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INTRODUCTION
Chinese noun-quantity compound word is formed by two morpheme, which are one noun morpheme before and one measure morpheme after. It is a special structural style in Chinese compound word. And it appeared under the background of substantially generated in Chinese compound word and widely used in the Chinese quantifier. The quantity of this Chinese compound word is limited, but it receives more attention to scholars this year, because of its unique word formation and semantic feature. However, the grammatical structure and the defining standard of Chinese noun-quantity compound word have not reached a consensus nowadays, and these arguments are detrimental to the research and the language specification of Chinese noun-quantity compound words. Li (2009) specifically analyzed in the grammatical structure and the defining standard of Chinese noun-quantity compound word. We are in favor of Li Liyun's opinion, which analyzed different views to the grammatical structure. But we argue that her analysis of the defining standard is questionable. Therefore, this article is trying to discuss the defining standards of Chinese noun-quantity compound word, which has been a controversial issue in the academic, on the basis of Li Liyun's opinion.

1. PREDECESSORS' VIEWPOINT IS QUESTIONABLE
Li Liyun is the first one scholar who specialized on the defining standards of Chinese noun-quantity compound word comprehensively and systematically. Scholars listed a few examples under the structure when discussing the structure of Chinese noun-quantity compound word before. And Li Liyun researched the defining standard on the basis of these examples. And then she put forward four defining standards of Chinese noun-quantity compound word. Firstly, the second lexical formation component must be a quantifier which has not been derived from the noun meaning. Secondly, adding a number ahead can form the "numeral + noun + quantifier" structure when the two compositions reverse. Thirdly, the Chinese noun-quantity compound word represents the general name semantically, which the noun morpheme refers to. Fourthly, it can't be modified by the numeral-classifier phrase on the syntactic function. Li Liyun argued that there are twenty Chinese noun-quantity compound words strictly, which are "mapi (马匹)", "cheliang (车辆)", "chuanzhi (船只)", "qiangzhi

(枪支)", "shuben (书本)", "zhizhang (纸张)", "huaduo (花朵)", "bupi (布匹)", "renkou (人口)", "yinliang (银两)", "dengzhan (灯盏)", "tianmu (田亩)", "dimu (地亩)", "pizhang (皮张)", "meijin (煤斤)", "huafu (画幅)", "bingyuan (兵员)", "shengkou (牲口)", "jianzhi (舰只)", "tingzhi (艇只)".

We argue that the second and third standard is right. However, the first and fourth one is questionable from the twenty Chinese noun-quantity compound words he listed.

Firstly, Li (2009, p.108) emphasized that the second lexical formation component must be a quantifier. That is to say, this component can use alone as a quantifier, and it shows the quantity of the second morpheme when constituting the Chinese noun-quantity compound word. We agree with her on this viewpoint. But she goes much further that the second component has not been derived the noun meaning. We hold that this conclusion may not be consistent with the source of the quantity. You (1988, pp.361-365) argued that almost all the function morpheme come from the content words in Chinese. Certainly, quantifier is no exception. Scholars considered that quantifiers originate from nouns, few quantifier is specially produced for language. For instance, "mapi (马匹)" and "renkou (人口)" are used most frequently when scholars researched the Chinese noun-quantity compound words. Therefore, this two words can be seen as the Chinese noun-quantity compound words which scholars are generally accepted. "'pi (匹)' in 'mapi (马匹)', as a quantifier, was originally a verb which mean matching. And then it evolved into a noun which means a single used for driving the horse." (F. C. An & F. K. An, 2011, p.110) Then the noun meaning of "pi (匹)" evolved the quantifier meaning. After that, the noun meaning gradually weaken and died. On the contrary, the quantifier meaning has the upper hand comparing to the noun meaning and has been use in today. That is to say, the "pi (匹)", as a quantifier, is not to say that no derived the meaning of noun, but on the basis of meaning of noun. Just these two meaning of "pi (匹)" implemented the survival of the fittest in the development of language, which the quantifier meaning accounts for the overwhelming advantage, and gradually replaced the noun meaning. For example, the semantic source of the "kou (口)" in "renkou (人口)", should be a person's mouth. *Shuo Wen*(《说文》) said that "kou (口)" is used to speak and eat human organ.(《说文·口部》：“口，人所以言食也.") This meaning should be in the original sense of "kou (口)", but also in semantic prototype of other extended meaning. That is to say, all the other noun meaning of "kou (口)" evolved from the prototype meaning. There is no doubt that the "kou (口)" in "renkou (人口)", as a quantifier, which alleged number of people, extended from the original sense. Niu Qiaohong hold that the quantifier meaning of "kou (口)", which alleged number of people, had been produced in the Western Han Dynasty. And other quantifier meaning of "kou (口)" began to appear in the Wei, Jin and Southern and Northern Dynasties (Niu, 2007, pp.8-9). And the noun meaning and the quantifier meaning are still in use. Because of the influence of Chinese disyllabic words, the noun meaning of "kou (口)" gradually weakened, and was replaced by other disyllabic words such as "mouth (嘴巴)", which is mostly retained as a morpheme today, such as "oral (口腔)" and "yakou (牙口)". Therefore, Li Liyun's opinion, which argue that the second lexical formation component must be a quantifier which has not been derived the noun meaning, is unscientific and incompatible with the twenty Chinese noun-quantity compound words she find.

Secondly, Li Liyun certainly considered that there is no specific numeral-classifier phrase before Chinese noun-quantity compound word. That is to say that it can't be modified by the numeral-classifier phrase. We searched the twenty Chinese noun-quantity compound words in Peking corpus, and found that thirteen Chinese noun-quantity compound words can be modified by the numeral-classifier phrase, which have thirteen words, such as "mapi (马匹)", "cheliang (车辆)", "chuanzhi (船只)", "qiangzhi (枪支)", "shuben (书本)", "zhizhang (纸张)", "huaduo (花朵)", "bupi (布匹)", "renkou (人口)", "dengzhan (灯盏)", "bingyuan (兵员)", "shengkou (牲口)", "jianzhi (舰只)". However, the other seven Chinese noun-quantity compound words can not be composed the "number+quatifier+noun" structure with the numeral-classifier phrase, which include "yinliang (银两)", "tianmu (田亩)", "dimu (地亩)", "pizhang (皮张)", "meijin (煤斤)","huafu (画幅)", "tingzhi (艇只)". Therefore, this situation conflicts with the fourth defining standard Li Liyun put forward, or Li Liyun's opinion is not perfect. By analyzing, we found that these quantifier are individual quantifier, such as "pi (匹)", "liang (辆)", "zhi (只)", "zhi (支)", "ben (本)", "zhang (张)", "duo (朵)", "kou (口)", "zhan (盏)", "yuan (员)" and so on. These Chinese noun-quantity compound words, which the individual quantifier combined with a noun morpheme, can be modified by the numeral-classifier phrase, and has the characteristics of the individual noun. In the expression of semantics, the Chinese noun-quantity compound word not only has a collection meaning, but also may refer to the individual, which highlight the kinds, shape, size and characteristics of things. Mr. Lü (1963, p.12) also believed that the compound words, which the quantifier add to after the monosyllabic noun, not only have collection meaning, but also have been the impact of lexical disyllabification. This is because the monosyllabic noun can has a collection meaning. For example, "cheliang (车辆)" and "mapi (马匹)", this two words can refer to the collective, and also refer to the individual. However, "che (车)" and "ma (马)" can not fully reflect the characteristics of things when they are used alone. The noun-quantity compound words, in which the noun morpheme "che (车)" and "ma (马)" before and the other measure morpheme "lian g(辆)"

and "pi (匹)" after, are not only in line with the trend of Chinese lexical disyllabification, and also demonstrate the shape and feature of the "che (车)" and "ma (马)". Therefore, the kind of noun-quantity compound word can be modified by the numeral-classifier phrase, because it not only has a collection meaning, but also has the characteristic of the individual noun. However, the kind of quantifiers, such as "liang (两)", "mu (亩)", "jin (斤)" and so on, is the measurement quantifier. The noun-quantity compound word, which the measurement quantifier and the noun morpheme are combined into, cannot be modified by the numeral-classifier phrase, because the measurement quantifier does not have the the characteristic of the individual noun. It is worth mentioning that this noun-quantity compound word is also composed of the individual noun morpheme and the individual quantifier morpheme, such as "pizhang (皮张)", "huafu (画幅)", "jianzhi (艇只)" and so on, but they do not appear in front of the numeral-classifier phrase. In summary, Li Liyun's forth defining standard is imperfect.

2. THE DEFINING STANDARDS OF CHINESE NOUN-QUANTITY COMPOUND WORD

In order to study noun-quantity compound word more scientific and reasonable, we propose six defining standards of Chinese noun-quantity compound word based on Li Liyun's opinion.

Firstly, Chinese noun-quantity compound word is formed by two morpheme, which are one concrete noun morpheme before and one measure morpheme after. On the one hand, in the lexical meaning, the noun morpheme must be a concrete noun which represents a person or something, and must not be abstract noun or proper noun. And this defining standard excludes a part of compound words, which are also formed by one noun morpheme and one measure morpheme on the surface, such as "leidi (泪滴)", "yusi (雨丝)", "shiduan (时段)" and so on. On the other hand, the measure morpheme can be measurement quantifier, such as "jin(斤)", "mu (亩)", or individual quantifier, such as "zhi (只)", "zhi (支)", "duo (朵)", "zhan (盏)". But the measure morpheme must not be collection quantifier, such as "qun (群)". And it should be noted that the order must not be reversed, which the noun morpheme must be in front and the measure morpheme must be in the back. Otherwise, the compound word is quantity-noun compound word, not the noun-quantity compound word, such as "ge'an (个案)", "zhishen (只身)", "baogu (包谷)" and so on.

Secondly, the first lexical formation component is the structure focus. This means that the noun morpheme determines the category. The noun-quantity compound word is a noun, which is the same as the grammatical characteristic of the noun morpheme. That is to say, the meaning focus of the noun-quantity compound word is in front. And the noun morpheme determines the category of the noun-quantity compound word.

Thirdly, the second lexical formation component, which is a measure morpheme except for the measurement quantifier, comes from the noun meaning ,but the noun meaning is dead today. And the noun meaning cannot be used alone even still in use, and it can only remain in the word as a morpheme. In other words, the meaning of the individual quantifier extend from the noun meaning. In the process of language evolution, the noun meaning may perish, or development, or weakening. However, the individual quantifier, which only the noun meaning is dead or weakening, can combine with the noun morpheme to the noun-quantity compound word. If the measure morpheme, which the measure meaning and the noun meaning coexist, combine with the noun morpheme, the structure and the meaning of the noun-quantity compound word will change. And the combination can be seen as a juxtaposed compound word or a noun-quantity compound word, such as "shiju (诗句)", "shijian (事件)" and so on. This situation is not conducive to the exchange and communication of language, and contrary to the accuracy principle of language. Therefore, the individual quantifier morpheme, which only the noun meaning is dead or weakening, can combine with the individual noun morpheme to the noun-quantity compound word.

Fourthly, adding a number ahead can form the "numeral + noun + quantifier" structure when the two compositions reverse. This standard defining is same as the Li Liyun's opinion. The noun morpheme and the measure morpheme in the noun-quantity compound word should be two closely related components, and experienced a process which they are often used in conjunction. That is to say, the quantifier component in the noun-quantity compound word should be used to modify and restrict the noun component. Therefore, adding a number ahead can form a "numeral + noun + quantifier" structure when the two compositions reverse. For example, "chuanzhi (船只)", when adding a number ahead after reversion, become "yi zhi chuan (一只船)".

Fifthly, the noun-quantity compound word represents the collection meaning semantically, which the noun morpheme refers to. This standard defining is also same as the Li Liyun's opinion. Although the noun-quantity compound word is formed by two morpheme structurally, which are one noun morpheme before and one measure morpheme after, the specific quantization function of the measure morpheme has been greatly reduced. And the measure morpheme can only play a supplementary and quantify role to the meaning of noun morpheme. Thus, it makes the compound word with collection meaning, or strengthens the collection meaning the noun morpheme refer to. When use this standard defining, we can take

advantage of the large reference book. If a word can represent a collection meaning, the reference book will annotate the word "collectively". But not all words marked "collectively" on dictionary are the noun-quantity compound word. Although some compound words have the collection meaning, they are juxtaposed compound word, such as "bubo 布帛)". We should define the noun-quantity compound word in conjunction with other standards.

Sixthly, the situation, where the noun-quantity compound word is modified by the numeral-classifier phrase, is limited on the syntactic function. The noun-quantity compound word represents a collection meaning. Logically speaking, the noun-quantity compound word is not modified by numeral-classifier phrase. In the expression of semantics, the noun-quantity compound word not only has a collection meaning, but also may refer to the individual, which highlight the kinds, shape, size and characteristics of things. According to Peking corpus, the noun-quantity compound word, which is composed of a noun morpheme and a measurement morpheme, such as "liang (两)", "mu (亩)", "jin (斤)" and so on, is not modified by numeral-classifier phrase. But the noun-quantity compound word, where the measure morpheme is individual measure morpheme, such as "pi (匹)", "zhi (只)", is modified by numeral-classifier phrase. In this situation, only the larger capacity unit than the measure morpheme in a noun-quantity compound word can modify the noun-quantity compound word. For example, the referential range of the "che (车)" in "yi che shengkou (一车牲口)" and the "shu (束)" in "yi shu huaduo (一束花朵)" is larger than "kou (口)" and "duo (朵)". Or the noun-quantity compound word can be modified by a relative quantifier that is different from the measure morpheme. For instance, the quantifier "tai(台)" and measure morpheme "liang (辆)" in "yi tai cheliang (一台车辆)" are two different relative quantifiers. As another example, the quantifier "sou (艘)" and measure morpheme "zhi (只)" in "liang sou chuanzhi (两艘船只)" are also two different relative quantifiers. Generally, this situation is not allowed that the numeral-classifier phrase by the constitution of a number and the measure morpheme in the noun-quantity compound word can modify the noun-quantity compound word. For instance, "yi duo huaduo (一朵花朵)" or "yi ben shuben (一本书本)" is usually not allowed.

In summary, it is scientific approach that we should consider the above six standard defining in the judgment process. We deleted and determined all the words that marked "collectively" on the *XIAN DAI HAN YU CI DIAN* (《现代汉语词典》), and argued that there are twenty one Chinese noun-quantity compound words strictly, which are "zhizhang (纸张)", "pizhang (皮张)", "bupi(布匹)", "mapi (马匹)", "cheliang (车辆)", "chuanzhi (船只)", "jianzhi (舰只)", "tingzhi (艇只)", "yinliang (银两)", "qiangzhi (枪支)", "tianmu (田亩)", "dimu (地亩)", "renkou (人口)", "shengkou (牲口)", "meijin (煤斤)", "yanjin (盐斤)", "dengzhan (灯盏)", "shuben (书本)", "huafu (画幅)", "huaduo (花朵)", "quanzhi (犬只)".

If we want to research the Chinese noun-quantity compound word, defining standard is critical. But scholars have different opinions on defining standards of Chinese noun-quantity compound word. Based on the previous research, this paper attempts to define the six standards of Chinese noun-quantity compound word. We hope to provide help for the study of noun-quantity compound word.

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