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A Discussion of Contextual Meaning and Effectiveness of Chinese Words
with Quasi-suffix “Xing” in Abstracts of Academic Writing

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Research Paper



Outline

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Discussion on Contextual Meaning and Effectiveness of Chinese Words with Quasi-suffix
“Xing” in Abstracts of Academic Writing

Abstract

In Chinese academic writing, scholars would apply diverse terms with the quasi-suffix “Xing” (性) at the end for maintaining the profession. However, due to the multiple meaning of the quasi-suffix, express effectiveness and clarity do not correspond to its profession. This study is aiming at studying the contextual meaning of quasi-suffix “Xing” and the application in abstracts of Chinese academic writing to seek tentative options for better precision and pertinence. In this paper, the author gathered eighteen abstracts from eight different fields with two random for each, and selected sixty-six word entries affixed with “Xing.” The author would conduct the research by document analysis, as well as comparison and contrast. To improve the credibility of this research, the author interviewed a professor who specializes in Chinese semantics and morphology, and consulted each entry at the Academia Sinica Balanced Corpus of Modern Chinese for word frequency and ways of application. Besides, the definition and usage category of “Xing” are sourced from *Ministry of Education Revised Chinese Dictionary* and *Chinese Great Dictionary*. The study results showed that over ninety percent of entries with quasi-suffix “Xing” were not clearly expressed, while only six entries reached the clarity. There is an ambiguity due to semantic differences between some words entries. It is hope to adjust the improper word choice and jargon confusion in Chinese academic writing through this study, and provide authentic materials for malign Chinese Europeanization.

Key words: quasi-suffix, “Xing” (性), contextual, morphology, semantics, Chinese Europeanization

It is common to find various words and professional terms written with the character “Xing” (性) at the end in Chinese academic essays. Some pattern of these words were translated from English while the other were simply derived from Chinese originated counter expressions; all sets of words were expected to aid the proceeding of academic discussion and primordial bearing of the authors in a research which readers would understand easily. However, it seemed that some words applied in academic writing caused various confusion that readers would have certain difficulty comprehending. It is important that authors should keep readability with precise, clear, and cautious word choice for composing academic essays, which requires abundant reconsideration for applying professional jargon with “Xing.” Therefore, the author perceives it worthy of studying how effectively or redundantly used the professional terms with “Xing” are in Chinese academic writing.

This research is aiming at discussing the necessity and semantic as well as contextual meanings of professional terms with “Xing” on abstracts of Chinese academic writing. The author expects to reach three goals through this research. The first: to improve the effectiveness of abstract word use in Chinese academic writing. If the author would be able to figure out the appropriate usage of “Xing” in particular lingual circumstances, he might be able to find out an effective way of applying professional terms. On basis of the previous assumption, the author would be able to seek appropriate and tentative replacing words for confusing professional terms with character “Xing” as the second goal. Considering of the profession in every field, it is not proper to define the timing of applying character “Xing” from a linguistic point of view since some formulated terms are idiomatic to the field. That is the reason that the author would suggest some tentative replacing expressions for reference. Furthermore, with points and analysis of effective and ambiguous terms with character “Xing,” it would be convincing to promote people to write with clear and effective languages other than confusing jargon for the third goal.

The frequencies of Chinese language users employing character “Xing” in professional jargon is getting higher that it would result in an overflow. This paper will be helpful in ameliorating the overflow of character “Xing” for the significance of study. As described previously, some terms with character “Xing” are translated from English, which is considering as a part of Chinese Europeanization. After Vernacular Movement, people tried to reform Chinese in an orientation of modernity, which was forming Chinese words and sentences with English syntax and concepts (Zhang Junmei). As Yu Guangzhong stated, Chinese Europeanization was proceeding so fast and fierce that it influenced the normality of Chinese, which led to a malignant Europeanization. This research based, on the study of the appropriate application of the character “Xing,” will be helpful to rectify or adjust the Chinese from malign Europeanization.

In this paper, the author chose 18 abstracts from eight different fields with two random papers in each category. The eight fields are medical, social studies, education, art and cultures including literature, science, construction, agriculture, and administration. Since literature is included in the art and cultures category, the author chose four papers for that category and two papers for the rest of them, which are eighteen papers. The author would not give a further study for each paper but simply the abstracts of those papers. From the abstracts, the author selected 66 words formed with character “Xing.” Readers should notice that words chosen for the study were majorly three characters, consisting of two-character words with the character “Xing,” instead of two-character words with one-character and the other character “Xing.” Most two-character “Xing” words had existed in Chinese for long, instead of being translated from English; therefore, this study would not include two-character “Xing” words but focus on three-character “Xing” words. For complete selected words, original texts and information about abstracts extracted from academic writing please refer to appendix.

In the *Hundred Years of History of Mandarin Morphology Studies*, Mr. Wang Shaoxin

defined that all Chinese suffixes should correspond to the five features: derivational morphemes, fixed position, distinct desemantization, atonic pronunciation, marking ability (qtd. in Zhou Jian 508). In his first point, all suffixes have to consist of derivational morphemes in preference of inflectional morphemes. Secondly, Mr. Wang stated that the position of a suffix in a word has to be fixed at the end; it need not to form a new word independently at the head of a word. Thirdly, the meaning of a suffix has to be distinctly desemantized, which means that suffix does not possess any actual semantical function but affixation. Morphemes with clear and distinct semantic meanings are not suffixes. In the fourth rule, Wang defined that suffixes are pronounced atonically; for morphemes that pronounced with any of four tones in Chinese are immature to label as suffix. Like the second character of “table” (桌子), the Zi (子), is a mature and typical suffix that pronounces atonically. Wang also states, in his fifth point, that most suffixes are productive with forming new words when they are serving as markers of part of speech. Wang pointed out that morpheme “Xing” has retained its original meaning to a certain extent and possessed grammatical function of marking part of speech, which distinguishes itself from general morphemes. Considering of previous points, he concluded that morpheme “Xing” should be named as “quasi-suffix” (qtd. in Zhou Jian 508).

Mr. Liu Shuxin stated in *Chinese Descriptive Morphology* that words derivation was a common method of creating new words in many languages but ancient Chinese (qtd. in Wu Dongying, 96). Chinese has its own words formation, such as coordinating, subordinating, and subject-predicate formation to produce abundant compound words. Both Mr. Xie Yaoji and Mr. Liu Yingkai acknowledged that Chinese words’ affixation, also known as derivation, was affected by English (Xie Yoaji, 39). Also, Ms. Wu Dongying defined this situation as “Englishization.” As a newly developed forming method, derivation imported an innovative word forming method to Chinese morphology, which became to create new words productively (qtd. in Wu Dongying). Among plenty of general affixes in

modern Chinese, Mr. Xie indicated that affix “Xing” is a Europeanized affix (40-41). Based on previous definitions and points, the study of the paper would be undergoing on the facts that quasi-suffix “Xing” is a Europeanized character that has been applied on deriving a series of new words in Chinese academic writings.

With a desire and motive to figure out the issue of quasi-suffix “Xing,” the author defined the direction of the study at the expression effectiveness. Therefore, in this paper, there are two research questions, which are “Does adding quasi-suffix ‘Xing’ to the end of abstract nouns express the contextual meaning precisely and clearly?” and “How do we improve the readability: by using professional jargon or words with less confusion?”

In this paper, the author collected eighteen abstracts from papers of eight different fields with two random papers from each category. These fields are medical, social studies, education, art and culture, science, construction, agriculture, and administration. In each field, the author chose two abstracts for research; yet, the “art and culture” field included literature papers, so the author chose four papers for the field. The main research method conducted in this paper is document analysis. The author skimmed out the words composed with quasi-suffix “Xing,” and then classify the semantic meaning of each selected word based on the usages defined in Chinese dictionary compiled by the Ministry of Education. The total entry of the selected word is sixty-six, and the author would analyze these words through discussion and comparison on each word’s semantic meaning. Besides, the author would consult each entry at the Academia Sinica Balanced Corpus of Modern Chinese in order to check the word frequency and ways of application of those affixed words. To improve the credibility, the author also interviewed one professor from Chinese Department whose specialty is Chinese semantics, morphology and Chinese characters to see how she think about application of quasi-suffix “Xing” in Chinese academic writing.

Before analyzing the selected words, the author consulted two authorized dictionaries in order to figure out the basic meanings of the character “Xing.” According to the *Ministry*

of *Education Revised Chinese Dictionary*, there are seven different explanations of character “Xing,” which covers the meanings of “feature, nature” (category B), “function, ability” (category C), and “manner, scope” (category D). In *Chinese Great Dictionary*, there are twelve different definitions and usages of “Xing” that covers the category meanings of “spirit, value, thinking” (category A), “feature, nature” (category B), and “manner, scope” (category D). After compiling and checking with those meanings repeatedly, the author found out there are six basic categories of meanings or usages that are related to those had been applied in Chinese academic writing (see table 1). However, in most authorized dictionaries, the definitions and meanings of character “Xing” do not include “to serve as grammatical function marker for noun and adjective.” The author could still find the character “Xing” applied this way. Authorized dictionaries revision might not be instant enough to update the current language change. Only dictionaries revised by non-government group, like *Handian*, provide definition of grammatical function usage as an entry. Yet, *Handian* simply defines the noun marker in the entry. Considering the “Xing-composed” word’s conditions in those chosen papers, noun marker does not correspond to each entry. Apparently, another category, adjective marker, is reasonable and necessary for the research. Therefore, even with explanations and definitions from authorized dictionaries, the author still consider it obligatory to single out two different grammatical markers from the consulted dictionaries.

Table 1

Category and Meanings or Usages of the Character “Xing”

| Category | Meanings/ Usages | Entries of selected words | percentage |
|----------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| A | Spirit, value, thinking | 2 | 3 |
| B | Feature, nature | 17 | 26 |
| C | Function, ability | 1 | 1 |

| | | | |
|---|------------------|----|----|
| D | Manner, scope | 7 | 11 |
| E | Adjective marker | 12 | 18 |
| F | Noun marker | 27 | 41 |

The statistical results shows that the character “Xing” are generally grammatical functioned (see fig. 1). It is obvious to tell that more than half of entries of “Xing” words are serving as noun or adjective markers. This fact indicates that many scholars oftentimes employ character “Xing” through its grammar function (categories E and F) rather than meanings that had been existing for long time. In only one-fourth of situation, scholars would apply character “Xing” with the meaning “feature” and “nature” (category B). The results imply that in one-tenth of conditions scholars employed character “Xing” with meanings “manner,” “scope,” and “degree” (category D).

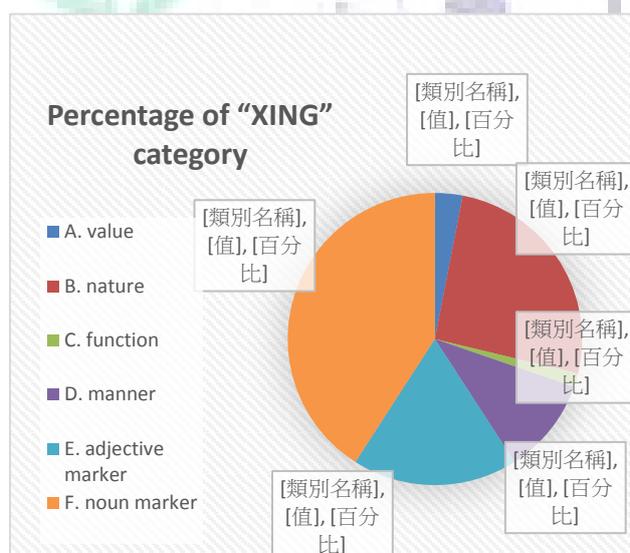


Fig. 1 Percentage of six categories “Xing”

In order to completely understand the contextual meaning of character “Xing” in each entry of each abstract, the study would discuss the selected words abstract by abstract, instead of discussing individually. In addition, the results would be distributed into table 2 to demonstrate the category and meaning of each “Xing” entry as well as the necessity of employing the character in every entry. The alphabet “N” stands for unnecessary, and the alphabet “Y” stands for necessary. For those entries that are considered unnecessary to affix

with “Xing,” there would be another word for reference in suggestion column. In light of the profession in different field, it’s not proper to assert those selected words that applied “Xing” inappropriately are wrong and suggestion words are right. Words for reference are simply tentative suggestion to reduce the confusing terms. To original authors of those papers, suggestion words are optional. Last but not the least, there are asterisks in some entries in table 2, which means that the entry displays more than twenty entries in Academia Sinica Balanced Corpus of Modern Chinese (Chen Kejian).

Table 2 List of Selected Words and Meanings, Suggestion of Each Entry

| Number | Chinese | English | Necessity | Meaning | Suggestion |
|--------|---------|-----------------------|-----------|---------|------------|
| 1 | 描述性 | Descriptive | N | E | 描述 |
| 2 | *相關性 | correlation | N | F | 關聯 |
| 3 | 模糊性 | Ambiguity | N | F | 模糊 |
| 4 | 不可預知性 | Unpredictability | N | F | 不可預知 |
| 5 | 訊息性 | Informational | N | E | 資訊 |
| 6 | 敏感性 | Sensitivity | N | D | 敏感度 |
| 7 | 特異性 | Specificity | N | D | 特異度 |
| 8 | 晤談流暢性 | smoothness | N | D | 流暢(度) |
| 9 | *晤談刺激性 | Arousal | N | D | 刺激 |
| 10 | *晤談積極性 | Positivity | N | D | 積極 |
| 11 | 公正性 | Justification | N | F | 公義/公允 |
| 12 | 科技性 | Technical | N | E | 科技 |
| 13 | *技術性 | Technical | N | E | 技術 |
| 14 | 易操作性 | Easiness of operation | N | F | 操作難易 |
| 15 | 便利性 | Convenience | N | F | 便利 |

| | | | | | |
|----|------|--------------------|---|---|-------|
| 16 | 協助性 | auxiliaries | N | F | 助益 |
| 17 | 工具性 | Instrumental | N | E | 工具型 |
| 18 | 情感性 | Expressive | N | E | 情感型 |
| 19 | 聰穎性 | Intellect | N | F | 智力 |
| 20 | 嚴謹性 | Conscientiousness | N | F | 嚴謹 |
| 21 | 和善性 | Agreeableness | N | F | 和善 |
| 22 | 霸道性 | Domineering | N | F | 蠻橫 |
| 23 | 目標性 | Goal | N | F | 有目標 |
| 24 | 針對性 | Pertinence | N | E | 適切 |
| 25 | 科學性 | Science | N | B | 合科學 |
| 26 | 文化性 | Culture | N | B | 有文化特色 |
| 27 | 實用性 | Practicability | N | F | 實用 |
| 28 | 真實性 | Authenticity | N | F | 真實 |
| 29 | 趣味性 | Interest | N | F | 趣味 |
| 30 | 抒情性 | Emotiveness | N | B | 抒情韻味 |
| 31 | 表現性 | Lyrical expression | N | B | 表現義涵 |
| 32 | 價值性 | values | N | F | 價值 |
| 33 | 藝術性 | Expression | N | A | 藝術價值 |
| 34 | 試探性 | Tests (v) | N | E | 試探 |
| 35 | *可行性 | Adaptability | N | F | 可行 |
| 36 | 開放性 | Not restricted | N | B | 開放 |
| 37 | *多樣性 | Diversity | N | B | 多元 |
| 38 | 曖昧性 | Ambiguity | N | F | 曖昧 |
| 39 | 互文性 | Intertextuality | N | B | 互文 |
| 40 | 多義性 | multiplicity | N | B | 多義 |

| | | | | | |
|----|-------|--------------------------|---|---|------|
| 41 | *前瞻性 | Perspectiveness | N | A | 未來展望 |
| 42 | 可操作性 | Maneuverability | N | B | 生機調和 |
| 43 | 空間私密性 | Privacy of space | N | F | 私密空間 |
| 44 | 可動性 | Active | N | E | 靈動的 |
| 45 | 可適性 | Adaptive | N | E | 調節式 |
| 46 | 非線性 | Non-linear | Y | B | - |
| 47 | 時變性 | Real-time operational | Y | B | - |
| 48 | 準確性 | Accuracy | N | D | 精準度 |
| 49 | 調適性 | Adaptive | Y | E | - |
| 50 | *安全性 | Accuracy | N | D | 精準度 |
| 51 | 自明性 | Identity | Y | B | - |
| 52 | 主從性 | Thematic | N | F | 主題 |
| 53 | *整體性 | Coherence | N | F | 整體 |
| 54 | 清晰性 | Legibility | N | F | 清晰 |
| 55 | 抗病性 | Resistance | N | C | 抗病力 |
| 56 | 拮抗性 | Antagonistic | Y | E | - |
| 57 | 應用性 | application | N | F | 應用 |
| 58 | 分枝性 | Branching factors | N | F | 分枝現象 |
| 59 | *相關性 | Correlation | N | F | 關聯 |
| 60 | 草根性 | Grassroots | Y | B | - |
| 61 | 文化性 | Cultural features | N | B | 文化 |
| 62 | 獨特性 | Uniqueness | N | F | 獨特 |
| 63 | 經營特色性 | Unique management | N | F | 經營特色 |
| 64 | 相似性 | Similarity | N | B | 相似 |

| | | | | | |
|----|------|-----------|---|---|-----|
| 65 | *一般性 | General | N | B | 一般 |
| 66 | 不對稱性 | Asymmetry | N | B | 不對稱 |

In the first paper “An Analysis of the Children with Inguinal Hernia Admitted to Taipei City Medical Center and Their Primary Caregiver's Uncertainty,” there are five “Xing-affixed” words which are serving as grammatical markers (see table 2 and the appendix). The “Xing” in word “descriptive” and “informational” are served as adjective marker, while the “Xing” in the rest three words are served as noun marker. These words don't seem to show contextual difference when the quasi-suffix is deprived.

In the paper “The Associated Factors of Peripheral Arterial Occlusive Disease in Patients Received Kidney Transplantation,” the usage of quasi-suffix “Xing” in words “sensitivity” and “specificity” are category D (see table 2). Lin might want to say “degree” or “extent” in his abstract, yet his word choice did not express the meaning clearly (Lin Xiuying). As *Ministry of Education Revised Chinese Dictionary* describes in the seventh explanation, the character “Xing” means “scope or manner.” It does not define any meaning related to “degree” or “extent” in the entry. Only affix “Du” (度) means “degree.” Consequently, replacing “Du” with “Xing” would be a clear option.

The “Xing” in three words of the third paper belong to the category D as well (see table 2). Weng described the interaction and reaction between interviewer and interviewee with these three words (Weng Lingzhen). Weng might intent to say “how does interviewee appear and react ?” which probably approaches to the meaning of “degree” or “extent” than “Xing” itself (Weng Lingzhen). For this reason, to affix these words with “Du” might be clear and less confusing.

In the fourth paper, there are two “Xing” served as adjective marker and four of “Xing” served as noun marker (see table 2). Each of grammatically functioned “Xing” here does not possess any actual meaning (Su Zhengmin). For adjective marker, “Xing” plays definite function. However, noun marker “Xing” does not show any importance, as those affixed

words are noun originally in this abstract. Therefore, apply those words the way they are would clear enough.

In the fifth paper, “Xing” is affixed with words describing children’s traits with parents’ participance (Xie Qingru) (see appendix). Among six selected words, two “Xing” are adjective markers while four are noun markers (see table 2). For those two adjective entries, it is true to use an adjective to describe the traits of children with parental participance. However, applying “Xing” on the word “instrumental” to describe children might have them appeared as certain tool. The character “Xing” (型) that stands for “type” might be appropriate to describe children. There are two awkward places in the other four selected words. First of all, those words are noun originally; noun affixation is completely redundant. Secondly, merely no Chinese speaker would add “Xing” after those words since these expressions do not make sense. For replacement, Mr. Xie might take away the quasi-suffix or change with original expression that exist in Chinese.

Chen stated seven principals of designing teaching materials with seven “Xing-affixed” words (Chen Shuhui) (see appendix). Four entries of “Xing” are serving as noun marker, two of them mean “feature” (category B), and one is serving as adjective marker (see table 2). For those noun marker “Xing” entries, only the word “goal” needs to replace with “有目標” while the rest of three words simply need to remove the quasi-suffix. In entries that quasi-suffix meaning “feature,” it should be replaced by “合科學” and “有文化特色” as the original word choice is awkward in the contexts. The entry “針對性” should change to “適切” to serve as adjective better.

In the paper “Calligraphy of Political Ambitions and Statecraft: A Study on Yan Zhen-qing’s Regular Script Style,” the quasi-suffix in those two entries means “feature” (see table2)(Fang Lingguag). Those two entries do not make much sense. The words “抒情性” and “表現性” could be replaced with “抒情韻味” and “表現意涵,” and this would reduce the confusion as most readers might have difficulty understanding “抒情性” and “表現性.”

In the eighth paper, “Xing” serves as a noun marker in one entry and means “value” in the other (see table 2). Whether to employ “價值性” or “價值” in this abstract, they are all nouns. Adding “Xing” does not make any difference. The other entry “藝術性” is very ambiguous and obscure. The reader might wonder whether it indicates the art element in a picture book or the variations of art in a picture book. Nevertheless, Lin might want to say the value of art in a picture book (Lin Guanyu). Therefore, using the word “藝術價值” might be easier for readers to catch the idea.

In the ninth paper, there are four selected words (see appendix). Each word would be precise if the quasi-suffix is removed. In addition, the translations in this abstract are inconsistent. The “Xing” in entry “試探性” serves as an adjective marker, yet the English counter word was a verb. The “Xing” in entry “可行性” serves as a noun marker, but the translation is “adaptability” rather than “practicability.” Judging from the English, what Hunag Yuman is trying to say is not very clear. The third entry “開放性” is even more inconsistent while the English translation is “not restricted.” Maybe the Chinese word should apply “沒有侷限” to give a better semantical sketch.

In the paper “The Study of Chinese-Style Phenomenon in Pop Songs,” there are three selected words (see appendix). Character “Xing” serves as a noun marker in the first entry which is considered redundant. Both in second and the third entry, the “Xing” means “feature,” yet the second entry would be clear if simply remove the “Xing” while the third need to specify the word “多義特色.”

In the eleventh paper, “Xing” means value in the first entry and feature in the second (see appendix). Judging from the whole sentence, Mao Dehua et al. might wanted to say “future possibility” and “adjustable conditions around the lake.” Therefore, the contextual meaning might be clear if change those entries with the words “未來展望” and “生機調和.”

In the twelfth paper, “Xing” serves as noun marker in the first entry and adjective in

the second and third entry (see appendix). Zhang might want to say “private space,” but he referred to “空間私密性” and “privacy of space” in his abstract, which made readers feel strange if read it several times (Zhang Junyuan). Other than a physical word, privacy is an abstract word that would not take an elevation construction. Comparatively, a private space would be reasonable and possible to accept the elevation construction. The second word “可動性” might cause confusion like “moveable” without learning the word “active” in abstract. Consequently, Chinese word “靈動的” might be close to Zhang’s original intention. The third entry “可適性” emphasizes the “adaptive,” yet such expression in Chinese is not much understandable than “調節式.”

There are five selected words in the thirteenth paper, and three “Xing-affixed” are necessary (see appendix and table 2). Both the first and second entries mean “feature,” and the “Xing” is necessary to affix. These two jargon are so professional that readers might not catch the idea at the first glance, yet there would not be better replacing words for suggestion. The other word that is necessary for affixation is the fourth entry, “調適性,” and the same reason happen to this entry as well. “Xing” serves as an irreplaceable adjective marker. The “Xing” closely means “scope” in rest of two entries, but the character “Xing” does not explain the concept of “quantify.” To replace them with “精準度” and “穩定度” would express the concept much clearer.

In the fourteenth paper, the “Xing” means “feature” in the first entry and serves as noun marker for the rest of three entries (see appendix). The first entry is so special that it has variable explanations in different fields. Though it possesses different meanings comparing to the literally one, it still count as one entry that needs affixation. The other three entries come from the same sentence and Chen might want to keep them consistent in nouns. However, both Chinese and English entries fail to keep consistency. Therefore, remove the quasi-suffix would reach the condition.

In the fifteenth paper, the “Xing” means “ability” in the first entry, serves as an

adjective marker in the second entry, and noun marker for the third (see appendix). For the first entry, it would be precise to use the word “抗病力” to stand for “ability.” The second entry is a professional term, which is necessary to affix. The “Xing” in the third entry is a meaningless component, as it does not have an actual meaning. It would be concise to wave out the quasi-suffix.

In the sixteenth paper, the “Xing” serves as noun marker in both two entries (see appendix). Plus, the quasi-suffix does not express Kang’s original ideas well (Kang Jianghan). The word “分枝性” is confusing since readers might have no idea about it. Judging from the abstract’s English translation, Kang might want to say “分枝現象” (Kang Jianghan). The word “相關性” is another word that would not self-explain clearer with “Xing” affixed. It would be less redundant to use “關聯.”

In the seventeenth paper, there are four “Xing-affixed” entries (see appendix). The “Xing” means “feature” in the first and second entries. But the first entry the only one necessary for affixation since it explain the “feature of being closed to the land”. Quasi-suffix “Xing” appears like a noun marker in the second entry for the first glance. After reading through the abstract, we can find that Sun might want to specialize on “feature” though the affixation make the entry nominalized (Sun Xiuhui). Therefore, employing the word “文化” or “文化氣質” might be clear to readers. Quasi-suffix “Xing” simply serves as noun marker in the third and the fourth entries, and both of them are redundant. Taking away the quasi-suffix is strongly suggested.

There are three “Xing-affixed” entries in the eighteenth paper, and all of them are related to “nature” (see appendix). In Chinese, words like “相似性,” “一般性,” and “不對稱性” look like adjective and noun; the reason is they function as predicate in a sentence. That means their part of speech would not be fixed as noun or adjective but variable. Consequently, this kind of words are able to take a noun behind them without affixation. Therefore, quasi-suffix “Xing” is not necessary for affixation here.

Throughout this research, the author simply found six entries with “Xing” are considered necessary, and the main reason was the profession in different fields (see table 2). These terms are created or translated on the basis of well-developed Chinese language proficiency that offer readers clarity and less confusion. However, the proportion this kind of “Xing” entry is very small. On the other hand, the major usage of noun marker “Xing” in these abstracts seems to be preliminary translation, which cause much confusion for readers. Furthermore, since there are still many different explanations for “Xing,” it would be ineffective to affix new words with one quasi-suffix while it contains various meaning. This paper may not conclude an official application principal of quasi-suffix “Xing,” yet it is worthy to think about how to apply “Xing” through the discussion.

Responding to the first research question of the paper, “Does adding quasi-suffix ‘Xing’ to the end of abstract words express the contextual meaning precisely and clearly?” the answer is negative. Adding “Xing” at the end of abstract words does not express the contextual meaning precisely and clearly in most cases. The results show that most “Xing-affixed” entries do not clearly convey the original meaning for those authors. Some of entries are illogical and awkward, leaving readers guessing the meaning of professional terms themselves. This is not an effective way in Chinese academic writing. There is a critical point that those authors may ignore: Chinese language features. There are many disyllabificated words in Chinese which render speakers express effectively. Also, many words in Chinese are polycategory, which means the part of speech of a word is variable depending on the position in a sentence. That is why the author provide many two-character words for reference. Secondly, how do we improve the readability: by using professional jargon or words with less confusion? To improve the readability, we can compose Chinese academic essays according to its lingual features, employ clear words, and be aware of translated terms. Actually, there are many replacing words for selected words in the paper, and those replacing words already exist for a long time. It is better for writers referring to

existing words before applying translation. Finally, reconsider the clarity of word choice would also improve the readability.

Apart from the previous results, the author had two discoveries. First, there is an inconsistency in the English and Chinese terms. In the twelfth and thirteenth paper, there are two “adaptive” entries (see table 2). However, the counter Chinese terms are different (可適性, 調適性). Though they are applied in different contexts, they share the same meaning. This indicates that the arbitrariness of translation. Second, the author neglected the semantic difference between two languages that cause the obscurity. In the seventeenth paper, the author Sun Xiuhui used grassroots for the translation of the word “草根性” (see appendix). In English, the grassroots stands for lower class or general people who has lower income in a society. This word relates to the class change through rebellion. In Chinese, “草根性” stands for peasants who has strong recognition to the county and land. Somewhat the word is associated with kindness and hospitality. Sun Xiuhui may want to use the term to show the hospitality of a B&B owner, which has a large difference from the “grassroots” that has lower income and involvement with rebellion. This is also a point that might cause huge confusion.

In conclusion, through this study, we found out that “Xing” affixation is common in Chinese academic writing, yet the effectiveness and precision need to be improved. Quasi-suffix “Xing” is a vividly developing lingual component that would affect Chinese for long time. It is useful and productive; meanwhile, it would require consideration and pertinence for application to prevent from abuse.

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Appendix

Lists of selected words and original sentences from the abstracts

| No. | Category | Title |
|---|----------------------|--|
| 1 | medical | 兒童腹股溝疝氣現況及其主要照顧者不確定感相關因素探討-以北市某醫學中心為例 |
| Author | 陳憶紅 Chen Yihong | An analysis of the children with Inguinal Hernia admitted to Taipei City Medical Center and their primary caregiver's uncertainty |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 描述性 Descriptive | | 共收案 123 名主要照顧者，使用 SPSS18.0 統計軟體進行 描述性 統計 There were 123 primary caregivers recruited. SPSS18.0 statistical software used by undertaking descriptive statistics |
| 相關性 correlation | | 以結構式問卷調查疝氣兒童之主要照顧者與不確定感之間的 相關性 Pearson correlation analysis and multiple regression analysis conduct statistical analysis methods |
| 模糊性 ambiguity 不可預知性 unpredictability | | 整體不確定感介於「中等程度」，其中以「 模糊性 」不確定感最高，其次為「不可預知性」不確定感 the overall level of uncertainty was "medium," and the uncertainty in ambiguity was highest, followed by the uncertainty in unpredictability |
| 訊息性 informational | | 臨床護理人員應提供 訊息性 社會支持的介入措施 Nurses should be provide informational support |
| No. | category | Title |
| 2 | medical | 腎臟移植病人術後罹患周邊動脈阻塞疾病之相關因素探討 |
| Author | 林秀櫻 Lin Xiuying | The associated factors of peripheral arterial occlusive disease in patients received kidney transplantation |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 敏感性 sensitivity | | 單獨使用肱踝壓力指數、愛丁堡跛行問卷與下肢脈搏血氧飽和度篩檢時， 敏感性 與 特異性 較一般族群差，且下肢脈搏血氧飽和度之敏感度與特異度最低 |
| 特異性 specificity | | The results of sensitivity and specificity among the brachial ankle pressure index, Edinburgh claudication questionnaire, and lower extremity pulse oximetry were lower than literature that used general population as samples. |
| No. | category | Title |
| 3 | social studies | 個別諮商歷程中 interpersonal 行為之分析研究 |
| Author | 翁令珍 Wong Lingzhen | A study of the interpersonal behaviors in individual counseling process |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 晤談流暢性 smoothness | | 互動組型以「互補」為主的配對，當事人一開始就有較高的「 晤談流暢性 」，而「 晤談刺激性 」原偏低但提升幅度大 |
| 晤談刺激性 arousal | | |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| | | among which “ smoothness ” was elevated as the pattern with most “complementarity” |
| 晤談積極性 positivity | | 得到當事人較高的「信任依賴」時，當事人知覺的「晤談深度」、「晤談積極性」或「晤談刺激性」會較高 when the counselors behaved with control and the client trusted more frequently, “depth”, “ positivity ”, and “ arousal ” seemed to be elevated |
| No. | category | Title |
| 4 | social studies | 提昇道路交通事故處理效能之研究 |
| Author | 蘇政敏 Su Zhengmin | No English title |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 公正性 justification | | 警察機關職司交通事故處理蒐證，其處理與調查結果能影響事故刑事、民事、行政等肇事責任追訴之公正性 The police take charge of the traffic accident investigation and the result of its investigation affects the justification of the follow-up suits against the penal, civil and administrative responsibilities of accident. |
| 科技性 technical | | 提供有效的事故處理標準作業程序與圖表，以強化各項科技性蒐證能力 It should provide effective standardized operation procedure and schematic of the accident investigation to intensify every technical evidence-collecting capability. |
| 技術性 technical | | 並以標準圖式表格協助處理人員迅速正確校核，完成各種技術性檢查 The standardized schematic forms can help the investigators who check up correctly and speedily to complete each technical investigation. |
| 易操作性, easiness of operation | | 經實地二週測試後，在處理手冊之易操作性、表格填寫之便利性、表格之協助性及處理品質之提昇等方面... After two weeks at-scene tests, both the user and checker have made a positive appraisal of the manual's easiness of operation form-filling convenience , form auxiliaries , and handling quality's improvement. |
| 便利性 convenience | | |
| 協助性 auxiliaries | | |
| No. | category | Title |
| 5 | education | 父母參與與子女性別角色概念、性格特質、幸福感及學業表現之相關研究 The Relations between Parental Involvement and Children's Sex-Role Traits, Sex-Stereotype, Personality Traits, Well-Being, and Academic Performance |
| Author | 謝青儒 Xie Qingru | |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 工具性 Instrumental | | 父親參與與母親參與對其子女的工具性與情感性的特質的增進皆各有貢獻 Both father's and mother's involvement can contribute to children's instrumental and expressive traits. |
| 情感性 expressive | | |
| 聰穎性 intellect | | 父母參與對於子女的聰穎性、嚴謹性、和善性皆各有增進效應 Parental involvement had positive effect on Intellect , Conscientiousness , and Agreeableness trait of their children. |
| 嚴謹性 conscientiousness | | |
| 和善性 agreeableness | | |
| 霸道性 domineering | | 父母參與程度與子女之霸道性、神經質則無顯著相關 |

| | | Parental involvement was not associated with children's domineering and neuroticism trait. |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|
| No. | category | Title |
| 6 | education | 法律華語教材設計與研究 |
| Author | 陳淑惠 Chen Shuhui | The Design and Research of Legal Chinese Teaching Materials |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 目標性 Goal | | 在第三階段發展設計的製作階段，根據本研究導出的法律華語教材編寫準則－目標性、針對性、科學性、文化性、實用性、真實性、趣味性，設計一課法律華語教材的示範教材，呈現本研究之教材設計成果 |
| 針對性 pertinence | | |
| 科學性 science | | |
| 文化性 culture | | |
| 實用性 practicability | | |
| 真實性 authenticity | | |
| 趣味性 interest | | |
| No. | category | Title |
| 7 | art and culture | 干祿之心、經世之書：顏真卿(709-785)楷書考論 |
| Author | 方令光 Fang Lingguang | Calligraphy of Political Ambitions and Statecraft : A Study on Yan Zhen-qing's Regular Script Style |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 抒情性 emotiveness | | 正因顏體繼承了盛唐官楷的實用、功利主義，不強調楷書的抒情性和表現性，於是不得到傳統派評論家的青睞 |
| 表現性 expression | | |
| No. | category | Title |
| 8 | art and culture | 安東尼·布朗圖畫書中插畫之超現實主義風格研究 |
| Author | 林冠玉 Lin Guanyu | A study of Surrealistic style of illustration in Anthony Browne's Picture Books |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 價值性 values | | 插畫風格的百花齊放形成了圖畫書豐富的圖像語言，傳達出別的書籍所沒有的趣味和美感，也突顯出插畫創作者的圖畫風格的 價值性 |
| 藝術性 expression | | These abundant characteristics show fun and aesthetics that the other books lack of, and also emphasize the values of author's illustration style. |
| 藝術性 expression | | 安東尼·布朗的插畫風格更豐富了圖畫書的 藝術性 |
| | | His surrealistic style of illustration makes the pictures tell the story and enrich the expression picture books. |

| No. | category | Title |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 9 | art and culture | 圖文互動繪本創作模式之研究與應用 |
| Author | 黃玉滿 Huang Yuman | The Model Method of Making Picture-Story-Book by Interaction Between Story and Picture |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 試探性 test | | 對於不同的媒材技法、風格和圖文關係做 試探性 研究與分析 Chapter four treats the medium and technique, tests the interaction of the story and picture and apply the method to creative act. |
| 可行性 adaptability | | 證明雙碼理論及創造力聯結理論，運用在繪本創作有極大 可行性 The purpose is to show the adaptability of the theory Dual Coding Theory and Associate Theory of creativity in making picture-story-book. |
| 開放性 not restricted | | 過程具有 開放性 The process is not restricted . |
| 多樣性 diversity | | 風格與技法的 多樣性 The diversity of technique and style. |
| No. | category | Title |
| 10 | art and culture | 華語流行歌曲中國風現象研究 |
| Author | 江亭誼 Jiang Tingyi | The Study of Chinese-Style Phenomenon in Pop Songs |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 曖昧性 ambiguity | | 第三章主要是探討「中國認同」的 曖昧性 ，從歷史的、文化的角度，觀看存在已久又不斷演變的台灣意識及各種離散的中國認同 Chapter 3 inquires the ambiguity of China identity at the historic and cultural perspectives to view the long-existing and evolving Taiwan ideology and dispersed China identity. |
| 互文性 intertextuality | | 第五章以作品論與作者論為主軸，分析詞曲的中西文化相互挪用的 互文性 Chapter 5 states the pieces and authors by analyzing the intertextuality of lyrical use of Chinese and western cultures. |
| 多義性 multiplicity | | 在欣賞流行歌曲的與各種理論與現實的拉扯之間，存在著各種不穩定的解讀以及各種「中國的」 多義性 This paper presents the diversified ideologies and complexes of Taiwanese by inquiring the changes of Chinese-style pop songs and hence indicates that there are the variety of unstable interpretations and the Chinese multiplicity in the conflict of pop-song appreciation, theories and reality. |
| No. | category | Title |
| 11 | science | 洞庭湖區水生生態環境保育戰略研究 |
| Authors | 毛德華及其他 Mao Dehua et al. | Water Ecological Conservation Strategy for the Dongting Lake Area |

| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
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| 前瞻性 perspectiveness | | 洞庭湖區水生生態環境保育應遵循協調發展、和諧共贏，分區控制、分類指導，因地制宜、符合實際，統籌兼顧、縱橫銜接，注重 前瞻性 與 可操作性 ，保障重點、注重實施等原則 Water ecological conservation must abide by the following principles: coordinated and harmonious development, zone control and guide, adjusting measures to local conditions, making overall plan and taking all factors into consideration, perspectiveness and maneuverability , ensuring the important projects and paying great attention to implementation. |
| 可操作性 maneuverability | | |
| No. | category | Title |
| 12 | science | 可適性皮層系統 |
| Author | 張峻淵 Zhang Junyuan | Adaptive Sustainable Skin System |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 空間私密性 privacy of space | | 在現今的建築裡，立面的使用多是在氣候條件以及 空間私密性 等等用途 Nowadays, elevation are mostly used in response to the concerns of climatic conditions and privacy of space . |
| 可動性 active | | 本研究的目的為應用參數化的設計手法，將機能與環境的因素在設計階段套入，並塑造具有 可動性 的操作形式 This essay aims to mold an active operating shape by using some parametric designs combining factors of function and environment during the phase of design. |
| 可適性 adaptive | | 設計研究方法依序分為兩個層面，從文獻和案例的參數設計中改寫並加入新元素，從「固定式形隨幾何」到「 可適性動態構造 」的操作演變裡截取出需要的數據 to acquire necessary data from operation of transforming "Form follows Geometry" into " adaptive dynamic structure ", trying to transform two-dimensional plane into three-dimensional dynamics to make the conformation more environmental and durable |
| No. | category | Title |
| 13 | construction | 人工智慧於都市防洪排水系統控制之研究 |
| Author | 張凱堯 Zhang Kaiyao | Artificial Intelligence for City Flood Control System |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 非線性 Non-linear | | 本研究目的在透過人工智慧相關技術，模擬人類學習、適應、回想等能力，以解決都市排水複雜的 非線性 與 時變性 系統問題 This study aims to construct water-level prediction models in urban drainage systems and real-time operational guidelines for flood control pumping stations by using artificial intelligent techniques (AI). The AI techniques could effectively solve highly non-linear control problems and robustly tune the complicated conversion of human |
| 時變性 real-time operational | | |

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| | | intelligence to logical operating system. |
| 準確性 accuracy | | 經測試不同時距輸入資料格式之多階段水位預測模式，成功建立預測 準確性 極高之雨水下水道水位預測模式 The results show that BPNN could satisfyingly predict the water level with high accuracy . |
| 調適性 adaptive | | 其次探討反傳遞模糊類神經網路(CFNN)及 調適性 模糊類神經網路(ANFIS)於都市防洪抽水站即時操作指引模式之應用 The real-time operation guidelines for pumping stations in urban areas are future investigated by using counterpropagation fuzzy-neural network (CFNN) and adaptive network-based fuzzy inference system (ANFIS). |
| 安全性 reliability | | 因此應用 ANFIS 建構之防洪抽水站即時操作指引模式，將可提供抽水站管理人員即時操作建議，提昇抽水站操作效率及 安全性 The real-time operation guidelines formed by ANFIS are recommended to managers for promoting operation efficiency and reliability . |
| No. | category | Title |
| 14 | construction | 都市街道自明性之研究—以台中市為例 |
| Author | 陳念炫 Chen Nianxuan | A Study on the Urban streets' Identity—Case Study of Taichung City |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 自明性 identity | | 本研究以環境知覺為基礎，探討實質環境元素與 自明性 的關係 This study intends to explore the linkage between identity and the physical element of streets. |
| 主從性 thematic | | 研究結果指出 主從性 、 整體性 、美感、方向感和 清晰性 ，可以作為自明性的認知因素 Results indicated that thematic, coherence, aesthetic, orientation, and legibility could be the factors of identity |
| 整體性 coherence | | |
| 清晰性 legibility | | |
| No. | category | Title |
| 15 | agriculture | 拮抗性桿菌屬(Bacillus spp.)於水稻白葉枯病防治之應用及其作用機制 |
| Author | 王詩雯 Wang Shiwen | Control of rice bacterial blight by antagonistic Bacillus spp. - the potential application and the mode of action |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 抗病性 resistance | | 本病害之防治管理仍有待 抗病性 水稻品種之發展 Because the lack of effective chemicals, the disease management depend greatly upon the use of resistance cultivars. |
| 拮抗性 antagonistic | | 本研究旨在開發本土分離之 拮抗性 桿菌菌株於水稻白葉枯病防治之應用並檢測其可能之防治作用機制 The main objectives of this investigation were to explore the potential of antagonistic bacilli native in Taiwan for the control of leaf blight on rice, and to learn the possibly |

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| | | involved mechanism. |
| 應用性 application | | 此兩拮抗菌株對於白葉枯防治之 應用性 ，經利用溫室水稻剪葉接種方式進行測試，結果發現兩拮抗菌於包括 TK8、TN67、TCS10 與 TN1 等不同品種水稻之白葉枯病皆有顯著之防治效果 The application of both isolates successfully controlled the leaf blight infection on TK8, TN 67, TCS 10, and TN 1 rice; the efficacy was manifested by the significantly reduced disease severity and percent infection. |
| No. | category | Title |
| 16 | agriculture | 聖誕紅實生苗性狀之相關性及嫁接對實生苗插穗營養系性狀之影響 |
| Author | 康江漢 Kang Jianghan | Correlation between Characteristics of Poinsettia Seedling and the Effect of Grafting on Characteristics of Cutting's clone from Grafted Seedlings |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 分枝性 branching | | 首先利用雜交育種的方式選出優良單株，再與 3 個易分枝品種 EF、GS 及 Ps 嫁接轉殖菌質的方法導入分枝性媒介，促使實生苗產生 分枝性 Three commercial cultivars EF, GS and Ps were using to transmission branching factor to 16 selected seedlings in 1997. |
| 相關性 correlation | | 由實生苗性狀 相關性 分析可知，聖誕紅節間長度與第一及第二大戟花序間距、葉片身長度與苞葉身長度以及葉片寬度與苞葉寬度之間有顯著 相關性 存在 There were correlation between node length and distance from first cyathium to second, leaf length and bract length, and leaf width and bract width of hybrid seedlings. |
| No. | category | Title |
| 17 | administration | 民宿經營之關鍵因素以鹿谷鄉小半天民宿村為例 |
| Author | Sun Xiuhui 孫秀惠 | Key Factors for Homestay Management - A Case Study of Lugu Country Xiao Ban Tain Homestay Village |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 草根性 grassroots | | 而台灣的特色民宿具備的 草根性與文化性 ，以農業與鄉村為發展根源，成為與在地資源具有高度文化及產業具有高度聯結之接待服務業 |
| 文化性 cultural | | The homestay in Taiwan providing with grassroots and cultural feature where are developed at rural area which is the typical industry of reception service is one of the important catalysts to promote Taiwan tourism. |
| 獨特性 uniqueness | | 經營關鍵準則為「戶外景觀設計的美化與 獨特性 」、「環境清潔與維護」、「行銷推廣」、「 經營特色性 」、「對環境、生態保持尊重，以有機樂活態度經營民宿」與「服務效率及態度」 |
| 經營特色性 unique management | | According to the results of this analysis, the key aspects of the homestay owners is “The embellishment and uniqueness for the outside design of a homestay”, “The environmental sanitary and maintenance”, “The marketing and promotion”, “The unique management ”, “The respect for the environment and ecology, with the attitude toward organic life to manage a homestay”, “The efficiency of service and manner.” |

| No. | category | Title |
|----------------|-------------------|---|
| 18 | administration | 時間序列型態之知識探索 |
| Author | 許哲銘 Xu Zheming | Discovery of Time-Series Patterns in Databases |
| Selected words | | Original sentence/text |
| 相似性 similarity | | <p>探索時間序列型態資料 (time-series patterns) 的相似性關係，可用來偵測事件或者預測未來的行為發展</p> <p>Past work related to this research area focused on the development of time-series similarity models and adopted the exhaustive search strategy to find time-series sequences (or subsequences) that was similar to a query sequence.</p> |
| 一般性 general | | <p>過去的研究中也未探索如何從時間序列型態資料中探勘出一般性時間序列型態資料 (general time-series patterns) 的方法</p> <p>On the other hand, mining general time-series patterns from a set of time-series data have not been addressed in the past research.</p> |
| 不對稱性 asymmetry | | <p>當使用適當參數，無論在資料量大小、群集數多寡，以及群集不對稱性程度，本論文所提出之技術比窮盡搜尋方法更有效率</p> <p>According to the empirical evaluation results, the proposed technique with an appropriate parameter value was more efficient than and obtained search results nearly identical to the traditional exhaustive search technique, at any level of data size, number of clusters and degree of cluster asymmetry investigated.</p> |