

A Comparative Analysis of Polysemous Words in Korean and Myanmar Languages (Body-term of Leg)

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Abstract

This paper focuses on the comparison of the body-term of “leg” “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and ခြေ/chay/ in Myanmar language. In studying a foreign language, it is not enough for a learner just to understand and recognize the original meaning of an individual word. It is also necessary to comprehend the polysemous meanings of each and every word. The definition of “발” /bal/ in Korean Dictionary (1999) and that of ခြေ/chay/in Myanmar dictionary (1980) are studied by using comparative analysis in this study. By using the comparative analysis of the features of language, the study is based on the 47 words of daily use polysemous meanings from the original meaning of body-term apart from the original meaning of the word “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and ခြေ/chay in Myanmar language. This research presented 9 usages of similar in original meaning and polysemous meaning, 6 usages of difference in original meaning and polysemous meaning, 18 words that are used only in Korean Language, 14 words that used only in Myanmar Language. According to data from this research, it is found that 19% of meanings are totally similar, 12% of meanings are partly similar, 38% of meanings are used only in Korean Language and 29% of meanings are used in only Myanmar Language out of all the lexical ambiguity of “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ခြေ” /chay in Myanmar language. It is hoped that this paper can help Korean language learners to improve the language skill by having complete understanding the lexical ambiguity of body-term “leg” in both languages.

Keywords: lexical ambiguity, polysemous meaning, body-term “leg” in Korean and Myanmar

Introduction

Meaning is the main sector in communicating orally with each other. In order to understand the message from the speaker to the listener, it is necessary to understand the meaning of words. According to Leech, (1974,10-27)², the study of meaning can be categorized into 7 types : (1) conceptual meaning (2) connotative meaning (3) social meaning (4) affective meaning (5) reflective meaning (6) collective meaning and (7) thematic meaning. From all these 7 types of meaning, conceptual meaning , number (1) is the meaning defined in dictionary (original meaning). From number (2) to (7) are connotative meaning or extended meaning. It is necessary for language learners not only to understand the original meaning but also to comprehend the extended meanings or polysemous meanings of a word. So, this is a paper that investigates the similarities and differences of “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ခြေ” /chay/ in Myanmar Language, not only the original meaning but also polysemous meanings. In this research, it is found that the usages that are in original meaning and polysemous meaning, the usages that are different in the original meaning and polysemous meaning, meanings that exist only in Korean Language and meanings that exist only in Myanmar language.

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² Leech ,1974,P 10-27

Aim

The aim of this research is to develop the language skill by comprehending not only the original meanings, the body-term as in dictionaries but also polysemous meanings of “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ခြေ” /chay / in Myanmar language.

Data and Method

The defined meaning of “발” /bal/ in Korean dictionary and “ခြေ” /chay/ in Myanmar dictionary are comparatively analyzed in this research. To extend the meaning, in Korean Language, 홍사만(1993,1) , daily use, combination use, connection use, Chinese use, conjection use and so on. Among the variety of usages, daily use in the two languages is compared and presented in this research. The meaning extended from original meaning of “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ခြေ” /chay / in Myanmar language are associated with the movement, the social status, the emotion, food, quality, occupancy, the direction of foot and the habit of human nature.

On the study of extensive meaning of “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ခြေ” /chay / in Myanmar language, 9 words that are similar in original meaning and polysemous meaning, 6 words that are different in original meaning and polysemous meaning, 18 words that exist only in Korean Language and 14 words that exist only in Myanmar Language , altogether 47 words are analyzed and presented in this research.

Research Questions

- (1) Why do the students need to understand the polysemous meanings of “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ခြေ” /chay / in Myanmar language?
- (2) How are the polysemous meanings of “발” /bal/ in Korean Language different from that of “ခြေ” /chay / in Myanmar language?
- (3) How are the polysemous meanings of “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ခြေ” /chay / in Myanmar language used in daily life?

Literature Review

It cannot be constantly assumed that every word in all languages around the world has its original meaning. The words are complicated and varied in meanings according to the time and the complicated social status. 이경자 (1997)¹, “ human body is originally defined as the names of the parts of the body. Parts of the body are the vocabularies that are closely associated and straightforward to comprehend for human. So, for these words, they are not enough to be constantly comprehended the original meaning. Language learners need to understand that a word can refer more than one meaning according to social situation and circumstances.

According to linguist, Palmer (1976), there are 4 types of lexical meaning: (1) synonym, (2) polysemy, hypernym and (4) hyponym. In these four types of

¹홍사만 ,1993,P1

meanings, the connection of synonym and polysemy are also connection between morpheme and meaning. More than one word have the similar meaning and it is called synonym, a word is having a multiple meaning and it is called polysemy.

P.hd dissertation, A study of synonym and antonym in Myanmar Language, by Ma Ni Ni Mar (2006) is based on Palmer (1976) and analyzes by comparing synonym and antonym words in Myanmar Language.

According to P.hd dissertation, Semantic analysis of meaning in Myanmar Language, by Ma Mar Lar (2006, 104), the following facts are concerned with the extension of polysemous meanings: Derivation by affixes, derivation by the position of word and derivation by means of collocated words. It was presented that words are interrelated with meanings. So, this paper of comparative analysis of polysemous meaning of “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ခြေ” /chay / in Myanmar language is presented.

Discussion

Polysemous meaning is having multiple meanings which are connected in meaning extended from the original meaning defined in dictionary. Based on this, the original meaning of “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ခြေ” /chay / in Myanmar language according to the definition defined in dictionaries are presented.

I. The original meaning of the “발” /bal/ in Korean Language

The followings are the the definations of “발” /bal/ in Korean Language defined in Korean Dictionary (1999).

1. The bottom part of the leg of animal and human.
2. Part of the thing that support the bottom of objectives such as furniture
3. Short part
4. Word that express to compare the step
5. Word used at the end of Chinese poem
6. Word that express the bottom part as a plural form in Chinese language
7. Quantitative particle that is used to count the steps by combining with the quantitative words

Based on the above definations from dictionary, (1) is the original meaning of the “발” /bal/ in Korean Language, from (2) to (7) are extended meanings. The following is the example sentence for “발” /bal/ in Korean Language used as original meaning.

Example (1), 애들이 축구공을 발로 차고 있다.

Children are kicking football with their legs.

“발” /bal/ in example (1) is the sentence used with the meaning of the action and support the body of human.

The polysemous meaning extended from original meaning as in action (or) walking, social status, character, food and so on. Example sentence used as polysemous meaning is as follow:

Example (2) 그사람은 집안일때문에 발이 묶어서 요새 공부도 못한다.

This man cannot study his lessons because he is occupied with his house chores.

In example (2), the expression 발이 묶다 , the “발” /bal/ is used as the polysemous meaning extended from the original meaning of action or step and it is meant that he is so busy that he cannot study.

II. Meaning of “ခြေ” /chay / in Myanmar Language

The followings are the definitions of “ခြေ” /chay / in Myanmar Language from Myanmar Dictionary (1980).

1. Part of the body that is useful for walking and running by supporting the body
2. Origin, source, root
3. the word that express plural form in အိမ်ခြေ၊ (number of houses)လူခြေ (number of people)
4. (metaphor) the way of planning for something, the way of doing something, the process of work, the footstep

According to the definitions mentioned above, number (1) is the original meaning of “ခြေ” /chay / in Myanmar Language. From number (2) to (4) are the polysemous meanings. The following is the example sentence for “ခြေ” /chay / used as the original meaning.

Example(3) သံဃာများထိုင်ရန် ခင်းထားသော ဖျာစသည် အခင်းပေါ်ကို ခြေမဆေးဘဲ
ပေပေကျံကျံဖြင့် နင်းသွားသည်။

Without being washed, the dirty feet step on the floorings such as mat for the Sangha (members of Buddha).

“ခြေ” /chay / used as ခြေမဆေး (feet that are not washed)in example (3) is the original meaning of the the part of body.

Polysemous meanings extended from original meaning of “ခြေ” /chay / are found as action (or) walking, social status, attitude, the direction of step, characteristics and so on. The following is the example sentence of “ခြေ” /chay/ used as polysemous meaning.

Example (4) တောင်တန်းဒေသများကိုအင်္ဂလိပ်တို့လက်မလွှတ်ဘဲ ခြေကုပ်ယူရန်
ကြိုးစားကြသည်။

Without giving up, British colonies tried to establish a foothold the mountain regions.

The meaning of ခြေကုပ်ယူ (establish a foothold) used in example (4) is the extended meaning and it means action (or) a firm position.

The use of similarity in original meaning and polysemous meaning, the use of different in original meaning and polysemous meaning, the use that only exist in Korean Language and the use that only exist in Myanmar Language are found by analyzing the original meanings from dictionaries of “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ခြေ” /chay / in Myanmar.

Firstly, (1) the use of similarity in original meaning and polysemous meaning is that the meaning of verbs used with “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ခြေ” /chay / in Myanmar have similar meaning. It is explained with the following table.

Sr.	Original meaning“ 발” /bal/	Original meaning “ခြေ” /chay /	Meaning (by combination)	Inferred meaning
1.	발이 크다	ခြေကြီးသည်	ကြီးသည်	ခန္ဓာကိုယ်အင်္ဂါအစိတ်အပိုင်းခြေ သည် ကြီးသည်။(the body part, foot is becoming bigger)
2.	발이 아프다	ခြေနာသည်	နာသည်	ခန္ဓာကိုယ်အင်္ဂါအစိတ်အပိုင်းခြေသည်နာ သည်။(the body part, foot is pain)
3.	발이 간지럽다	ခြေယားသည်	ယားသည်	ခန္ဓာကိုယ်အင်္ဂါအစိတ်အပိုင်းခြေသည်ယာ ဝးသည်။(the body part, foot is itchy)
4.	발이 헛디디다	ခြေချော်သည်	ချော်သည်	ခန္ဓာကိုယ်အင်္ဂါအစိတ်အပိုင်းခြေသည် ချော်ကျသည်။ (the body part, foot slip and fall down)
5.	발로 치다	ခြေကန်သည်	ကန်သည်	ခန္ဓာကိုယ်အင်္ဂါအစိတ်အပိုင်းခြေ ဖြင့်ကန်သည်။(kick with foot, the body part)
6.	발을 씻다	ခြေဆေးသည်	ဆေးသည်	ခန္ဓာကိုယ်အင်္ဂါအစိတ်အပိုင်းခြေကိုဆေး ကြောသည်။(wash the foot, the body part)
7.	발로 밟다	ခြေနင်းသည်	နင်းသည်	ခန္ဓာကိုယ်အင်္ဂါအစိတ်အပိုင်းခြေဖြင့်နင်း သည်။(step on with foot, the body part)
8.	발이 빠르다	ခြေမြန်သည်	မြန်သည်	(၁)ခြေလှမ်းမြန်သည်။(the step is fast) (၂)အပြုအမူလုပ်ရှားမှုမြန်ဆန် သည်။(the action is fast)
9.	발이 묶이다	ခြေချုပ်မိ သည်	ချုပ်မိသည်	အပြုအမူလုပ်ရှားမှုမပြုလုပ်နိုင် သည်။ (restricted the movement/action)

Using the original meaning, body term foot, defined in dictionaries of “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ခြေ” /chay / in Myanmar language as mentioned

in the table, not only the meanings are the same but also the verbs combined to them are similar in meaning.

From (8) to (9), the verb combined with “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ချေ” /chay / in Myanmar language means being fast. The first meaning is that the footstep is fast and the second meaning is movement or action being fast and they are similar in polysemous meaning. Moreover, the verb combined with “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ချေ” /chay / in Myanmar language means “tie”. The polysemous meanings are the same as the meaning is that something or someone is restricted to go or move.

(3) The use of differ in original meaning and polysemous meaning is that the verbs combined with “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ချေ” /chay / in Myanmar language are different in meaning but similar in inferred meanings. It is described in the following table.

Sr.	Original meaning “발” /bal/	Original meaning “ ချေ” /chay /	Meaning (combined with verb)		Inferred meaning
			Korean	Myanmar	
1	발을 디딜 틈이 없다	ချေချင်းလိမ်သည်	no place to step	twisted	there are a lot of people
2	발이나손이 되도록벌다	ချေစုံပစ်လုပ်သည်	find	do	absolutely, surely do
3	발이 저리다	ချေမကိုင်မိလက်မကိုင်မိ ခြစ်သည်	recoil	being so excited that one cannot hold his hands	being so excited
4	발을 꿋다	ချေရာဖျောက်သည်	server	make something disappear	make disappear the way to go or hide
5	발이 맞다	ချေညီသည်	correct	being equal	being in union with each other
6	발이 떨어지다	ချေမခွာနိုင်ဖြစ်သည်	fall	the situation that one cannot go away	being attached with each other and cannot go away

According to the above table, from (1) to (3), the meanings of the verbs combined with “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ချေ” /chay / in Myanmar are different but the polysemous meaning, action or movement, are similar.

In the same way, from (4) to (5), the verbs combined with “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ချေ” /chay / in Myanmar are not similar in meaning but polysemous meaning, social status , are similar in meaning.

According No. (6), polysemous meaning of expressing attitude are similar in meaning when verbs are combined with “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ချေ” /chay / in Myanmar although the meaning of the verbs are differ.

(3)The following table is the expression of the use of terms that only exist in Korean Language

Sr.	“발” /bal/ in Korean Language	Inferred meaning
1	발이 저리다	being same mind with each other
2	발이 무겁다	being worried
3	발이 가볍다	being pleased or being fresh
4	발뻗고 자다	being active without any worry
5	발이 저리다	being concentrated
6	발 벗고 나서다	be the step
7	발이 들여놓다	to work
8	발을 맞추다	enter and go out
9	발을 빼다	hide the step
10	발이 붙이다	make others trouble
11	발을 타다	train little animals such as puppies to walk
12	발등에 불이 떨어지다	being nervous as the work is important
13	발이 뜨다	go sometime
14	발이 잦다	go often
15	발에 채이다	go here and there
16	발에 익다	go often and getting remember the way
17	발이 길다	stroke of luck
18	발이 짧다	no stroke of luck

The terms from the above table are the use that only exist in Korean language. For original meaning, from (1) to (6) are attitude, from (7) to (10) are social status, from (11) to (16) are action, from (17) to (18) are food polysemous meaning.

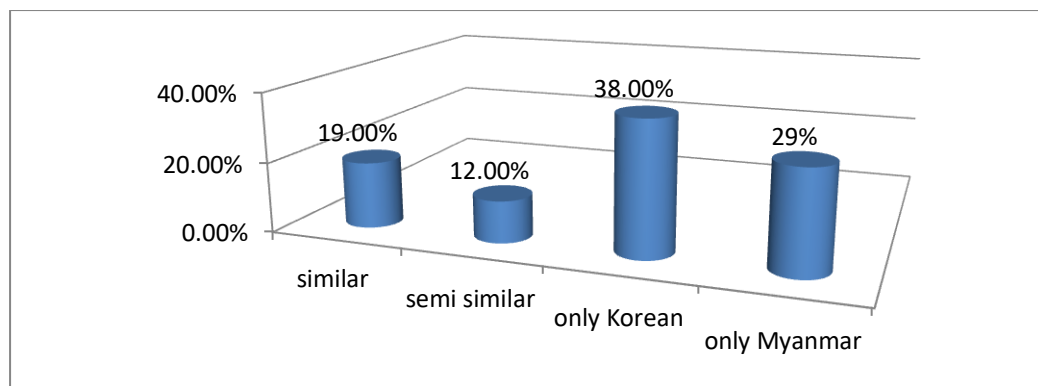
(4) The following table is the terms that only exist in Myanmar Language.

Sr.	“ ခြေ ” /chay / in Myanmar Language	Inferred meaning
1	ခြေများသည်	do variety of works
2	ခြေတိုသည်	go and come for several times
3	ခြေကန်သည်	ignore, give away
4	ခြေထိုးသည်	trip somebody up with foot in order to make other people cannot go
5	ခြေပုန်းခုတ်သည်	do things on the quiet in order to success
6	ခြေကုန်လက်ပန်းကျသည်	extremely tired
7	ခြေကုန်သည်	no energy to continue going
8	ခြေသာသည်	having more efficiency than others
9	ခြေကျသည်	being slower to play or run in sports such as football and running race than before
10	ခြေကုပ်ယူသည်	occupied firmly
11	ခြေဦးတည်ရာသွားသည်	wander without no target
12	ခြေဦးလှည့်သည်	going somewhere intending to someone
13	ခြေဆော့လက်ဆော့လုပ်သည်	having the habit of stealing others' possessions if it is easy to steal
14	ခြေစုံပစ်ဝင်သည်	totally believe

The terms from the above table are the usages that only exist in Myanmar Language. from (1) to (4) are actions, (5) is the secret action, (6) is the attitude, from (7) to (9) are quality, (10) is occupancy, from (11) to (12) are footstep, (13) is human's nature and characteristics and (14) is occupations and so on are polysemous meanings extended from original meaning.

Findings

Analyzing the original meanings and polysemous meanings of “ 발 ” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ ခြေ ” /chay / in Myanmar Language, 9 use of similar in original meaning and polysemous meaning, 6 usages of difference in original meaning and polysemous meaning, 18 usages that only exist in Korean Language and 14 usages that only exist in Myanmar Language, so totally 47 usages are found. Analyzing the 47 daily usages are presented with graph as follows:



According to the above graph, analyzing the polysemous meanings of Korean and Myanmar Language, it is clear that 19% of the words are totally similar, 12% are partly similar, 38% are only exist in Korean Language and words that only exist in Myanmar Language are 29%. In both languages, totally the same part is 19% and so that the polysemous meanings of the body-term of “leg” “발” /bal/ in Korean Language are different from that of ခြေ/chay/ in Myanmar language.

According to the usage of totally similarity, the original meaning of the body-term foot is commonly used. Extending polysemous meaning from original meaning, “발” /bal/ in Korean Language is combined with action verb, quality verb by using postpositional marker such as subject marker (으|/가) and location marker (에). In Myanmar Language “ခြေ” /chay /, only Adv marker is used. For other words, polysemousmeanings are extended by using postpositional marker or restrict the predicate.

The usage of partly similarity is the most common and it expresses social status and emotion. In Korean Language, subject marker (으|/가), objective marker(을/를) and location marker (에) are used to derivate words. In Myanmar Language, the word “ခြေ” /chay / can be derivate without using pospositional marker.

For the usages that only exist in Korean Language, the words that express emotion are common. Moreover, action, social status, food and so on are also included in this category. Subjective marker (으|/가) and location marker (에) are used in derivation words.

For the usages that only exist in Myanmar Language, the words that are used to express quality is that most common and others are those express emotion, action, the direction of footstep, occupancy and so on. Postpositional marker or predicate are dismissed in derivation words for the word “ခြေ” /chay / in Myanmar Language.

Conclusion

On the view of contractive linguistics, the significance of polysemous meanings of “발” /bal/ in Korean Language and “ခြေ” /chay/ in Myanmar Language are presented in this paper. The original meanings defined from dictionaries are discussed firstly. The meanings, body-term ,are the same. For polysemous meanings, the meaning are extended as action or movement, social

status, food, secret action, emotion, power, occupy, to step, characteristics, occupancy and so on. Polysemous meanings that exist only for Korean Language are social status and food. Polysemous meanings that exist only in Myanmar Language are secret action, power, occupy, human's habits and occupancy. Combination with postpositional marker occur in Korean Language but without using postpositional marker or predicate, derivation can be found in Myanmar Language. To extend the polysemous meaning, postpositional marker or predicate are not used in Myanmar Language. In conclusion, the expressions in this paper are referred to dictionaries from two countries. The data are not collected from the text books that are used in classroom. So, it is helpful to Korean Language Learner as a paper to teaching material.

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နီနီမာ။(၂၀၀၆)။မြန်မာဘာသာစကားရှိအဓိပ္ပာယ်တူစကားလုံးများနှင့်ဆန့်ကျင်ဘက်စကားလုံးများလေ့လာချက်။ပါရဂူကျမ်း၊မန္တလေးတက္ကသိုလ်။

မာလာ။(၂၀၀၆)။ မြန်မာဘာသာစကားရှိအနက်အဓိပ္ပာယ်ဆက်သွယ်မှုသဘောကို အတ္ထုဗေဒအမြင်ဖြင့် လေ့လာခြင်း။ပါရဂူကျမ်း။ရန်ကုန်တက္ကသိုလ်။

မြန်မာစာအဖွဲ့။ (၁၉၈၀) ။မြန်မာအဘိဓာန် (၅)တွဲ။ရန်ကုန်၊စာပေဗိမာန်ပုံနှိပ်တိုက်။

မြန်မာစာအဖွဲ့။ (၁၉၉၃) ။မြန်မာအင်္ဂလိပ်အဘိဓာန်။ရန်ကုန်၊တက္ကသိုလ်များပုံနှိပ်တိုက်။

မြန်မာစာအဖွဲ့။ (၂၀၀၁) ။အင်္ဂလိပ်မြန်မာအဘိဓာန်။ရန်ကုန်၊တက္ကသိုလ်များပုံနှိပ်တိုက်။

မြန်မာစာအဖွဲ့။ (၂၀၀၅) ။မြန်မာသဒ္ဒါ။ရန်ကုန်၊တက္ကသိုလ်များပုံနှိပ်တိုက်။

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