

A Study of Pragmatic Failure from the Perspective of Adaptation Theory —— A Case Study of English Learners' Pragmatic Failure

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Abstract: In the field of linguistics, pragmatic failure is a more important research direction, based on the perspective of adaptation to the theory of english learners of pragmatic failure of a variety of factors to analyze the impact, starting from the many aspects of english learners, the specific social situation, physical world and psychological conditions, to study the dynamic adaptation of these contextual factors. The study of the direction of pragmatic failure caused by the failure of conforming to the theory can effectively achieve the goal of good communication and lay a solid foundation for strengthening the pragmatic competence of English learners.

1. The Concept of Pragmatic Failure

English, as a language popularized all over the world, plays the role of communication tool in international communication and has an important influence in the development of modern society in our country. Therefore, in order to better adapt to the development of society and prepare for the future life, English learners should not only improve their own knowledge of English, but also consciously enhance their pragmatic ability. Understanding and reasonably avoiding pragmatic errors are the basis of English learners' communication.

In the last century, linguists first put forward the concept of "pragmatic failure ", when the concept of pragmatic failure refers to the use of language in the process of language communication due to inappropriate factors caused listeners do not understand the language meaning of the speaker, this is the early stage of pragmatic failure. For example, in the process of communication, the conversation between the speaker and the listener without self-knowledge is not in accordance with the social common sense treaty, and the status, identity and the communication situation of the speaker and the listener are not reasonably analyzed, thus to some extent, it has a hindrance to the communication of speech, which is not conducive to the communication between the two sides, and it is difficult to achieve the desired communication effect.

The pragmatic failures involved above are divided into linguistic failures and social ones. The errors caused by the speaker's different language habits belong to the language pragmatic failure, such as the mistake of lexical connotation, the mistake of language structure, etc. The following will focus on pragmatic failure from the perspective of adaptation theory.

2. A Study of Pragmatic Failure from the Perspective of Adaptation Theory

2.1. Failure Adaptation to Language Users

Language users, including communicators, listeners, and those with a certain connection to the content of the conversation. In this paper, we refer to the communication pairs in the process of communication. In the process of conversation, the language user is always at the center of the communication context and the scope of communication, therefore, for a variety of factors in the context, only the activities of the language user can have an important impact on it, so that the communication function of the language can be issued normally. In the process of language communication, the language users in the communication should have a certain understanding of the knowledge level of the object of communication from various angles, including the nationality,

identity, social status, knowledge level of the object, etc. Only by considering these factors can we make the most appropriate decision, so as to realize the communication goal, avoid the situation of communication failure and the appearance of pragmatic failure. The identity of the communicator has an important influence in the process of communication. In the process of communication, both the speaker and the listener have an important influence on the language they speak. Therefore, the speaker and the listener should grasp each other's identity accurately, pay attention to the adaptation of the identity, and prevent the situation of pragmatic failure.

For example, a student who takes a taxi in another country communicates with a driver : " excuse me, would you taking me to the airport ? " In fact, if the student communicates with the taxi driver in such a statement, the driver is likely to find it strange and inappropriate, because the tone of the sentence is very square, and it is obvious that the student's taxi is not necessary to be so polite, the driver's job is to provide service to the customer and charge a certain fee as a reward. In the process of communicating with others, we should be prepared to grasp the identity of the communicators and choose the appropriate language for communication to avoid the phenomenon of pragmatic failure.



Figure 1 Language users

In the process of communication, if we do not pay attention to the cultural differences between the two sides of the communication, there is a good chance of pragmatic failure. As in our China, in the farewell situation, the host will often say to the guest when he sends the guest : " go well ", " please walk slowly ", " be careful on the road " and so on, but in the practical application process, the international friend will always be confused about this kind of language, think that " Walkslow " means to let him go a little slowly, not understand its true meaning. In China, this kind of care language is to express the host's concern for the guests, but in international application, once the cultural differences are not understood, the use of this kind of language to foreign friends to show concern, it is likely to cause foreign friends to feel offended, is impolite behavior, the phenomenon of bad communication.

2.2. Failure to Apply to the Physical World

In the social environment, people attach great importance to the indication relation of time and space. In the process of communication, the speaker of communication should pay attention to the instruction relation of the context meaning understood by the listener, prepare for the implementation of the conforming theory and avoid the phenomenon of pragmatic failure.

In China, for example, we often regard Sunday as the last day of the week, but in Western countries, the specific meaning of Sunday is the first of a week. As a result, the word "last Monday" used by English learners in the week refers to the week preceding Monday, while "next Saturday" refers to the week following Saturday, but not paying attention to the social-physical context is likely to lead westerners to think the former is talking about the week of the week. The fundamental reason for this misunderstanding lies in the fact that the speaker and the listener ignore the difference between the cultural differences and the understanding of physical space and time in the process of communication.

Our different attitudes towards spatial relations are often caused by different traditional habits, social values, and different ways of life, and if we ignore the importance of this, English learners are very likely to have pragmatic failures when communicating with the outside world. For example, English learners are likely to be offended by being too close to the English in their communication with the British, but in China, we believe that a closer relationship between communicators is a good one. In the process of communicating with others, English learners should pay attention to the living habits and lifestyle of both sides, and avoid the situation of pragmatic failure as much as possible.

2.3. Failure Adaptation to Social Situations

To some extent, social situations can represent the specific social language situations used by people in the process of communication, such as social culture atmosphere, social environment and the size of the occasion, in these social contexts, there are certain constraints and principles on the language behavior of the communicators, which regulate the language behavior of both sides of the communication. Therefore, the communicator's language and behavior are influenced by the communicative principle to some extent, that is, in the process of communication, the speaker's language should follow the normative principles in the social situation.

For example, a Chinese student went to study at a foreign teacher's home in the United Kingdom. In the course of the reception, the two sides had such a communication: the British foreign teacher asked the student : " Wuld you like some coffee ?" The student replied : 'No, t go to any trouble.' In the course of communication, the differences between our culture and British culture are reflected. In the process of accepting or rejecting the demands and help of others, the Chinese adhere to the principle of humility, are always afraid of causing trouble to others, and are always in this way in accepting or rejecting requests and help from others. But for the British, in accepting or rejecting hospitality from others as well as help, use 'Y, esplease' and 'No, thanks. In the above case, the Chinese student caused the pragmatic failure due to the lack of understanding of the differences between Chinese culture and British culture.



Figure 2 Language users

2.4. Failure Adaptation to the Psychological World

Psychological world refers to the personality, mood, will, emotion and so on of the communicators, in the process of communication, the choice of language is influenced by the psychological world of both sides of the two sides, the speaker must choose in the process of choosing language is driven by his own communicative intention, on the basis of communicative consciousness, will conform to the psychological world situation of both the speaker and the listener, communicate with the appropriate topic and content, choose the appropriate expression to complete the communication, avoid the situation of pragmatic failure.

For example, in everyday interpersonal communication, we sometimes have this conversation: Tom : "Is this coffee sugared agai? "Xiao Wang : " Yes, I think it is good . " In the context above, Tom's will is through " Is this coffee Sugaredgain ?" You know I don't put sugar in my coffee. Why did you put sugar in my coffee? But apparently Xiao Wang didn't understand Tom's real meaning, but only understood the surface meaning of Tom's words. Yes, Tom said sugar, and it tastes good.

In this example, Xiao Wang did not really understand the meaning of Tom, did not do to conform to the other side's emotions, do not understand the state of their psychological world, and did not make timely adaptation to it, thus causing the situation of pragmatic failure, which is not conducive to the formation of a harmonious atmosphere.



Figure 3 Language users

3. Conclusion

For English learners, it is not only necessary to master solid basic knowledge of English in the process of learning English, but also to pay more attention to understanding the cultural differences between China and the West, to learn the matters needing attention in the process of communication under different situations, cultures and backgrounds, to improve pragmatic competence and to strengthen communicators. In the process of teaching, teachers should fully attract students' subjective initiative in learning English pragmatic failure, strengthen the English pragmatic consciousness and thought of English learners, and apply English knowledge flexibly to the process of practical communication.

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