

A Visual Analysis of Stance Markers Research in China and Abroad Based on Citespace

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Abstract: As an important linguistic phenomenon, stance markers have received extensive attention from scholars at home and abroad, in which authors can express their personal views and attitudes. Based on articles from CNKI and Web of Science, this paper presents comprehensive developments of the studies of stance markers between home and abroad from 2013 to 2022 with the help of Citespace visualization technology and bibliometric analysis method. The findings are as follows: 1) Domestic research is relatively scattered, and the research field is relatively broad. Foreign research fields are clear and more mature. 2) Domestic research is relatively scattered, and the research field is relatively broad; while the research field and evolution of foreign countries are clearer and more mature.

Keywords: stance markers, citespace, visual analysis

Introduction

Stance markers, as linguistic resources for writers to express personal feelings, attitudes and evaluations, play a very important role in discourse construction and interpersonal communication and have become one of the research hotspots in the field of linguistics in recent years^[1]. Sorting out the research results of stance markers can not only help us grasp the domestic and international research frontiers, but also forecast the future research trends in this field. Therefore, this study will use the bibliometric software Citespace to conduct a comprehensive visual analysis of the research on stance markers in international and domestic journals from 2013 to 2022, aiming to better grasp the latest developments and research hotspots of stance markers and help scholars accurately focus on the research trend of stance markers^{[2][3]}.

1. Research methodology

1.1 Data collection

The data used in this study are from the database of China National Knowledge Network (CNKI) and the core collection database of Web of Science (WOS), respectively, covering the period from 2013 to 2022. After searching "stance markers", "stance expression" and "stance markers" on CNKI, the Chinese literature sources were limited to SCI, EI, CSSCI, and CSCD. A total of 250 journal articles were obtained, and 177 articles were obtained after manual selection. A total of 504 articles are obtained in WOS. After manual cleaning, a total of 484 international articles were obtained^[4].

1.2 Research methods and questions

Citespace is one of the representative tools for current information visualization analysis to analyze the potential dynamic mechanism of subject evolution and probe the frontier of subject development through the drawing of a series of visual maps. Therefore, using the function of this software to draw a scientific knowledge map, this study answers the following questions during the decade from 2013 to 2022: 1) What are hotspots in the research of stance markers at home

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and abroad? 2) What are the development trends and frontiers of stance markers research at home and abroad?

2. Research results and discussion

2.1 Research hotspots

Keywords are highly condensed to the core research content of the article, and the research topic can be presented through keywords. This study analyzes the keywords of stance markers research at home and abroad in the past decade, draws the corresponding co-occurrence knowledge graph, as shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2^[5].

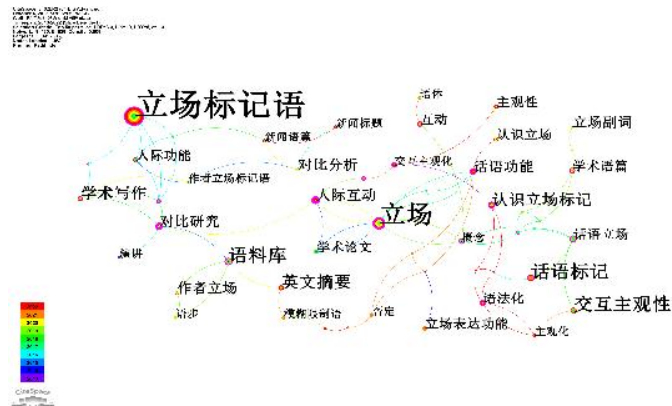


Figure 1 Knowledge Graph of Keywords in CNKI

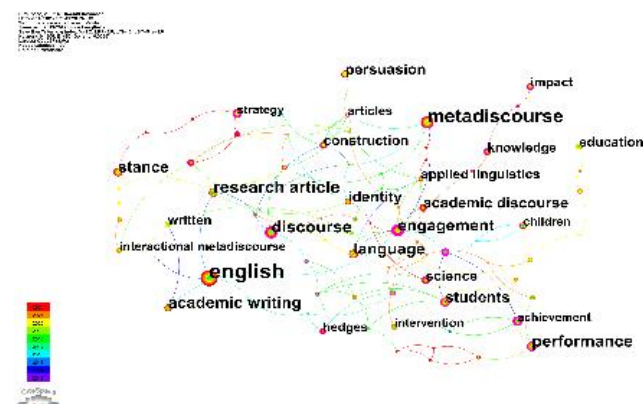


Figure 2 Knowledge Graph of Keywords in WOS

First of all, according to Figure 1 and Figure 2, the domestic research on stance markers in the past decade mainly focuses on three aspects: research object, research method and pragmatic function of stance markers. The corpus-based approach is the most commonly used research method for stance markers. Scholars mainly take academic discourse as their research object. In addition, through comparative studies, scholars explore the use of stance markers by language users in different contexts and cultural backgrounds. The discourse function of stance markers is one of the focuses of the research. Through the research, scholars mainly discuss the stance markers that express the author's stance in the text, carry out the conversational interaction between the author and the reader, and mainly reflect the function of interpersonal interaction^[6].

Secondly, it can be seen from the two knowledge maps that the CNKI points have many and low densities, which indicates that the keywords are scattered; the WOS has fewer points and higher density, indicating that the keywords are more concentrated^[7]. This indicates that the domestic research is more scattered, while the foreign research context is relatively clear. The research field is relatively broad, and the evolution of the international knowledge system is gradually clear and more mature.

2.2 Research Trends and Frontiers

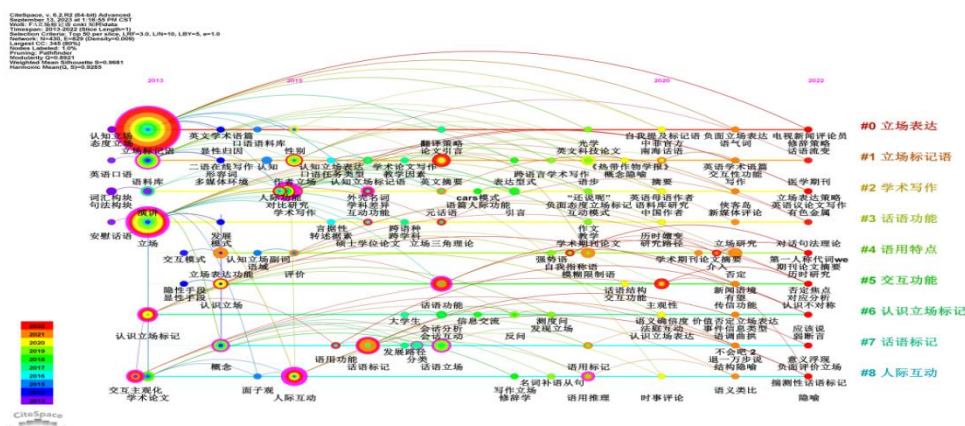


Figure 3 Time Line of Keyword Clustering in CNKI

To observe the evolution and change of the hot topics of stance markers, the author uses the timezone function of Citespace analysis software to draw the core keywords. The corresponding time of the nodes is the time when the high-frequency keyword first appears. Keyword time map analysis can reflect the dynamic evolution characteristics of research.

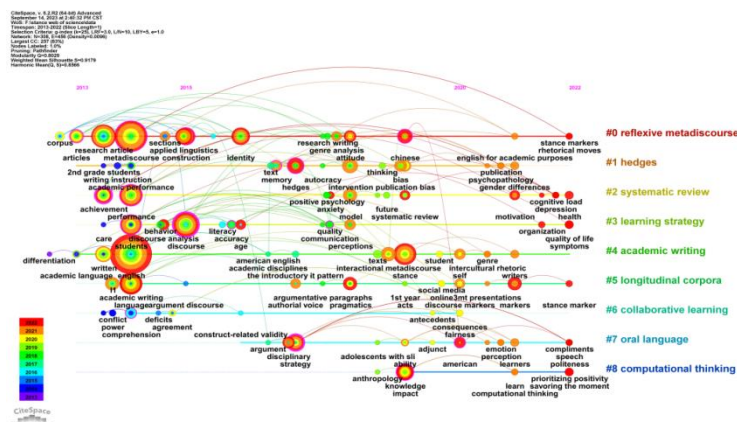


Figure 4 Time Line of Keyword Clustering in WOS

In 2013, keywords with larger nodes appeared namely stance and stance expression, which were both larger nodes in the overall stage, indicating that the linguistic phenomenon of stance markers has always been the focus of research in this field. From 2013 to 2020, the keywords are corpus, interpersonal interaction, academic writing and so on. The distribution of high-frequency keywords is no longer limited to a certain cluster field, but appears in various categories each year, indicating that the development of domestic stance markers research is diversified. After 2020, there are more nodes in the figure, while there are fewer adjacent nodes after 2021.

Foreign research on stance markers shows that the connections between nodes in the map are dense and have a strong inheritance relationship in WOS. The keywords in WOS are meta-analysis, interactional metadiscourse, hedges, systematic review, learning environment, and academic discourse. Moreover, scholars focus on the influence of students' learning environment on the use of stance markers, which reflects the input and learning strategy. From the timeline, from 2018 to 2020, research focuses on the pragmatic function of stance markers, containing discourse construction and identity construction. Academic discourse is the focus of research content. From the point of view of the connections between nodes, there are more connections between 2003 and 2022, which indicates that there is a certain inheritance in foreign scholars' research on stance markers.

3. Conclusion and prospects

In terms of research fields and research hotspots, domestic and foreign research on stance markers focuses on academic discourse and author identity construction, which reflects the similarity of domestic and foreign research on stance markers. The difference is that foreign researchers pay more attention to pragmatic functions of stance markers, while domestic researchers use corpus more extensively. Secondly, foreign researchers pay more attention to the meta-pragmatic analysis of stance markers, and the research topics are more extensive and detailed. There is a strong inheritance relationship between nodes, so the research can be advanced layer by layer.

There are some prospects of stance markers in future studies. First, the research topic of stance markers is related, and further exploration based on predecessors will make the research more detailed. At the same time, it is suggested to strengthen cooperation and produce new ideas for the study of stance markers constantly.

Conflicts of interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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