Санкт-Петербургский государственный университет

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**Выпускная квалификационная работа**

**Концепт «кризис» в политическом дискурсе и способы его вербализации**

Уровень образования: магистратура

Направление 45.04.02 «Лингвистика»

Основная образовательная программа ВМ.5769. «Иностранные языки в сфере международных отношений»

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Санкт-Петербург

2021

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# Introduction

Since the beginning of the 21st century the study of concept has drawn attentions of linguists since its unignorable role in realization of main ideology in a period of time and has been regarded as one of the main ways to understand the system of human thought and the nature of the human psyche. (Ангелова, 2004; Елмслев, 1960) Studying concepts gives linguists a different aspect to understand collective consciousness of society, nations and cultures.

On the opinion of George Orwell, the word “crisis” is often used in different kinds of political discourse, such as political speech, political writing, public communication (Christ'l De Landtsheer & Ofer Feldman, 1998), to express as political crises, economic crises, security crises, energy crises etc.. When “crisis” appears in a discourse, it means that an issue is urgent and threatening to current status, so it is necessary to take several actions to avert a peril (Laura Henderson, 2014). However, the concept of crisis has more than one definition in English and Chinese. For example, in Chinese explanatory and etymological dictionaries “crisis” also means “latent harm or danger” (Xinhua Dictionary), “an extremely dangerous moment” (Mandarin Dictionary of the Ministry of Education). Due to the dynamic of concepts of crisis and its influence on human activities, to analyze it seems important.

Ten Lei’s work “the concept of empire in modern Russian-speaking political discourse” discusses the concept of “empire” in Russian, its lexicographic representation and its interaction with the Russian society. Tatiana Prokofieva (2006) in her thesis devoted to the concept of crisis in modern political discourse has studied the conceptual framework of human being which comprises the concept of crisis and analyzed its verbalization in political discourse. Kondratieva О.N. (2012) has turned her study of the concept of crisis into Russian and Bulgarian media discourse. Slatin A. I. (2016) has studied the meaning of crisis in Russian political and economic discourse. Mishina М. М. (2013) has given the information that the concept of crisis has been used in speeches, publications more frequently in Russia due to the international incidents and events in her work “actualization of global concepts in political discourse”. The work “Representation of the concept of "crisis" in media discourse” provides not only the concepts of crisis both in Russian and in Chinese, but it also compares the similarities and differences of concepts in these languages in publications. In the field of the concept of crisis study it is still lack of the research direction which aims to identify special linguistic features of concept actualization in different languages, the most used meanings of the lexical unit of crisis and to classify different usage.

Taking political discourse as a resource to study the concept of crisis has its relevance. Political discourse serves as a medium to transmit different ideologies, identities and opinions that form concepts of a person. With the development of technology, the connection of individuals tightened, and as a result, political discourse is easier spread across borders. Crisis is usually used as political crisis, economic crisis, energy crisis, etc. in political language. In this thesis, we study its concept based on the contexts, different atmosphere of society, ideologies of time and nations.

The object of the thesis: linguistic units of the concept of crisis actualized in political media discourse.

The aim of the thesis is to identify special linguistic features of concept actualization in English and Chinese media political language.

In accordance with the aim, it’s necessary to implement the following **tasks**:

1) to compare definitions of the notion crisisin English and Chinese dictionaries;

2) to classify the linguistic features of the lexeme “crisis” in English and Chinese political media discourse;

3) to sort out the verbalization of “crisis” in English and Chinese political media discourse.

Materials: this thesis focuses on English and Chinese political media discourses in the following newspapers: the Economist, the New York Times, the Washington Post, 自由時報 (the Liberty Times Net), 新華社 (the Xinhua News Agency), 蘋果日報 (the Apple Daily)… etc. and definitions from explanatory and etymological dictionaries, such as the Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries, the Online Etymology Dictionary, 新華辭典 (Xinhua Dictionary), 教育部重編國語辭典修訂本 (the Revised Mandarin Chinese Dictionary) and the 漢典(Hàndiǎn).

Methods used in this thesis: communicative-pragmatic, linguocultural, descriptive and comparative.

The structure of this thesis. The main body of this thesis is consisted of two chapters. In the first chapter, we do literature reviews regarding the understandings of concept, discourse, media discourse and political discourse. Besides, based on the studies in the field of concept, we generalize the methods to analyze concept. In the second chapter, we classify the meanings of crisis both in English and in Chinese from dictionaries, collect examples of the use of crisis from newspapers in English and Chinese which are concerning about politics, compare the concepts, generalize the frequency of the lexical unit, sort out the verbalization of the lexeme. In the conclusion of this thesis, we make a summarize of our study.

# CHAPTER 1. “Concept” as a subject of the study of language

## The notion of “concept” in cognitive and cultural linguistics

Cognitive linguistics is a rapidly developing discipline. The discussions and researches in this sphere are still progressing, prospering (Кубрякова, 2000; Кравченко, 2000; Попова, Стернин, 2001). The study of cognitive linguistics can be originated in the late 1970s and early 1980s in the work of G. Lakoff, R. Langacker, and L. Talmy. (Geeraerts & Cuyckens, 2010). Cognitive linguistics is a branch of linguistic functionalism which suggests that the functions of language, such as communicative attitudes, semantic roles, cognitive function and so on, shape forms of language. (Кибрик, 2003) According to the role of cognitive phenomena in language, there are two types of functions which are on-line and off-line. On-line means a straight relation to language, such as the communicative function. Information is transferred from one person to another. On-line type associates with consciousness, memory and activation. On the contrary, functions of language classified in off-line type like long-term storage of memory, structures of knowledge representation, lexicon, categorization, etc. are information which is preserved in one’s mind. This thesis will focus on concept of lexeme, the off-line type.

One of the tasks of cognitive linguistics is to describe concepts and representations of human activities. For the first time the term “concept” appeared in Russia in works of Askoldov A.S. in 1928. In the period of the renaissance of linguistics in the early 90s of the 20th century, the term “concept” was revived and given a more detailed interpretation thanks to works of D.S. Likhachev and Y.S. Stepanova. Popova Z.D. and Sternin I.А. state that the work “Konstanty. Slovar russkoy kultury” (Constants. Dictionary of Russian culture) written by Y.S. Stepanov provides the most vivid description of the concepts. From the beginning of the 21st century, the linguistic study of the concept has been extended to human activities, relations, behavior and intellectual-modal human states, which can be found in many linguistic works (Токарев, 2000; Гажева 2000; Воркачев, Кусов 2000; Ефимова, 2000; Романова 2001; Данилюк 2001).

With previous researches of *concept*, there is basic information that can be ensured. D. Geeraerts and H. Cuyckens suggest that cognitive linguistics is an approach of language analyses which focuses on the language as an instrument to organize, manage, and deliver information. М.М. Angelova thinks that *concept* is a key term of the approach to understand cultural linguistics (Ангелова, 2004). Moreover, the notion of *concept* as an aspect of thought in human’s mind has a variety of different points of view. Until now the term *concept* in linguistics has not been given a clear, specific definition due to the fact that it is difficult to understand and it is multidimensional.

Nikishina I.Y suggests that *concept* is the mental images represented by linguistic units. (Никишина, 2001)

S.A. Askoldova, E.S. Kubryakova, S.Kh. Lyapina and O.P. Skidan think that *concept* reflects the process of being acquainted with the world, results of human activity, human’s experience and knowledge about the world, storing information about it. (Красавский, 2001)

R. Pavilensa supposes that concept is a content that cognitively forms basic subsystems of opinion and knowledge. (Ангелова, 2004*)*

E.S. Kubryakova defines concept as “*an operational unit of memory, mental lexicon, conceptual system and language of the brain, the whole picture of the world, a quantum of knowledge. The most important concepts are expressed in language*” (Краткий словарь когнитивных терминов, p.90).

In accordance with the definition of Stepanov S.Y. *concept* is a collective of culture in human’s mind in the form of which culture enters a person’s mental world, and it is what a person himself goes into the culture, and a person influences it. (Никишина, 2001)

Pimenova suggests that concept is a kind of internal form. Within the boundaries of the verbal sign and the language as a whole, it appears in its meaningful forms as an image, as a concept and as a symbol. Therefore, concept is a basic unit of mentality. Concepts are understood as the main cultural form, spread to different areas of human existence. (Пименова, 2013)

According to S.Kh. Lyapin's opinion, concept is the formation of social psychology with multi-dimensional cultural significance in collective consciousness. (Ляпин, 1997)

M.A. Kholodnaya assumes that concept is a cognitive mental structure, the features of the organization of which make it possible to reflect reality in the unity of different-quality aspects. (Ангелова, 2004)

V.I. Karasik indicates that concept consists of three parts: conceptual, figurative and valuable. (Ангелова, 2004)

In spite of variety of different opinions on concept, most scholars consider it in terms of cognitive (Arutyunova N.D., Babushkin А.P., Kubryakova Е.S.) and linguocultural directions (Vorkachev S.G., Karasik V.I., Stepanov Y.S.). In cognitive linguistics concept is defined as the mental structure which is formed by epistemic and conceptual human activity. On the other hand, linguocultural view defines concept as the basic unit of culture, its essence cultural-ethnic component determines the specifics of the semantics of language units and reflects the ‘linguistic picture of the world’ of its speakers. (Апресян, 1995; Телия, 1996) Concept composes the semantic space of a specific language by which one can judge the structures of knowledge in their specific national refraction. (Никишина, 2001)

Nikishina I. Y. (2001) thinks that a better access to the description and definition of the nature of the concept is provided by the language. And she provides 3 aspects of distinguishing unit of concept:

1. The concepts represented by one word should be considered as the simplest concepts, and those presented in phrases and sentences as more complex ones, and as more complex ones, those presented in phrases and sentences.
2. The simplest concepts in semantic features or markers are found in the course of component analysis of vocabulary.
3. The analysis of the lexical systems of languages ​​could lead to the discovery of a small number of primitives, the combination of which could further describe the entire vocabulary of the language.

However, Nikishina I. Y. suggests that knowing the role of all these factors, scientists in cognitive studies cannot yet answer the question of how concepts arise, merely pointing out the process of the formation of meanings in its very general form. Although some of this information is presented in the conciseness in a fundamentally different way, i.e., mental representations of a different type, such as pictures, images, schemes, etc, and the most important concepts still are encoded in the language.

## Methods to analyze “concept”

Research method is the key to systematically and objectively analyze a phenomenon, and generate a scientific aspect. By previous studies of concept, there are various methods which are characterized not exactly the same features. These features influence the selection of the research object and which point of view to use. Teng Lei mentions that methods which we use in our research are depended on 1) types of concepts that we study, such as the structure of concept, the content of concept, and so on. 2) the aspect to study concept, such as linguistic, philosophically, and so on. 3) the language which we choose as the vehicle of the concept. In addition, he also suggests two methods- frame analysis and etymological analysis. The former focuses on words with a propositional meaning type, and the later features studying the transmutation of concept in a period of time. (Тэн Лэй, 2020) Despite of the methods given by Teng Lei, Popova Z.D. and Sternin I.А. provide 5 directions of study of the concept and 8 kinds of methods to analyze concept. These directions give certain methodological principles. T.A. Talapova also suggests 4 of the below mentioned directions to understand concept which are logical direction, semantic-cognitive direction, cultural direction and linguocultural direction (Попова & Стернин, 2001).

The directions:

1. Logical direction (N. D. Arutyunova, R.I. Pavilionis). To analyze concept by logical means without taking into account their language form. According to N. D. Arutyunova, T.V. Bulygina, A.D. Shmelev's opinion, concept is an understanding of practical philosophy, which appears in the result of the interaction of a certain set of factors, such as folklore, religious, national tradition, ideology, life experience, values.
2. Semantic-cognitive direction (E.S. Kubryakova, N.N. Boldyrev, E.V. Rakhilina, A.P. Babushkin). This direction assumes that lexical and grammatical semantics of language is a mean of an access to the content of concepts and a mean to model the content of concepts from the semantics of the language to the conceptual domain.
3. Philosophical-semantic direction (A.V. Kravchenko). It is characterized by the study of the cognitive foundations of sign.
4. Cultural direction (Yu.S. Stepanov, V.P. Neroznak, A.V. Sorokin). This direction assumes concept as an element of culture participating various knowledge from different sciences.
5. Linguocultural direction (V.I. Karasik, S.G. Vorkachev, G.G. Slyshkin, G.V. Tokarev). To study the objectification concept of language units as element of national linguoculture related to national value and national features of culture.

With views of logical direction, cultural direction and linguocultural direction, concept contains meanings which are related to life experience of human, such as culture, nation, tradition, ideology etc. Therefore, the analysis of concept is more than the analysis of meanings of lexical unit. Besides, these directions also consider that extralinguistic factors play a role in the process of forming concepts. On the other hand, semantic-cognitive direction and philosophical-semantic direction see lexeme and grammar as vehicle of concept, and focus on attribute of lexical unit. According to the above-mentioned features, these directions influence the subject of concept studies, and methods which we are going to use in this thesis.

The methods:

These methods are given by different scholars. The features of the methods and the above-mentioned directions take part in making options for divergent object of researches. (Рыжкина, 2014) The followings are methods collected by Popova Z.D. & Sternini I.A.:

1. By selecting key word and indicating the examples of the key word in various texts in which lexical compatibility of that word is revealed. Based on detailed analysis we can establish features of the corresponding concept which the keyword refers to. (Арутюнова, 1997, Рахилина, 1998)
2. By analyzing dictionary definitions of the keyword in different dictionaries. This method gives a variety of potential features of the concept. (Гончарова, 1999)
3. By studying various meanings of the key word with its developing progress. We can set up features of the concept that determines this development on the basis of new meanings appearance. (Гришаева, 2000)
4. By analyzing proverbs and sayings, consisted of the key word, and assessing its concept. In this approach we can learn the popular understanding of this or that phenomenon. (Печенкина, 2000)
5. By contrastively analyzing lexical units equivalent in their direct meaning in different languages. This method helps disclose the country specificity of the concept. (Бибок, 1996)
6. By logically classifying a set of features of the concept, for example, a class of trees or a class of birds. (Харитончик, 1999)
7. By grammatical marking define prototype characteristics of Russian verb classes. (Шарандин, 1998)
8. By characterizing individual writers’ concepts in works allows a deeper understanding of the peculiarities of the author's worldview. (Тильман, 1999; Романова, 2001; Пугач, 2001)

As we can see, there are variety of approaches studying the concept and lexical units realizing it. And each approach allows to reveal different features of the concept. By using more than one kind of method we can make a cross comparison of the concept of crisis. In this thesis we decide to adapt 1) the method by which we select the word “crisis” in various texts from English and Chinese newspapers for a further comparison of the conceptual differences between different texts, and then analyzes the concepts; 2) the method by which we list the meanings of “crisis” in Chinese and English dictionaries and analyze its features; 3) the method by which we analyze the direct meaning in different languages (English and Chinese) to see the impact of extralinguistic factors on the lexical unit, that is, crisis; 4) the method by which we classify the meanings of concept in both languages from the materials that we collect from newspapers.

## Discourse in the contemporary-day linguistics.

There are various disciplines that relate to the study of discourse, such as pedagogy, sociology, pragmalinguistics, speech linguistics, psycholinguistics, cultural studies, jurisprudence, etc. (Рубцова, 2018; Кибрик, 2003). The study of discourse became popular in 1970-1980, and entered into scientific sphere. As for the study of oral discourse, under the project of the V.V. Vinogradov Russian Language Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, it has been started in 1970s. In addition, in 1970s the study of discourse analysis whose development is based on individual scholars has been showed in various directions, such as information flow, grammatic discourse, models of discourse and so on. Since 1980s, the study of discourse has started to play an important role in computational linguistics. (Кибрик, 2003) Cognitive linguistics, according to Kibrik’s opinion, is good at dealing the process of building knowledge and the understanding of discourse. Eduard Viktorovich Popov considers that the process of communication in natural language is very complex and multifaceted because it demands the addressee several abilities and background knowledge, such as understanding and synthesis of texts, automatic search for a solution, speech recognition and synthesis, presentation and accumulation of knowledge. (Общение с ЭВМ на естественном языке, p.79) Therefore, cognitive linguistic study usually combines discourse study. Nevertheless, the definition of “discourse” is still scattered in different researches. Thus, with the facts that discourse study is getting specialized and mature as an academic discipline, in this part we will generalize the understanding of discourse based on linguistic scholars, list their point of views, and categorize types of discourse.

Discourse is more than text. In YU.S. Stepanov’s article, changeable "image of language" in the science of the twentieth century, which is published in Jazyk i nauka (Язык и Наука), he points out that the understanding of discourse in French includes some mythology that exists in the linguacultural sphere. The French scholar, Teun A. van Dijk, states that both national, general, and individual, private mentality and culture are reflected in the discourse. Discourse even includes extralinguistic factors which are essential for understanding texts. (Караулов, 1987 & Рубцова, 2018).

The study of discourse is young, comparing to the other academic fields, and fragmental. From a linguistic view, Kibrik provides his idea that *discourse is a unity of language activity process and its production, that is, text*. (Анализ дискурса в когнитивной перспективе, p.4). He also points out the idea that the elements of discourse include not only the text itself, also the processes of the creation of discourse and its understanding. Besides, text serves as a static object which is consisted in discourse could be in written form and in oral form.

There is no explicit definition of this term in scientific view, on the contrary, it is diversely in different researches. (Казарян Арегназ Арсенова, 2015) In French linguistics, discourse is seen as speech in general or text. (Рубцова, 2018) From the view of Russian and French linguists and other related studies (O. V. Rubtsova, the concept of discourse in modern linguistics; Ten Lay, Concept "Empire" in the modern Russian-language political media discourse; Slatin Anton Igorevich, the meaning of the concept of "crisis" in Russian political and economic discourses; Gaus Ksenia Olegovna & Ryabova Marina Yurievna, the concept of “threat” in media discourse; … etc.), scientific definition of discourse can be understood as below:

In linguistics researchers emphasize the difference between discourse and text. V. I. Karasik (2000) argues that discourse contains more than text. He describes two classifications of discourse. One of them is sociolinguistic which is based on the patterns of communication participants; another is pragmalinguistic which is based on the patterns of communication tonality. Furthermore, Kibrik’s point of view on discourse corresponds with Karasik. He thinks that communication participants of discourse are speaker and addressee. Hence, a dialog and a monologue are considered as discourse. (Kибрик, 2003) The speaker and addressee of dialog are different sides; the addressee of monologue is its speaker.

Based on this point of view, Ghazaryan Aregnaz Arsenova (2015) also assumes that there are two kinds of discourse, that is, personal and institutional discourse. Moreover, the type of institutional discourse depending on the type of the society of speakers can be classified as political, medical, scientific, media and others.

Teun A. van Dijk (1989) gives the idea that discourse is a complex unity of linguistic form, meaning and action, which could be characterized using the concept of a communicative event or communicative act. Furthermore, the speaker’s and listener’s personal and social features, also their social values relate to this event.

N.D. Arutyunova (1990) suggests that discourse is coherent text in conjunction with extralinguistic, such as pragmatic, socio-cultural, psychological and other factors; text taken in the event aspect; speech, which is considered as a purposeful social action, and as a component involved in the interaction of people and the mechanisms of their consciousness. Discourse is a conversation which is immersed in life.

Sulina O.V. (2014) provides her conclusion on the meaning of discourse. Discourse includes socio-economic, linguistic, historical and national characteristics. Thus, discourse is associated with fragments of social reality. The role of discourse in the system of social institutions regulates socially significant areas of activity and objectifies a certain type of social relations.

Émile Benveniste (1966) suggests that discourse is a speech or conversation which is awarded by its speaker. He indicates that the essence of the narrative plane is not the same as the essence of the language assigned by the speaking person.

Eduard Viktorovich Popov (1982) indicates that discourse is coherent text which is consisted of two or more than two sentences, having sematic connection with each other. Moreover, this kind of sematic connection is supported by linguistic reconciliations, such as temporal, modal, stylistic etc.

T.M. Nikolaeva (1978) divides five kinds of definitions that can be understood as discourse: 1) dialogue; 2) oral and spoken form of the text; 3) a group of statements related to each other in meaning; 4) coherent text; 5) speech work as a given, oral or written.

V.Z. Demyankov (1982) signifies that discourse is *an arbitrary piece of text consisting of more than one sentence or an independent part of a sentence*. (Морфологическая интерпретация текста и структура словаря, p.75-91) The fact that there are different views of discourse is due to the term in texts which is used by different authors.

To sum up, the understanding of discourse is based on various scientific disciplines from semiotics to sociology, communication theory, modal logic, etc. (Рубцова О. В., 2018)

In addition to the above mentioned understanding of discourse, Rubtsova (2018) sorts out three basic features of discourse.

1. From the view of a conventional attitude, discourse contains more than one sentence.
2. From the view of the capacity of information, social context influences language used in discourse.
3. From the view of the structure of discourse itself, discourse is dialogue, which includes exchanging information in conversational or written forms.

B.M. Gasparov (1996)’s idea corresponds with the second feature provided by Michael Stubbs which marks the relation between society and discourse. He considers that discourse reflects the social value and atmosphere at the time when it was created in some situation, such as

1. authors’ communicative intentions; authors’ relation with receiver of the information;
2. all kinds of circumstances which are meaningful and accidental;
3. the impact of collective ideologies and stylistic climate of the era on authors and audience;
4. genre and style features used in communication by authors;
5. speech act based on previous experience.

By studying discourse, we can trace the development of language, social value, a person’s mentality and general ideologies in a period of time.

Furthermore, A. A. Kibrik (2003) considers that discourse is the interaction and intersection of four structures, that is,

1. structure of idea which is expressed in texts;
2. structure of speakers’ thought process;
3. structure of language which is used;
4. structure of the conversational circumstances (between speakers and his audience).

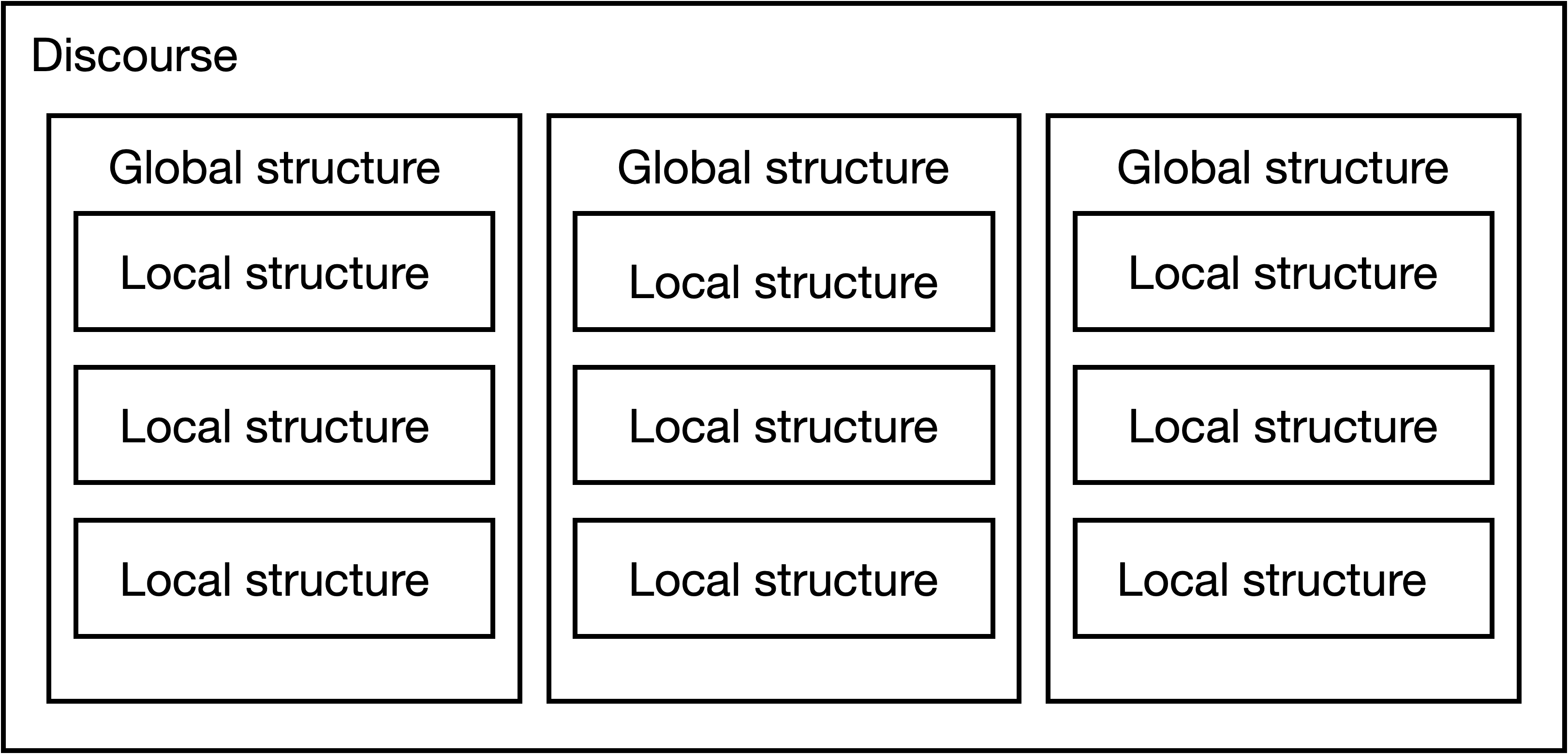
These structures shows that discourse also reveals extralinguistic information, that is, the selection of languages, impact of society, progress of human mind and, thus, while analyzing discourse, these factors need to be concerned. This view can be seen as an instruction of discourse analysis.

To sum up the understanding of discourse, there are four features of discourse based on the above-mentioned scientific views. First, discourse is a medium of delivery and exchange information which is more than words. Second, the form of discourse can be written and spoken. Third, discourse is connected to other disciplines. Fourth, discourse is frequently used in science, however, there is not specific and clear definition.

There are two basic classifications of discourse. One of the classifications which is based on the mode can divide into oral discourse and written discourse. The differences of oral and written discourse are the channel which transfers information or the medium. Comparing with the form of written discourse which is visual, oral discourse is acoustic. Furthermore, in written discourse, it is more frequent to express information in passive voice, hence, the speaker and the addressee of written discourse are removed. On the contrary, in oral discourse the speaker and the addressee are involved and showed in the use of pronouns 1 and 2 persons to reflect their emotion and thinking process. According to Wallace Chafe’s opinion, the process of understanding oral discourse is synchronic, conversely, written discourse is not. Another classification is based on the genre of discourse. Until now, there is no single theory about methods and standard to classify the genres of discourses which can convince every linguistic scholar. However, according to John Swales (1990) and Ryabtseva N.K. (1996), by forms and characteristics of the respective discourses we can categorize some genres, such as business discourse, political discourse, scientific, etc. Kibrik suggests that almost every issues of discourse analyses are solved in different ways for different types of discourse. (Анализ дискурса в когнитивной перспективе, p.23)

Kibrik considers that there are two features of discourse. One is that discourse features two-level structure. The first level is global structure which is an aggregate of direct components blocks. Given by Kibrik’s explanation, it is like the paragraphs in an article. Then, the next level is local structure. Local structure is an aggregate of minimum units which make the meaning of a text more sensible, logical. The minimum units of discourse, according to Kibrik’s opinion, could be predication, or clauses. The illustration (1) in the next page explains these two structures of discourse. Discourse is consisted of global structures within which there are smaller structures named as local structure. The relation between discourse, global structure and local structure can be understand as a tree (discourse) in which branches (global structures) have leaves (local structure). Moreover, Kibrik suggests that there is no theory which can explain all kinds of discourse in different genre.

Illustration 1: Structure of discourse.



Another feature of discourse is, comparing with predication, smaller units, that is, lexical phenomenon which has direct impact on the discursive facts. (Kibrik, 2003) To illustrate this type of discourse phenomena, here are the examples, the referent in lexical unit of president can be as the following: the leader of a country, the chief executive, or just the name of the president.

## Media discourse and its features

Media discourse is often targeted as a subject in different fields of linguistics, like sociolinguistics, conversation analysis, critical discourse analysis, linguistic anthropology, pragmatics and ethnography of communication. In addition to linguistics, the discussion about media discourse also can be found in other disciplines, such as tourism studies, sociology and psychology etc. (Mary Talbot, 2007) The participation of linguists in the study of media discourse is originated in 1990s, when they thought the language data is useful for studying sociology of language. William A. Gamson and Andre Modigliani (1989) suggest that media discourse functions as a collection of the formation of public opinion. Based on this point of view, studying media discourse is studying collective consciousness in a period of time.

With the development of technology and the fact that internet has become more and more widespread, it is much easier for us to get and launch various information, personal post, speeches, lectures… etc. and these channels are served as a public forum without national boundaries. Mary Talbot supports D. Spitulnik and considers media discourse as an indirect approach to communicate. According to William A. Gamson and Andre Modigliani, there are various approaches of media to take part in our lives, such as news coverage from television, newsmagazine accounts, editorial cartoons, and syndicated opinion columns. Thus, media discourse and public opinion are seen to construct meanings of human. The author of “Media Discourse: Representation and Interaction: Representation and Interaction”, Mary Talbot, also supports this point of view. By her words, culture is shared meanings. And Media transmits these meanings. Therefore, media discourse is seemed to have straight impact on human consciousness and social practice. (Арсенова, 2015)

Media discourse is seemed to be an evidential approach to observe concepts of crisis due to the fact that media texts usually contain political, economic, environmental, social, energetic issues. Media text which includes media reality, political discourse and everyday discourse is considered as an approach to transmit worldview. (Адясова, 2015) Besides, semiotic systems (set of language, graphic, sound and visual) and cognitive analysis compose the discrete unit of media discourse and also feature language as a tool to circulate information and convert worldview. (Арсенова, 2015 & Ван Дейк Т., 2013) A media worldview is realized in mental form and converted form. Mental form can be seen as the impact of mass media on the construction of the audience’s knowledge. Converted form is related to information of texts in different mediums. (Рогозина, 2001) As for the idea of mental form given by I.V. Rogozin, L.E. Adyasova (2015) also indicates that media worldview influences nationwide conceptual worldview of human being.

When discussing the intention of authors and the meanings of texts in media discourse, we also need to take its genre into account. A. A. Tertychny (2000) considers that the types of publication have been set up when the author decides his or her purpose and the text. Bicharova M. M. (2014) also suggests that each genre (literature, statistics, records etc.) of media is related to part of reality, furthermore, when the author chooses a genre, he or she has already determined his or her purpose in the texts. Moreover, A. A. Tertychny provides an approach which is “target direction” to classify the printing press genres. However, according to Bicharova, it is difficult to create a complete classification because different structures and forms might be found together. After studying the works of A. A. Tertychny (2000), Gurevich S.M. (2004) and Kenzhegulova N. (2002), Bicharova Mariya Mikhailovna provides 4 criteria to access the genre.

1. Material. The initial thing that the author chooses as the main topic. It might be phenomenon, fact, background, forecast, goods, service.
2. Method. Means to give the readers different information. It might be description, analysis, research, comparison etc.
3. Form. How materials are represented in text. It might be statement, article, motto, comment, interview, question and answer.
4. Pragmatic. The purpose, intention and the arranged results that the author wants the readers to learn from the text.

According to these four criteria, Bicharova Mariya Mikhailovna considering American printed press indicates five types: descriptive, interpretative, inductive, interactive and recreational. Descriptive media is to give information without the authors’ personal opinion. Interpretative is to analyze issues, study questions and the authors provide their opinions. Inductive is to make the readers started to focus on certain issues. Interactive is to build an interaction between authors and readers or between author and themes. The last, recreational is to entertain and take breaks. In this thesis we will focus mainly on the interpretative and inductive types of media discourse to classify the concepts of crisis which are used and to generalize the frequency of use.

Besides, it is useful to classify the information which is revealed in media discourse to analyze the importance of the object of discussion and make response. By framing the media discourse, we could 1) define problems; 2) solve problems; 3) shape public opinion. (Seon-Kyoung Ana, Karla K. Gower, 2009)

Seon-Kyoung Ana and Karla K. Gower provide five kinds of frames in newspapers, which are 1) attribution of responsibility, 2) conflict, 3) morality, 4) human interest and 5) economy. The attribution of responsibility is for reasons which make crisis happened or solution to certain people or organizations. This kind of frame is usually used in a critical situation. The conflict frame aims at reflecting conflict, disagreement and confrontation. It is observed that in American newspapers conflict frame is commonly saw. The morality frame is rarely used in a direct way in newspapers. On the contrary, it is more frequently showed in an indirect way, such as quotations or inference. The context of this kind of frame is on the base of morals, social prescriptions, and religious tenets. The frame of human interest refers to the interaction between the newspapers and psychological situation of people, such as while facing crisis, people tend to take a negative attitude toward it. The economic frame is regarding results of events, activities, policies which have economic influence. (Seon-Kyoung Ana, Karla K. Gower, 2009)

## Characteristics of political discourse.

Political discourse is easy to be significantly overgeneralized (John Wilson, 2005) because almost all discourse which is related to certain issues, like conflict, control, power and domination, can be referred to political, even at different levels, such as interpersonal, personal, institutional, educational. V.V. Zelensky (1996) divides two level of politics. One is public level which includes mass media, social institutions, etc. Another is personal level. This level is related to a person himself, his family etc. in the progress of the actualization of individual consciousness. (Мишина М. М., 2013) To avoid overgeneralize the term “political discourse”, Graber provides his opinion which is restricting the subject concerned with formal/informal political contexts and political actors. (Graber, 1981) Moreover, Christ'l De Landtsheer and Ofer Feldman indicate that sometimes scientists and politicians also use these terms to refer to political discourse, such as political language, political speech and political rhetoric. The selection of these terms depends on variety situations (study of communication, study of political-psychology). (Christ'l De Landtsheer, Ofer Feldman, 1998)

Since 1980s or 1990s the study of political discourse has become a more explicit status. Researchers focused basically on political and social means to fulfill certain objectives and considered it as an approach to study the political language used in discourse. (John Wilson, 2005 & Christ'l De Landtsheer, Ofer Feldman, 1998) And till now this viewpoint is remained. Besides, it is always difficult to distinguish between linguistics analysis and political analysis because language is the core of political discourse, the deference is only the balance of them. (John Wilson, 2005)

In addition to the term of political discourse, there is one term which is easy to be confused with political discourse analysis, that is, critical discourse analysis. When talking about the “critical linguistics” or “critical discourse analysis” van Dijk indicates that it is presented straightly in political discourse and means that those analysts who make comment on politics then become political actors, so their works also become political. (John Wilson, 2005) John Wilson suggests that an analyst should clarify his/her motivations and point of view to arouse more detailed and circumstantial perspectives, in which the goal is to think about political language first as discourse, then secondly as politics.

Since the meaning of political discourse can be very wide, in order to specify the subject of this thesis, in this part, according to current studies, we provide several definitions of political discourse given by different scholars.

John Wilson identifies two possibilities to define political discourse:

1. *A discourse which is itself political*.
2. *An analysis of political discourse as simply an example discourse type, without explicit reference to political content or political context*.

Baranov and Kazakevich (1991) suggest that political discourse is a combination which is consisted of speech acts and the concepts of public affairs that contain tradition and experience.

Nikiforova (2014) indicates that political discourse is the intercommunication of political activities between the speakers and the audiences. Political discourse concerns the governmental issues and tends to influence other people.

Political discourse has been transformed along with its development. George Orwell is considered to be the first who notices relation between language and politics due to his article “Politics and the English Language”. (John Wilson, 2005) Orwell focuses on political language in English, which he assumes that politicians try to hide the facts that they are not willing to let the people know. Murray Edleman then embarks on how political goals are implemented. Michel Pêcheux found that political discourse is one of the ways that realize ideology depends on the one who uses the language. With this point of view, Michel Foucault provides examples in his work “The Archaeology of Knowledge and The Discourse on Language” to discuss that some terms would be defined differently due to various ideologies and their supporters. Therefore, meanings of words which are adopted in political discourse can be regarded as the representation of thinking, belief and knowledge. And it has influence on human’s understanding. (John Wilson, 2005) Orwell also notices this point, thus, he gives an idea that is if a man controls or restrains the possibility of language, then he controls or restrains thought.

To sum up, language is the main core in political discourse and words are instruments to fulfill the following purposes: 1) the intention trying to interfere the others’ opinion; 2) the reflection and delivering of the author’s ideology. Political discourse is a discourse which is consisted of public affairs and concerns political issues, such as war, domestic policy, foreign policy, human rights, political parties, election and so on. Political discourse itself is political. According to V.V. Zelensky’s two levels of politics, this thesis focuses on the public level- the concept of “crisis” used in political discourse in mess media (newspapers).

With the fact that political discourse is consisted of public affairs and concerns political issues, the discussion in political discourse is easily connected with the word “crisis”, like nuclear weapon crisis, a crisis of a political party, the crisis of the relations between countries, the crisis of leadership in a country, etc. Especially during the pandemic which started from the beginning of 2020, virus crisis, economic crisis, humanitarian crisis has been used in numerous political discourses. R. J. Holton (1987) considers that crisis, which is different from “normal”, is a decisive moment in a resolution of an event or illness. Reinhart Koselleck (1988) indicates that the term “crisis” was limited to be used in medical sphere in the Middle Ages. It means a crucial phase when a decision needs to be made. Zedler refers that crisis means judgement, reason, thought. (Reinhart Koselleck, 1988) In addition, crisis management aims at declining the damage. (Seon-Kyoung Ana, Karla K. Gower, 2009) Hence, the importance of understanding what kind of crisis we are facing, and what does crisis mean in the context should not be ignored.

# Conclusion of Chapter 1

Concept and discourse as key notions and objects in linguistics have become popular in the late 20th century. The main reason is that concept and discourse both are related to human activities, and both of them include extralinguistic factors which are human mind, mentality, social value and ideology, tradition and culture. Although there are many studies of concept and discourse, both of them still don’t have a concrete and explicit definition. However, based on the previous works and opinion provided by different scholars, we can sort out the general features of concept and discourse.

Concept is seen as an interpreter of information and a way to understand human mind. The view of concept given by Stepanov who indicates that concept reflects a person’s experience and understanding to the world and culture, and their relationships are interactive is considered the most acceptable version. Due to the fact that concept is related to mental image, and it contains background information of society, different cultures, the mental progress of human, concept is changeable because of different understandings. Many scholars give their ideas that concept is cognitive (mental structure) and linguocultural (cultural-ethnic component). Therefore, studying the concept of crisis, we need to consider elements, such as history, social phenomenon, culture.

Since the study of concept has been developed for a period of time, there are many methods to study concepts. The selection of methods depends on the subject, types of research (about content, structure etc.) and perspectives (linguistic, philosophical, psychological etc.) Based on these methods, this study focuses on special linguistic features of concept actualization in English and Chinese media political language and linguistic units of political discourse actualizing the concept of crisis.

Concept is recorded in different kinds of discourse, such as media discourse, medical discourse, political discourse due to the fact that discourse is immersed in life, and it can be written and spoken forms. Discourse is considered to have certain functions, such as to communicate with people, to express a purpose, to influence people’s consciousness, to objectify types of social relations etc. The difficulty of defining the political discourse is that everyday discourse which contains political issues might be considered as political discourse. In this thesis, we adopt the understanding of political discourse which is provided by Graber who limits the meaning of political discourse as a discourse which contains political contexts and political actors to make our subject and resources more specific.

Media is considered to be a tool for politicians to achieve their purposes and influence people’s opinion. Political media discourse is a channel for political actors to realize political reality, transmit ideology and influence public opinion. And in the progress of circulating information in texts, worldviews and concepts are transmitted as well. Therefore, to study the concept of crisis in political discourse seems relevant.

# CHAPTER 2. Linguistic units realizing the concept of "crisis" in English and Chinese languages: dictionary definitions

## 2.1. The lexical unit “crisis” in English and Chinese dictionaries.

In order to reveal the essence of the concept of «crisis» it’s necessary to indicate its elements and show their correlations. To begin with, we looked at the lexical unit of crisis in explanatory and etymological dictionaries in both languages and compare them.

According to the “Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries”, crisis means:

1. *a time of great danger, difficulty or doubt when problems must be solved or important decisions must be made,* for example, financial crisis, political crisis.
2. *a time when a problem, a bad situation or an illness is at its worst point,* for example, this illness passed its crisis.

The origin of this word can be dated from the late middle English, when “crisis” is used in medical sphere, and means “the turning point of a disease”. Furthermore, according to the “Online Etymology Dictionary”, the meaning of crisis can be dated from the 15th century and can be understood as the followings:

1. *decisive point in the progress of a disease*.
2. *vitally important or decisive state of things, point at which change must come, for better or worse*.
3. *turning point in a disease, that change which indicates recovery or death*. This definition is generally used in Hippocrates and Galen from Greek word “krisis”.
4. judgment, result of a trial, selection. This meaning is originated from Greek “krinein”.
5. From the Proto-Indo-European root “krei-” which means to sieve, discriminate, distinguish (Online Etymology Dictionary).

The lexicographic description of the concept of crisis provides the general understanding, that is, when crisis is used in English, it might refer to 1. a time, when situation is worse enough, and it needs to take action to fix the condition. 2. a negative state of something, which is at its heyday point.

In R. Koselleck and M. W. Richter’s article “Crisis” (Koselleck & Richter, 2006), the authors indicate that the term “crisis” was used in law, medicine and theology by Greeks. Then crisis has been used as metaphor in politics, economics, history, etc. since the 17th century. Besides, the increase of the use of “crisis” implies “an end of a period” from 1780s. The concept of crisis in English, according to different period of time, is changed.

Now we study definitions in Chinese dictionaries.

The word “crisis” in Chinese, 危機, can be divided into two elements, that is, 危 (danger; serious ill; height; honest; difficulty) and 機 (occasion; machine; reason; desire). Both of them could have variety of explanations since one of the features of Chinese lexical unit is that it is depending on different combinations and may have more than one meaning. In this part, to begin with, we separate three parts which are the meanings of the word “危” (danger), the meanings of the word “機” (occasion), and the meanings of 危機 (crisis) to understand the concepts of this lexeme in Chinese. Then we generalize and analyze the original, elemental concepts of crisis from several Chinese explanatory and etymological dictionaries to classify the meanings.

The word “危” can be understood as the following meanings according to the 教育部重編國語辭典修訂本(the Revised Mandarin Chinese Dictionary) and 漢典(Hàndiǎn):

1. Dangerous. This meaning is originated from 左傳 (Zuo zhuan, 4th century B.C.) where the phrase “小國忘守則危，況有災乎” used. (translation: If a small country neglects its defensive power, it is dangerous, even the danger is just a blaze.) An example of lexical combination is 危險(danger).
2. (Someone is) seriously in sick. This meaning is originated from 聊齋志異 (Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio, 1740) where the phrase “新城耿十八，病危篤，自知不起” used. (translation: A man named Geng Shiba in a city called Xīnchéng has known that he is going to die due to the serious ill.) An example of lexical combination is 垂危 (Dying).
3. Towering. This meaning is originated from 莊子 (Zhuangzi, 3rd century BC) where the phrase “使子路去其危冠，解其長劍，而受教於子” used. (translation: Ask Zhong You to take off his high hat, to unload his sword, then to be taught by Confucius.) An example of lexical combination is 危冠(high hat).
4. (Someone is) honest. An example of lexical combination is 危言 (alarm, an useful and direct suggestion given by those who really concern the issue).
5. Unfair and biased. This meaning is originated from 荀子 (Xunzi, 3rd century BC) where the phrase “故薄薄之地，不得履之，非地不安也，危足無所履者，凡在言也”used. (translation: Therefore, the majestic and broad ground cannot be stepped on. It is not because the ground is unstable. The reason why there is no place to step on tiptoe is that the words hurt people.) An example of lexical combination is 危足 (feel afraid and , thus, can’t stand upright).
6. Hardship, suffering etc. This meaning is originated from 史記 (Records of the Grand Historian, 94 BC) where the phrase “奮臂於大澤而天下響應者，其民危也” used. (translation: In Daze Township, the people revolted against their ruler because of one man's yelling, and the reason is that the people are in distress.) An example of lexical combination is 危難 (distress).
7. Fear and anxiety. This meaning is originated from 戰國策 (Zhan Guo Ce, 5th to 3rd centuries BC) where the phrase “竊為君危之” used. (translation: I am worried for the king.) An example of lexical combination is 人人自危 (everyone feels insecure.).
8. Hurt, injure and prejudice. This meaning is originated from 左傳 (Zuo zhuan, 4th century B.C.) where the phrase “若艱難其身，以險危大人” used. (translation: If you recklessly do dangerous things, you will make the high official suffered.) An example of lexical combination is危害 (endanger).
9. As a surname. For example, 危祜 (Wēi hù).
10. Roof ridge. This meaning is originated from 史記 (Records of the Grand Historian, 94 BC) where the phrase “痤因上屋騎危，謂使者曰” used. (translation: Fan Cuo got on the roof and rode on the ridge, saying to the envoy.) An example of lexical combination is屋危 (ridge).

As we can see, there are 10 different meanings of 危 (danger), and, moreover, this word can be used as an adjective, a verb and a noun. By analyzing these meanings of 危 (danger) from these dictionaries, we conclude that when 危 (danger ) is used as adjective or verb, it is usually related to an unpleasant, negative, unfortunate condition, like dangerous, sick, unfair, hardship, anxiety and hurt. Besides, when it is used as a noun, it has no relation with pessimistic circumstances, it only refers to a surname or a roof ridge.

The word “機” (occasion) can be understood as the following meanings according to the 教育部重編國語辭典修訂本(the Revised Mandarin Chinese Dictionary) and 漢典(Hàndiǎn):

1. Weaving equipment and generic name for machine. This meaning is originated from 史記 (Records of the Grand Historian, 94 BC) where the phrase “其母投杼下機，踰牆而走” used. (translation: Zeng Shen’s mother dropped her loom, and fled across the wall in a panic.) An example of lexical combination is 織布機 (loom; sewing machine).
2. Situation and occasion. This meaning is originated from a poem named 在獄詠蟬詩．序 (Chanting the cicada in prison, sequence, Tang Dynasty) where the phrase “應節為變，審藏用之機” used. (translation: Adapt to seasonal changes, insight into the timing of seclusion and activity.) An example of lexical combination is 隨機應變 (play it by ear).
3. The reason why things happen and change. This meaning is originated from 大學 (Great Learning) where the phrase “一人貪戾，一國作亂，其機如此” used. (translation: If a king is greedy, his country will be in chaos, the reason is simple.) An example of lexical combination is 動機 (motivation; intention).
4. Desires and vulgar thoughts. This meaning is originated from a poem named 下終南山過斛斯山人宿置酒 (Go down to Zhongnan Mountain, cross Husi Mountain, spend overnight, buy wine, Tang Dynasty) where the phrase “陶然共忘機” used. (translation: Enjoy the view, and left desires and vulgar thoughts behind.) An example of lexical combination is 心機 (mood; mind; desires; scheme) .
5. Important and secret. An example of lexical combination is 機密 (confidentiality).
6. Ingenious. An example of lexical combination is 機巧 (adroit).

According to dictionaries, when 機 (occasion) serves as noun in a lexeme, there are variety of meanings which seem to have no relations between each other, like a machine, an occasion, a reason, vulgar thoughts. Therefore, it is difficult to tell the concept of 機 (occasion) and its extralinguistic image.

Based on the above mentioned meanings of “危” (danger) and “機” (occasion), there are 12 combinations that can help us understand the concepts of危機 (crisis) which are originated from the units of lexeme. 1. Dangerous machine 2. Towering machine 3. Difficult machine 4. Dangerous occasion 5. Suffering occasion 6. Timing of illness 7. Dangerous reason 8. Sick reason 9. Honest reason 10. Biased reason 11. Difficult reason 12. Dangerous desire.

As we can see, there could be various meanings of the lexical units “危機”. Hence, when “危機” is used, we need to consider the possibility of which meanings it refers to.

The word “危機” (crisis) can be understood as the following meanings according to the 教育部重編國語辭典修訂本(the Revised Mandarin Chinese Dictionary) and 漢典(Hàndiǎn):

1. Hidden dangers and scourges; risks. This meaning is originated from a poem named 觀繩伎 (An admiration of the skill of manipulating the rope, Tang Dynasty) where the phrase “危機險勢無不有，倒掛纖腰學垂柳” used. (translation: Hidden dangers exist, simulate a willow tree hanging the rope upside down on the waist.) For example, 危機四伏 (be plagued by crises; beset with crises).
2. The critical moment about life and death; crisis. For example, 經濟危機 (economic crisis; financial crisis).

These meanings are generally used in modern world in Mandarin. In addition to these two meanings showed in Chinese explanatory and etymological dictionaries, Xinhua Dictionary shows another meaning of crisis meaning “dangerous tools for killing enemies, hunting animals, fishing “(危險的機關，用於殺敵﹑獵獸﹑捕魚等的器具). However, after we consider this explanation of 危機 (dangerous tools) in the original text “貪聽漁翁笛，誤觸危機” (translation: Being greedy to listen to the melody of fisherman's flute, accidentally activate the dangerous mechanism), we make a conclusion that 危機 (dangerous tools) based on this context is simply an abbreviation of two lexical units which are危險的(dangerous) and機關 (gear, tool; mechanism) because the hieroglyph “機” (gear, tool; mechanism) itself has the meaning which can be understood as a trap. Moreover, according to the origin text, the actor is a fish, and a trap is dangerous for a fish, thus, the author adds the adjective “危” (dangerous) to describe the trap. Hence, we decide not to put it in the meanings of 危機 (risk; crisis).

According to our analysis of meanings, the conceptual minimum of crisis in Chinese can be represented as follows: It is a sign that someone or something is in uncomfortable condition, such as seriously ill, difficult time, and it requires attentions to do further action. And for the purpose not to misunderstand the meaning of “危機”, according to the above mentioned feature of morpheme in Chinese, it is necessary to distinguish whether it is just a lexical units consisted of two hieroglyphs “危”and “機” or namely the word “危機”(crisis).

As both in English and Chinese, generally, there are two meanings of crisis, we make a comparison of differences and similarities of the concept of crisis in these two languages. D.S. Likhachev (1991) considers that there are 4 classifications of concept: 1) universal; 2) ethnic; 3) group; and 4) individual. The universal concept of crisis in English and Chinese shares an understanding that crisis is used in the usage of pointing out an issue, a trouble, a thing, a state which is badly shown. And due to the cultural diversity and personal life experience, there would be discrepancy of the concept of crisis between individuals. The apparent difference of the concept in English and Chinese is the meaning “risk”. In Chinese, the concept of “crisis” could be understood as risk. A potential danger which might have a negative influence. And it is usually used before a crisis happens, like 避免危機 (not to cause a crisis), 預防危機 (to prevent a crisis), 可能的危機 (a potential risk), etc. However, in English, according to the Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries, both of the meanings of crisis are used after it happened. The similarity of the concept of crisis in English and Chinese is the usage indicating a great danger of a moment, the hardest time of something. This concept of crisis is realized such as financial crisis, political crisis or when crisis is used to refer to a state of illness, like “pass the crisis” in English, “渡過這次危機” (pass through a danger) in Chinese.

## Ways of the realization of concept of crisis in political media discourse and the analysis of topics and their frequency

Newspaper is a medium to deliver information, ideologies, personal opinions, perspectives, etc. Forms of information are headlines, columns, reviews and news articles. One of the important linguistic functions of the texts is message. (Professional Discourses in Information-Communicative Space of Russia: Publicistic Discourse - PR Discourse - Business Discourse, p.77) Due to the different social institutes, like education, health services, politics, etc., the interaction between people has influence on a person’s understanding of world, cultures, customs, languages, ways of thinking, individual cognition, even their speech. (Skorohodova, Shutaya, Selezneva, Tortunova and Rudnitskaya, 2015) In addition, the connection of people and governments is strengthened by the technology development.

According to a national online-survey in the People’s Republic of China, which was conducted by Di Cui of Fudan University and Fang Wu of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, it indicates that news media support policies made by the government of the PRC (People’s Republic of China), hence, it is assumed that the news media convey information and opinions based on the attitude of the government of the PRC. Newspapers form public opinion, and change people’s perceiver with an issue, such as the difference of public support toward nuclear weapons in the United States, the concern about the AI (artificial intelligence) in the PRC. (Di Cui & Fang Wu, 2021) With the development of technology, it is much easier and faster than before to spread news to every corner of the word.

G. A. Arsenova suggests that *the concept of crisis plays an important role in the establishment of the concept spheres of mankind*. (Репрезентация концепта «кризис» в медийном дискурсе, p.4) Therefore, the study of the use of the lexeme “crisis” in political media discourse is meaningful. In 2020, with the issues of the eruption of the Covid-19, the depression of global market, the conflict of the border in the Kashmir between the PRC and the India and the global warming crisis, etc., the use of “crisis” is frequently shown in newspapers. In this thesis we separate the topic of the use of “crisis” in newspapers in English and Chinese into 7 categories, that is, 1) ecology; 2) economy; 3) politics; 4) health; 5) virus; 6) life; 7) uncertainty. We make “virus” an independent category to differ from the category “health” due to the Covid-19. There are numerous reports which specifically focus on the influence of the global pandemic.

To begin with, we show ways of the realization of the lexical units “crisis” in both English and Chinese by comparing the verbalizations of concepts of crisis based on dictionaries in political media discourses. In each concept of crisis, there will be two examples from newspapers.

According to the “Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries”, crisis means:

1. *a time of great danger, difficulty or doubt when problems must be solved*. According to this explanation, we could expect an action will be taken to solve the crisis. In the period of the global pandemic, all countries face a hard time for their development of economy and the pandemic also causes damage to the health care systems. Most of them even encounter the first decline in nearly ten years, such as New Zealand, Japan and Australia, etc. Taking an example from the newspapers to show the realization of this meaning of crisis,

“*Specifically, there were many people on the right condemning the Fed’s efforts to rescue the economy from the effects of the 2008* ***financial crisis***.” (In Praise of Janet Yellen the Economist, Nov. 26, 2020)

Here we can see a collocation adjective + crisis. Adjective “financial” attaches a specific meaning to crisis connected with economy. And the number of the examples with the same collocation adjective + crisis is 33 from the 105 examples in our research. Besides, the number of examples connected with the topic “economy” is 21.

There is another example of this meaning of “crisis”,

“*Unfortunately, the* ***Covid crisis*** *and the transition of 2020 have the clear potential to spin out of control in the same way*.” (Why This Contentious Transition Is So Perilous for the Economy, Nov. 13, 2020)

In this fragment a collocation noun + crisis is used. The noun “Covid” used in a function as an adjective attaches a specific meaning to crisis connected with virus. And the number of the examples with the same collocation noun + crisis is 26. Moreover, the number of examples connected with the topic “virus” is 19, including 4 collocations which combine both the topic of health and virus.

According to the “Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries”, there is another meaning of crisis:

2. *a time when a problem, a bad situation or an illness is at its worst point*. Comparing with the first meaning, this meaning of crisis stress on a pessimistic condition of an issue which reaches a high level of danger. Since 2011 the Syrian Civil War has caused, based on the observation of the Frontex, the EU's external border force, more than 1,800,000 migrants crossing the border and entered the territory of the EU. The migrant issue is tough for the European leaders to solve. Abd here is an example to express the second meaning of crisis.

“That number decreased to 17,000 in 2020, according to Mr. Van der Auweraert, who said that despite the smaller figure, the failure to accommodate them **had made the crisis** worse.” (Hundreds of Migrants Stranded in Freezing Weather in Bosnia, Dec. 31, 2020)

In this fragment we can see a collocation verb + crisis. The verb “made” is in form of past participle of the lexeme “make”, which highlight the “crisis” is in a passive state. And the number of the examples with the same collocation is 22. In addition, the number of examples connected with the topic “politics” is 19.

As the second meaning of crisis describes the status of a thing, here we show another example which is connected with the topic “health”,

“Groups have long warned of a growing mental **health crisis** there as the thousands who fled war and economic hardship remain in limbo.” (Refugee Who Set Herself on Fire in Greece Is Charged With Arson, Feb. 25, 2021)

This example shows the collocation noun + crisis. The noun “health” serves as an adjective to describe the kind of crisis. In this case, “crisis” refers to the illness which is at its worst situation. The number of examples connected with the topic “health” is 11, including 4 collocations which combine both the topic of health and virus. And the number of the collocation noun + crisis is 26.

The above examples indicate the fact that there are different ways to verbalize two meanings of crisis in political media discourse in English. We might especially note that when the word “crisis” is used in political discourse, it usually concerns governments, national policy and institutes of governments. Besides, according to our samples of the use of “crisis” collected from newspapers, the frequency of the use of these two meanings of crisis, given by the Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries, in 4 newspapers publications (the Washington Post, the New York Times, the Economist, the diplomat) is quite different. The table 1 in the next page shows the statistics.

Table 1: the frequency of the meaning of “crisis” used in English

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| meanings of  crisis  publications | a time of great danger, difficulty or doubt when problems must be solved. | a time when a problem, a bad situation or an illness is at its worst point. | total |
| the Washington Post | 40 | 18 | 58 |
| the New York Times | 24 | 12 | 36 |
| the Economist | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| the Diplomat | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Total | 69 | 36 | 105 |

Here we can see, comparing with the meaning “*a time when a problem, a bad situation or an illness is at its worst point*”, the first meaning of crisis “*a time of great danger, difficulty or doubt when problems must be solved*” is more frequently adopted in newspapers. More than a half of our samples refer to the first meaning of crisis. The number of the first meaning used in newspapers is 69. And the number of the second meaning used in newspapers is 36. In addition, we found that all of the samples using the collocation preposition + crisis tend to use the second meaning of crisis. However, the table 1 does not point out the relation between contexts and meanings of crisis in political media discourse. Hence, we analyze a more specific use of these meanings. The table 2 in the next page illustrates the number of meanings of crisis realized in 8 topics.

Table 2: statistics of the meaning of “crisis” used in in different topics

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Meaning  of crisis  Topic | a time of great danger, difficulty or doubt when problems must be solved. | a time when a problem, a bad situation or an illness is at its worst point. | total |
| politics | 39 | 13 | 52 |
| ecology | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| virus | 10 | 5 | 15 |
| health/ virus | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| health | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| economy | 9 | 12 | 21 |
| life | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| uncertainty | 1 | - | 1 |

According to the statistics, the number of crisis used under the topic “politics” is 52, which occupies a half of our samples. And under this topic, the number of crisis referring to the first meaning is 39, which is more frequently used than the second meaning of crisis. Based on fragments of reports in our data, we consider that the reason is that crisis is usually used to refer to the issue which has possibility to influence political position of a country or a politician, for example, “humanitarian crisis” in Venezuela indicates that the government of Venezuela needs to adapt actions to solve this issue, and it is a damage for the political reputation of Venezuela in international community. Besides, we found that when crisis is used in political issues, it reflects the events ~~are~~ happening at that period of time, like the border crisis in 2021, virus crisis since 2020, financial crisis in 2008, etc.

To sum up, the first meaning of crisis, based on the definition of the dictionary, is mostly used when an event has occurred. On the other hand, the other meaning of crisis tends to refer to a condition of an issue.

To analyze different collocations of crisis used in 105 newspapers in English, we find out that there are 7 ways of the verbalization of the lexical unit “crisis”:

1. verb + crisis. Here is an example,

“*The loss of nearly three billion birds signals a* ***looming crisis*** *that we have the power to stop*.” (The Crisis for Birds Is a Crisis for Us All, Sept. 19, 2019)

1. adjective + crisis. Here is an example,

“*Tuesday’s hearing at the Organization of American States did not result in a clear plan to address Venezuela’s political and* ***humanitarian crisis***.” (Crisis Upon Crisis in Venezuela, March 29, 2017)

1. crisis + noun. Here is an example,

“*Mettler and Lieberman write that each* ***crisis period*** *featured spikes in at least one,*” (Biden’s considering reforming the Supreme Court. That’s happened during every crisis in U.S. democracy, April 13, 2021)

1. crisis + past participle. Here is an example,

“*It's equally easy to suggest reasons why investors might feel* ***crisis-ridden***”. (The Nation; Crisis, What Crisis?, July 14, 2002)

1. noun + crisis. In most of the case, noun is used in a function of adjective to indicate what kind of crisis is faced. Here is an example,

“*But the politicians have struggled to coordinate their response to the islands’* ***migration crisis***.” (After Perilous Atlantic Journey, Migrants

Await Their Fate in Canary Island Hotels, Dec. 5, 2020)

1. number + crisis. Here is an example,

“*…, who emerged as an anti-migration firebrand at the back of* ***the 2015 crisis****.*” (E.U. Border Agency Pulls Out of Hungary Over Rights Abuses, Jan. 27, 2021)

1. preposition + crisis. Here is an example,

“*The Department of Health and Human Services will speed up its hiring process to have people in place to help states* ***in crisis****.*” (Trump declares the opioid crisis a public health emergency, Oct. 26, 2017)

The table 3 in next page shows the frequency of these 7 collocations. As we can see, the most frequently used collocation is adjective + crisis, and the second is collocation noun + crisis. The number of collocation adjective + crisis is 33. And the number of collocation noun + crisis is 26. Among these collocations, collocation noun + crisis, collocation adjective + crisis and collocation verb + crisis is much more frequently used in newspapers with the meaning of crisis “a time of great danger, difficulty or doubt when problems must be solved”. Moreover, the meaning of crisis “a time when a problem, a bad situation or an illness is at its worst point” is also more frequently realized in collocation adjective + crisis.

Table 3: the frequency of collocations of “crisis” shown in English newspapers

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | a time of great danger, difficulty or doubt when problems must be solved. | a time when a problem, a bad situation or an illness is at its worst point. | total |
| verb + crisis | 15 | 7 | 22 |
| adjective + crisis | 19 | 14 | 33 |
| crisis + noun | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| crisis + past participle | 3 | - | 3 |
| noun + crisis | 21 | 5 | 26 |
| number + crisis | 1 | - | 1 |
| preposition + crisis | 8 | 7 | 15 |

In this part we also make an analysis of the verbalization of crisis in Chinese. According to the 教育部重編國語辭典修訂本(the Revised Mandarin Chinese Dictionary) and 漢典(Hàndiǎn), there are two meanings of crisis:

1. 潛藏的危險、禍害。(Hidden dangers and scourges; risks) With the growing tension of armed conflict along the border between Ukraine and Russia in 2021, the possibility of warfare is concerned by the international community. Especially this confrontation involves complex issues, such as separatism, nationalism, post-soviet regional politics, etc. Warfare is seemed as a hidden danger in this situation. The below example is a fragment of report that used this meaning of crisis in Chinese.

“*俄國已在接壤烏克蘭的邊界集結兵力，引發烏東衝突升級為****重大危機****的憂慮。*” (俄防長:正進行部隊演習 因應北約軍事威脅, April 13, 2021)

Translation: Russia has assembled its forces on the border with Ukraine, and this movement caused the concern of the conflict that will escalate into a **major crisis** (which will erupt a war).

Here we can see a collocation adjective + crisis. 重大(的) means major, meaningful, influential. The adjective 重大 (major) shows the degree of the possibility to erupt a war, in other words, it indicates a high degree of the crisis. The number of this collocation used in newspapers is 14. The number of this meaning used in topic “politics” is 11.

Here is the second example to illustrate this meaning of crisis,

“*兩岸難以突破當前政治僵局，為防止****台海危機****，雙方應在欠缺官方對話的情況下加強傳遞訊號*”(防台海危機 美中台專家籲加強傳遞訊號增進互信, December 25, 2020)

Translation: It is difficult for both sides of the strait to break through the current political deadlock. In order to prevent **a crisis in the Taiwan Strait**, the two sides should strengthen their communication in the absence of official dialogue.

This fragment indicates the fact that there is a hidden danger, risk, between China and Taiwan, if one side rejects to unblock the channel of message exchange. We can see a collocation noun + crisis is used. The noun 台海 (Taiwan Strait ) is in a function of an adjective which makes readers aware of the risk of conflict in this region. The number of this collocation used in our samples is 53. And this example is connected with the topic “politics”.

According to the dictionaries, another meaning of crisis in Chinese is 生死成敗的緊要關頭。(The critical moment about life and death; crisis) The definition of crisis is consistent with the morphemes composed of two separate hieroglyphs 危(dangerous) and 機 (occasion) which respectively represent 危險 “dangerous” and 時機 “an occasion” . This meaning of crisis emphasizes on time when crisis has been caused. Here is a fragment from a report of the newspaper “the Apple Daily”,

*衛環委員會召委陳玉珍周三(14日)則安排公安總體檢與災害****危機處理****救濟專案報告。*(【台鐵出軌】立院交通委員會明考察邊坡改善工程 檢討工地主任管理機制, April 11, 2021)

Translation: Chen Yuzhen, a member of the Health and Environmental Protection Committee, arranged a report on the overall public security inspection and disaster **crisis management** and relief project on Wednesday (14th).

In this report, a collocation crisis + verb危機處理 (crisis arrangement) could be understood as a different collocation verb + crisis處理危機 (resolve crisis, problems) because, according to the 教育部重編國語辭典修訂本(the Revised Mandarin Chinese Dictionary), 處理 (to deal with something) is only used as a verb in Chinese, such as *辦理、管理、解決、治理*. Generally, 危機處理 (to deal with crisis) is regarded as a noun in Chinese, like 危機處理的能力。 (the capability to solve a crisis). The number of the collocation crisis + verb used in our samples is 4. And this example is connected with the topic “politics”.

Here is another example from the People’s Daily to illustrate the second meaning of crisis in Chinese,

*美国密西西比州首府杰克逊市2月中旬出现的****供水危机****仍在继续*。 (美国密西西比州首府供水危机持续, March 16, 2021)

Translation: **The crisis of water supply** in Jackson, the capital of Mississippi, in mid-February, continues

As we can see, a collocation verb + noun + crisis is used in this fragment. In this case, according to the 教育部重編國語辭典修訂本(the Revised Mandarin Chinese Dictionary), 供 is a verb, and it means 給予 (provide, offer); 水 is a noun which means 無色無臭的液體。由氫氣與氧氣化合而成。(Liquid formed by hydrogen and oxygen). The morphemes composed of two separate hieroglyphs 供 (provide) and 水 (water) is used in a function of an adjective to attach the kind of crisis which refers to the water. The number of the collocation in our samples is 5. And the number of topic “economy” is 20.

With the above examples of the realization of the word “crisis”, we have known that both of these two meanings of crisis in Chinese is used in newspapers. The table 4 below indicates each number of the frequency of each meaning of crisis.

Table 4: the frequency of the meanings of “crisis” used in Chinese

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Hidden dangers and scourges; risks. | The critical moment about life and death; crisis. | Total |
| the Apple Daily | 10 | 13 | 23 |
| the Liberty Times Net | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| the People’s Daily | 2 | 32 | 34 |
| the Xinhua News Agency | 2 | 23 | 25 |
| the Central News Agency | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| the People's Liberation Army Daily | - | 2 | 2 |
| the Global Times | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 21 | 80 | 101 |

Based on the statistics in the table 4, we found that the number of the meaning “the critical moment about life and death; crisis” used in newspapers is 80, which is about four times more than the meaning “hidden dangers and scourges; risks”. Based on our collection of reports, we think the reason causing this phenomenon is that in political discourse it is more influential and easily to grab attention from the public by discussing the problems which have already existed, such as,

1) “*《破解危机》对当前人类面临的****重大危机****进行反思，揭示气候环境危机将是全人类即将遭遇的****最致命危机****。”*(破解气候环境危机国际论坛召开, September 23, 2020)

Translation: "Cracking the Crisis" reflects on the current **major crises** facing mankind, revealing that the climate and environmental crisis will be **the deadliest crisis** that all mankind will encounter.

2) “*全球****氣候危機****應「分開來處理」，形容這個問題需要全球2大溫室氣體排放國合作解決。”*(拜登任內第1人 華郵:美氣候特使凱瑞擬近日訪中, April 11, 2021)

Translation: The global **climate crisis** should be "handled separately", describing that this problem requires the cooperation of the world's two major greenhouse gas emitters to solve it.

3) “*张德江在会⻅希腊总理帕潘德里欧时，着重就当前欧洲主权****债务危机****和如何加强合作共同应对挑战与希方交换了看法。”*(张德江分别会⻅希腊总统、总理, June 17, 2010)

Translation: When meeting with Greek Prime Minister Papandreou, Zhang Dejiang mainly exchanged views with Greece on the current European sovereign **debt crisis** and how to strengthen cooperation to jointly cope with challenges.

Moreover, to analyze different collocations of crisis used in 101 fragments of political media discourse in Chinese, we find out that there are 8 ways of the verbalization of the lexical unit crisis:

1) adjective + crisis. Here is an example,

“*面对新形势、新任务、新要求，呼唤党员干部要有新思想、新作为、新担当， 党员干部只有善于破解****各类“危机”****，兴务实作风，才能以作风正，促党风好;以党 风好，促民心顺。*” (党员干部要善于破解三种“危机”, November 9, 2020)

Translation: In the face of new situations, new tasks, and new requirements, members of communist party and cadres are called upon to have new ideas, new actions, and new responsibilities. Only when party members and cadres are good at solving **various "crises"** and developing a pragmatic style, can they adopt a positive style and promote a good party style; Promote people's peace with a good party style.

2) crisis. Here is an example,

“*我们深信，矛盾孕育变革，****危机****开启新局。*” (团结合作战危机，全球治理开新局, November 20, 2020)

Translation: We are convinced that contradictions breed changes and **crises** open up a new situation.

3) crisis + verb. Here is an example,

“*趙指出，不論是公投的應對、****危機處理****，乃至於到更長遠的國家利益，我們都是執政團隊, …*” (公投案通過內閣總辭? 趙天麟:非由蘇內閣單獨負擔成敗, April 12, 2021)

Translation: Zhao pointed out that whether it is the referendum response, **crisis management**, or even the longer-term national interests, we are the ruling team, …

4) noun + crisis. Here is an example,

“*如果美國未盡快推出數位美元，該國將處於嚴重競爭劣勢，面臨「****生存危機****」。*” (別被中國比下去!比特幣多頭籲速推數位美元 否則 美將陷「生存危機」, April 10, 2021)

Translation: If the United States does not launch digital dollars as soon as possible, the country will be at a severe competitive disadvantage and face a "**survival crisis**."

5) preposition + crisis. Here is an example,

“*中国****在危机之中****展现出的大国担当熠熠生辉。*” (海外版望海楼:危机中的大国担当, December 15, 2020)

Translation: China shows its responsibility **in crisis** as a super power.

6) verb + adverb + crisis. Here is an example,

“*三要善于破解“****执行不力”的危机****。实干兴邦，空谈误国。*” (党员干部要善于破解三种“危机”, November 9, 2020)

Translation: Third, must be good at cracking **the crisis of "ineffective implementation"**. Work hard to rejuvenate the country, otherwise, empty talk will mislead the country.

7) verb + crisis. Here is an example,

“*台鐵能不能起死回生，端賴平時做好沙盤推演，落實SOP，以****防範危機****於未然。*” (【台鐵該做未做】設遠端監控系統 監看火車即時動態影像, April 8, 2021)

Translation: Whether the Taiwan Railways can survive from the crisis, it depends on making plans to prevent such incident in daily life to **prevent crises** in the future.

8) verb + noun + crisis. Here is an example,

“*全球有高達9成的貿易 都是透過船隻運送，長賜輪擱淺讓歐美零售商仍有潛在****斷貨危機***, …” (長賜輪之亂還在燒!港口貨櫃大塞車 全球供應鏈緊張加劇, April 9, 2021)

Translation: Up to 90% of the world's trade is carried by ships, and the ship, named Ever Given, stranded makes European and American retailers still have a potential **out-of-stock crisis**, …

The table 5 shows the numbers of these 8 collocations used in Chinese political media discourse. According to the statistics, we notice that the collocation noun + crisis is the most frequently used in newspapers. And the number is 53. Hence, we consider the collocation noun + crisis is the major way of the verbalization of crisis in Chinese. The meaning of crisis in Chinese “hidden dangers and scourges; risks” is frequently shown in the collocation noun + crisis, then the collocation verb + crisis. In addition, the meaning “the critical moment about life and death; crisis” is more frequently shown in the collocation noun + crisis, as well. And the number of the use is 46. The collocation adjective + crisis and the collocation verb + crisis share a same number of verbalizations of crisis with the meaning “the critical moment about life and death; crisis”.

Table 5: the frequency of collocations of “crisis” shown in Chinese newspapers

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Hidden dangers and scourges; risks | The critical moment about life and death; crisis | Total |
| adjective + crisis | 3 | 11 | 14 |
| crisis | - | 3 | 3 |
| crisis + verb | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| noun + crisis | 7 | 46 | 53 |
| preposition + crisis | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| verb + adverb + crisis | - | 1 | 1 |
| verb + crisis | 6 | 11 | 17 |
| verb + noun + crisis | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Total | 21 | 80 | 101 |

## 2.3. Comparative analysis of the lexical units in English and Chinese languages

In this section we compare the differences of the lexeme “crisis” used in English and Chinese newspapers based on our statistics. To begin with, we found that the word “crisis” is used in different stage in political media discourse. Wefollowed the way that G. A. Arsenova used in her study “Representation of the concept of "crisis" in media discourse (on the example of daily publications in Russian and Chinese)” to separate the concept of crisis into 4 phases: 1) beginning; 2) developing; 3) settling; 4) ending. The phase of crisis is indicated mostly by modal verbs or verbs. For example,

“What is the likelihood of a financial crisis happening in China, and **how would it unfold**, …”

In the report “How Likely Is a Financial Crisis in China?”, there is a modal verb “would” which shows an assumption of the crisis that has not happened yet. The word “would” is a past tense of the modal verb “will”, and it also refers to an action in a future. However, sometimes we need to consider the context of the crisis used in the report. For example,

“Officials who briefed reporters said that such an emergency declaration **would not be a good fit for a longtime crisis**” (Trump declares the opioid crisis a public health emergency, Oct. 26, 2017)

In this case we also see that the modal verb “would” in past tense is used. And, according to the context, the modal verb “would” reveals the assumption of the speaker (whether or not) as well. Nevertheless, an idiom “be a good fit for”, which means something is not suitable for something, indicates that people are finding a more appropriate measure to solve the crisis. Hence, we consider the crisis is being a settling, arranging phase.

Except for these 4 phases, we add another phase “before” due to the fact that the understanding of crisis could be “hidden risk” in Chinese. The table 6 shows the 5 phases of the concept of crisis realized in English and Chinese. These phases are separated based on the contexts of the lexical units from newspapers.

Table 6: “crisis” in English and Chinese referred in different phases

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | In English | In Chinese | Total |
| Before | a Chinese crisis, financial crisis, another crisis, potential crisis | 重大危機, 可能的危机, 迫在眉睫的危机, 危機處理(2), 生存危機, 台海危機, 經濟危機, 人道危機, 國家危機, 一連串危機, 破產危機, 防範危機(2), 外洩危機, 外洩危機, 斷貨危機, 限電危機, 缺電危機 | 23 |
| Beginning | a crisis(4), a deeper crisis, an unfolding crisis, a Chinese crisis, a governance crisis, a predictable crisis, crisis-ridden, financial crisis, health crisis, humanitarian crisis, identity crisis, ominous crisis, the crisis(2), the latest crisis | 目前的危机, 各种危机, 這場危機, 生态危机, 经济危机, 烏克蘭危機, 政治危机, 边境危机, 人道主义危机(2), 公共卫生危机, 陷入危機, 演變成危機, 使危机加剧 | 32 |
| Developing | a crisis(5), a moment of crisis, Covid crisis , crisis periods(2), health crisis(2), in crisis(3), its crisis, periods of crisis, political crisis, public health crisis, the crisis(6), this crisis(4), a USPS crisis, American Crisis, confidence crisis(2), coronavirus crisis, crisis of trust, drug crisis, humanitarian crisis(4), in the midst of the crisis, internal crisis, migrant crisis, refugee crisis(2), Social Security crisis, swirling crisis, the growing crisis, the homeless crisis(2), | 重大危机, 致命危机, 全球性危机, 空前危機, 各种危机, 持久的危机, 一场危机, 氣候危機(2), 全球危机, 信心危機(2), 生態危機, 粮⻝危机, 芯片危机, 债务危机, 金融危机, 克里米亞危機, 烏克蘭危機(2), 叙利亚危机, 政治危机, 边境危机, 美联航危机, 难⺠危机, 新型冠狀病毒危機, 人道主义危机, 在危机最严重的时候, 在危机之中, 酿成危机, 供水危机 | 79 |
| Settling | a longtime crisis, historic crisis, migration crisis(2), opioid crisis(3), this crisis, American Crisis, coronavirus crisis, drug crisis, health crisis, humanitarian crisis, looming crisis, that crisis(2), the crisis(7) | 各类危机, 多重危机, 危機處理(2), 海湾危机, 气候环境危机(2), 人类危机, 金融危机(2), 债务危机, 人道危機, 烏克蘭危機, 移民危机(2), 难⺠危机, 叙利亚危机, 难民潮危机, 新冠危机, 滑坡的危机, 恐慌的危机, 执行不力的危机, 化解危機(4), 短缺危機, 战胜危机, 组阁危机 | 52 |
| Ending | financial crisis(5), the 2015 crisis, the crisis, an emerging-markets crisis, major crisis, post-financial-crisis, the crisis of the 1790s, various crisis | 重重危机, 危机, 經濟危機, 金融危机, 衝突危機, 从危机中, 待危機結束, 断交危机 | 20 |
| Total | 105 | 101 | 206 |

After sorting out the lexical units of crisis used in newspapers, we found some linguistical phenomena. First, when crisis refers to an issue is in an ending phase in English, it is usually shown up with a specific event in history. This phenomenon could be seen in “financial crisis”, “the 2015 crisis”, “the crisis of the 1790s”, etc. Second, although there is no meaning of crisis in English directly referring to a danger in a future, practically the lexical units of “crisis” is sometimes used in the “before” phase in a function as a prediction, an assumption. Third, by the frequency of the word “crisis” used in the 5 phases, the order is the developing phase (79), the settling phase (52), the beginning phase (32), the before phase (23) and the ending phase (20). After analyzing the samples of reports, we consider the reason that the developing phase is the most frequently referred is that the addressors of the political discourse care the current issues, focus on the development of a crisis and discuss a management of crisis.

Due to the fact that English and Chinese are two different languages, the table 7 in the next page compares the similarity and the dissimilarity of collocations connected with crisis in English and Chinese based on our collection from newspapers, and it shows different linguistic features. To begin with, as we can see, there are 4 collocations are used only in English: 1) crisis + past participle; 2) crisis + noun; 3) number + crisis. On the contrary, there are some used only in Chinese as well, like 1) crisis without another lexeme; 2) noun + verb + crisis; 3) verb + adverb + crisis; 4) verb + crisis; and 5) verb + noun + crisis. Hence, we consider that the verbalization of “crisis” in Chinese is more flexible.

Table 7: the similarity and the dissimilarity of collocations in English and Chinese

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Frequency of collocation of crisis used in English | Frequency of collocation of crisis used in Chinese |
| adjective + crisis | 33 | 14 |
| crisis | - | 3 |
| crisis + verb | - | 4 |
| crisis + past participle | 3 | - |
| crisis + noun | 5 | - |
| noun + crisis | 26 | 53 |
| number + crisis | 1 | - |
| preposition + crisis | 15 | 4 |
| verb + crisis | 22 | 17 |
| verb + adverb + crisis | - | 1 |
| verb + noun + crisis | - | 5 |
| total | 105 | 101 |

Among these differences, both in English and Chinese have collocation verb + crisis, however, present participle verb in English is used in a function as adjective to attach crisis in a specific meaning. In the report that we collect from newspaper, it is written that “the results signal an **unfolding crisis**.”. Here we can see that “unfolding” is a present participle of the word “unfold”. On the contrary, the collocation verb + crisis in Chinese is only used at a time when crisis serves as an objective, and it is not in a function of adjective. Verbs in collocation with crisis in Chinese is always infinitive. Here we can see two phrases below,

1) “*加快****化解危机****、促进可持续发展是世界各国共同的目标和任务*”. (破解气候环境危机国际论坛召开, September 23, 2020)

(translation: **To solve a crisis** in a hurry and to boost the continuous development is a mutual goal and mission of the global community.)

2) “*歐盟官員前天直指，中國和俄羅斯從中作梗，導致國際無法成功遏阻緬甸****陷入危機****。*” (無恥緬軍扣屍 索二千五才放行, April 13, 2021)

(translation: European Union officials pointed out the day before yesterday that China and Russia are obstructing this, which has prevented the international community from successfully preventing Myanmar from **intervening in the crisis**.)

In addition, there is the collocation crisis + verb both in English and Chinese, such as “crisis-ridden” and “危機處理” (crisis management). Due to the character of the verb conjugation of English, verbs used in a collocation crisis + past participle. And in Chinese the collocation crisis + verb is seen as a multisyllabic morpheme, a noun. Besides, according to this table, we can see the frequency of collocations used in newspapers in English and in Chinese is different: the collocation adjective + crisis, verb + crisis and noun + crisis is used frequently in English; half of the collocation used in Chinese is noun + crisis.

By comparing the phases of crisis referred in newspapers, the frequency of 5 phases of “crisis” and collocations of “crisis”, it turns out the fact that there are not only different characters of English and Chinese, there are similarities as well.

# Conclusion of Chapter 2

Explanatory and etymological dictionaries have recorded meanings of “crisis” in English and Chinese and their footprints of transformation due to the change of society in different periods of times, such as the origin use of crisis in English is diffusely seen in medical sphere referring to an illness which is at its peak, and later, it was started to be used in political discourse. So as the meanings of “crisis” in Chinese. In classical Chinese (文言文), which is mostly used in ancient time, there are numerous possibilities of the understandings of the morpheme “危機” (crisis). However, it has changed with the background of time and space in modern Chinese-speaking world, that is, China, Singapore, Taiwan and Malaysia. Nowadays, the understanding of the morpheme “危機” (crisis) in Chinese vernacular (白話文) has been restricted to refer to the two above mentioned meanings in dictionaries. As concepts of crisis could be changed with time, the study of concepts of crisis is meaningful.

According to our analysis of the verbalizations of crisis in English, and the word “crisis” used in different phases based on the contexts, we notice that the meaning of crisis in English could also be used before a crisis has happened, like the phrase below,

“Yet **another crisis might happen** in China, caused by insolvent shadow banks, bursting asset bubbles, or indebted local governments.” (How Likely Is a Financial Crisis in China? November 17, 2015)

This fragment of report shows a prediction of crisis which has chance to occur in China. The word “crisis” is used with the purpose to alarm readers and politicians in political media discourse. Hence, we consider that the definitions given by dictionaries serve as the foundation of concept of the lexeme “crisis”, and the addressors decide ways of its verbalizations.

Except for the linguistic features, a phenomenon of the use of “crisis” in political discourse in Chinese is worthy our attention. To analyze the verbalizations of 危機 (crisis) in Chinese political media discourse, we collect newspapers not only from China, but from Taiwan as well. We notice that there are differences of the use of “crisis” in the Chinese speaking world. First, the intention of delivering their ideology. When crisis is used in political media discourse in China, most of the contexts refer to a problem occurred in other countries. And it also reveals an information which indicates that the political system of China might be the most suitable system over the world and at the same time, China is a responsible country and is ready to help other countries. In this case, we can see examples like the border crisis in the United States, the humanitarian crisis in Syria, the interference of NATO in the Ukraine crisis, etc. This aspect is also shown in the study of G. A. Arsenova, Representation of the concept of "crisis" in media discourse (on the example of daily publications in Russian and Chinese). Second, with the purpose to shape the image of China inside the country. When the word “crisis” is used to indicate a problem in China, it usually comes with a positive attitude about creating a better future, such as,

*“我们深信，矛盾孕育变革，****危机****开启新局。”* (团结合作战危机，全球治理开新局, November 20, 2020)

(translation: We are convinced that contradictions breed changes and **crises** open up a new situation.)

The third difference of the use of “crisis” in Chinese newspapers between China and Taiwan is that most of the newspapers in Taiwan rather to focus on domestic political situation. On the contrary, newspapers in China involve more issues at a global level.

In this chapter we show several facts of the verbalization of the concepts of “crisis”, like the definitions of “crisis” which reveal the basic understanding of the lexical unit; collocations used in English and Chinese and their numbers of use; the phases of “crisis” referred in newspapers; the differences of the “crisis” used in Chinese newspapers. With these evidences, we consider that the verbalizations of crisis are diverse and dynamic. And there are both similarities and divergences in English and Chinese.

# Conclusion

The connection of different nations, countries, cultures, languages is tightening since the development of technology makes the transmission of messages, speeches, ideologies faster. And the interaction of countries, economic activities and politicians makes the lexeme “crisis” widely used in the global village, especially during the pandemic time, decline of global market, regional political conflicts, fight against terrorism, etc. With the spread of political media discourse, the study of concepts of “crisis” is no more an ignorable issue.

Concept is a way that a person first time understand the world, and it shapes the picture of the world by a person’s background, religious, ethnicity, nationality, culture and language. Given previous studies of concept, we know that there are numerous methods to analyze concept and each method features on the selection of the subject.

Media discourse is a borderless, fast, wide-spread medium which people grab information from. By mass media, people have possibility to know things happening around the world. Hence, political media discourse is influential. In our study, we focus on the lexeme “crisis” used in political media discourse and try to sort out the ways of the verbalization of “crisis”.

By our analysis and comparisons of “crisis” in English and Chinese, we notice that dictionaries give a person basic concepts of “crisis”, and based on these concepts, the lexical units of “crisis” are realized in numerous ways. Therefore, definitions of dictionaries could be seen as the first gate of mankind to shape concepts of “crisis”. Ways of verbalization of “crisis” could be classified by the collocations of “crisis”; phases of the development of an issue which the word “crisis” refers to; statistics of meanings of “crisis” used in newspapers; and topics of “crisis” based on the contexts. According to our study, the results are the following points;

1) There are particular collocations of “crisis” used only in English or Chinses, such as (1) crisis + past participle, (2) crisis + noun, (3) number + crisis used in English; (1) crisis, (2) crisis + verb, (3) verb + adverb + crisis, (4) verb + noun + crisis in Chinese.

2) The verbalization of the lexeme “crisis” in Chinese is divers, and more flexible than in English.

3) The most frequently used meanings of “crisis” in English is “*a time of great danger, difficulty or doubt when problems must be solved*”. And the most frequently used meanings of “crisis” in Chinese is “*the critical moment about life and death; crisis*”.

4) The phrase of “crisis” that is the most frequently referred in newspapers is the developing phase in English and Chinese. The second is the settling phase.

5) The differences of the lexeme “crisis” in English and Chinese are: basic meanings of “crisis” from dictionaries; collocations shown in newspapers; phases of “crisis” originated from dictionaries.

6) The concepts of “crisis” stemmed from explanatory and etymological dictionaries in English and Chinese could be realized differently in political media discourse.

Thereby, we assume this study of concept of “crisis” and the verbalization in political media discourse has contribution in the sphere of cognitive linguistics, especially the consequences of comparisons in English and Chinese.

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# Attachments

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