

Contrastive analysis of the idiomaticity of idiomatic expressions in French and Chinese

Lian Chen

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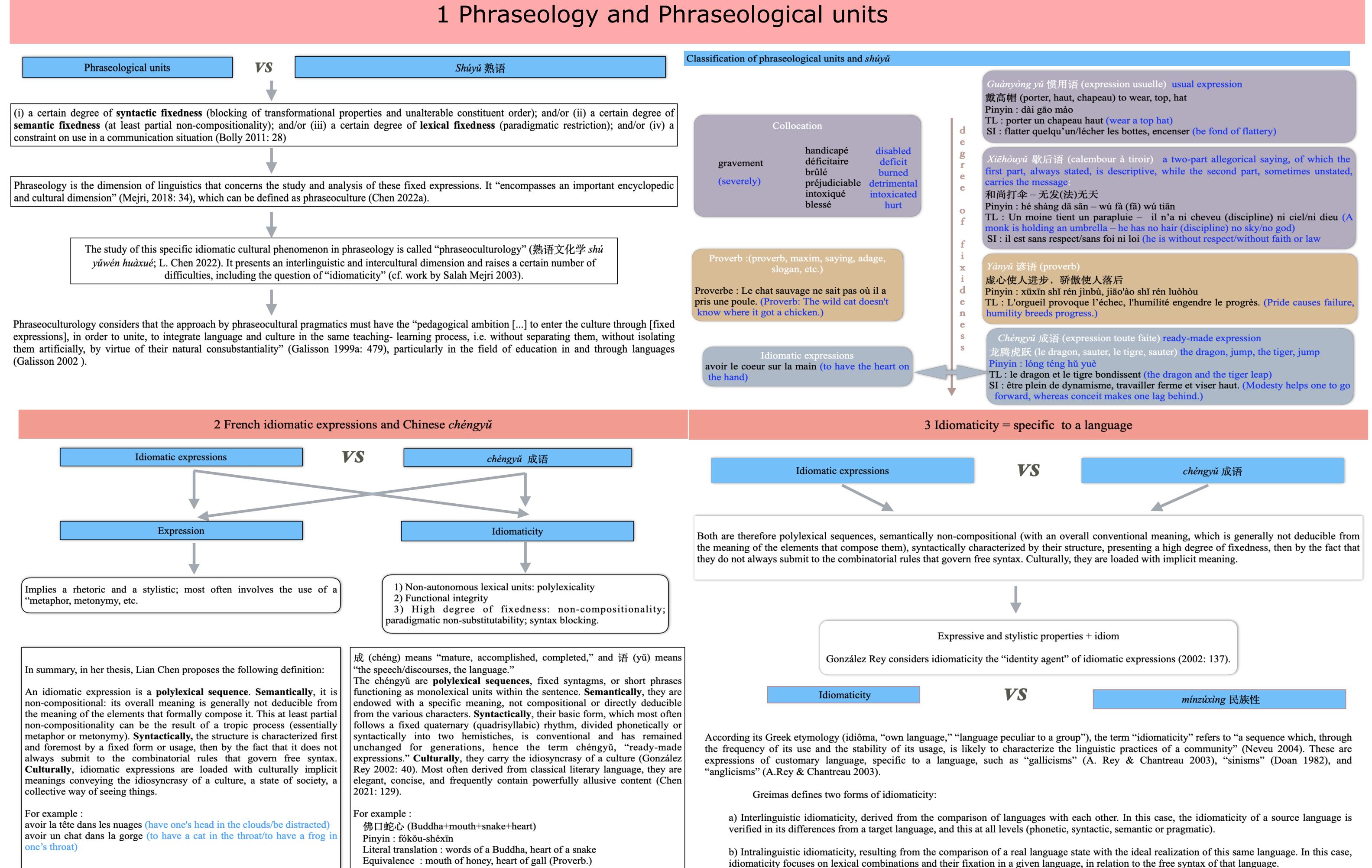


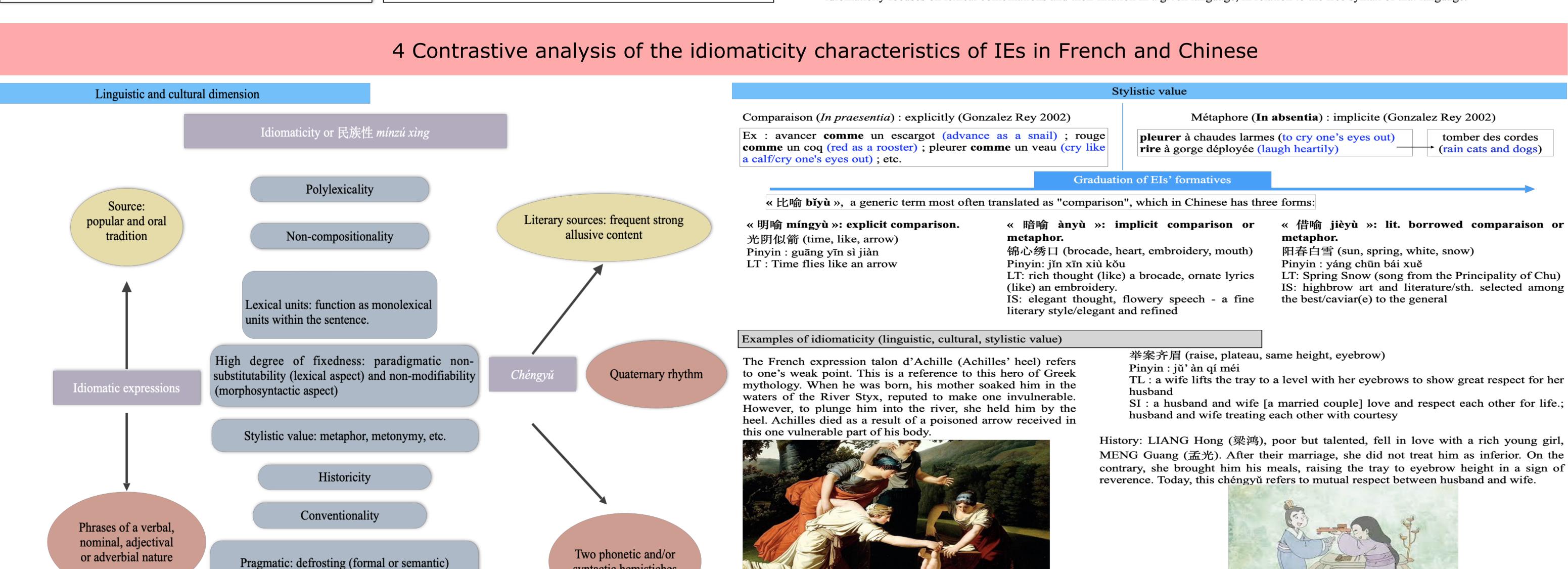


CHEN Lian 陈恋

loselychen@gmail.com

PhD in language science at Cergy-Paris University (LT2D-Jean Pruvost Centre laboratory) Temporary teaching and research associate (ATER) in Chinese linguistics at the University of Artois France.





syntactic hemistiches

5 Conclusion

In conclusion, idiomatic expressions and chéngyù have many similar characteristics. From a linguistic point of view, these are non-sentence phrases that are rarely used in isolation. They are polylexical sequences, semantically non-compositional, with non-summative and "formal, non-analyzable meaning" (TAMBA, 2011). Lexically fixed, they are not subject to diachronic evolution. In both languages, expressions appear as syntagms (nominal, adverbial, adjectival, and verbal) or function as a lexical moneme (noun, adjective, or verb) within a sentence.

Their idiomaticity is also strongly linked to culture, carrying a certain historicity and conventionality.

However, the idiomaticity (intra- and interlinguistic) of idiomatic expressions and chéngyǔ presents some differences. The former do not have as specific structure as in Chinese, where the quaternary rhythm (or quadrisyllabism) dominates. French idiomatic expressions come from common usage or even popular tradition, while chéngyǔ originate from literary sources and are of a bookish or scholarly nature, often with a strong allusive content.

tomber des cordes

(rain cats and dogs)