

An Analysis of the Construction of Epidemic Discourse in “*Together*” from the Perspective of Transitivity

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Abstract: The Chinese and English lyrics of the anti-epidemic song *Together* are employed as the research corpus of the paper. The sentences of the two types of lyrics are analyzed from the perspective of systematic functional linguistics to explore people’s attitudes toward COVID-19 pandemic in the post-epidemic era and the language differences between Chinese and English. Findings show that: on the one hand, although people have mentalities of helplessness and evasion about the epidemic, they have shown a positive and optimistic attitude toward it on the whole; on the other hand, there are many differences between Chinese and English languages: (1) Chinese emphasizes parataxis while English emphasizes hypotaxis; (2) Chinese uses animate subject, English uses inanimate subject; (3) Chinese uses more dynamic sentence, English uses more static sentence; (4) Chinese uses more simple sentences, English uses more complex sentences; (5) Chinese uses more null subjects while English uses more formal subjects. It is found that transitivity system contributes to provide a unique research perspective to do research on epidemic-related discourse analysis.

Keywords: Transitivity; Discourse Analysis; Post-epidemic Era; Song; Language Differences

1. Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared in a statement on October 19, 2022 that the COVID-19 epidemic continues to constitute a “public health emergency of international concern” and poses a great threat to human life, health and economic life^[1]. Since the first outbreak of COVID-19 in Wuhan in 2020, a group of singers have cheered people in Wuhan in their own unique way of making music, for example: Gloria

Tang Tsz Kei’s *Angels*; the group star’s *Heroes in Harm’s Way* to paid tribute to the “angels in white” and those fighting the epidemic on the front line; *We Will Win* by Huang Xiaoming and Cai Wenjing, while paying tribute to the front-line personnel of the fight against the epidemic, expressed their confidence in the fight against the epidemic; Belgian composer Jean-François Maljean wrote the song “Chimes at Dawn” to pay tribute to those on the front lines of the fight against the epidemic and cheer for the Chinese people. There’s love in the song, there’s power in the song^[2]. In the face of the survival of the country, the former Soviet composer Александр Васильевич Александров aroused the Soviet people with the song “Sacred War” so that they were not afraid of sacrifice and defended bravely the country’s fighting passion, which is the power of music^[3].

Therefore, the construction of people’s anti-epidemic attitude through the discourse analysis of anti-epidemic songs is worth further exploration. This study aims to answer the following three questions: (1) What are the characteristics of transitivity distribution in the anti-epidemic song *Together*? (2) What do these characteristics of transitivity distribution reveal about people’s attitude to fighting the epidemic? (3) What are the linguistic and cultural differences between Chinese and English versions?

2. Literature Review

The study of epidemic discourse in China has undergone a diachronic evolution from “description-representation” to “cognition-interpretation” paradigm. In the description-representation stage, scholars mainly take authoritative newspapers as an example and transitivity theory as a research perspective to make a descriptive analysis of the role of epidemic discourse in the construction of national image. Feng Enhao and Hong Gang made a discourse analysis of

the headlines of news reports on the Covid-19 involving China from the perspective of transitivity, taking the New York Times as an example^[4]. Using the transitivity system as a theoretical framework, Zhu Hui took China Daily as an example to analyze the image of China constructed in the reports on the “Belt and Road” in the post-epidemic era^[5]. Cai Zheqian and Shao Ying analyzed the construction of China’s image from the perspective of transitivity system by taking the Malaysian media Daily News as an example^[6]. Ning Zhenjiang and He Xiaojing took the Spanish media “El Pais” as an example and analyzed its reporting tendency and attitude towards China from the perspective of transitivity system^[7].

In the subsequent “cognition-interpretation” stage, different scholars have made a comprehensive analysis of the construction of national image in the post-epidemic era from the perspective of corpus. Hu Xiaobin used corpus-assisted three-dimensional discourse analysis to take China Daily and the New York Times as examples to analyze the different construction of China’s national image by Chinese and American media in the epidemic era^[8]. Chen Na made a comparative study of English news discourse on epidemic measures with the help of corpus, propagated the overall awareness of the Chinese nation and the concept of national security, and established the national image of people and life first^[9].

After combing the above literature, the above relevant domestic achievements paid attention to the transitivity theory and applied it to the discourse analysis of the epidemic situation, which laid the foundation for the development of this study. However, from the perspective of research content, most of the previous relevant studies were from mainstream media newspapers in different countries, and there were almost no other research topics; from the perspective of research, previous studies mainly analyzed the transitivity of China-related reports from the two aspects of process types and participants, so as to explore different countries’ construction of China’s image under the epidemic, rarely involving the analysis of circumstances; from the perspective of research purposes, previous relevant studies mainly revealed the role of epidemic discourse in the construction of national image, and rarely involved the impact

of epidemic discourse on other aspects.

Therefore, this paper attempts to combine the three elements of transitivity system: process, participants and circumstances, and take an anti-epidemic song as an example to study the construction of epidemic discourse in the post-epidemic era, aiming to explore people’s attitude towards anti-epidemic in the post-epidemic era, and explore the differences between Chinese and English language on this basis.

3. Theoretical Basis

Systemic functional linguistics is famous for its attention to social and cultural context, especially discourse analysis in functional linguistics, which covers many fields such as politics, economy, culture and society^[10-12]. Halliday considered language as a resource for making meanings that combine to form an abstract system of potential and contrast, which is itself shaped in context by the use of language^[13]. Fairclough (1992) pointed out that transitivity is very important in discourse analysis, because different types of process can reflect different ways of viewing the world and constructing reality^[14]. Transitivity divides what people see, hear and do in the real world into “processes” and identifies “participants” and “circumstances” associated with each process^[15], and its theoretical framework is shown in Table 1.

Halliday believed that the six processes each performed their own functions and played different functional roles in discourse communication^[16]. According to Fairclough, the various transitive processes used in a discourse contain different cultures and thoughts^[17]. Therefore, from the perspective of transitivity in systemic functional linguistics, this paper will take the anti-epidemic song “Together” as an example to make a relevant analysis of the epidemic discourse, aiming to have a deeper understanding of people’s psychological characteristics, anti-epidemic attitudes and the differences between Chinese and English language in the post-epidemic era. Thompson proposed that the basic unit of systematic functional grammar is clause^[18]. Therefore, based on the expression of clauses, this paper will analyze the transitivity of the Chinese and English lyrics of the anti-epidemic song “Together”.

Table 1. Theoretical Framework of Transitivity

Processes	Participants	Circumstances
material	actor, goal, recipient, scope, client, attribute	extent location manner cause contingency accompaniment role angle matter
mental	senser, phenomenon	
relational	carrier, attribute, identified, identifier	
verbal	sayer, target, receiver, verbiage	
existential	existent	
behavioral	behavior, behaviour	

4. Research Design

4.1 Research Questions

- (1) What are the characteristics of transitivity distribution in the anti-epidemic song *Together*?
- (2) What do these characteristics of transitivity distribution reveal about people's attitude to fighting the epidemic?
- (3) What are the linguistic and cultural differences between Chinese and English versions?

4.2 Corpus Selection

In this study, the Chinese and English versions of the song “Together” released by Beijing Jiuwei Culture Media Co., Ltd. were selected to build two special small corpora, referred to as *E* database and *C* database (*E* database represents the English lyrics, and *C* database represents the Chinese lyrics). In addition, in order to ensure the validity and reliability of the data analysis, the repetitive parts of the lyrics will not be included in the analysis corpus. Beijing Jiuwei Culture Media Co., Ltd. is a professional performance company and a top-quality drama performance operator integrating project introduction, tour organization, program production, planning and marketing, and business cooperation. It has launched the musical “Notre Dame de Paris”, “Mozart Rock”, the dance drama “Riverdance”, the peak of Chinese drama “White Deer Plain”, etc. The company

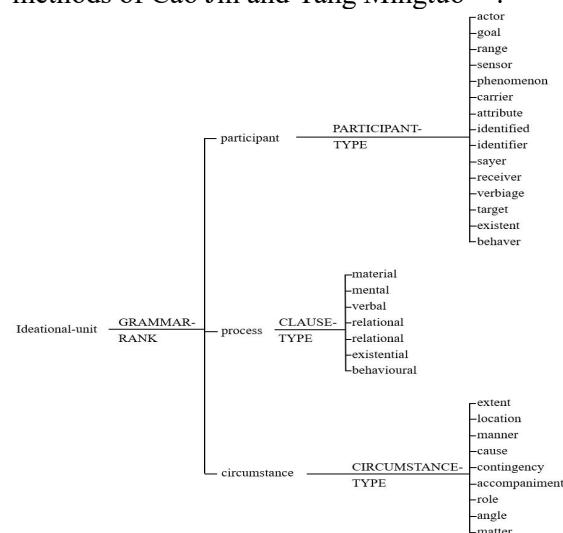
produced the first English-language musical “Gone with the Wind” in China, which has great influence at home and abroad. Therefore, the anti-epidemic song “Together” released by the company has certain credibility and authority, and is suitable for the corpus of this study.

4.3 Research Method

In this study, UAM Corpus Tool 3.3 annotation software combined with manual annotation will be used to divide the Chinese and English lyrics of the anti-epidemic song “Together” into clauses by a combination of quantitative analysis and qualitative analysis, and the process type, participants and circumstances will be statistically explained by combining chart information. Thus, detailed transitivity analysis is carried out. Considering the need for contrast between Chinese and English expressions, the lyrics will be presented in a sentence by sentence mode.

4.3.1 Corpus statistics

The 29 clauses in the lyrics (a total of 210 words in corpus E and 274 words in corpus C) are divided by transitivity labeling. The labeling scheme is shown in Figure 1, and the labeling method is based on the research methods of Cao Jin and Yang Mingtuo^[19].

**Figure 1. The Labeling Scheme of Transitivity**

Statistically, the distribution of transitivity process of corpus E and corpus C is shown in Table 2:

The selection and application of the process types of transitivity have the significance of culture, thought and value orientation, and can express the theme of the discourse^[20]. As can

be seen from the above table, in the Chinese and English versions of the lyrics of “Together”, the occurrence frequency of material process is the highest, followed by the occurrence frequency of relational process. In addition, there are no behavioral process and existential process in the Chinese and English versions of the lyrics, so this paper will not continue to discuss them. According to statistics, the distribution of participants and circumstances of corpus E and corpus C are shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3 respectively.

Table 2. The Distribution of Transitivity Process of Corpus E and Corpus C

	Corpus E (%)		Corpus C (%)	
material process	21	(46)	20	(51)
relational process	8	(17)	8	(21)
mental process	15	(33)	11	(28)
verbal process	2	(4)	0	(0)
behavioral process	0	(0)	0	(0)
existential process	0	(0)	0	(0)
Total	46	100	39	100

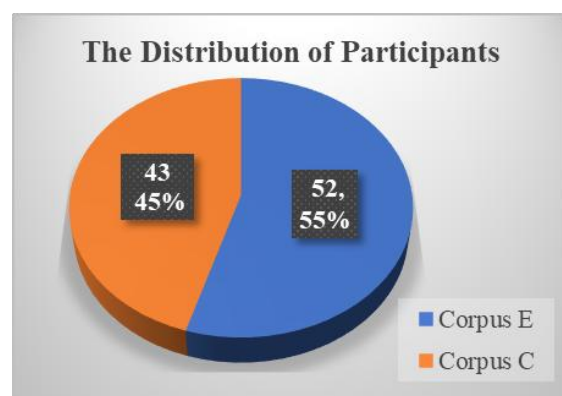


Figure 2. The Distribution of Participants in Corpus E and C

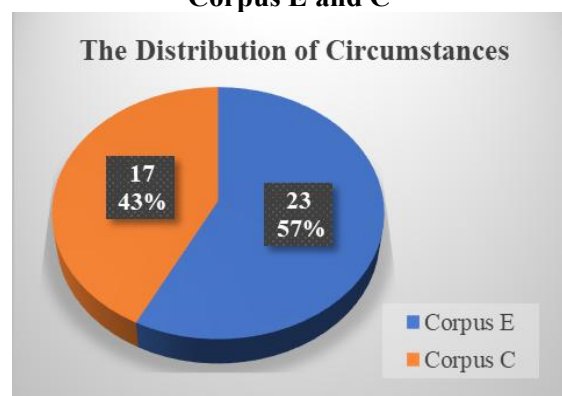


Figure 3. The Distribution of Circumstances in Corpus E and C

As can be seen from Figure 2 and Figure 3, the

frequency of participants and circumstances in English lyrics is 52 and 23, accounting for 55% and 57% respectively, which are higher than that of Chinese lyrics, accounting for 43 (45%) and 17 (43%) respectively.

4.3.2 The analysis of process types

The process analysis of sentence 1 to 3 is as follows. Both Chinese and English lyrics begin with a relational process, which focuses on the connections between things and the environment in which things are located. The first sentence of the lyrics makes the listener feel vigorous, full of expectations for the future, and full of positive energy, while laying the groundwork for the contrasting background of the people hereinafter who are suffering from the Covid-19 epidemic. In the second sentence of the Chinese and English lyrics, material process are used to express the attitude of people to live a strong life under the epidemic, but the expressions of the sentences are very different: in English, inanimate subject “the pain” is used as the subject, which expresses the confidence of human beings to overcome the epidemic, which makes the language more vivid. However, the Chinese language uses the spiritual subject “we” as the subject, expressing the human being’s courage to fight against the epidemic, and the human pronoun as the subject makes the social distance between the listener and the author closer, achieving certain expected results in writing. The English version of the third sentence uses mental process and verbal process, while the Chinese version uses material process. The former focuses more on the static description of people’s psychological performance under the epidemic from the mental process of the characters, while the latter focuses more on people’s behavior to directly show people’s helpless feelings about the epidemic, which reflects the grammatical characteristics of “emphasizing static sentences” in English and “emphasizing dynamic sentences” in Chinese.

In short, the first three sentences of the Chinese and English lyrics are expressed in different languages and skillfully use different process types, all of which show the strong attitude of people who have no choice but to live hard under the epidemic, and the lyrics encourage people that “bad things will eventually go away, and we should be full of expectations for the future”.

Chinese: (1) Jin Tian You Shi Xin De Yi Tian.
 carrier relational process attribute
 (2) Wo Men Zai Ku Nan Zhong Xiang Qian.
 actor circumstance material process

(3) Que Wu Fa Yu Zhi Gao Bie.
 goal material process

English: (1) Today 's another day.
 carrier relational process attribute
 (2) The pain has gone away.
 actor material process circumstance

(3) Can't bring myself to say goodbye.
 mental process sensor verbal process verbiage

The process analysis of sentence 4 to 6 is as follows. The three lyrics are mainly composed of material process, in which the participants of "tears" and "time" in sentence 4 and sentence 5 are rendered by circumstances "can not stop" and "gradually", creating a bleak scene of people's lives and economic life being seriously threatened and their hearts

being sad under the epidemic; On the contrary, the "sun" in sentence 5 creates a vibrant normal scene, giving listeners hope that the epidemic will eventually dissipate. The rendering of the difference between the two scenes before and after gives the listener a sense of impact, thus leaving a deep impression.

Chinese: (4) Na (Shi) Zhi Bu Zhu De Lei Lian.
 carrier relational process circumstance attribute
 (5) Xu Ri Zhao Chang Sheng Qi.
 actor circumstance material process

(6) Shi Guang Jian Jian Liu Shi.
 actor circumstance material process

English: (4) To all the tears I 've cried.
 circumstance actor material process
 (5) Sun rises in the sky.
 actor material process circumstance

(6) And slowly time goes by.
 circumstance actor material process

The process analysis of sentence 7 to 9 is as follows. These three sentences of the Chinese and English lyrics are all positive descriptions. Through the use of material and mental processes, sentence 7 tells the listener that life should be spent in a meaningful way; sentence 8 tells the listener that the world is changing every day, so it should not stop because of the pain brought by the epidemic; and finally sentence 9 expresses people's wonderful vision of the current epidemic. In particular, the use of the two circumstances of "at this moment" and "today" in the lyrics is more incisively and vividly expressing people's desire to urgently hope that the epidemic will disappear and return people's normal life as soon as possible. To sum up, these three lyrics echo the psychological characteristics of the theme meaning "Together" and the concerted fight against the epidemic.

The process analysis of sentence 10 to 12 is as

Chinese: (7) Wo Men Zhong Jiang Wei Miao Xiao De Sheng Ming Zhao Dao Yi Fen Yi Yi.
 actor circumstance material process goal

follows. In Chinese and English lyrics, the treatment of sentence 10 is completely different: the former uses a relational process, omitting the subject "we"; the latter uses a material process and an embedded verbal process, with the subject "the time". The use of subject or not reflects another difference between Chinese and English: in English, the subject of the sentence is usually strictly used. There must be a complete subject in the sentence. Even if there is no suitable noun or pronoun to be the subject, "it" will be used as the formal subject. However, the use of subjects in Chinese is very flexible and can usually be omitted. Sentence 12 uses psychological process clauses to vividly restore people's fear and helplessness about the epidemic. Both the Chinese and English versions of this lyric skillfully describe the miserable lives of people under the epidemic, so that listeners can resonate.

- (8) Shi Jie Shi Zhong Zhuan Dong Bu Xi.
actor material process circumstance
- (9) Zai Ci Ke Wo Xiang Gan Shou Feng Qing Fu Ji Fu Dai Zhe Qing Xiang.
circumstance sensor mental process actor material process goal material process goal
- (7) We finally found a way to give a meaning to our life.
actor circumstance material process goal material process goal range
- English:** (8) While forever world goes round.
circumstance actor material process circumstance
- (9) Today I wanna feel a sweet breeze on my skin.
Circumstance sensor mental process phenomenon circumstance
- (10) Shi Shi Hou Dao Sheng Wen Hou.
relational process attribute material process goal
- Chinese:** (11) Xin De Huo Hua Ying Rao Xin Zhong.
actor material process circumstance
- (12) You Shi Ni Bu De Bu Zou Jin Meng Xiang, Nu Li Jiang Yi Qie Yi Wang.
circumstance sensor mental process phenomenon circumstance material process
- (10) The time has come to say hello.
actor material process verbal process verbal process
- English:** (11) It 's a new feel inside.
carrier relational process attribute circumstance
- (12) Sometimes you have to dream and forget everything.
circumstance sensor mental process phenomenon
- The process analysis of sentence 13 to 15 is as follows. The lyrics suddenly use the adversative “but” to change from the above people’s fear and escape from the epidemic to the following, encouraging people not to give up hope, but to “work together to disperse the epidemic”, which is just in line with the theme of the song “Together”. In the expression of sentence 15, both Chinese and English lyrics use material process, indicating that material
- (13) Dan Yong Bu Yao Fang Qi Xi Wang.
circumstance mental process
- Chinese:** (14) Zhe Shi Wo Men Wei Yi Xi Wang.
carrier relational process attribute
- (15) Kuai Lai, Wo Men Gong Tong Qu San Yin Mai.
material process actor circumstance material process goal
- (13) But never stop looking for help.
mental process material process goal
- English:** (14) That 's everything you need.
carrier relational process attribute sensor mental process
- (15) Come, together we can find the way.
material process circumstance sensor mental process phenomenon
- The process analysis of sentence 16 to 18 is as follows. The Chinese and English versions of these three lyrics all use material process. The material process words “to Love”, “take a deep Breath”, “come quickly”, “love”, “Breath and come” create a positive environment and make
- (16) Qu Ai, Mei Hao Shi Guang Zhong Jiang Dao Lai.
material process phenomenon mental process
- Chinese:** (17) Shen Hu Xi Kuai Lai Zhan Chi Ao Xiang Ba.
material process material process material process
- (18) Wo De Xin Bian De Jian Ding.
actor material process goal

- (16) Love, that pulls me to the sunny sky.
 material process actor material process goal circumstance
English: (17) Breath and come, to spread your wings and fly away.
 material process material process goal material process
 (18) Something has changed into my heart.
 actor material process circumstance

The process analysis of sentence 19 to 21 is as follows. Both the Chinese and English versions of sentence 19 and sentence 21 use mental process and relational process respectively, which vividly express people's expectation for the end of the epidemic and their yearning for a better life. The use of the circumstance "Hand in hand" echoes the theme "together", and the atmosphere subtly

renders listeners hopeful and willing to join hands to fight the epidemic. The Chinese lyrics of Sentence 20 use material process, while the English lyrics use relational process, which is exactly the portrayal of "Chinese emphasizes dynamic sentences, while English emphasizes static sentences" mentioned above.

- (19) Shou Qian Shou, Ming Tian Jiang Guang Ming Yi Pian.
 circumstance sensor mental process phenomenon
Chinese: (20) Zui Hou Yi Pian Xue Hua Jiang Lin Shi Jian.
 actor material process circumstance
 (21) Chun Tian Bian Bu Zai Yao Yuan.
 carrier relational process attribute
 (19) Hand in hand tomorrow will be bright.
 circumstance sensor mental process phenomenon
English: (20) The last snowflake is fell.
 carrier relational process attribute
 (21) And spring 's not far away.
 carrier relational process attribute circumstance

The process analysis of sentence 22 to 23 is as follows. Both Chinese and English lyrics of sentence 22 use mental process to show people's psychology under the epidemic: people are eager to "unseal", eager to visit their relatives and friends, and enjoy the life

outside. In addition, the English expression of sentences 22 and 23 use the subject "I" and "It", while the Chinese omit the subject, which is also the portrayal of "the Chinese subject is used more freely, while the English subject is used more strictly" mentioned above.

- (22) Hao Xiang Yong Bao Ni, Jiu Shi Xian Zai.
 mental process phenomenon relational process attribute
Chinese: (23) Bu Xu Duo Chang Shi Jian.
 mental process phenomenon
 (22) I would so love to hug you now.
 sensor mental process material process goal circumstance
English: (23) It 's just a matter of time.
 carrier relational process circumstance attribute

The process analysis of sentence 24 is as follows. Both the English and Chinese versions of this sentence use a mental process. The perceiver "I", "we" and "you" make the social distance between the listener and the

author closer, so that the listener can feel the empathy and fight against the epidemic with confidence, so as to achieve the linguistic communication purpose of the lyrics.

- Chinese:** (24) Wo Jian Xin Wo Men Jiang Zai Ci Xiang Jian, (Shi) Bi Xiang Xiang Geng Kuai De Na Tian.
 sensor mental process sensor mental process circumstance phenomenon relational process circumstance attribute
English: (24) I know we 'll meet again much faster than you think.
 sensor mental process sensor mental process circumstance sensor mental process

The process analysis of sentence 25 to 29 is as follows. As the last part of the lyrics, these five sentences are the sublimation of the theme of the song. The Chinese and English versions of the first three sentences all use mental process, relational process and mental process

respectively, but the English version uses material process, mental process and material process respectively. From the perspective of clause structure, we can find that the sentence structure of the English version is more complicated, and the same sentence uses more

process type than the Chinese version.

- (25) Wo Cong Wei Fang Qi Xi Wang.
 sensor mental process phenomenon
- (26) Zhe Shi Wo Men Wei Yi Xin Yang.
 carrier relational process attribute
- Chinese:** (27) Ru Tong Hei An Zhong De Jin Xing Wan Dian.
 mental process circumstance phenomenon
- (28) Wo Men De Bei Xi Shi Zhong Xin Xin Xiang Lian.
 actor circumstance material process
- (29) Dan Wo De Yi Qie Bu An Dou Yi Zou Yuan.
 actor material process
- (25) I never stopped looking for hope.
 sensor mental process material process goal
- (26) That 's everything we need.
 carrier relational process attribute sensor mental process
- English:** (27) Like a thousand stars shining in the dark.
 mental process phenomenon material process circumstance
- (28) Their minds are always in our broken hearts.
 carrier relational process circumstance
- (29) But all my fears and sad has gone.
 actor material process

Therefore, it can be concluded that the differences between Chinese and English: There are more compound long sentences in English, while there are more simple short sentences in Chinese. Among them, the appearance of “hope”, “Venus ten thousand points” and “faith” as participants creates a positive and optimistic impression of the future for listeners; The appearance of “I” and “we” as participants - perceivers/attributes makes the social distance between the writer and the listener closer, builds people’s collective consciousness, strengthens people’s belief that they can overcome difficulties together, and makes the final theme sublimation of the song theme “together”, which can be described as the finishing touch.

4.4 Discussion

4.4.1 The discussion of process types

From the above process types, it can be seen that the process types in the song are centered around the lyric theme “together”. A total of 46 process types are used in English lyrics, of which 21 are material process, 15 are mental process, 8 are relational process and 2 are verbal process. A total of 39 process types are used in Chinese lyrics, of which 20 are material process, 11 are mental process, 8 are relational process, and no verbal process, behavior process or existential process appears. Through data comparison, it is found that material process in Chinese and English lyrics are the most frequently used, accounting for

51% and 46% respectively. The use frequency of mental process was the second, accounting for 28% and 33% respectively. Then, the third is the use of relational process clauses, accounting for 21% and 17% respectively. In addition, the frequency of use of verbal process in English lyrics accounts for 4%.

Material process is a process that represents an actor taking some action for some goal. The high frequency of material processes in the Chinese and English lyrics is in line with the theme of the song. Material processes such as “crying” and “forgetting” show people’s fear, disgust and want to escape under the epidemic, and finally material processes such as “the sun rises”, “love”, “deep breathing” and “spreading wings” give people positive momentum.

The mental process is the cognitive process that represents the sensor of a certain phenomenon. The Chinese and English versions of the lyrics use a lot of mental processes. First of all, it is a very real and vivid display of people’s aversion to the epidemic and their desire to escape; Secondly, it shows the audience people’s desire for the epidemic to dissipate, gather with family and friends, and enjoy life.

Relational process is a process in which a carrier is identified as having an attribute. The use of relational processes in the Chinese and English versions of the lyrics makes the social distance between the listener and the author closer, and easily makes the listener have a

strong resonance with life under the epidemic, thus encouraging people to join hands and fight the epidemic bravely.

Verbal process is the process by which the speaker (sayer) sends the speech content (verbiage) to the speech receiver (receiver). There are only two verbal processes in the English lyrics, one in sentence 3 and the other in sentence 10. The former expresses the sadness that people do not want to be separated from their loved ones due to the epidemic; The latter, in turn, reflects people's optimism that the epidemic will eventually dissipate and their loved ones will get together again. Although there is not the verbal process in the Chinese version of lyrics, zero verbal process is also a unique writing method of lyrics writing, which can leave unlimited imagination space for listeners to fill in different speech gaps according to the changes of the listener's mood^[21]. Therefore, compared with English lyrics, this is another unique feature of Chinese lyrics.

4.4.2 The discussion of circumstances

Circumstances appear more frequently in both Chinese and English lyrics, 17 times and 23 times respectively. A large number of material processes and circumstances in the text constitute the narrative background of the text, and this quantitative prospect creates a rich sense of picture in the description of the lyrics^[22].

In the text, circumstances such as "at the moment", "striving", "hand in hand" and "again" are used together with their related process types, rendering the atmosphere and enriching the meaning of process clauses, which can better impress listeners and arouse their resonance, so as to achieve the purpose of song communication. The use of circumstances such as "in suffering" and "unstoppable" in the first half of the lyrics renders the whole song a negative scene, in order to fully express the suffering of people under the epidemic, so that listeners can resonate and have a strong sense of substitution; In the second half of the lyrics, the use of circumstances such as "hand in hand", "as usual", "hard work" and "together" has rendered a positive scene for the listeners. While creating a great sense of contrast, it also subtly makes the listeners have a positive attitude against the epidemic, so that the listeners are willing to fight the epidemic

bravely together and meet the better life of the future epidemic. Therefore, the use of circumstances in lyrics plays an important role in promoting the development and echo of the lyric plot and sublimating the theme of the song.

4.4.3 The discussion of the difference between Chinese and English

(1) Chinese emphasizes parataxis while English emphasizes hypotaxis. Comparing Chinese and English lyrics, it is found that there are more conjunctions in English lyrics: "and" twice, "while" once, "but" twice; The Chinese lyrics only use the word "dan" twice. As Lian Shuneng said, English sentences are almost inseparable from conjunctions, while Chinese rarely or even never use conjunctions. In other words, English uses more developed relational means, such as conjunctions, to express grammatical meaning and logical relations; However, Chinese mostly uses implicit device to express grammatical meaning and logical relations^[23].

(2) Chinese uses animate subject, English uses inanimate subject. By observing sentence 2, it is found that "the pain" is used as the subject in the English lyrics to express the confidence that human beings can overcome the epidemic, and things with no vital characteristics are used as the subject, which makes the lyrics more vivid, adds interest to the language, and attracts the interest of listeners. In Chinese, the personal pronoun "we" is used as the subject to express the spirit of human beings not afraid of the epidemic and bravely fighting against the epidemic. The animate subject can make the social distance between the listener and the author closer, so as to better realize the communicative purpose of the lyrics.

(3) There are more dynamic sentences in Chinese, while there are more static sentences in English. In terms of the proportion of material processes in Chinese and English lyrics, the frequency of material processes in Chinese is higher (51%), followed by English (46%). It can be seen that the Chinese language is more accustomed to using words that directly express the actions of the agent, for example, the words "forward", "rise", "find", "seek", "love", "take a deep breath" and other material processes in the lyrics express people's positive mood against the epidemic with a very dynamic sense; In contrast, English lyrics do not use many

material process types.

(4) There are more simple sentences in Chinese, while there are more complex sentences in English. In the whole lyrics, in the English lyrics, sentences 14 and 26 use attributive clauses, sentences 26 use object clauses, and other sentences contain double objects or other additional adverbial elements; while Chinese lyrics all use simple clauses, easy to understand.

(5) There are more null subject in Chinese, while there are more formal subject in English. The comparison between the Chinese and English lyrics shows that all the sentences in the English lyrics have their own grammatical subject, while the sentences 3, 10, 13, 16, 17, 22, 23 and 27 in the Chinese lyrics do not have a complete subject. The conclusion can be drawn from this comparison: English usually must have a subject. Even if it can not find a suitable noun or pronoun to be the subject, it will use "it" as the formal subject; However, the use of subject in Chinese is very flexible, and the subject can be omitted in combination with the context, which is also the null subject that people often say.

5. Conclusion

To understand people's anti-epidemic attitude in the post-epidemic era, and explore the cultural differences between Chinese and English, this paper analyzes the discourse of the anti-epidemic song "Together" from the perspective of transitivity. The results show that each process type has its own unique role in promoting the theme of the discourse. The existence of each circumstance has an irreplaceable role in highlighting the specific context. Secondly, the differences in the use of English and Chinese languages eventually lead to differences in the ways of language expression. Therefore, the many differences between Chinese and English are also a major factor that should be considered in the process of discourse analysis of the epidemic.

Through the combination of discourse analysis and corpus, and involving both quantitative analysis and qualitative analysis, this study comprehensively discussed people's attitude towards fighting the epidemic and the differences between Chinese and English in the anti-epidemic song "Together". This paper provides a novel way to understand people's anti-epidemic psychology in the post-epidemic

era, and also helps to reveal the differences in the use of Chinese and English language.

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