

9 Linguistic and Lexicographical Studies on the *Xiyang ji*

Xiyang ji has often been criticized for its lack of stylistic refinement, most famously of course by Lu Xun in his *Zhongguo xiaoshuo shilüe* (which is discussed in chapter 3 of this bibliography). In recent years, however, it has been recognized that the novel's vernacular is very rich in dialectical expressions and proverbs. It offers a fascinating insight into Ming dynasty vernacular and has been a focus of linguistic and lexicographical studies, especially during the last two decades.

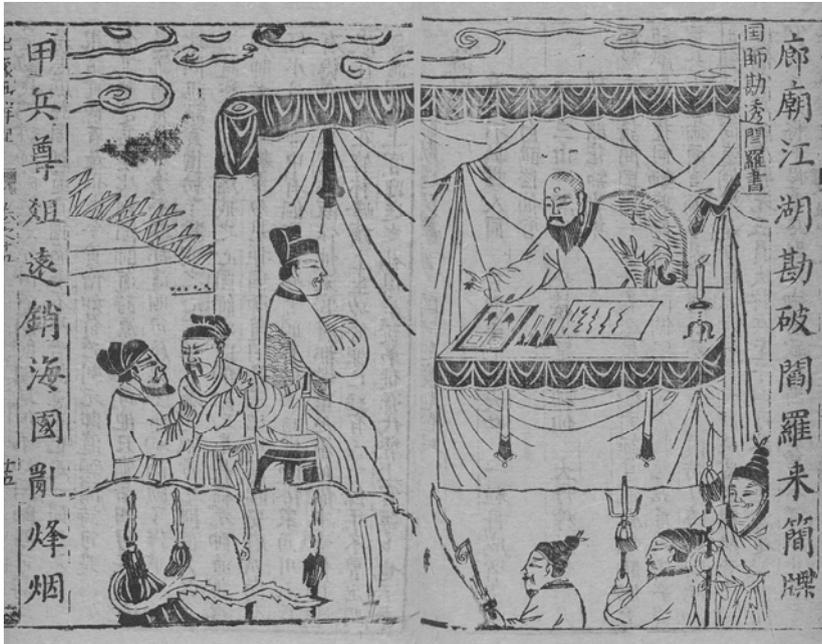


Fig. 17 *Xiyang ji*, Chapter 92 (19.14b-15a, 2436f):
“The State Teacher [Jin Bifeng] Investigates Yama’s Message.”

9.1 General Studies on the Style of *Xiyang ji*

9.1.1 Feng Hanyong, “*Xiyang ji fawei*”. See 3.2.1.

This article discusses among other things phrases borrowed from drama in *Xiyang ji*.

9.1.2 Feng Hanyong, “*Xiyang ji yuanyu xiju*”. See 3.2.2.

This article discusses the “dramatic” nature of *Xiyang ji* and the phrases it borrows from drama, especially from *Mudan ting*.

9.1.3 Zhai Zhanguo 翟占國. “Ming Qing xiaoshuo zhong de Haiyang lei cihui yanjiu: yi *Sanbao taijian Xiyang ji wei li*” 明清小說中的海洋類詞匯研究——以《三寶太監西洋記》為例. *Xiandai yuwen (Yuyan yanjiu ban)* 現代語文 (語言研究版) [*Modern Chinese*] 2012.5, 19-21.

This article uses *Xiyang ji* as an example to discuss the vocabulary relating to maritime matters in Ming and Qing dynasty novels. This includes specialized vocabulary for ship types, nautical terms for localities, and the nomenclature of the naval force.

9.1.4 Zhao Jingshen. “*Sanbao taijian Xiyang ji*”. See 1.3.10.

This article includes some observances about *Xiyang ji*'s stylistic anomalies.

9.2 Specific Studies on the Linguistics of *Xiyang ji*

This section includes both studies on the linguistics of *Xiyang ji*, as well as studies on specific particles within the Chinese language, wherein *Xiyang ji* is mentioned among other lexicographic evidence. Studies that focus on *Xiyang ji* often include examples from the Qing dynasty novel *Ernü yingxiong zhuan* 兒女英雄傳 (1878) to describe the development from Ming vernacular to Modern Chinese. These studies are based on the assumption that the times of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century are highly interesting for the development and formation of the modal particle system of Modern Chinese. In this period the varied and complex use of modal particles of the Song and Yuan dynasties gave way to a more simplified modal particle system.

- 9.2.1 Li Futang 李福唐. “*Sanbao taijian Xiyang ji tongshu yanji zhong gaishu de biaoshifa yanjiu*” 《三寶太監西洋記通俗演義》中概數的表示法研究. *Yichun xueyuan xuebao* 宜春學院學報 37.2 (2015), 83-86.

This article looks at how approximate numbers are expressed in *Xiyang ji* by adding words signifying approximation, using multiple numerals in a row or combining both methods.

- 9.2.2 Li Xi 李晰. “*Ke’ zai gudai Hanyu zhong de yi ge changyong yi*” “可”在古代漢語中的一個常用義. *Yuwen jianshe* 語文建設 2009.3, 62-63.

This article studies the use of *ke* 可 in premodern Chinese. Among its lexicographic evidence is a quotation from chapter 9 of *Xiyang ji*.

- 9.2.3 Wang Feihua 王飛華. *Sanbao taijian Xiyang ji tongshu yanji zhong de yuqi yanjiu* 《三寶太監西洋記通俗演義》中的語氣詞研究. Chengdu: Sichuan Normal University, M.A. Thesis, 2005. [60 pp.] Online: CNKI database. (Access: September 2015)

Wang Feihua’s thesis explores the use of modal particles in the first half of *Xiyang ji* (chapters 1-50), classifying them in five groups according to their frequency of use and their development. These groups are: (1) frequently used Modern Chinese particles still in use today (*me* 麼, *ye* 也, *li* 哩, *ba* 罷, *de* 的 and 了); (2) frequently used Modern Chinese particles that decreased in frequency during the Ming and Qing periods (*lai* 來, *zhe* 着 (著), *ge* 個 (箇)/ *zege* 則個 and

xie 些); (3) seldom used particles that nevertheless are still in use today (*a* 啊 and *ya* 呀); archaic forms (*zai* 哉, *hu* 乎, *yi* 矣, *er* 耳 and *xi* 兮); and (5) the small number of modal particles with two syllables: *eryi* 而已, *bale* 罷了, *yeba* 也罷, *leme* 了麼 and *leye* 了也.

- 9.2.4 Wang Feihua 王飛華. “*Sanbao taijian Xiyang ji tongsu yanyi zhong de yuqici ‘lai’*” 《三寶太監西洋記通俗演義》中的語氣詞“來”. *Guangxi minzu daxue xuebao (Zhaxue shehui kexue ban)* 廣西民族大學學報 (哲學社會科學版) 2006.12, 118-120.

This study examines the use of the modal particle *lai* 來 in *Xiyang ji*. The author begins by tracing the origin of the modal particle from its earliest use in *Mengzi* 孟子 and its development in Yuan and Ming literature. Wang Feihua then analyzes the use of the particle in *Xiyang ji* and further traces its development to its use in *Ernü yingxiong zhuan*.

- 9.2.5 Wang Feihua 王飛華. “*Xiyang ji zhong de yuqici ‘zhe, ge, zege, xie’*” 《西洋記》中的語氣詞“著、個、則個、些”. *Ningbo jiaoyu xueyuan xuebao* 寧波教語學院學報 9.4 (2007), 35-39.

Using methods similar to the study above, this article traces the origins, development, use within *Xiyang ji* and in *Ernü yingxiong zhuan* of the modal particles *zhe* 着, *ge* 個, *zege* 則個 and *xie* 些.

- 9.2.6 Wang Ruimei 王瑞梅. “*Xiyang ji zhong jicici ‘ba’ de yongfa chutan*” 《西洋記》中介詞“把”的用法初探. *Xiandai yuwen* 現代語文 [Modern Chinese] 2010.01, 30-32.

This article is a preliminary study on the use of the preposition *ba* 把 in *Xiyang ji* and the different functions it has. *Ba* is a verb that has been grammaticalized to a preposition, marking among other things direct objects.

- 9.2.7 Wang Ruimei 王瑞梅. “*Xiyang ji ‘ba’ ziju jufa jiegou fenxi*” 《西洋記》“把”字句句法結構分析. *Hubei di'er shifan xueyuan xuebao* 湖北第二師範學院學報 27.6 (2010), 29-34.

This article analyzes the syntactic structure of the *ba* 把 sentences in *Xiyang ji*. The author identifies five basic structures and analyzes them in detail, conclud-

ing that the novel was composed at decisive stage of the *ba* sentence development.

- 9.2.8 Wang Ruimei 王瑞梅. “*Xiyangji* ‘ba’ ziju yiyi leixing fenxi” 《西洋記》“把”字句意義類型分析. *Hubei di'er shifan xueyuan xuebao* 湖北第二師範學院學報 28.1 (2011), 34-36.

This is a semantic analysis of the *ba* 把 sentences in *Xiyangji*. Like the “preliminary study” (above) this article analyses the different semantic functions of *ba*.

- 9.2.9 Wang Yanfang 王艷芳 and Wang Kaisheng 王開生. “*Sanbao taijian Xiyangji tongsu yanyi zhong de yuqici ‘me’*” 《三寶太監西洋記通俗演義》中的語氣詞“麼”. *Qingdao keji daxue xuebao (Shehui kexue ban)* 青島科技大學學報(社會科學版) 66 (2003), 95-98.

This article analyses the particle *me* 麼 in *Xiyangji*, where it is used similar to the modern *ba* 吧 or *ma* 嗎 in interrogative sentences, and similar to the modern *ma* 嘛 in indicative sentences. The use in *Xiyangji* is further compared to both *Yuan qu xuan* 元曲選 (1616) and *Ernü yingxiong zhuan* (1878).

- 9.2.10 Zhao Xiuwen 趙秀文. “*Xiyangji* ‘bei’ ziju yanjiu” 《西洋記》“被”字句研究. *Hubei di'er shifan xueyuan xuebao* 湖北第二師範學院學報 25.4 (2008), 20-22, 36.

This is a study of passive sentences in *Xiyangji*, centered on the use of the passive marker *bei* 被. The author identifies four basic syntactic structures and analyses them in detail.

- 9.2.11 Zhao Xiuwen 趙秀文. “*Xiyangji* ‘bei’ ziju de yuyi fenxi” 《西洋記》“被”字句的語義分析. *Hubei di'er shifan xueyuan xuebao* 湖北第二師範學院學報 26.4 (2009), 20-22.

This article is an analysis of the semantic meaning of passive sentences in *Xiyangji*.

- 9.2.12 Zhao Xiuwen 趙秀文. “*Xiyang ji* ‘bei’ ziju de yuyong fenxi” 《西洋記》
“被”字句的語用分析. *Hubei di'er shifan xueyuan xuebao* 湖北第二師
範學院學報 28.10 (2011), 26-29.

This study analyses the use of passive sentences in *Xiyang ji*.



Fig 18 *Xiyang ji*, Chapter 96 (20.1b-2a, 2542f):
“The Makara King Opens his Mouth Widely.”

9.3 Lexicographical Studies on *Xiyang ji*

These articles take words and expressions from *Xiyang ji* that have either not yet been included in the large scale Chinese dictionary *Hanyu dacidian* 漢語大詞典 or the earliest citation therein is from a later work. The articles study their semantic and syntactic properties in the novel.

- 9.3.1 Bie Minge 別敏鵠 and Bie Yange 別艷鵠. “Cong *Xiyang ji* ciyu kan *Hanyu dacidian* de wenti” 從《西洋記》詞語看《漢與大詞典》的問題. *Sichuan jiaoyu xueyuan xuebao* 四川教育學院學報 21.7 (2005), 46-47.

This article seeks to augment the *Hanyu dacidian* with 16 words and expressions featured in *Xiyang ji*: *guangguang zha* 光光乍, *haotou* 號頭, *mai* 賣, *benqian* 本錢, *datou* 搭頭, *dubua* 度化, *huofan* 活泛, *panbo* 盤駁, *xi tieshi* 吸鐵石, *yangshu* 樣數, *chushua* 查刷, *choukan* 醜看, *poxun* 鄙尋, *kuai dang xie* 快當些, *lashi* 蠟事 and *ming da ming* 明打明.

- 9.3.2 Cheng Zhibing 程志兵. “*Xiyang ji* ciyu kaoshi” 《西洋記》詞語考釋. *Hefei shifan xueyuan xuebao* 合肥師範學院學報 29.4 (2011), 25-28.

This is a lexicographical study of 11 words and expressions from *Xiyang ji* neither included in *Hanyu dacidian* nor in a range of specialized dictionaries: *buzu* 不足, *chenmo* 沉沒, *gunong* 骨弄, *laoqi* 癆氣, *mao chengcheng* 毛撐撐, *pianran* 偏然, *pingguo* 平過, *rishang* 日上, *wai* 凹, *wu...bu...* 無...不... and *yingshou* 贏手.

- 9.3.3 Hei Weiqiang 黑維強. “Ming Qing baihua xiaoshuo ciyu lishi” 明清白話小說詞與例釋. *Gansu gaoshi xuebao* 甘肅高師學報 12.6 (2007), 7-11.

This study discusses words from Ming and Qing dynasty vernacular novels that are not included in the *Hanyu dacidian* and revises entries with inadequate or inaccurate paraphrases therein. Discussions that include citations from *Xiyang ji* are: *bozui boshe* 撥嘴撥舌, *menquan* 門圈 / *chengmenquan* 城門圈 / *menquanzi* 門圈子, *zhou* 周, *man shou* 饅首 and *shengsang* 聲噪.

- 9.3.4 Luo Guoqiang 羅國強. “*Xiyang ji ciyu shiling*” 《西洋記》詞語拾零. *Hechi xueyuan xuebao* 河池學院學報 32.6 (2012), 52-54.

This article is a lexicographical study of the use of six words from *Xiyang ji*: *bishou* 比手, *chiguan* 翅關, *guitui* 鬼推, *qianshi* 扞實, *haoshuo* 好說 and *qibang* 齊幫.

- 9.3.5 Wang Zuxia 王祖霞. “*Xiyang ji ciyu shiling*” 《西洋記》詞語拾零. *Huaibei meitan shifan xueyuan xuebao (Zhhexue shehui kexue ban)* 淮北煤炭師範學院學報 (哲學社會科學版) 25.2 (2004), 88-90.

This article looks at *Xiyang ji* as a source for regional dialect, Jianghuai Mandarin. Wang Zuxia introduces 13 expressions used in *Xiyang ji* that might be hard to understand or easy to misinterpret. These are *mao* 渺, *da* 打, *liu* 溜, *bushui* 屨水, *laoqi* 癆氣, *guozuo* 過作, *wenshen* 文身, *shangjian* 傷簡, *bugejie* 不駱節 / *buzhijie* 不肢節, *chang yaoyao* 長天天, *wai yang'er* 外央兒, *yueyue hong* 月月紅 and *jiaoca bu'er* 腳擦步兒.

- 9.3.6 Wang Zuxia 王祖霞. “*Xiyang ji fangsu yuci zhaji er ze*” 《西洋記》方俗語詞札記二則. *Gudai Hanyu yanjiu* 古代漢語研究 2006.3, 26.

This article briefly introduces two dialectical expressions from *Xiyang ji*: *tou* 透 and *chili* 吃力.

- 9.3.7 Yuan Qingshu 袁慶述. “*Jindai Hanyu xuci cidian* citiao zhuiyu” 《近代漢語虛辭辭典》詞條贅語. *Gu Hanyu yanjiu* 古漢語研究 12 (1991), 23-26, 32.

This article is a study of superfluous words in the *Jindai Hanyu xuci cidian*, a dictionary on grammatical elements (*xuci* 虛辭). Yuan Qingshu uses citations from *Xiyang ji* at various points during the discussion.

- 9.3.8 Zeng Liang 曾良. “Ming Qing xiaoshuo kouyu ci suxie kao” 明清小說口語詞俗寫考. *Guangdong guangbo dianshi daxue xuebao* 廣東廣播電視大學學報 88 (2011), 32-35, 42.

Based on the woodblock editions of Ming and Qing novels, this article makes a philological study of the “folk” versions (*suxie* 俗寫) of Chinese characters in the vernacular. *Xiyang ji* citations are among the examples.

- 9.3.9 Zhao Hongmei 趙紅梅 and Cheng Zhibing 程志兵. “Ming Qing xiaoshuo zhong de yi zhong ‘nongmin’” 明清小說中的一種“農民”. *Guizhou wenshi congkan* 貴州文史叢刊 2010.1, 92-94.

This is a study of the special meanings the word *nongmin* 農民 (usually: farmer) takes on in *Xiyangji*, chapter 56, and *Xingshi yinyuan zhuan* 醒世姻緣傳 (17th cent.), chapter 42.

- 9.3.10 Zhu Jiansong 朱建頌. “Su chengyu ‘wujiao bagong’” 俗成語“烏焦巴弓”. *Yuwen jianshe* 語文建設 2001.8, 33.

This article traces the use of the folk saying “wujiao bagong” 烏焦巴弓 that originated from a list of four surnames in *Baijia xing* 百家姓. An example of this popular usage can be found in chapter 76 of *Xiyangji*.