

论文

西方语言中porcelain(瓷器)的跨文化语源研究

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摘要:

西方各国 porcelain的拼写大同小异,学界普遍认同著名汉学家伯希和的研究:porcelain的语源与汉语无关,它源于法语 porcelaine(子安贝),而后者又源于拉丁词 porcellana(子安贝),该拉丁词又由 porcus(猪)及 pucelage(处女状态)派生。但跨文化研究表明,porcelain是汉语“波斯蓝”的对音,得名源于中国古代制瓷所用从伊朗进口的色料。历史上,西方人先认识瓷器,后认识子安贝。因而,在西方语言中,该词先有“瓷器”义,然后再分两个方向演变:一从外貌、形状的角度,衍生出“子安贝”、“贝壳”、“货币”、“牙齿”等含义;另一从颜色(“青花”)的角度,产生“马齿苋”等词汇。这一研究成果还证实,至少在元代,我国制瓷用的上等色料确实来自伊朗。

关键词: porcelain(瓷器) 波斯蓝 伯希和 中西文化交流史 跨文化研究 语源学

A Cross-cultural Study on the Etymology of“Porcelain”

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Abstract:

The spellings of“porcelain”are similar in Western languages .Most scholars accept the French sinologist Paul Pelliot' v iew that“porcelain”was not derived from Chinese but from“porcelaine”(Mauritia Arabica) in French,which was evolved from“p orcellana”(Mauritia Arabica) in Latin,diminutive of “porcus”(pig) and“p ucelage”(virginity) .However,a cross-cultural study reveals that“porcelain”is the sound translation of Chinese phrase“B o-si-lan”(Persian blue),a name fromIran-exported pigment used in Chinese ancient ceramic making .In Western languages,“p orcelain”has the definition of ceramic ware,which further transforms to“porcellana”(Mauritia Arabica),“shell”,“currency”,“tooth”,“porcelain enamel”(glaze),and“porcelain-crab”in accordance with the shape and outward appearance on the one hand,and to“porcellanum”(garden porcelain),and“porcelain ampelopsis”(or“porcelain vine”) with reference to the colors on the other hand .This study also proves that at least in the Yuan Dynasty,high-class pigment used in ceramic making in China was imported from Iran .

Keywords: porcelain Bo-si-lan(Persian blue) Paul Pelliot history of Chinese and Western

收稿日期 2010-05-28 修回日期 网络版发布日期 2010-10-13

DOI:

基金项目:

通讯作者:

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