New-Age Chinese-English Dictionary

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B. Other literature

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The New Age Chinese-English Dictionary (《新时代汉英大词典》, henceforth NACED) is one of the largest and most authoritative Chinese-English dictionaries chief-edited by the veteran Chinese lexicographer Wu Jingrong and the senior translator in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC Cheng Zhenqiu, and published by The Commercial Press in 2000. As one of the ‘nationally important books’ listed in China’s 9th Five-Year Plan (1996-2000), this large-size general-purpose dictionary has remained very popular among Chinese translators and English learners of Chinese ever since its publication in 2000. Revision of the dictionary was initiated in 2005, resulting in the publication of the second edition in January, 2014, with Pan Shaozhong as the editor-in-chief.

A large-size bilingual dictionary, the NACED was designed mainly for language production, i.e. translation from Chinese into English. Meanwhile, it has also striven to help native speakers of English, or native speakers of other languages who use English as a lingua franca, to try to understand (or learn) Chinese and learn about Chinese culture. To fulfill these functions, it had included as many new words and new senses as possible, continuously improved its definition and translation, and made itself more practical and user-friendly. The NACED2, obviously, has inherited these features and carried them forward. In sections 1–3 below, improvements in the new edition are discussed, whereas section 4 raises some points of criticism.
1. Enhancing production in English

To enhance production in English, the NACED2 has adopted the following measures. First, following the practice of descriptivism in dictionary making, it has included a large number of new words, new senses, and new examples to reflect the constant changes in different fields of society and to meet the needs of Chinese translators for appropriate English equivalents of Chinese neologisms. Second, it has further refined the translation of its entries, either supplying the entries with idiomatic translation equivalents, or providing multiple translations for an entry. Third, it has fully innovated its entry examples by adopting more representative examples and furnishing them with idiomatic translations that embody typical English collocational and syntactic information that helps better language production.

1.1 Adding new words, new senses and new examples

The NACED2 has added more than 30 thousand new entries, making the total number of its entries exceed 150 thousand. For example, it includes new entries in computer and information sciences, such as user's interface, user agent, word length, resolution, distributed capacitance, display card, and sound card. Second, in economics, such as implicit cost, hidden inflation, invisible deficit/loss, and in law, such as statutory rape, state compensation, standing/recurring cost, and state-issued land use right and property trading permit. Most of these words are China-specific, denoting either popular cultural phenomena or new styles of life in current China. Simple as they seem, they pose serious difficulties to translators. It is thus encouraging that the compilers have included these words and senses in the dictionary and have found suitable, if not always wholly satisfactory, English equivalents to them. In addition, to
reflect the ever-increasing use of letter words and expressions (i.e. words or expressions beginning with Western letters) in modern China, the dictionary has also expanded the number of such words and expressions from one page to four pages, including such items as **ADSL** (asymmetric digital subscriber loop broadband), **CCU** (coronary care unit), **CPI** (consumer price index), **DIY** (do-it-yourself model), **EMS** (express-mail service), **EMS business**, **EQ** (emotional quotient), **GPS** (global positioning system), **Gini** (Gini coefficient), **GRE** (Graduate Record Examinations), **HSK** (Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (a Chinese Proficiency Test)), **iPhone**, **iPad**, **U** (flash disk; U-driver), **LCD** (liquid crystal display) monitor, and **T** (catwalk (as in fashion shows)).

The NACED2 has also included new senses of some existing words. For example, in the old edition, **was given only its traditional senses a young lady and miss (a respectful term of address for a young/unmarried woman), but the new edition has included the new sense of this word, a call-girl or a prostitute. Similarly, the entry **in the old edition had only one sense not to be open to discussion/negotiation, but the new edition has furnished it with a new sense beyond the shadow of a doubt; a hundred percent, which is further illustrated by three idiomatic examples: 爱你~ to love (sb) a hundred percent; 罚款~ to fine (people) right and left; and 好吃~ to be extremely delicious.**

In addition to the new examples added to illustrate new senses of existing words as in the aforementioned entry, the NACED2 has also added some new entry examples for the benefit of translators. For example, **did not have any examples in the NACED, but is supplied with 100 push-ups at one stroke in the NACED2. This example is well-chosen, because, for one thing, push-up most often serves as the object of do (do) in Chinese, and for another, the verb-object collocation ‘do (100) push-ups’ in the English translation is highly useful to translators, who often get stuck on the translation of some ‘small’ words. Another example is the entry **which originally had only one example, messy; confused and disorderly. However, this example fails to present the figurative use of the entry, for in Chinese, this word not only collocates with physical objects like rooms or floors, but also with human emotions like mood or feeling. Helpfully, the NACED2 adds one more example in the entry: 思绪凌乱 with one’s mind in complete confusion, thus offering dictionary users a more complete picture of the use of the item.**

1.2 **Improving entry translation**

To enhance its encoding function, the NACED2 has also improved its entry translation, either supplying the entries with idiomatic translation equivalents or providing multiple translations for an entry. It has been generally accepted
that compared with Chinese-English dictionaries made by native speakers of English, Chinese-English dictionaries made in China are less idiomatic in translation, because, as non-native speakers of English, Chinese compilers are apt to gloss the meaning of an entry when they have failed to discover its English equivalent, which, in many cases, is elusive to non-native speakers of English. For example, the NACED had explained the entry 美人计 as the use of a beautiful woman to ensnare a man, without knowing that its equivalent in English is ‘honey trap’; it had also glossed 潜台词 as unspoken words in a play left to the understanding of the audience, failing to find its true equivalent ‘subtext’. The NACED2, however, has improved this aspect significantly, offering translation equivalents to many entries that had been glossed in the NACED. For example, the figurative sense of the entry 夜猫子 was originally explained as person who likes staying up late, but the NACED2 offers its translation equivalent a night owl; 博士后 was explained in the NACED as one who is engaged in such (note: post-doctoral) research or studies, but is given the translation equivalent a post-doc in the new edition; 锅贴, a typical Chinese food, had been explained as lightly fried dumpling in the NACED, but the NACED2 has offered its English equivalent pot-sticker, a translation now commonly accepted in the English-speaking world. Similarly, 豆腐渣工程, a phrase example of the entry 豆腐渣 in the NACED but a sub-entry in the NACED2, was explained as construction project with building materials like bean dregs in the NACED, but is now given its translation equivalent a jerry-built project. By supplying the Chinese entries with their translation equivalents, the NACED2 has lived up to its name of a bilingual dictionary for language production, as explanation alone gives little, if any, help to translators.

The NACED2 has also provided many entries with multiple translations based on the different contexts they are used in, so that translators can choose the most appropriate translation in their target English text. For example, 相当 as a verb is provided with four English translations: to match, to balance, to correspond to, and to be equal to, and each translation is context-specific, for example, 实力相当 can be rendered into to be matched in power/ strength, 输出相当 into the gains balance the losses, 年龄相当 into be of equal age, and 英国的讲师职位大致相当于美国的副教授 into The British job of Lecturer corresponds roughly to the US Associate Professor. Similarly, 保安 was translated as security personnel alone in the NACED, but is provided with one more translation security guard in the NACED2. The revisers might have recognized that ‘security personnel’ is limited in use, for example, one can translate 乘客和机场保安间的冲突 as ‘a scuffle between passengers and airport security personnel’, but 一个机场保安 can only be translated into ‘a security guard at the airport’. ‘Security guard’ can be used in the first example, but ‘personnel’ as a collective noun cannot be used in the second example. This practice of the NACED2 is commendable for two reasons. First, it
acknowledges the fact that between the widely different Chinese and English languages, absolute one-to-one equivalents are in most cases impossible. Most Chinese entries require more than one English word to represent them. These English words supplement each other in meaning and work together to bring out the complete meaning of the entry in question. Second, it benefits the language production process by enabling translators to choose the most appropriate translation based on their actual needs.

1.3 Improved entry examples

Choosing good entry examples is essential for Chinese-English dictionaries like the NACED2, because examples can attest to the existence of entry senses, contribute to the explanation of meaning, and illustrate the grammatical and stylistic features of entries. But even more essential for such a dictionary is how to translate these examples in a way that can guide Chinese users to produce correct and idiomatic English. With this in mind, the compilers of the NACED2 have fully innovated the dictionary’s entry examples by adopting more representative examples and furnishing them with idiomatic translations that embody typical English collocational and syntactic information. The different treatment of the entry 葬悼 in the two dictionaries suffices to show the NACED2’s effort in this regard. In the NACED, 葬悼 was translated into ‘grieve or mourn over sb’s death; lament sb’s death’ and was provided with two examples: /C24 decree three days of national mourning and 对他的逝世,我们表示沉痛的～。We express our profound condolences over his death. Though the Chinese examples are well-chosen and their translations accurate and idiomatic, judging from a lexicographer’s perspective, there is still room for improvement. First, the Chinese examples do not fully exhibit the use of the entry in Chinese, since they do not cover the ‘verb + object’ collocational pattern the entry is most frequently used in, such as 葬悼革命烈士 ‘mourn for the revolutionary martyrs’. Second, the sentence example, though idiomatic in Chinese, is a bit too long as a dictionary example and its English translation does not fully reveal the syntactic pattern translators need. Third, the English translations of both examples are not immediately related to the translation of the entry and also fail to show the collocational information and syntactic pattern of ‘mourn’ or ‘grieve’. The NACED2 has improved the examples and their translations accordingly. First, it adds the example 葬悼死者 and translates it into to mourn/grieve for the deceased, which not only shows the most important collocational behaviour of the Chinese entry, but also supplements the translation of the entry by informing dictionary users that after ‘mourn’ or ‘grieve’ both ‘over’ and ‘for’ can be used for the same meaning. Second, it extracts the core information from the above sentence example, compresses it into a phrase 表示沉痛的哀悼, and revises the original translation as to express one’s profound condolences (to the bereaved family over sb’s
Obviously, the shortened ‘skeleton’ example, concise and to the point, conforms more to the principle of dictionary example selection, and the syntactic pattern of the translation, ‘express one’s condolences to sb over sth’, is more useful to dictionary users who consult the dictionary for language production purposes. In addition, the NACED2 also adds another phrase example 哀悼日 to the entry and translates it as (to observe) a day of mourning. The example is also a typical collocation of the entry in Chinese and ‘to observe’ in brackets saves the dictionary users’ time to find a verb in English dictionaries that collocates with ‘a day of mourning’.

2. Better support for text comprehension and language learning

Although the main purpose of the NACED2 is for language production, it also strives to enhance its decoding function, i.e. helping English-speaking users to understand (or learn) Chinese and learn about Chinese culture. The dictionary has adopted the following measures to fulfill this function.

2.1 Marking the part of speech of dictionary entries

The NACED2 has marked the part of speech of most head characters and multi-character entries. Unlike the English word, which is explicit in definition and usually distinct in form, the Chinese word may be confusing to native English speakers. In terms of graphic form, there is the single character, or zi in Chinese pinyin, as well as the fixed multi-character compound, or ci in Chinese pinyin. The latter, which is normally semantically related to the former, roughly corresponds to the word in English. The single character, however, is either a word or a non-word (effectively, a bound morpheme), a distinction which is discussed below. In Chinese dictionaries, both the single character and the fixed multi-character compound are listed as independent entries, with the former leading the latter in typography. The single character is referred to as the head character and the fixed multi-character compound as the multi-character entry. Apart from this, Chinese dictionaries also include as independent entries Chinese idioms (mostly four-character constructions and occasionally multi-character idiomatic expressions) like 一箭双雕 kill two birds with one stone, literally shoot two hawks with one arrow, and 一夫当关, 万夫莫开 one man can hold out against ten thousand at a strategic pass, literally (of strategic terrain, etc) with one man guarding the pass, ten thousand men cannot break it open; and succinct sayings and proverbs like 一口吃不成个胖子 nothing can be accomplished with a single effort, literally no one grows fat on just one bite and 三个臭皮匠, 合成一个诸葛亮 two heads are better than one, literally three cobbler with their wits combined equal Zhuge Liang the mastermind. Idioms, sayings, and proverbs like the above are not words, and thus do not have a part of speech.
Unlike English words, Chinese words lack inflectional affixes, which, together with numerous cases of huoyong (flexible use of words) and jianlei (one word serving multiple parts of speech), has made it extremely difficult for Chinese linguists to decide on the part of speech of Chinese words. For example, for many decades, Chinese linguists have debated the issue whether the part-of-speech classification of Chinese words should be based on the meaning or form of the word, or both, and it seems that a consensus has not been reached even today. For this reason, *The Dictionary of Contemporary Chinese* (Trial edition, Lv 1960; 5th edition, Chao and Jingti 2005; 6th edition, Jiang 2012), the most authoritative Chinese dictionary in China’s mainland, had refrained from marking the part of speech of its entries until its fifth edition published in 2005. Further complicating the question is that in Chinese lexicographical circles, the debate over whether a Chinese-English dictionary should mark the part of speech of entries has never been settled.

However, for English-speaking users or English learners of Chinese who are familiar with the part-of-speech system of the English language, marking the Chinese entries for part of speech can certainly help them to understand and use the entries more correctly. Besides, lexicographically, marking the part of speech of dictionary entries is highly advantageous, for, according to Guo (1999:151) this is one of the most effective means for dictionary users to learn about the exact usage of the word, helps the division of entry senses and the discovery of new senses, and assists in entry definition and dictionary example selection. Therefore, the question for lexicographers now is not whether to mark the part of speech or not, but how to mark it effectively.

Based on the practice of *The Dictionary of Contemporary Chinese* (5th edition, Chao and Jingti 2005) and drawing on dictionaries of a similar nature, the NACED2 has followed two principles in its own practice. First, it distinguishes between head characters that are words and head characters that are non-words and only gives part of speech for the former. A word is a character that can form a word all by itself, such as 书 (book), 拿 (take), 好 (good), etc; a non-word is a character that represents a bound morpheme, which needs to combine with another character or characters to form a word. For example, 伟大 (great) cannot appear as an independent word unless combined with 观 to form 伟大观 *magnificent view* or with 岸 to form 伟大 岸 *big and tall* and it is, therefore, a non-word. A non-word is sometimes an affix, but in most cases, it is not. For example, 伟大 is not an affix, but 老 (lit. old) in 老虎 (tiger) and 老师 (teacher) is a prefix and 子 in 袜子 (socks) and 鞋子 (shoes) is a suffix. In theory, the distinction between words and non-words seems clear-cut, but in practice, non-words, especially those that are not affixes, are very difficult to identify. For example, in *A Chinese-English Dictionary* (3rd edition, Yao 2010, henceforth CED3), 伟大, a head character, was marked as an adjective, but, as has been discussed above, it is a non-word that does not have a part of speech. Even more difficult to identify is the head character that has several senses,
because in some senses, the character is a word, but in other senses it is not. This is one of the reasons that lead to the inappropriate marking of the part of speech of entries in many dictionaries. For example, the CED3 had conveniently categorized the eight senses of the entry 裁 into three parts of speech: verb, noun, and measure word, which ignores the fact that 裁 is not a word in examples like 別出心裁 adopt an original approach, 制裁 impose sanctions (upon), 体裁 literary genre, and 裁断 judge and predict. The NACED2, however, has distinguished words and non-words meticulously and has only marked the part of speech for the former.

Second, the NACED2 has rightly striven to make the entry and its English translation consistent in part of speech. For example, 最近, a noun often used as an adverb in Chinese, was translated into English adverbs recently and lately and into a prepositional phrase in the near future respectively in the CED3, which violates the principle of substitutability and may confuse English-speaking users of the dictionary. The NACED2, however, is different. It first uses two noun phrases, the recent past and the near future, to translate the two senses of the entry, and then illustrates its adverbial use with several examples, such as ～几天 in the last few days, ～消息 the latest/recent news, and “他什么时候来?”“就在～”“When will he come?” “In the near future.”, a practice that both conforms to the actual use of the entry in the Chinese language and is lexicographically justifiable.

The NACED2’s effort to mark the part of speech of all the words and multi-character entries is praiseworthy and important. It is praiseworthy in that this must have involved a huge amount of extra work on the part of the revisers, as entry translations and examples needed significant adjustment to remain consistent with the entries in their part of speech. It is important in that it sets a good example for dictionaries of a similar nature in this regard, demonstrating how the part of speech may be marked for entries in Chinese-English dictionaries, and setting a standard for possible future developments.

2.2 Improving the treatment of culturally loaded entries

Having recognized the cultural differences between Chinese and English, the NACED2 has made some ingenious adjustments in the definition or translation of culturally loaded entries, either explaining the cultural difference or supplying the entries with relevant pictures to enhance English-speaking users’ understanding, or both. For example, the entry 龙 was translated simply into dragon in the NACED, which fails to convey the cultural difference between the Chinese dragon, an auspicious symbol of power and prosperity, and the Western dragon, a symbol of ferociousness and evil, and may almost certainly cause misunderstanding among English users of the dictionary. The NACED2, however, has successfully solved this problem by breaking up the entry into two senses: the Chinese dragon and the Western dragon, explaining
them respectively as a mystical animal capable of walking, flying, swimming and causing clouds and rain, often associated with power and prosperity and a fierce mythical animal with wings, capable of spitting fire, and often serving as guardian of a hidden treasure/an imprisoned beauty and often demanding sacrifices, and supplementing the explanations with fine pictures of the two different dragons.

Other culturally loaded entries thus treated include 由草 Chinese caterpillar fungus, 长命锁 a long-life lock, worn by a child as a charm for longevity, 长袍马褂 a long gown and mandarin jacket—a formal man’s dress in Qing and early-Republic days, 编钟 chime/serial bells; carillon, 鼎 — an ancient cooking vessel with two loop handles and three (sometimes four) legs, 斗拱 dougong, or bracket set — a system of tiers of brackets inserted between the top of pillar and a cross-beam (each bracket being formed of a bow-shaped arc, called gong, and cushioned with a block of wood, called dou), 四合院 a traditional residential compound with houses around a courtyard, etc. The NACED2 is the first large-size Chinese-English dictionary in China’s mainland to have used pictures systematically to explain culturally loaded entries, a practice that has been recognized for a long time, but not materialized for various reasons. These well-chosen pictures, totaling over 200, are bound to enhance the dictionary user’s understanding of the entries, since ‘a picture is worth a thousand words’. Besides, they also improve the readability of the dictionary. In this sense, the NACED2 has set a good example for future Chinese-English dictionaries to follow.

Another effort the NACED2 has made is that it has supplied most culturally loaded entries with a literal translation, followed by one or several liberal translations. The literal translation allows English-speaking users to understand the origin as well as the surface meaning of an expression, which, in many cases, can help them to deduct its figurative meaning, which is then given explicitly in the liberal translation(s). Pedagogically, this practice can facilitate the user’s learning process by enhancing their cognitive perception of the entries, as many culturally loaded entries in Chinese, for example, Chinese idioms, like 杯弓蛇影 to mistake the reflection of a bow in the cup for a snake—be jittery with imaginary fears; be extremely nervous and suspicious or 草木皆兵 every bush and tree looks like an enemy soldier—the panicky state of a defeated army, are either allusive or rooted in ancient Chinese texts. In this case, a literal translation of the entry is of significant use to English-speaking users trying to understand Chinese culture as embedded in these items, though, in most cases, the literal translation is, admittedly, too simple and skimpy to offer them a complete picture of the cultural information in question. For example, in the ABC Chinese-English Comprehensive Dictionary (DeFrancis 2003) compiled by the American sinologist John DeFrancis for English speakers learning Chinese, many culturally loaded entries, such as 人怕出名猪怕壮 (lit. fame is fatal to men as fatness is to pigs), —山难容二虎 (lit. no two rival tigers can coexist in/share the same mountain), —碗水端平 (lit. hold a bowl of
water even/level), and 春草 (lit. the grass cannot repay the spring sunshine for its warmth) were provided with their liberal translations alone, in this case, respectively, fame can be dangerous; a great man cannot brook a rival; be impartial; be fair in handling matters; and repay maternal love with one’s gratitude, failing to reveal to dictionary users the relation between the literal meaning and the figurative meaning of the entries. The NACED2, by contrast, offers, where possible, the literal translation of culturally loaded Chinese entries, followed by one or several liberal translations.

2.3 Adding tables of an encyclopedic nature

To enrich its information content and offer practical help to those English-speaking users who wish to learn more about Chinese culture, the NACED2 has added quite a number of tables under relevant entries. For example, the original NACED translated the entry 六书 simply into six ancient categories of Chinese characters, which carried no substantial message and provided English users or learners of Chinese with little, if any, useful information. The NACED2, by contrast, provides the names of the six traditional categories of Chinese characters in a table immediately under the entry translation, i.e. 自释“self-explanatory” character, 象形“pictographic” character, 形声“pictophonetic” character, 会意“associative” or “combined” character, 转注“mutually explanatory” character, and 假借 “phonetic loan” character; and, should the English user have problems comprehending these names, offers examples to illustrate them. This and other tables in the dictionary not only benefit dictionary users, but also enhance the encyclopedic nature of the dictionary (which is a welcome current trend in modern bilingual lexicography).

3. Other Innovations

The NACED2 has also made some other noteworthy innovations both in its microstructure and macrostructure, which are mainly reflected in the deletion of repetitive examples in the old edition and in improving its format of entry arrangement.

3.1 Deleting repetitive examples

The NACED2 has deleted a large number of repetitive examples found in the original NACED. Entries in Chinese and Chinese-English dictionaries are normally arranged following the pattern of ‘the head character leading multi-character words’. The multi-character words are often semantically related to the head character in question and are the major components of a dictionary. They are either fixed or unfixed. Only the fixed ones, whose number is limited, are treated as independent entries in traditional Chinese lexicography and the
unfixed ones (or free collocations in the English sense), whose number is unlimited, usually serve as phrase examples of the head character. Take the head character to stir; poke; turn for example. 拨灰 to stir ashes is an unfixed multi-character word or a free collocation and, therefore, cannot be treated as an independent dictionary entry, because there is an unlimited number of similar free collocations in Chinese, like 拨火 to poke a fire, 拨钟 to set a clock, 拨草 to stir/turn the grass, 拨算盘 to tick off the heads on an abacus, etc. However, words like 拨打 to dial a phone, 拨付 to appropriate a sum of money, 拨款 to allocate funds, etc. are fixed multi-character words and should be included in dictionaries as independent entries.

The NACED, a print dictionary, had used a lot of fixed multi-character words both as examples of the head character and as independent entries elsewhere in the dictionary, which was lexicographically redundant (Zhao 2004: 115–116). For example, the NACED had supplied the entry 花 flower; blossom with such phrase examples as 桃花 peach blossom, 梅花 plum flower, 荷花 lotus flower, 百合花 lily, 杜鹃花 azalea, 兰花 orchid, 菊花 chrysanthemum; mum, 丁香花 lilac, 茉莉花 white jasmine, and 牡丹花 peony. However, these flowers were also listed as independent entries in this dictionary. Therefore, this practice is both a violation of the principle of conciseness in dictionary-making and a serious waste of precious dictionary space. It is also impractical for dictionary users, because no users will attempt to find the English translations of these flowers by checking the entry word 花; instead, they, without a doubt, will check 桃 for 桃花, 梅 for 梅花, etc, since these flower names are independent entries by themselves. The presence of such redundant items is likely to make it harder for the user to find other, more useful dictionary material. Having recognized this shortcoming in the old edition, the NACED2 has removed all these repetitive examples, leaving only examples that cannot serve as independent entries, such as 花家/野花 a cultivated/wild flower, 赏花 to appreciate flowers; admire the beauty of flowers, and 果 tree～apple blossoms.

3.2 Improving the format of entry arrangement

The NACED2 has also effectively improved its format of entry arrangement. In the old edition, the compilers had arranged all the multi-character entries under the head character on the left side of the page in two columns from top to bottom without any discrimination. Seemingly easier to read and visualize when thinking of a single such case, this format of entry arrangement, however, has two deficiencies. First, it ignores the semantic relation between some multi-character entries and weakens the cognitive organization of the dictionary. For example, 网络 network, 网络管理 network management, 网络空间 cyberspace, 网络世界 cyberworld, and 网络文化 cyberculture are independent entries that are semantically interrelated, but were listed vertically in the NACED without any typographic distinctions. The semantic relation between these items is thus
Figure 1: A sample page from the NACED2.
Figure 1: Continued.
artificially severed, which makes it more difficult for English users to understand the relations between them. Second, since all the entries were vertically listed as entries at the same level, dictionary users would find it hard to locate an entry in such a long undifferentiated list. The NACED2 has changed this format (see Figure 1). It treats certain multi-character entries as main entries and other entries that are semantically related to them as sub-entries, thus forming a three-level hierarchical arrangement, with the head characters as the first level, the multi-character main entries as the second level and the sub-entries as the third level, each level immediately related to the higher level semantically, and the embedding signalled by the diamond symbol. This hierarchical format of entry arrangement further clarifies the relation between entries, enhances the cognitive function of the dictionary, and makes it easier for dictionary users to locate an entry.

4. Criticisms

Like any other dictionary, the NACED2 also has some deficiencies. It fails to include some popular Chinese neologisms, such as 学区房 ‘house/apartment in a good school district’, 群租 ‘shared renting (of a house/apartment)’, 异性合租 ‘share a flat with someone of the opposite sex’, 私房菜 ‘family cuisine; private kitchen cuisine’, 招牌菜 ‘signature dish; house special’, 奇腿 ‘to two-time’, etc (Zhao 2012). It contains entries that are not idiomatically translated, for example, 排榜 is translated into ranking; a (bestseller) list, while a more idiomatic translation would be ‘the charts’. It has incorporated some items in the Appendices of the NACED into the dictionary text and has deleted some others to save space, but some of the items deleted would be useful to dictionary users, for example, ‘Other International and Regional Organizations’. Rather than selecting entry examples from a corpus, it takes its examples mainly from Chinese dictionaries of collocations, Chinese general-purpose dictionaries and Chinese literary works, and then adapts them to suit its needs, which is rather old-school, compared with the corpus-based entry example selection as practised by leading dictionaries worldwide. In fact, it would have been better if the NACED2 had been able to draw on some well-established English or bilingualized English-Chinese dictionaries for more satisfying examples. For example, in the bilingualized Oxford Advanced Learner’s English-Chinese Dictionary (8th edition, Turnbull 2014), under the entry ‘delay’, there is an example: We apologize for the delay in answering your letter, which has been translated very idiomatically into 来信收悉，迟复为歉。 If the NACED2 had used this Chinese translation as a sentence example for the entry 来信 or 收悉 and had made the original English example its translation, the entry would have been better for it. However, the following three problems are worth special mention.
First, though the NACED2 has paid due attention to balance in entry coverage and consistency in entry treatment, there are still some related entries that are not arranged in balance or that are treated inconsistently. For example, 南方平原 the Northeast Plain and 长江中下游平原 the Middle and Lower Yangtze Valley Plains are independent entries, but 华北平原 the North China Plain is listed as an example under 华北 North China; 双语词典 a bilingual dictionary is an independent entry, but 单语词典 a monolingual dictionary is missing; 大功率 high-power is marked as a noun with the stylistic label of 电 ‘electricity’, but 小功率 low-power is marked as an adjective without any stylistic label; 北天极 is translated into the north (celestial) pole, but 南天极 into the celestial pole in the Southern Hemisphere. Admittedly, perfect balance in entry coverage and consistency in entry treatment can hardly be expected in large-size dictionaries for the simple reason that a dictionary of such size is usually made by a large team of compilers, each one being responsible for one or several parts. However, provided the compilers are fully aware of the importance of balance and consistency in dictionary making, with good coordination between compilers and the help of computers, these defects can and should be brought to a minimum.

Second, the NACED2 still leaves a lot of mistakes in the old edition unattended and at the same time adds some new mistakes in translation. As a revised edition, the NACED2 has corrected some mistakes and infelicities in the NACED. For example, in the NACED, under the entry 小站练兵, 袁世凯 had been misspelled as 袁士凯, which has been corrected in the NACED2. Similarly, the entry 性生活 had been wrongly translated as sexual life in the NACED and has now been improved to sex life. To take another positive example, the NACED had translated an example under the entry 遗留, 毕竟是年轻人. 再累. 好好睡一觉就没事了, into After all, they are young and can overcome any fatigue after a good night’s sleep. The original Chinese example is rather colloquial, but the word ‘fatigue’ in the translation is too formal in style. Therefore, in the NACED2, this example has been deleted.

However, a careful examination of this dictionary still finds that quite a few mistakes in the NACED, especially translation mistakes, have been transplanted into the NACED2 intact. For example, 法律 should be ‘rule of law’, but both dictionaries have rule by law; 唱反调, which means ‘strike a discordant note’, is inappropriately translated into sing a different tune in both NACED and NACED2. Similarly, 参加高考, an example under 高考, should be to take the university entrance examination, but, in both dictionaries, it has been translated as to take part in the university entrance examination, which is wrong in collocation. Other such examples include 法网, 庭长, 婚约, 总书记, 笑掉大牙, 双赢, 包袱, 物证, 耳目, 社会科学, and 恋爱. Worse still, the NACED2 has also made some new mistakes in entry and example translation, especially in the translation of neologisms, for example, 交通大学 and its example 上海交通大学 are wrongly translated into a university of
communications and the Shanghai University of Communications, respectively, while the correct translations are ‘jiaotong university’ and ‘Shanghai Jiaotong/ Jiao Tong University’. Likewise, 网恋 is translated as to have an online love affair, while a better translation would be ‘to have a cyber love/romance’. The NACED2 has also made mistakes in translating economic and legal terms, for example, 买壳上市 and 无效婚姻, an economic term and a legal term respectively, are wrongly translated as (of an unlisted company) to go public by buying a shell (company) and invalid marriage, while the more idiomatic translations are, respectively, ‘to go public through a reverse merger’ or ‘to get a listing through a reverse merger’ and ‘void marriage’. Other entries that are wrongly or inappropriately translated include 城市病, 黑车, 黑哨, 留守儿童, 面子工程, 惹火, 走光, 撞衫, 钟点房, 宅男, 宅女, 月嫂, 景点, 音乐电视, and 青春饭.

Third, the NACED2 has over-explained some entries that already have translation equivalents in English. For example, since 夜猫子, 博士后, and 高考状元 have had their ready equivalents night owl, postdoctoral/post-doctorate/post-doc, and college entrance exam top scorer, then the explanations, a person who likes staying up late, one who is engaged in such research/studies, and a student who got the highest mark in the university entrance examination, are not necessary. Likewise, 袈裟 is translated in the NACED2 as Kasaya, a patchwork outer vestment worn by a Buddhist monk. However, since ‘Kasaya’ is a Sanskrit word not found in any English dictionaries, it is not suitable as a translation equivalent in a Chinese-English dictionary. In fact, ‘monastic robe’ alone would suffice. Other such examples include 豆腐渣工程, 三围, 和平演变, 经济适用房, 夫妻店, 残局, 跳槽, 汗毛, 老夫少妻, 熟女, and 驴友.

Despite these isolated problems, present in just about any dictionary, the NACED2 is a remarkable Chinese-English dictionary that presents a panorama of modern Chinese lexicon and that will, like the NACED, prove indispensable to Chinese translators, native speakers of English, or native speakers of other languages who use English as a lingua franca. Unlike English-Chinese dictionaries, which are relatively developed in research and compiling techniques, Chinese-English dictionaries still have much room for improvement. To this extent, the NACED2 is a showcase for Chinese scholarship in bilingual lexicography and a good example for future dictionaries to follow.

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A. Dictionaries

B. Other literature

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Ever since Lakoff and Johnson’s (1980) seminal work, research on conceptual metaphors has been extensive. Conceptual metaphor theory has become one of the central topics of cognitive linguistics, and publications range from outlines of a variety of metaphorical conceptualisations to examinations of particular