

INSIGHT

ON RHYTHM: DEFINITION, REPRESENTATION, PREDICTION, AND VERIFICATION

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1. INTRODUCTION

There are many discussions of rhythm in the literature, by both Western scholars and Chinese scholars. In the West, there is a long tradition of discussing rhythm in music (such as Petersen 2013) and in poetry (often in terms of meter, such as Chatman 1965, Halle and Keyser 1971, Kiparsky 1977, and Hasty 1997). In addition, rhythm has been used to classify languages into two categories: stress-timed rhythm and syllable-timed rhythm (such as Pike 1945 and Abercrombie 1964).

The Chinese term for rhythm is *jié-zòu* 节-奏, where *jié* 节 means ‘section’ or ‘knot’ (as in a bamboo) and *zòu* 奏 means ‘to play’ (music). The term is applied to both music and poetry. Indeed, poetry in Chinese is often referred to as *shī-gē* 诗-歌, literally ‘poem-song’, because many classic poems used to be songs. A well-known form of Chinese poetry is *lǜ-shī* 律-诗, literally ‘regulated poem’ or ‘ruled poem’, flourished in the

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谈节奏：定义、结构、预测、验证

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摘要

讨论节奏的文献相当多，而且包括各种不同角度，如音乐的节奏、诗歌的节奏、非诗歌语言的节奏、自然现象中的节奏(如山川起伏、昼夜交替等)。不过，尚未见到一个简单明确、适合各种节奏类型的定义。对诗歌来说，文献提到的各种节奏成分(如押韵、双声、叠韵等)对母语人的语感有何影响，有关讨论也很少，而且缺乏实验证据。文章首先对节奏提出一个简单明确的定义，即节奏包含两个要素：一是要有某种单位的重复，二是该单位必须体现某种交替。比如英语的诗行是音步的重复，而音步是轻重音节的交替。然后文章提出了节奏的结构表示，并以常见的节奏类型进行演示。接着文章汇报一个语感实验，语料包括 36 首双行民谣型当代诗歌，每首诗歌分别标注了六种节奏成分：1.押韵、2.诗歌结构、3.双声、4.叠韵、5.非相邻音节的声母重复(alliteration)、6.非相邻音节的元音或韵母重复(assonance)。每首诗歌再请 13 位母语人对其总体节奏度进行打分。统计显示，节奏成分 1、2 对诗歌的节奏度有显著影响，其他节奏成分无显著影响。文章进一步提出，节奏成分的结构可以解释它们对语感的影响程度。比如无固定长度的交替单位很难对语感产生显著影响。最后，文章对前人的各种节奏定义进行了简要的评论。

关键词

节奏 语感实验 诗歌结构 押韵 音步