

# Discussion of the Sports Terminology “Chenggan-tiao”(撑竿跳) and “Chenggan-tiao”(撑杆跳)

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## ABSTRACT

For many years, "撑竿跳"(In the following, the author will use its pinyin "Chenggan-tiao1" to represent it to distinguish it from "撑杆跳") and "撑杆跳"(In the following, the author will use "Chenggan-tiao2" to represent it) have been mixed with "竿"(In the following, the author will use its pinyin "Gan1" to represent it to distinguish it from "杆") and "杆"(In the following, the author will use "Gan2" to represent it). In the media reports of the Hangzhou Asian Games, "Chenggan-tiao1" and "Chenggan-tiao2" are used together. For this pair of anagrams, the author believes that "Chenggan-tiao1" should be taken. Based on existing research, this paper will look at the choice of "Gan1" and "Gan2" from authoritative newspaper publications and corpus data, and analyze the reasons for the prevalence of the misuse of "Chenggan-tiao2".

**Keywords:** "Chenggan-tiao" (撑竿跳), "Chenggan-tiao" (撑杆跳), Reasons for misuse.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 2023, the Hangzhou Asian Games is in full swing, in the media reports, track and field events "Chenggan-tiao1" and "Chenggan-tiao2" are used together. For example, "'Goddess of 'Chenggan-tiao1' Triple Crown!'" (China Women 2023-10-3), "Asian Games women's 'Chenggan-tiao2', Chinese veteran took three consecutive titles" (China Youth Daily 2023-10-3). The difference between the two is "Gan1" and "Gan2", which is more accurate?

## 2. CURRENT STATUS OF RESEARCH

On February 6, 2024, the results of relevant literature search in CNKI and other websites are as follows:

Firstly, from the research results, most scholars preferred "Chenggan-tiao1" to this pair of anagrams.

Secondly, in terms of research methodology, the Journal of Shanghai Institute of Physical Education (1996) thinks that from the point of view of people's usage habits, "Chenggan-tiao1" should be taken. Wu Song (2005) believes that from the meaning of the words "Gan1" and "Gan2", the

relative stability of the naming of things by human beings, the authoritative tool books and sports professional writings, and the avoidance of misinterpretation of these four perspectives, the word "Chenggan-tiao1" should be taken. In One Word Media (Public) (2017), the authors believe that "Chenggan-tiao1" reflects the instrumental character of the sport better.

From the above overview of the current state of research, the difference between "Chenggan-tiao1" and "Chenggan-tiao2" have been analyzed from multiple perspectives, laying the foundation for the development of this topic. However, this kind of research also reveals the following two deficiencies: firstly, from the perspective of research methodology, the existing research lacks the support of corpus data; secondly, most of the existing studies are limited to the trade-off between "Chenggan-tiao1" and "Chenggan-tiao2", ignoring the reasons behind the misuse of "Chenggan-tiao2". To address this situation, this study will look at the choice between "Gan1" and "Gan2" from the corpus data, analyze the reasons behind the misuse of "Chenggan-tiao2".

### 3. SELECTION OF "GAN1" AND "GAN2" FROM THE DATA OF AUTHORITATIVE TOOL BOOKS AND CORPUS

#### 3.1 Paraphrasing of "Gan1" and "Gan2"

In seal script, "Gan1" is derived from "Zhu" (竹), with the sound of "Gan"(干), which also means "Gan" (杆). After the change of official script, it is written as "Gan"(干) in regular script[1]. The character "Gan1" was first found in The Tianxingguan Chujian(天星观楚简). Shuowen Jiezi(《说文解字》): "the trunk of bamboo. Its pronunciation comes from 'Gan' (干)[2]." The original meaning is bamboo pole. In the Xinhua Dictionary(《新华字典》)(12th edition), "Gan1" is interpreted as "Zhugan"(竹竿), bamboo trunk, bamboo stick. In the Ci Hai (《辞海》)(7th edition), there are three meanings: (1) bamboo pole, also used as a unit of measurement for bamboo. (2) Specifically referring to fishing rods. (3) Refers to the bamboo slip. (4) The word "Gan2"[3].

"Gan2", is both a sense word and a phonetic word. "Mu"(木)means the rod is made of trees; "Gan" (干) means its shape is like a wooden stick with a fork on it; "Gan" is also affected the sound. There is no such character in Shuowen Jiezi. The original meaning is a long wooden stick. In the Xinhua Dictionary(12th edition), when the character "Gan2" is pronounced as "gān", it is interpreted as "a longer stick or something similar"; when it is pronounced as "gǎn", it is interpreted as: (1) a smaller log or something like a log (referring to something that serves as a handle for something). (2) A quantifier, used for objects with rods. When pronounced as "gān" in Ci Hai (7th edition), it has two meanings: (1) a long pole. (2) railings. When it is pronounced as "gǎn", it has three meanings: (1) the long, thin part of an object that looks like a stick, e.g., a pen stick, a gun stick. (2) A unit of measurement of a rod, e.g., a gun. (3) A member whose length is much greater than the remaining two directional dimensions within its cross-section. According to the shape of the axis, there are straight rods and curved rods; according to the state of force, there are tension rods, compression rods, columns, beams and columns, shafts, etc. When read as "gǎn", it is interpreted as the name of a wood called sandalwood or cudgel [3].

In the Modern Chinese Dictionary (《现代汉语词典》) (7th edition), the word "Ganzi"(竿子) is interpreted as a bamboo pole, which is made by

intercepting the main trunk of a bamboo. In the Modern Chinese Dictionary (7th edition), "Ganzi"(杆子) has two meanings: (1) a long, thin piece of wood or something similar that serves a certain purpose (mostly standing on the ground, with a thin upper section). (2) (Dialect) refers to bandits who gang up to rob.

The difference between "Gan1" and "Gan2" is mainly in the material, the former is made of bamboo, while the latter is made of wood. "Gan1" can be used to mean "Gan2", while "Gan2" cannot be used to mean "Gan1". In addition to the distinction between bamboo and wood, the former emphasizes flexibility and elasticity. Therefore, it is preferred to "Chenggan-tiao1".

#### 3.2 Materials of the Pole Used in This Sport

The pole used in pole vaulting has gone through four stages. The first stage is the wooden pole stage, because the wooden pole is heavier and less elastic, the athletes' performance was generally not high at that time. The second stage is the bamboo pole stage, in 1905, Europeans introduced bamboo from China and Japan, and used in pole vault in 1908, so that the program officially named "Chenggan-tiao1" [4]. The third stage is the metal pole stage, due to the bamboo pole being easy to break and the metal pole texture being strong and easy to improve the athletes to grip the pole point, bamboo poles are gradually replaced by metal poles. The fourth stage is the fiberglass pole, with the glass fiber and carbon fiber continuing to enter the pole vaulting movement, fiberglass poles, carbon fiber poles, and other new materials emerge in an endless stream.

First of all, from the material evolution of the pole, the bamboo pole in the development process of this sport has an important significance. 1908 London Olympic Games, the Americans first used the bamboo pole which is toughness and elasticity, jumping over the height of 3.71 meters to win the championship. 1912, the American player Wright with a bamboo pole for the first time over the 4-meter mark, which is also officially recognized by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) as the first pole vault world record[5]. Choosing "Chenggan-tiao1" as the more official sports term can emphasize the importance of the "pole" tool, so it is more reasonable to take "Chenggan-tiao1".

Secondly, considering the relative stability of the naming of things by human beings, after the

second stage, there is no direct connection between the material of the pole used for pole vaulting and its naming. Therefore, there is no need to change the name of the pole vault after naming it "Chenggan-tiao1".

### 3.3 Terms and Phrases Established in Specialized Tool Books

From the viewpoint of the vocabulary established in the specialized tool books, the Encyclopedia of China (《中国大百科全书》), Chinese Encyclopedic Dictionary(《中国百科大辞典》), Sports Dictionary(《体育词典》), Chinese Sports Yearbook(《中国体育年鉴》), English-Chinese Olympic Vocabulary Book(《英汉对照奥林匹克词汇大全》), English for Sports Coaches(《体育教练员英语》) and other specialized tool books only include "Chenggan-tiao1", but not "Chenggan-tiao2". The general textbook "Athletics"(《田径》) of the physical education department in institutions of higher learning also uses "Chenggan-tiao1". As a specialized term for sports events, it should be consistent with the specialized books, so it should be "Chenggan-tiao1".

### 3.4 Authoritative Tool Book Included in the Vocabulary

From the list of words in authoritative tool books, the general dictionaries such as Xinhua Dictionary, Ci Hai, Modern Chinese Dictionary, Chinese dictionary(《汉语大词典》) and Modern Chinese Standard Dictionary(《现代汉语规范词典》) all only include "Chenggan-tiao1".

### 3.5 Corpus Data

From the authoritative newspapers, publications, and databases, the number of corpus examples is as follows. On the People's Daily website, there are 154 articles containing "Chenggan-tiao2" and 417 articles containing "Chenggan-tiao1". In the search using CNKI, there were 273 documents containing "Chenggan-tiao2" and 835 documents containing "Chenggan-tiao1", with the latter significantly higher than the former (Please refer to the "Table 1" for details). In addition, the official website of Hangzhou Asian Games and all kinds of paper manual materials are written as "Chenggan-tiao1".

Table 1. The number of corpus examples from the authoritative search sites

Search Sites Content	People's Daily website	CNKI
Chenggan-tiao2	154 articles	273 articles
Chenggan-tiao1	417 articles	835 articles

a Note: The data in this article were retrieved on February 6, 2024.

## 4. REASONS FOR THE WIDESPREAD MISUSE OF "CHENGGAN-TIAO2"

Unlike People's Daily and other authoritative newspapers and magazines, which have a positive role in standardizing the use of words, the actual use of "Chenggan-tiao2" is more frequent than that of "Chenggan-tiao1" in other media reports.

Table 2. The number of corpus examples from other media reports

Search Site Content	Baidu (百度)	CCL Corpus	BBC Corpus
Chenggan-tiao2	880,000 articles	1105 articles	572 articles
Chenggan-tiao1	530,000 articles	706 articles	189 articles

In Baidu web statistics, there are 880,000 related results for "Chenggan-tiao2" and 530,000 related results for "Chenggan-tiao1"; "Chenggan-tiao1" is synonymous with "Chenggan-tiao2" by default in various encyclopedias. According to the CCL corpus, "Chenggan-tiao2" occurs in 1105 documents and "Chenggan-tiao1" in 706 documents. According to the BBC corpus, "Chenggan-tiao2" occurs in 572 documents, and "Chenggan-tiao1" occurs in 189 documents (Please refer to the "Table 2" for details).

In the author's opinion, the reason for the common misuse of "Chenggan-tiao2" is that in the evolution of "pole" from wooden pole to bamboo pole to metal pole, as well as fiberglass pole and carbon fiber pole, the interpretation of the word and pole vaulting with the actual material of the "pole" is no longer a direct link. In this case, people often choose to use the more common word. In contrast to "Gan1" which means "fishing rod and bamboo-related things," "Gan2" can mean a longer piece of wood or something that looks like wood. "Ganzi"(竿子) tends to be longer and thinner, while "Ganzi"(杆子) can be thicker or thinner, so "Gan2"

is more common in daily life. The universality of the use of "Gan2" has led to the common misuse of "Chenggan-tiao2".

dissipation of "Zhanghao"(帐号) and "Zhanghao"(账号) (in Chinese) [J]. Reading and Writing, 2006(10):30.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Whether it is from the existing studies on "the lexical meanings of 'Gan1' and 'Gan2'", the evolution of the material of 'pole' used in 'pole-vaulting', the vocabularies established in authoritative and specialized tool books, and so on, as well as authoritative newspaper publications and corpus data, "Chenggan-tiao1" is a more appropriate choice for the pair of anagrams. However, in actual use, "Chenggan-tiao2" still occupies a high proportion. From the standardization of words to accept and consciously use, the length of this process is connected with the publicity of the standardized words and newspaper editors', writers' acceptance [6]. Therefore, it is hoped that all kinds of newspapers and magazines will improve their editorial requirements and promote the correct use of "Chenggan-tiao1".

## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

This paper is independently completed by Anqi Wang under the guidance of Professor Ying Xuefeng.

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