

# A Study on Acquisition Errors and Teaching Strategies for *Bumian* and *Nanmian* in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language

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**Abstract:** *This study addresses the acquisition challenges of the Chinese near-synonyms "Bumian" (不免) and "Nanmian" (难免). Based on 207 sample sentences from the HSK Dynamic Composition Corpus and the Global Chinese Interlanguage Corpus, it systematically reveals their core distinctions across semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic dimensions: Semantically, "Nanmian" emphasizes objective inevitability, while "Bumian" conveys subjective emotional inference and describes realized states. Syntactically, "Nanmian" functions as both an adjective and adverb, fits the "是.....的" construction, and permits redundant negation (e.g., "难免不受影响" "cannot avoid being unaffected"). "Bumian" is exclusively adverbial, serves only as an adverbial modifier, entirely rejects the "是.....的" structure, and frequently co-occurs with "有些/自然/起来" (e.g., "不免骄傲起来" "cannot help feeling proud"). Corpus analysis identifies bidirectional substitution errors among learners, primarily stemming from confusion between objective inevitability and subjective inference, significantly influenced by L1 transfer: European/American learners overuse "Nanmian" due to direct English translation. Japanese/Korean learners overextend "inevitability" and frequently substitute "Bumian". In this regard, this paper attempts to construct a three-dimensional teaching system of "explicit formal differences → quantification of semantic tendencies → pragmatic scenario matching": locking the essence of word types through syntactic slots, cutting semantic boundaries with quantitative thresholds, and driving language scenario training, aiming to cure the systematic errors caused by ambiguous interpretations in textbooks and provide an operational path for teaching Chinese as a foreign language.*

**Keywords:** *Bumian and Nanmian, Error Analysis, Semantic Opposition, Explicit Teaching, Syntactic Markers.*

## 1. Introduction

"Bumian" and "Nanmian" are two-syllable synonyms with the same morpheme. They are similar in surface semantics (expressing "unsatisfactory results are inevitable") but have hidden differences at the deep level, making them the most prone to errors among Chinese learners. Existing textbooks and dictionary definitions are rather general [1], without clearly distinguishing the nature of the two parts of speech and their syntactical restrictions: "Nanmian" has both adjective and adverb parts of speech, and can be used in the "是...的" structure to express objective inevitability (e.g., "Mistakes are inevitable"); "Bumian" is a pure adverb, and can only be used as an adverbial to describe natural psychological reactions (e.g., "cannot help but sigh with emotion"), and completely excludes the "是...的" framework. This confusion urgently needs to be resolved through formalized syntactic comparison to effectively cure learning errors.

Chen Xuan anchored the lexical nature: "Bumian" is a pure adverb (functioning solely as an adverbial), while "Nanmian" is an adjective-adverb hybrid (functioning as an adjective predicate/attributive + adverb as adverbial) [2]. Chen Haisi verified core syntactic differences: "Nanmian" is compatible with the "是.....的" frame, whereas "Bumian" is completely incompatible [3]. Regarding semantic tendencies, Luo Qingsong noted that "Nanmian" emphasizes objective inevitability (e.g., "经验不足难免失误" - Lack of experience inevitably leads to mistakes) [4], while Jin Zhaoxia revealed that "Bumian" implies speaker expectation (e.g., "看法不免偏激" - Views are inevitably biased) [5]; Chen Haisi's corpus evidence supports this: 26.7% of "Bumian" instances denote neutral/positive outcomes (e.g., "不免欣慰" - inevitably gratified), whereas 88.1% of "Nanmian" instances express

negative speculation (e.g., 难免犯错 - bound to make mistakes). Gu Xiaoheng supplemented tense differences: "Nanmian" indicates possibility (may not have happened yet), while "Bumian" indicates certainty (has already happened) [6]. Zhao Wenxuan constructed a semantic three-domain distribution system: "Bumian" operates in the action domain (unavoidable actions/mental states) + epistemic domain (high-probability prediction) + speech-act domain (mildly euphemistic evaluation); "Nanmian" operates only in the action domain (difficult-to-avoid behavior) + epistemic domain (moderate-probability speculation) [7]. At the syntactic marking level, Zhang Yisheng discovered that "Nanmian" uniquely permits pleonastic negation (e.g., 难免(不)出错 - bound (not) to make mistakes), restricted to negative contexts [8]. Li Ming pointed out that the emergence of pleonastic negation cannot be entirely attributed to the inherent implicit negative features of the word itself [9]. Zhang Bingyan surveyed 119 HSK Level 4+ learners of Chinese, summarizing the "formally negative—semantically affirmative" characteristic of pleonastic negation [10]. Chen Haisi summarized "Bumian" construction features (e.g., complement structure: 不免骄傲起来 - cannot help becoming proud; co-occurring adverbs: 自不免遗憾 - inevitably regretful). Regarding pedagogical relevance, Chen Xuan quantified subjectivity (Nanmian < Bumian). Chen Haisi verified stylistic differentiation ("Bumian" highly frequent in literary texts: 81.6%; "Nanmian" predominantly used in political discourse: 47.3%). Zhao Yu noted "Bumian" has a high written language proportion (99.32% declarative sentences), while "Nanmian" has a stronger oral tendency (35.98% spoken corpus). Diachronically, "Bumian" usage has significantly declined from modern to contemporary Chinese, while "Nanmian" and "Weimian" have risen [11]. Kuang Xin advocated strengthening "Nanmian" teaching combined with

written styles [12]. Sui Yuan suggested a morpheme decomposition method ("免" implies avoidance) [13]. Wen Jing identified core errors: confusion of collocational components and overlooking "Nanmian" pleonastic negation structures [14]. Song Shuhan, from an information game perspective, used game matrices and information entropy quantification to show that "Nanmian X" and "Nanmian Bu X," as redundant negation markers, achieve four pragmatic functions in communication through semantic blurring strategies [15].

In summary, "Bumian" and "Nanmian" exhibit systematic opposition in: lexical nature (pure adverb vs. adjective-adverb hybrid), syntactic compatibility (rejection vs. acceptance of the "是.....的" frame), semantic tendency (subjective, actualized, neutral/positive vs. objective, non-actualized, negative), stylistic distribution (high literary vs. high political frequency), and syntactic marking ("Bumian" restricted to adverbial vs. "Nanmian" permitting pleonastic negation). Based on this, this paper proposes: replace abstract part-of-speech descriptions (such as "X is Bumian" is a permanent false sentence) with an operational syntactic framework, replace fuzzy interpretations; use quantitative thresholds to cut semantic boundaries (such as "negative tendency>85%" to force the selection of "Nanmian"); use language scenes to drive precise output (such as prohibiting "Bumian" from describing objective laws in political writing). Construct an analysis system of "formal difference explicitness → semantic tendency quantification → pragmatic scene matching" in order to provide improvement suggestions for learners' systematic errors caused by fuzzy dictionary interpretations.

## 2. Semantic, Pragmatic, and Syntactic Analysis of "Bumian/Nanmian"

### 2.1 Semantic Analysis

At the semantic level, both "Bumian" and "Nanmian" convey the core meaning of "inevitability," emphasizing that certain outcomes necessarily occur due to specific causes or conditions, as seen in Example 1. Such outcomes are typically negative or undesirable (e.g., "discouragement," "anxiety," "problems" - "灰心" "着急" "出现问题") [16]. However, "Bumian" occasionally appears with neutral or positive results, as shown in Example 2. From different points of view, "Bumian" focuses on emphasizing the naturalness of the result, implying the semantic feature of "inevitable and naturally occurring", and its results are mostly realized, specific psychological or behavioral states, focusing on describing the logical development in the objective causal chain, such as Example 3; "Nanmian" focuses on the probability and inference of the result, implying the semantic feature of "not easy to avoid but possible", and its results can be events that have occurred or not occurred (such as "repeating the same mistakes" and "making mistakes"-“重蹈覆辙” “出现错误”), emphasizing reasonable speculation based on causes, and often carries the speaker's assessment of the possibility, such as Example 4.

(1) *Faced with such a significant failure, she inevitably (Bumian/Nanmian) felt disheartened and would unavoidably*

*(Bumian/Nanmian) enter a period of emotional low. (面对这样重大的失败, 她 (Bumian/Nanmian) 感到一阵心灰意冷, 同时 (Bumian/Nanmian) 会陷入一段时间的情绪低谷。)*

(2) *Seeing the students work so diligently, the teacher could not help but (Bumian) feel admiration. (看到学生如此刻苦用功, 老师不免心生赞许。)*

(3) *Hearing the tragic news of an old friend's passing, he naturally (Bumian) experienced a surge of complex emotions. (听到故人离世的噩耗, 他心中不免百感交集。)*

(4) *Without effective oversight mechanisms, the project is ultimately prone to (Nanmian) deviate from its original intent. (在缺乏有效监督的机制下, 项目最终难免偏离初衷。)*

### 2.2 Pragmatics

At the pragmatic level, both can be used in declarative sentences to convey the speaker's objective description or subjective evaluation of a fact, often implying a sense of resignation or acceptance toward an undesirable outcome. However, "Bumian" is typically used to describe concrete situations that have already occurred, where the outcome is often an \*immediate, observable emotional or behavioral reaction (e.g., "nervousness," "reservedness" - "紧张" "拘谨"). It carries stronger subjectivity, implying the speaker's emotional resonance (e.g., "regret", "reflection" - "遗憾", "感慨") with the result, as in Examples (5) and (6). In contrast, "Nanmian" tends to express universal patterns or experience-based inferences with a relatively objective tone. It can be used to predict unrealized situations, emphasizing a possibility judgment based on causes or patterns, as in Example (7). Its negative form (e.g., "难免不...") may convey tacit advice or self-consolation in specific contexts, reflecting the speaker's understanding or compromise toward a situation, as in Example (8).

(5) *Meeting his future parents-in-law for the first time, he couldn't help but feel somewhat reserved while shaking hands, his palms sweating. (初次拜见未来岳父母, 他握手时不免有些拘谨, 手心都出了汗)*

(6) *Seeing the carefully nurtured seedlings break through the soil, the old farmer's face inevitably lit up with a gratified smile. (看到精心培育的幼苗破土而出, 老农脸上不免露出欣慰的笑容。)*

(7) *Given the extensive scope and tight timeline of this directory, it's hardly avoidable that oversights may occur. We kindly ask readers for their understanding. (这份名录涉及人数众多、时间仓促, 难免会有疏漏之处, 恳请读者见谅。)*

(8) *Amid a restless environment, we are inevitably affected by short-term, profit-driven mindsets—vigilance against this is essential. (身处浮躁的环境里, 我们难免不受一些急功近利思想的影响, 对此应保持警惕。)*

### 2.3 Syntax

At the syntactic level, both can follow the subject and precede

the predicate (e.g., Example 9), modify subject-predicate phrases (e.g., Examples 10–11), or modify verb phrases (e.g., Examples 12–13) or adjective phrases (e.g., Example 14). Both can also co-occur with modal verbs like "要" or "会" (e.g., "不免要失败 / 难免会出错"). However, "Bumian" only takes affirmative forms and cannot be followed by negation (e.g., "不免不灰心" is ungrammatical; see Example 4). In contrast, "Nanmian" can take affirmative or negative forms; its negative form (with "不/没" preceding the verb phrase) carries essentially the same meaning as the affirmative form but is restricted to expressing negative outcomes (e.g., Example 15: ≈ 难免受影响) [16]. Additionally, "Bumian" can combine with adverbs like "有些" or "有点" or modal particles like "自" or "自然" to intensify emotional expression (e.g., Examples 16–17). Meanwhile, "难免" can stand alone as a predicate, often in the structure "在所难免" (meaning "inevitably exists within..."; e.g., Example 18). It can also function as an adjectival component in the "是.....的" construction (e.g., Example 19) [17]. "Bumian" lacks these functions: it cannot stand alone as a predicate (e.g., "争论在所不免" is invalid) or be used in the "是.....的" structure (e.g., "失误是不免的" is invalid). Regarding sentence types, "Bumian" is limited to declarative sentences, while "难免" can also appear in exclamatory sentences to amplify emotional intensity (e.g., Example 20).

(9) *He inevitably stumbles over words when nervous.* (他难免 / 不免在紧张时口误.)

(10) *The new policy inevitably sparked controversy upon its introduction.* (新政策出台之初, 不免引发争议.)

(11) *In large-scale recruitment, it's inevitable for subpar candidates to slip through.* (大规模招聘时, 难免泥沙俱下.)

(12) *After repeated setbacks, she inevitably became discouraged (\*cannot use negation).* (连续遭受打击, 她不免 (\*不) 灰心.)

(13) *Problems inevitably arise when operating complex new equipment.* (操作复杂的新设备难免 (会) 出现问题.)

(14) *With the deadline approaching, he inevitably grew somewhat anxious.* (眼看截止时间将至, 他难免 / 难免有些着急.)

(15) *Working in such a noisy environment, it's hard to remain unaffected.* (在这种嘈杂的环境里工作, 难免不受影响.)

(16) *Meeting the parents for the first time, she inevitably felt a bit reserved.* (第一次见家长, 她不免有些拘谨.)

(17) *Witnessing this scene, one inevitably sighs with emotion.* (目睹此情此景, 自然不免唏嘘感叹.)

(18) *With such divergent views, debate is inevitable.* (双方意见分歧这么大, 争论在所难免.)

(19) *It's inevitable for beginners to make some mistakes.* (新手犯点错误是难免的.)

(20) *Losing by just one point—how regrettable!* (就差一分, 难免太可惜了吧!)

### 3. Acquisition Status of *Bumian*/*Nanmian*

Based on the HSK Dynamic Composition Corpus 3.0 and the Global Chinese Interlanguage Corpus of Beijing Language and Culture University, the author collected a total of 79 "Bumian" and 128 "Nanmian" data. From the overall usage situation, learners mainly come from South Korea, the United States, Japan, Singapore and other countries, among which intermediate learners (HSK 4-5 levels) have a higher error rate.

#### 3.1 Error Types and Example Analysis

Error research in the field of teaching Chinese as a foreign language is generally based on the four major classifications made by Mr. Lu Jianji, who divided the error forms into four categories: omission, misaddition, missubstitution and wrong order [18]. Later, Zhou Xiaobing added hybridization to these four categories [19]. This paper conducts an error analysis of "Bumian/Nanmian" according to Zhou Xiaobing's classification.

The study found that among the 79 corpora of "Bumian", 43 were used correctly, accounting for 54.43%, and 36 were used with errors, accounting for 45.57%. Among the 36 corpora with errors, according to the classification of omission, misaddition, missubstitution, wrong order and hybridization, it can be found that the errors of "Bumian" are mainly concentrated in the three categories of missubstitution, hybridization and misaddition (see Table 1).

**Table 1:** Classification and proportion of 36 "Bumian" corpus

Error Type	Number of errors	Error rate	Proportion
Misrepresentation	20	25.32%	55.56%
Mixture	7	8.86%	19.44%
Mistaken addition	6	7.59%	16.67%
Omissions	3	3.80%	8.33%
Wrong order	0	0.00%	0.00%

Table 1 reveals that substitution errors constitute the majority (20 instances, 55.56%). These occur when learners frequently misuse near-synonyms like "Nanmian" or "Yimian" to incorrectly replace "Bumian", particularly confusing its core semantic feature of affective inference (e.g., mispairing "Bumian" with objectively inevitable events like "灭绝", as shown in Ex 21-23). Structural hybridization errors (19.44%) primarily manifest as redundant additions of modal verbs (e.g., "会") or mismatched collocations with special constructions (e.g., "有.....之嫌"), reflecting insufficient mastery of "Bumian" 's syntactic rule requiring direct modification of predicates (Ex 24-25). Redundant addition errors (16.67%) prominently involve inserting unnecessary elements like the adverb "也" or structural particle "地", even producing hybrid double-negation redundancies (e.g., "不免不得不"), as seen in Ex 26-28. Omission errors are less frequent (8.33%), mainly involving missing predicate components (e.g., "控制



感情也很重要不免"). The wrong order error was not found in the corpus, indicating that learners are relatively sensitive to the regular syntactic position of "Bumian" (between subject and predicate). The overall learning difficulty lies in the lack of precision in semantic analysis (confusing emotional deduction with objective necessity and instantaneous reaction) and the fuzzy cognition of syntactic restrictions (avoiding adding modifying elements and requiring a complete predicate).

(21) *Always inevitably some friction* → *Always unavoidably some friction* (总难免有一些摩擦 → 总不免有一些摩擦)

(22) *He realized he needed to depart at least an hour early, unavoidably late* → *...to avoid being late* (他想起要最少一个小时之前出发, 不免迟到 → 以免迟到)

(23) *Unavoidably face extinction* → *Inevitably face extinction* (不免灭种 → 难免灭种)

(24) *Unavoidably suspected of incompatible temperaments* (不免有脾气不合之嫌 → Error: Hybridization of "有...之嫌" and "Bumian")

(25) *Unavoidably will significantly decrease* → *Unavoidably significantly decrease* (不免会大大减少 → 不免大大减少 (redundant "会"))

(26) *Others unavoidably also don't understand* → *Others never understand* (不免也不了解 (redundant "也") → 别人总是不了解)

(27) *Unavoidably feel disconsolate* (不免地感到怅然 (redundant "地") → 不免感到怅然)

(28) *Unavoidably cannot but starve* → *Inevitably starve* (不免不得不饿死 (double negation redundancy) → 难免饿死)

Among the 128 corpora for "Nanmian", 47 were used correctly, accounting for 36.72%, and 81 were used incorrectly, accounting for 63.28%. Among the 81 corpora with errors, it can be found that the errors of "Nanmian" show systematic characteristics (see Table 2).

**Table 2:** Classification and proportion of 81 "Nanmian" corpus

Error Type	Number of errors	Error rate	Proportion
Misrepresentation	38	29.69%	46.91%
Mixture	19	14.84%	23.46%
Mistaken addition	16	12.50%	19.75%
Omissions	7	5.47%	8.64%
Wrong order	1	0.78%	1.23%

Table 2 shows that missubstitution is the most prominent problem (accounting for 46.91%), mainly manifested in learners confusing "Nanmian" and "Bumian", especially when describing subjective emotions, they mistakenly choose "Nanmian" and frequently misuse redundant structures such as "避免" and "不可免", such as examples 29 and 30. Mixed errors (23.46%) are mainly reflected in the unconventional addition of the auxiliary word "地" and the adverb "Bumian", such as examples 31 and 32. In addition, English native

speakers frequently use the "inevitably [to]" structure transfer (accounting for 68% of mixed errors). Misaddition (19.75%) is mainly manifested in the redundant addition of negative words (high-frequency error "难免[不]") and frequency adverbs (such as "难免[常常]争吵"), which destroys the semantic core of its objective necessity. The omission problem (8.64%) was mostly due to the omission of necessary predicate components (such as the lack of the verb "经历" in "人生[ ]困难时期"), reflecting the neglect of the "Nanmian + complete event structure" rule. There was only one case of wrong order (1.23%), indicating that learners have a relatively solid grasp of the regular sentence position of "Nanmian" (between subject and predicate, such as "发展难免有代价").

(29) *It is inevitable that life will have hard times* → *It is inevitable that life will have hard times* (生活辛苦的时期是不免的 → 生活难免有辛苦的时期)

(30) *Mistakes will not happen if you avoid them* → *Mistakes are inevitable* (犯错避免不会发生 → 犯错难免发生)

(1)(3) *It is inevitable that you will feel anxious during the pandemic* (疫情中难免[地]焦虑 → 删“地”)

(2) *It is inevitable that young people will make mistakes* (轻人难免[不免]犯错 → 删“不免”)

In general, the mutual misuse of "Bumian" and "Nanmian" constitutes a typical oppositional error in Chinese learning. The two show systematic semantic dislocation in the corpus, which is mainly manifested in the polarization of the direction of missubstitution. For example, learners mistakenly substitute "Nanmian" which expresses objective rules into the emotional domain, or conversely impose "Bumian" which expresses emotional logic on objective events. In addition, European and American learners are significantly affected by the transfer of native language logic. Because of the direct translation of English "inevitably", "Nanmian" is widely used. Japanese and Korean learners are generalized by the concept of "necessity" and frequently missubstitute "Bumian", which eventually leads to confusion in syntactic marking (such as redundant addition of "会/地" or deletion of predicate components). The author believes that their mutual exclusivity is rooted in the irreconcilable semantic watershed - "Nanmian" must strictly limit the objective group common events (战争难免伤亡), and "Bumian" must focus on subjective individual emotional deduction (失败不免灰心). The confrontational reconstruction of the two in the modality category has become a key bottleneck in learning.

## 4. Teaching Enlightenment

Based on the above analysis, the author believes that teaching should transform implicit differences into actionable explicit rules through hierarchical training of formal explicitness → semantic quantification → pragmatic scenario, so as to cure the systematic errors caused by the ambiguity of dictionary definitions.

### 4.1 Anchoring the Essence of Word Classes and Strengthening the Teaching of Syntactic Markers

The so-called formal explicitness is to transform abstract grammatical differences into visible and operational explicit rules and markers. Specifically, it should be done in three steps. First, the core syntactic differences should be explicitly compared, and the syntax should be strongly focused on to distinguish the construction of "难免+是.....的" (adjective) from the pure adverbial restriction of "Bumian" ("禁止"是.....的"/predicate), solve the problem of "how to build the structure", set up diagnostic exercises, and explain the rules: "是[ ]的" This pit, only "Nanmian" can squat, "Bumian" squats and collapses! , such as examples 33, 34, and 35. Secondly, highlight the formal distinction markers, clearly teach specific collocation patterns such as "难免不+ negative predicate" (redundant negation), "不免+起来/自/自然/有些", and set up collocation recognition exercises, such as examples 36, 37, 38, and 39. Finally, anchor point exercises should be designed, making extensive use of filling in the blanks, collocation judgment, and deletion and correction of incorrect sentences (such as redundant "地" and "会") to solidify the formal rules, such as Examples 40 and 41.

(31) *Mistakes are inevitable. (× It collapsed immediately! Should be changed to: Mistakes are inevitable.-错误是难免的。(× 立刻塌方! 应改为: 错误是难免的。)*

(32) *Disagreements are inevitable. (√ "It is inevitable" that the squatting toilet succeeded!)-分歧是在所难免的。(√ "难免"蹲坑成功!)*

(33) *Seeing the result, he was inevitably disappointed. (× It collapsed again! Should be changed to: Seeing the result, he was inevitably disappointed.)-看到结果, 他是不免失望的。(× 又塌了! 应改为: 看到结果, 他难免失望。)*

(34) *Staying up late for a long time, it is inevitable not to get sick. (Mark: inevitably not + sick → envy negation, ≈ inevitable to get sick)-长期熬夜, 难免不生病。(标记: 难免不+生病→羡慕否定, ≈难免生病)*

(35) *After hearing the flattery, he couldn't help but become proud. (Mark: inevitably + proud + up)-听了奉承话, 他难免骄傲起来。(标记: 不免+骄傲+起来)*

(36) *Revisiting the old place, it is natural to be filled with emotion. (Mark: naturally + inevitable)-故地重游, 自然不免感慨万千。(标记: 自然+不免)*

(37) *It is inevitable that he will not be praised. (× Marking error! Praise is a good thing, you can't use "inevitable not") → Should be changed to: he is inevitably criticized / he is inevitably criticized (if the context is negative, such as "in a harsh environment")-他难免不受表扬。(× 标记错误! 表扬是好事, 不能用“难免不”) → 应改为: 他难免受批评/ 他难免不被批评 (若语境是消极的, 如“在严苛环境下”)。*

(38) *Hearing the news, she couldn't help but shed tears. (× Delete "地" → Can't help shedding tears)-听到这个消息, 她不免地流下了眼泪。(× 删“地” → 不免流下了眼泪)*

(39) *There will inevitably be pain during the transition period.*

(× *The semantics are redundant, usually delete “会” → There will inevitably be pain; or change to: There will inevitably be pain during the transition period → At this time, “会” indicates speculation, which is acceptable*)-转型期难免会有阵痛。(× *语义冗余, 通常删“会” → 不免有阵痛; 或改为: 转型期难免会有阵痛 → 此时“会”表推测, 可接受*)

## 4.2 Quantify Semantic Boundaries and Construct Contextual Selection Criteria

Quantifying semantic boundaries and transforming fuzzy semantic tendencies into quantifiable judgment bases requires solving three key points: the first is to design specific and clear dimension indicators (objectivity/subjectivity, past/future, and emotional value); the second is to match typical examples as demonstration templates; the third is to consider the feasibility of actual classroom operations. Specifically, the author believes that setting a tendency threshold is a feasible operation method, and setting "Nanmian" to >85% negative results + objective inevitability/future speculation; and limiting "Bumian" to natural psychological reactions + realized states/medium subjectivity (neutral/positive). Introduce the comparison dimension and clearly compare "objective laws (Nanmian) vs subjective emotions (Bumian)" and "future predictions (Nanmian) vs existing reactions (Bumian)", as shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Dimension definitions and threshold standards.**

Dimensions	Nanmian (>85% probability)	Bumian (>85% probability)
Objectivity	Natural/social laws (group events)	Personal psychological reaction (individual experience)
Emotional value	Necessary negative results	Neutral or natural psychological state
Time	Unforeseen events (prediction)	Achieved state (reaction)

Assist in designing quantitative activities, provide sentence libraries for classification (objective/subjective, negative/neutral, already/not yet), and minimal opposition sentences (objective rules: Nanmian√ Bumian×; subjective emotions: Bumian√ Nanmian×) for comparison, such as Examples 42 and 43.

(42) *Objective Laws (Nanmian√ Bumian×)*

a. *New employees are bound to make mistakes (objective rules + potential + negative)-新员工入职难免犯错 (客观规律+未然+消极)*

b. *Unemployment is inevitable during the economic transition period (social law + potential + negative)-经济转型期难免出现失业潮 (社会规律+未然+消极)*

c. *Flight delays are inevitable in extreme weather conditions (natural law + uncertainty + negativity)-极端天气下航班难免延误 (自然法则+未然+消极)*

(43) *Subjective Emotion (Bumian√ Nanmian×)*

a. *Hearing the news that her relatives were critically ill, she couldn't help but panic (individual psychology + already +*

neutral)-听到亲人病危的消息, 她不免心慌 (个体心理+已然+中性)

b. Seeing their children win awards, parents can't help but feel proud (individual emotion + already + positive)-看到孩子获奖, 父母不免骄傲 (个体情感+已然+积极)

c. When revisiting the old place, the old man can't help but feel a lot of emotion (psychological reaction + already + neutral)-故地重游时, 老人不免感慨万千 (心理反应+已然+中性)

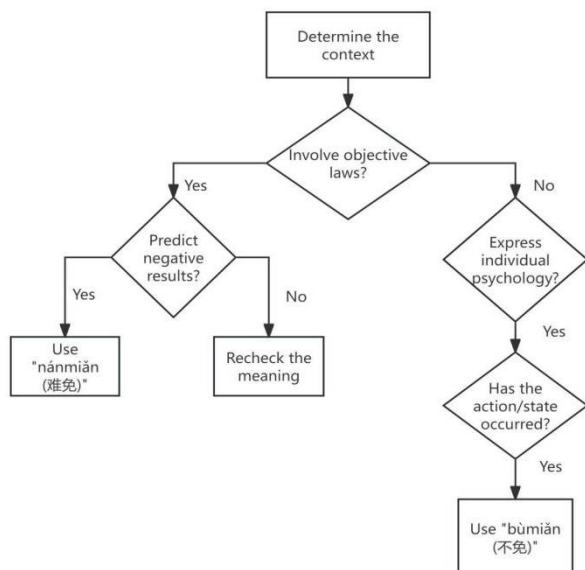


Figure 1: Quantitative semantic judgment flow chart.

#### 4.3 Connecting with Real Contexts to Drive Accurate Output

Pragmatic scenario-based, applying rules to specific communication environments, solving the problem of "when to use which one is more appropriate". First, highlight the preference of language style. "Bumian" is frequently used in literature/spoken language (emotional description/reaction); "Nanmian" is frequently used in political commentary / news / formal language (objective analysis) [3]. Secondly, clarify the functional restrictions. "Nanmian" can be used in exclamatory sentences to enhance emotions; "Bumian" is limited to declarative sentences. Based on this, the driving situation task is set up to provide annotation analysis of texts in different languages (novels vs. news), setting situations (describing the objective impact of frustration vs. expressing personal regretful emotions) selection, and rewriting sentences (functional sentence type conversion), such as Examples 44 and 45.

(44) News clip (selected from Xinhuanet)

The process of globalization [inevitably] causes cultural conflicts, but therefore refuses to open up..." → Fill in the blank: "inevitably" must be used here (objective trend report)

新闻片段 (选自新华网)

"全球化进程[难免]引发文化冲突, 但因此拒绝开放....." → 填空: 该处必须用"难免" (客观趋势报道)

(45) Novel excerpt (Mo Yan's Red Sorghum)

"Looking at the blood-stained wedding dress, Jiuer [Bumian] shuddered all over" → Annotation basis: individual instantaneous physiological reaction (literary emotional description)

小说片段 (莫言《红高粱》)

"看着染血的嫁衣, 九儿[Bumian]浑身战栗" → 标注依据: 个体瞬间生理反应 (文学情感描写)

(46) Workplace communication scenarios

Boss formally warns (using "Nanmian") that "late delivery [inevitably] affects customer trust"

Colleague privately complains (using "Bumian") that "after three weeks of continuous overtime, [Bumian] wants to resign"

职场沟通情境

上司正式警告 (用"Nanmian") "逾期交付[难免]影响客户信任"

同事私下抱怨 (用"Bumian") "连续加班三周, [Bumian]想辞职"

## 5. Conclusion

This paper systematically reveals the deep opposition between "Bumian" and "Nanmian" at the semantic - syntactic - pragmatic level: semantically, "Nanmian" (>85% negative tendency) anchors objective necessity and future speculation, while "Bumian" focuses on subjective emotional deduction and the existing state; syntactically, "Nanmian" is compatible with the "是.....的" framework and redundant negation due to its adverbial and adverbial nature, while "Bumian" as a pure adverb completely excludes this structure and only co-occurs with "起来/有些". Based on the corpus analysis of 207 sentences, learners show typical errors of two-way missubstitution. The core problem is that they confuse the boundary between objective rules and subjective emotions, and are significantly driven by mother tongue transfer. In response to this dilemma, this study constructs a three-dimensional teaching system of "formal explicitness → semantic quantification → pragmatic drive": using diagnostic sentences (such as "X is Nanmian's √" vs "X is Bumian's ×") to lock the essence of word types, using a quantitative threshold of >85% to cut semantic boundaries (negative potential forced tendency to choose "Nanmian"), and achieving accurate output through language scene training (political commentary and exclamatory sentences are prohibited from using "Bumian"). In the future, the universality of semantic thresholds can be further verified, and intelligent diagnostic tools can be developed to promote the transformation of Chinese synonym teaching from empirical description to regularization and data-based paradigms.

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