A Contrastive Analysis on Abstracts of Research Papers in Chinese and English Journals

**Abstract:**

This study conducts a contrastive analysis of abstracts from research papers published in Chinese and English journals to identify linguistic differences and provide insights for Chinese graduate students in academic writing. The abstracts, categorized into four sections—introduction, method, result, and conclusion—were systematically examined for linguistic features such as verb tense, passive voice, modal verbs, first-person pronouns, and section length. A total of 80 abstracts were sampled, including authentic English abstracts (Ea), translated abstracts (Ta), and their original Chinese counterparts (Ca).

The analysis revealed that Chinese writers tend to be more verbose in the introduction section, often neglecting or omitting other sections, possibly due to the lack of standardized abstract requirements in some Chinese journals. A significant difference in verb tense usage was observed, with Chinese abstracts (Ta) favoring the present simple tense and English abstracts (Ea) showing a higher use of the past tense, reflecting a nuanced understanding of tense functions in Ea. The passive voice was more frequently utilized in Ea, suggesting a cultural difference in the presentation of scientific findings.The study employed SPSS for statistical analysis, calculating frequencies and generating visual representations to reinforce the findings. The contrastive approach not only highlights the structural and linguistic disparities between Chinese and English abstracts but also underscores the importance of tailored academic writing courses for Chinese graduate students. Understanding these differences is crucial for effective communication in the global academic community and for the accurate translation of scientific concepts.

**Keywords:** Academic Writing, Contrastive Analysis, English Abstracts, Chinese Abstracts, Linguistic Features, Scientific Communication