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

Given that English abstracts are crucial to scholars' academic research, this article delves into a comparative analysis of abstracts from research papers published in Chinese and English journals. The objective is to uncover the nuances and parallels in linguistic patterns, structural frameworks, and content articulation between Chinese abstracts and English abstracts. We selected a sufficient number of sample abstracts from different subject areas, and for each area, we chose two English abstracts written by native English speakers (Ea), and two English abstracts on similar topics or themes translated from Chinese to English (Ta), while retaining the original Chinese abstract (Ca). Linguistic features specific to each section were identified based on Bhatia's (1993) model.Our scrutiny reveals that Ta exhibit a pronounced preference for the present simple tense and active voice, whereas Ea favor the past tense and passive voice. Moreover, Ta tend to enrich the Introduction section with a plethora of details, in contrast to the Method, Result, and Conclusion sections, whereas Ea demonstrate a more balanced distribution of these elements. These disparities mirror the distinct writing customs and cultural preferences inherent in the two languages. Consequently, for Chinese graduate students and researchers aspiring for international publication, it is crucial to grasp and adhere to the established conventions of English abstract writing, thereby enhancing the quality and influence of their research.

Key words： Comparative Analysis Chinese Abstracts (Ta) English Abstracts (Ea)