**Abstract：**

This study shows a contrastive analysis of abstracts from Chinese and English journals written by native English scientists and Chinese scientists to identify key differences in linguistic features and structural composition. A sample of 80 abstracts were selected from 20 different field in theoretical and applied natural sciences, social sciences, medical science and economy. The abstracts were divided into four sections and analyzed for linguistic characteristics such as verb tense, passive voice usage, modal verbs, first-person pronouns and length of section. The study applied Bhatia's model to collect data, using different colors to distinguish differences between the sections. SPSS was applied for statistical analysis to calculate the frequency of moves within each section between Ea and Ta. The data about frequency of sections shows that Chinese writers tend to express more in the introduction section. The reason is that some journals in China do not have standardized requirements about abstracts. These findings indicate that Chinese scientists may not understand the importance of the usage of tense and the functional roles they serve in academic writing. The research also discusses the potential influence of the writers' mother tongue, which is meaning-centered rather than form-centered. The data shows that considerably more passive verbs were used in Ea than in Ta, which indicates that Chinese writers have less experience using the passive voice in Chinese. The study concludes that concrete data is necessary for educational materials to help graduate students to understand the linguistic differences between English and Chinese in academic writing and have a deeper insight into the subtle meaning of English texts. Further research is indispensable to explore the underlying reasons to inform more effective strategies for improving academic writing.

**Key words:** Academic Writing, English Abstracts, Contrastive Analysis, Linguistic Variations