**Abstract:** This study offers a contrastive analysis of research paper abstracts in Chinese and English journals, aiming to enhance the English academic writing skills of Chinese graduate students. The study focused on English abstracts from 20 different fields, comparing authentic English abstracts with those translated from Chinese to English. A total of 80 abstracts were randomly selected and divided into four sections: introduction, methods, results, and conclusion. The analysis examined verb tense usage, passive voice frequency, and section length. Results show significant differences in verb tense and passive voice use, and Chinese writers tend to use more present simple tense and fewer passive voices compared to English native speakers, suggesting cultural and language-based factors influence academic writing styles. This study highlights the importance of understanding linguistic features for effective academic communication and writing. Furthermore, academic and writing materials should be developed to improve academic writing skills for graduate students.

**Key words:** abstracts, sections, double contrastive analyses, linguistic features, academic writing