The study conducts a contrastive analysis of abstracts of research papers in Chinese and English Journals because English abstracts are important to scholars' academic research. It explores the linguistic differences in abstracts written by native English and Chinese scientists, which assists Chinese graduate students in their English academic writing courses. It contrasts 80 English abstracts chosen from English abstracts (Ea), abstracts translated from Chinese to English (Ta’s), and the original Chinese abstracts (Ca), which were randomly selected across 20 diverse fields. Employing Bhatia’s model, each abstract was divided into four sections, color-coded for clarity: red for introductions, black for methods, green for results, and blue for conclusions. Comparative linguistic analysis was conducted on verb tense, passive voice, modal verbs, first person pronouns, and section length. Data were processed using SPSS for statistical analysis, with frequencies calculated to produce charts and the Chi-square test applied to reinforce results. The study reveals that Chinese writers tend to express more in the introduction section than other sections, possibly due to the lack of standardized abstract requirements in some Chinese journals. A significant difference in verb tense usage was noted, with Chinese writers showing a lesser understanding of tense subtleties despite grasping basic grammar rules. The use of passive voice was notably higher in Ea, suggesting a negative transfer effect from Chinese writing habits or differing concepts about the doer of an event. The research underscores the need for concrete course materials and data, which help graduate students to understand academic writing differences between English and Chinese. It helps graduate students to have deeper insights into the subtle meanings revealed by English texts. To be persuasive, the potential explanations for the results need to be specifically investigated further.

Keywords: contrastive analysis, abstract, Linguistic Differences, English abstracts, Chinese abstracts