**Title:**

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

**Abstract:**

English abstracts are pivotal in academic research, which are viewed as the mini-version of the paper, providing concise summaries that facilitate quick understanding and dissemination of studies. Recognizing the challenges faced by Chinese graduate students in mastering their English academic writing, this study aims to identify and understand the linguistic differences between abstracts authored by native English scientists and Chinese scientists in order to aid in the progress of effective teaching materials and improve English writing skills.

The sample abstracts comprised authentic English abstracts (Ea), English translations of Chinese abstracts (Ta) and original Chinese abstracts (Ca) form 20 diverse fields. The comparison between Ta and Ea in this paper focused on the frequency of sections and the linguistic features such as the verb tense, passive voice, etc. In addition, using SPSS to calculate frequencies and perform Chi-square tests made the data better processed.

The results showed that Chinese writers tend to allocate more content to the introduction section compared to their English counterparts, possibly due to the lack of standardized abstract requirements in Chinese journals. In terms of verb tenses, significant differences were observed, with Chinese authors using a higher proportion of past tense in introductions, while English authors predominantly used the present simple tense because despite grasping basic grammatical rules, Chinese writers are not fully cognizant of the nuanced meanings and functions of tenses and also their mother tongue is meaning-centered rather than form-centered. What's more, owing to the negative transfer and the different concepts about the door of an event, the use of passive voice was also notably higher in English abstracts.

The findings of this study highlight the necessity for well-prepared instructional materials to help Chinese graduate students understand the disparities in abstract structure and linguistic features between the two languages in academic writing. Having a profound understanding of the intricate meanings embedded in English texts will be advantageous for them. Furthermore, a more comprehensive investigation into the potential reasons behind the results is crucial to ensure their persuasiveness.

**Keywords:** Research Abstracts, Academic Writing, Contrastive Analysis, Chinese and English, Linguistic Differences