**Abstract**

English abstracts have a significant impact on academic research by scholars. In order to let Chinese graduate students better engage in English writing, it is necessary for them to understand language differences. Abstracts are commonly used in four contexts: journal articles, academic conferences, dissertations, and collections of papers. The abstracts analyzed in this study mainly focus on the first category. Abstract is the abbreviation and essence of a paper, so that it is important for graduate students to identify the basic linguistic features of academic papers.The study aims to conduct a comparative analysis of English and Chinese abstracts, to identify the basic linguistic characteristics of each part of the academic paper, and to help graduate students understand the differences between the two languages in scholarship. This study uses sample collection and randomly selected several Chinese and English abstracts from 20 disciplinary fields for comparison, providing sufficient comparative data. The study also conducts data collection, and divides each abstract into four parts and distinguishing them with different colors to determine the language features of each section. Finally, data processing is employed, and SPSS is used to calculate frequencies and generate bar and pie charts. In the study, seven verb forms are identified for all abstracts, and the distribution of verb tenses in English abstracts is shown. It is confirmed that their native Chinese language is meaning centered, and the frequency of passive verbs is also shown. It is found that the use of passive verbs in English abstracts is much higher than that in all abstracts. The research concludes that we need to prepare detailed course materials and sufficiently specific data to help graduates better understand the differences between the two languages in academic writing and the meanings expressed in English texts.

**Key words:** Chinese and English abstracts, verb tenses, contrastive analysis, graduate students