Title: A Comparative Linguistic Analysis of Abstracts in Chinese and English Research Papers

Abstract:

This study conducts a contrastive analysis of abstracts from Chinese and English research papers to identify linguistic and structural differences that may affect academic communication. The research focuses on abstracts from journal articles, a critical component of scholarly work that influences readership and citation rates. A sample of 80 abstracts, evenly divided between native English (Ea) and translated Chinese abstracts (Ta), was systematically analyzed using Bhatia's model, which categorizes abstracts into introduction, method, result, and conclusion sections.

The study reveals that Chinese writers tend to be more verbose in the introduction section, often neglecting standardized abstract structures. A significant difference in verb tense usage between Ta and Ea was observed, with Chinese abstracts showing a higher proportion of present simple tense and less variation in tense across sections compared to English abstracts. This suggests a need for Chinese scholars to better understand the nuanced use of tenses in academic writing.

The frequency of passive voice usage was also contrasted, with English abstracts employing passive voice more frequently, reflecting a potential cultural difference in the presentation of research actions and results. The study employs statistical analysis with SPSS, including frequency calculations and Chi-square tests, to reinforce findings.

The conclusion emphasizes the importance of tailored academic writing courses for Chinese graduate students to bridge the gap in linguistic practices between Chinese and English abstracts. Understanding these differences is crucial for effective academic discourse and the global dissemination of research.

Keywords: Contrastive Linguistic Analysis, Academic Writing and Communication,