To help Chinese graduate students improve their writing skills in English academic papers, this paper examines the linguistic differences between English abstracts (Ea), translated abstracts (Ta) and Chinese abstracts (Ca) by comparing and contrasting them as a well-prepared abstract can help graduates identify the basic linguistic features of academic papers. A total of eighty authentic English abstracts were randomly selected from twenty different fields to provide sufficient data for comparative analysis. The study as a whole used Bhatia's (1993) model and SPSS was used in conducting the statistical analysis, Chisquare test was also used to strengthen the findings and the data results were presented through bar charts and pie charts. By comparing the frequency of sections and tenses and passive voices in linguistic features, the results prove that although there are similarities between the three forms, there are also big differences: Chinese writers, although they know some grammatical rules, are not very clear about the subtle meanings of tenses and their functions (related to the characteristics of the Chinese language: the Chinese language is meaning-centered rather than form-centered); and they also have less experience in the use of the Chinese passive voice, which has a different conception of the actors of an event. In addition, some Chinese journals do not standardize the requirements for abstracts, which may cause Chinese authors to ignore or omit the abstract part. Therefore, course materials with sufficient specific data should be developed so that graduate students can better understand the differences between the two languages and write in English.

**Key words: differences in language characteristics, abstract, comparative research method**