



China English: a Threefold-Data Analysis of Academic Papers at Sentence Level

Guizhen Gao

School of Foreign Languages, Dalian University of Technology, Dalian,(China)

ggzh_jean@hotmail.com

Abstract

English internationalization has given rise to global Englishes and various varieties with different regional and cultural characteristics. As a variety of English in China, China English is the result of integration of English and Chinese culture (Wang Rongpei, 1991). The study attempts to conduct a threefold analysis of academic papers in international journals in order to identify some features of China English at sentence level.

The research taking abstracts as subjects aims to examine the discourse features of China English in academic papers. Sixty abstracts are selected manually from the Web of Science databases, and subdivided into three corpora: China English abstracts, Chinese abstracts and English natives' abstracts. With the help of the selected corpora, it makes a contrastive analysis of the choices of markedness of theme and frequency of thematic progression patterns of the three corpora based on the theory of Halliday's theme-rheme structure (Halliday, 1994) and Danes' Thematic Progression (TP) Patterns (Danes F.,1974). The results indicate that 1) China English abstracts use many marked theme and place semantic elements at the beginning of the clauses by time sequence, and Chinese scholars seldom use conjunctions to achieve formal coherence. 2) China English abstracts often use simply linear progression patterns or patterns with continuous themes in a linear way, while beyond the micro-level, the scholars frequently use patterns with intersective themes and discontinuous themes in the text development. Therefore, the TP on the whole leads to a spiral organization. The data obtained have indicated that China English is influenced by both English and Chinese, but it has more similarities to Chinese discourses, which reflect the characteristics of indirectness, comprehensiveness and perception in Chinese traditional culture. And China English is an inevitable outcome due to language contact, influenced by Chinese culture and the way of thinking