Abstract

Chinese compound sentences have a unique language structure. The parts that made up a Chinese compound sentence can stand on their own as complete sentence structures. Yet at the same time, they form certain connections in meaning relative to each other. This characteristic forms a very important aspect in the studies of Chinese compound sentences. The main categorization of different types of compound sentences depends on the varying nature of this connection as well. Cause and effect belongs to one of these categories. It is about how a part of the compound sentence forms the cause that leads to a certain effect as brought about by the latter. On the other hand, the content of the compound sentence comes under consideration in determining the varying patterns of cause and effect adopted. In fact, this goes the same for other categories as well.

Based on these two important aspects, this thesis hopes to establish a more comprehensive understanding through comparison and further analysis of compound sentences of cause and effect patterns. Chapter two provides insight into the basic structure of compound sentences and categorization of different cause and
effect patterns. Chapter three examines the different kinds of pattern in connection established between the structural elements of cause and effect. This is done through comparisons between actual examples used in our daily lives. Chapter four goes into the content of the compound sentences forming the cause and effect patterns, analyzing how it affects our understanding and usage of cause and effect sentences.

From the study of these two aspects of compound sentences, their importance in going hand in hand to achieve a more overall and comprehensive understanding of the cause and effect pattern is realized. This is shown through comparisons that despite belonging to the same category of cause and effect, the different patterns adhere to varying language restrictions. Not only the contents on the surface outlook of the sentences should be considered in this case, the inner meaning of the contents has a hold in the patterns adopted as well. However, once the compound sentences of cause and effect pattern are established, they in turn can lead to a difference in factual and cognitive relations, where understanding of actual meaning of cause and effect content differs. This thesis hopes to provide a better understanding of this area as well.