Abstract

This study explores the area of narrative text in discourse analysis. It concerns mainly the manner in which narrative discourse of (金庸) Jin Yong’s sword-fighting novel, "Baima Xiao Xifeng" (《白马啸西风》) is developed and clarified through his handling of thematic progression. It also discusses how the novel is structured, how the information of the story is organised and why the use of addressing can be creative at times.

The choice of analysing this particular short sword-fighting fiction is that, through a concise and precise story, there already exist a unique structure and plot, a good planning of events and the addressing of its characters; all these are ample for discussion.

Therefore, since discourse analysis in the Chinese language is not so widespread and the theories of discourse analysis are originated from European languages, the use of foreign theories in this study is inevitable.

A documentary research method is employed and, among the vast number of theories, the two main classic theories used come from Vladimir Propp (1968), concerning narrative discourse, and František Daneš (1974) concerning thematic progression. The paper proceeds from the hypothesis that the analysis of the novel under discussion tallies with the theories used.
The conclusion shows that not all theories are perfect in explaining every phenomenon. For example, the novel does not contain all the 31 functions and the 7 characters mentioned by Propp and the theory mentioned by Daneš is too tedious when describing text. Although foreign theories of discourse analysis are used, a re-creation and the need to use them to suit the analysis of Chinese contexts must be noted. This will in turn, widens the scope of discourse analysis in the Chinese language.