ABSTRACT

The present study examines different types of anaphoric reference in modern Chinese discourse. It investigates the conditioning factors for selecting the various anaphora types at the discourse level.

The academic exercise comprises of seven chapters. Chapter one defines the meaning of "discourse" and anaphoric reference. Chapter two reviews some literature on anaphora at the sentence, paragraph and discourse levels. Chapter three and four analyse different types of anaphoric reference commonly used in Chinese discourse. Chapter five examines the constraints on the choice of anaphora types. Chapter six discusses the use of anaphoric reference as a cohesive device in the text. Chapter seven concludes this study with the following findings:

A writer's choice of anaphoric reference at the discourse level depends largely on the readers' ability to decipher the reference. At the same time, the reader uses the context, background and prior knowledge of the topic to identify the reference.