ABSTRACT

Comparative Constructions or Comparison Structures in any language always involve comparing two things along the same dimension. It is a widely used but ignored technique in Mandarin Chinese. In Chinese linguistic research, the study of comparative constructions has never been systematically analyzed. This six-chapter Academic Exercise, therefore, is to establish the functions of comparative constructions and to consolidate their patterns in Modern Chinese.

The Exercise begins by defining comparative constructions and discusses the relationship between "the concept of comparison" and "comparative sentences". The subsequent chapter draws up the scope of study by separating comparative constructions into four categories and discusses the fundamental structure of comparative constructions.

Chapter three evaluates the grammatical use of comparative constructions in classical as well as modern Chinese.

As revealed in Chapter Four, the comparison of comparative constructions in English and modern Chinese helps to analyse the similarities and differences in functions and patterns between the two languages.

The fifth chapter focuses on the rhetorical roles played by comparative constructions in writing.

The final chapter concludes with a summary of findings, emphasizing the importance and the value of comparative constructions in modern Chinese.

One of the few studies on the grammatical and rhetorical functions and patterns of Chinese comparative constructions, this academic exercise establishes the value of this area of linguistic study.