ABSTRACT

The Verb-Copying Construction in Mandarin Chinese is a fairly new structure with about 500-years history. Its creation was triggered by the advent of the verb-complement structure. However, the development of the verb-copying construction into Modern Chinese was also in conjunction with other structures that have taken shape roughly in the same period of time. This was due to the fact that all of them served a similar function of introducing the patient noun, which originally appeared between the matrix verb and its resultative in Classical Chinese. Researchers have continued to explore the semantic value and structural necessity of the verb-copying construction in Modern Mandarin.

The aim of this thesis is to explore the function and structure of the verb copying construction, and especially the conditions governing its usage. Also, this thesis addresses the relations between the verb-copying construction and the other structures that functions to introduce an object. The present analysis will offer a comprehensive description of the syntactic behavior of the verb copying construction.

Chapter One presents a review of relevant literature and our method of research. Chapter Two is the categorization of verb-complement as relevant to the verb-copying construction. Chapter Three and Four then focus on its relationship with the alternative structures. Chapter Five concludes with a summary of the thesis. These findings aim to enhance our understanding of the verb-copying construction in Modern Chinese.