ABSTRACT

This academic exercise is a comparative study of Nominalization (名物化) in English and Mandarin Chinese, in order to determine some of their major similarities and differences.

Most of the research done on Nominalization in both English and Mandarin Chinese were focused on the syntactical aspect, which separately highlighted each of the main features of the nominalized verbs and adjectives using grammatical approaches. This study was prompted by the little research done on the distinctive features in this field from the morphological aspect, shared commonly by English and Mandarin Chinese. In doing so, this dissertation attempts to provide further insight by first outlining the word formation patterns (构词法) of Nominalization in both the languages, and then following the differences and similarities between them.

This study shows the noun formations in English and Mandarin Chinese which were formed by “Derivation” (附加法) and “Compounding” (复合法) processes. The nominalized lexical classes featured here would be focused on the two major ones – verbs and adjectives, both of which would serve as the components of forming the nouns.

Materials for this study are mainly from the major English and Mandarin Chinese dictionaries, as well as examples of noun formations highlighted in major morphological studies.

Results from this study show that the “Derivation” process is more commonly used in English, while Mandarin Chinese focuses mainly on the “Compounding” process.

In short, it is most desirable if the results obtained in this academic exercise make a contribution to the field of Nominalization studies, and to the teaching and acquiring of English and Mandarin Chinese.