Abstract

The study of discourse-pragmatics emphasizes the analysis of language in use. This dissertation attempts to analyze the topic continuity in media discourse.

Therefore, this study aims firstly, at integrating the study of discourse-pragmatics and the news interviewing techniques so as to identify the patterns of topic continuity; secondly, at investigating how the external factors affect topic continuity; thirdly, at comparing the similarities and differences of Chinese and English news interviews; lastly, at drawing a conclusion from objective facts and results from the view of pragmatics study.

Data were collected through ten interviewing records: four from reporters’ interviews while the other six from ‘live’ studio interviewing. Of these, six were in the Chinese medium and the remaining four in the English medium.

It was found that in a news interview, the reporter holds a stronger control over the interviewee. Thus, in most cases, the topic will start with his official greetings, which is then followed by a series of question-and-answer sessions. These sessions then form a couple of topic-continuity, each with a topic and comment in it. Within a topic-continuity, a new topic always commences after an end of an old topic. This is indicated by topic-beginning and topic-ending indicators. At the end of an interview, the reporter will close the whole interview with a word of thanks and appreciation. In fact, the on-going of the whole interviewing process is greatly dependent on the external factors - the role played by the reporter, interviewee, the audience (in the case of a television interviewing), the place of interviewing and the questions put forward by the reporters. As for the comparison of the two language media, patterns of topic-continuity except for slight differences in the topic- indicators, are very much the same while the external factors affecting their topic continuity are almost identical.
This study has tried to provide a reference for the news journalism from the principle of pragmatics study. However, few studies have inquired into the area of media discourse. Hopefully, more could be done in this area.

第一章 绪论

第一节 引言

新闻天天都在我们四周围发生，而新闻的内容可以说是许多多采，有时候甚至是无奇不有，所以，只要是社会上最近发生或流传的新鲜事，笔者都称之为新闻。一般说来，新闻的价值就在于它信息的新鲜性、真实性以及客观性。不过，从过程上来看，新闻并非唾手可得的，因为一切新闻的来源皆得先从新闻采访做起，而新闻采访本身也是一门专门学问。前人对此研究著述甚丰，笔者姑且先在这里简谈新闻采访学的种种有关知识，因为这是有关教学书的专著任务。今笔者感兴趣的是，如何将新闻采访中的种种访问方法与语言学的知识融为一体，探讨分析并总结一些语言学方面的规律。

对语言运用的分析，即言语语用学（Discourse Pragmatics），是语言学的一个新领域，它主要研究语言符号与其使用者及语言环境之间的关系。换言之，在一个特定的环境下，说话人与听话人在整个交流过程中，他们之间作出了怎样相应的反应，而在这当中究竟又有哪些因素起了主导作用