ABSTRACT

The "Subjunctive mood" in Chinese has its existence which can be traced back to the Pre-Qin period. Unlike its counterpart in English, the Chinese "Subjunctive mood" has long been overlooked in the field of the study of the Chinese Language. The chief reason is that morphological change, a feature to indicate the variation of mood in English, is basically not characteristic or essential for the Chinese Language.

Traditionally, "mood" in Chinese has been considered to be a way of expression that can be determined by an unique word class in the parts of speech --- Yuqi Ci (语气词), and by the use of intonation. However, from the study of the "subjunctive mood", this can be proven to be a rather oversimplistic view.

This Academic Exercise aims to explore the syntax, semantic aspects and rhetorical use of the "subjunctive mood" as applied to Mandarin Chinese. It attempts to infer henceforth that "mood" in Chinese has its justifiable importance and distinctive grammatical functions.

Viewed from the historical development, Chapter One
defines "mood" and "subjunctive mood". Chapter Two establishes the ground for the tangibility of "subjunctive mood" in Mandarin Chinese, drawing ample examples for a comparison with that in English. Syntactically and semantically, Chapter Three analyses the peculiar nature of the Chinese "subjunctive mood". Following that is a chapter confirming the above findings from the translation point of view. In that chapter, the treatment of tenses, change of mood and the diversity of meaning are examined in depth.

Chapter Five focuses on the rhetorical roles played by the subjunctive mood in Mandarin Chinese. Chapter Six discusses the statistic data of a case-study in the form of a small-scale survey conducted for testing the popularity of Chinese subjunctive mood, and the influence of English on its syntactic structure. The concluding chapter deals with the effectiveness and limitations of the use of subjunctive mood.