ABSTRACT

Reduplication of word (叠字), resulting mainly from morphological process, repetition of phoneme or morpheme in word-formation and in onomatopoeia, is a common feature in modern Chinese. However, it has a variety of rhetorical functions which remain superficially studied to date.

This six-chapter Academic Exercise first re-defines reduplicatives and identifies their different kinds and forms from a rhetorical perspective. A comprehensive analysis of their additional semantic and emotional properties, which are keys to exact expression is then provided. Colloquial in nature, reduplicatives are frequently employed and this can be attributed to their vivid descriptive and figurative effects. In addition, their phonological and structural beauty is fully discussed. Finally, an outline of guiding principles on the masterful and innovative use of reduplicatives concludes the study which will lead to a better understanding of reduplication as a rhetorical device.