SUMMARY

Chinese acronyms and similar abbreviated terms are often used in our daily lives. For centuries, they served as handy communication short cuts. But it was not until we entered the fast-paced and technologically advanced twentieth century that these terms started to thrive. However, only inadequate and scattered works have been devoted to the study of Modern Chinese acronyms and other abbreviations.

The six-chapter thesis comprises three parts namely, the formation, characteristics and usage of Modern Chinese acronyms and other abbreviations. Part One consists of three chapters whereas Part Two, one chapter and Part Three, three chapters.

After introducing, defining and identifying the different kinds and forms of the Modern Chinese acronyms and other abbreviations in the first chapter, the thesis traces in the following chapter the origin, reasons for the increased usage and development. In the same chapter, the thesis discusses the peculiar nature of Modern Chinese acronyms through deliberative examination of representative schools of perspectives. The commonly-accepted notion by scholars that Modern Chinese acronyms were derived directly from ancient Chinese Language has been proven to be untrue.
Chapter Three focuses on the formation, conditions, rules and patterns of the Modern Chinese acronyms and abbreviated terms.

Chapter Four surveys the characteristics of Modern Chinese acronyms and other abbreviations and for the first time, compares with those in the English Language.

Chapter Five looks into the limitations in usage, grammatical functions and also further explores how the mass media boosts the usage of Modern Chinese acronyms and other abbreviations.

Through a case-study, the concluding chapter, Chapter Six deals with statistical data by collecting Modern Chinese acronyms and other abbreviations used by the mass media to gauge their popularity and pattern of usage in the Singapore context.