ABSTRACT

The Constructional Particle "de" (的) is one of the most widely used grammatical functional words in modern Chinese. It is the primary modifier marker for noun phrases. Besides this, the two conversational Demonstrative Pronouns "zhe / na" (这 / 那) also function like the Constructional Particle. However, the relationship between "de" and "zhe/na" has not received enough attention. This study therefore presents an analysis of data obtained from Wang Shuo’s six novels in order to explore the relationship between the Constructional Particle "de" and the Demonstrative Pronouns "zhe / na".

This honours thesis investigates only the noun phrases where the head noun cannot be omitted, that is, when the Constructional Particle "de" is used to link modifier and head noun. The findings indicate that there are some relationships between the Constructional Particles "de" and the Demonstrative Pronouns "zhe / na" in the constructions examined. The similarities centre on the interchangeability of the Constructional Particle "de" and the Demonstrative Pronouns "zhe / na" in same positions. However, the differences are that in some constructions and positions, the two types of words function differently in some contexts. The analysis of the relationships of the Constructional Particle "de" and the Demonstrative Pronouns "zhe/na" is based on their grammatical functions, semantics and historical backgrounds.