A Comparative Study of English Systemic Functional Linguistics in the Conclusion of the Thesis

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ABSTRACT

As a linguistic theory, systemic functional linguistics has a great influence on many aspects. The nature of language and the related theories of systemic linguistics can be used to analyze the problem of language selection in the conclusion part of the thesis. The three major theoretical functions of language: conceptual function, interpersonal function and discourse function are used to analyze the differences and similarities between the conclusions of the three subjects. Taking the legal, physical and mechanical engineering language database as an example, the application of the sentence pattern of "noun +that" in the conclusion part is analyzed. The results show that social science tends to construct knowledge in light of different opinions and viewpoints in this field, while natural science and engineering disciplines usually accumulate knowledge based on experimental observation and evidence.

KEYWORDS
Systemic functional linguistics; the conclusion part; the sentence pattern of "noun +that".

INTRODUCTION

Graduation thesis is a summary of comprehensive study for college students before graduation. At the same time, the writing teaching of the English graduation thesis is also a key link in English education [1]. By writing English graduation theses, the basic knowledge and basic skill of students in English major are systematically analyzed and tested. Through the selection of the language in the graduation thesis, the students' ability to find, analyze and apply the theory to solve practical problems is developed [2]. Students can use the relevant theories of systemic functional linguistics to grasp the writing skills preliminarily, and teachers can also guide students' thesis writing according to relevant theories [3]. This cannot only improve the students' English writing ability, but also improve the quality of the graduation thesis [4].

SYSTEMIC LINGUISTICS AND PROBLEMS IN THESIS

An overview of systemic linguistics

Since the beginning of the introduction of systemic functional linguistics by Hu Zhuanglin and Xu Kerong in the early 1980s, systemic functional linguistics has developed rapidly in China. At the same time, it has also been widely spread in

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Chinese foreign language colleges and universities. The main content of the theory of systemic functional linguistics is to study the nature of language as a sociological meaning system in the standpoint of sociology. Systemic linguistics holds that language is a symbol of society. Social symbols are mainly two layers of meaning. First, language is a symbol subsystem that occupies an important position in the whole system. Secondly, language communication is also a kind of activity between people and people. Man is a member of the society, and also a social person [5]. It is expressed by the social behavior such as language communication. Language plays an important role in our English learning. English is a language that conforms to the scope of systemic linguistics. Therefore, in the process of English writing, it is unconsciously reflected in the related content of systemic linguistics [6].

Problems in English graduation thesis

The graduation thesis of the English major is one of the most important learning tasks for the students before graduation. In the process of English education in Colleges and universities, it is a very important and comprehensive teaching link. From the language of the English graduation thesis, it can be seen that the results of the graduates' study during their study can comprehensively summarize and review the students' skills. It is an attempt to write with the relevant theoretical knowledge and the basic skills of English Learning under the guidance of teachers. In the process of English graduation thesis writing, there are some differences between the students' knowledge level, the ability to analyze and solve problems [7]. In the actual process of writing, there are some problems such as inappropriate selection of topics, vocabulary selection, errors in grammatical application, irregular format and insufficient reference to foreign materials [8].

The topic of the thesis is the first step in writing the paper, which plays a key role. Some graduates are not good at choosing the topic. First, the range of students' topic selection is too large, such as “comparison between Chinese and western cultures” and “Shakespeare's dramatic works”. This big topic is very difficult to be thoroughly discussed within four thousand to five thousand words. Therefore, it will lose the meaning of the graduation thesis. Therefore, the topic selection should not be too large, otherwise it is difficult to clarify. Second, the academic value of the topic is not high. Graduates often choose topics that are not closely related to the professional direction they have learned, such as ancient and modern clothing, the employment problem of college students and Chinese dining custom. These topics are not closely related to English major. Therefore, the topic should be combined with its own professional direction, and the academic value of the topic should be taken into account at the same time. This is the first step in the successful completion of paper writing.

In the process of writing, there are some problems such as small vocabulary, misspelling, collocation errors and vocabulary misuse. Vocabulary misuse is reflected in the following aspects, such as prepositions, plural nouns, confusion between transitive verbs and intransitive verbs, and improper use of words [9]. In addition, there are some problems in the structure of discourse, such as unclear theme and unreasonable structure. If the author's views are not clear enough, the reader will not understand the meaning of it.
LANGUAGE SELECTION OF ENGLISH THESIS IN SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS

The theory of systemic functional linguistics provides a new perspective for the writing of college English graduation thesis. From the aspects of language selection, theme-rheme selection and thematic progression, the combination of language forms and intrinsic meanings of English thesis is analyzed. Then, it analyzes the language selection of the English graduation thesis and how to effectively guide the students' graduation thesis writing from the aspects of vocabulary, grammar, syntax and discourse. Systemic functional linguistics is a very useful tool to guide the use and research of language. Its characteristics mainly include the following aspects: First, it pays much attention to the social attributes of language and how to achieve social functions. Second, it regards language as a practice, not a kind of understanding. It distinguishes the possible language behavior and the actual language behavior. Third, it pays more attention to the analysis of individual language and individual language variants. Language communication is not only a person's activity, but also a socialized communicative action [10].

Through the analysis and research of the language system, all kinds of complex and effective communicative actions can be carried out, and all kinds of goals can be achieved. Therefore, through the functional analysis of systemic functional linguistics, the process of students' writing can be clearly demonstrated. This is a meaningful construction process. In English thesis writing, it is how to practice and apply the language. Therefore, in the writing process of the English graduation thesis, the students must choose the language reasonably according to the correct grammar, syntax and writing context. In addition, in order to enable students to comprehend the language meaning of English graduation thesis and avoid excessive language mistakes in the process of writing, student should learn to choose words correctly. For example, the argument on how to improve our study habits, the center idea is that there are seven good suggestions for improving our study habits. They can plan the learning time carefully, helping student to find a good place to study. Accurate and reasonable words should be chosen in the process of argumentation of similar thesis, and the form of argumentative paper should be described. At the same time, when the language of the English graduation thesis is chosen, the corresponding writing materials should be combined according to the specific content of the writing. It is expressed in the form of an argumentative paper or a narrative. The combination pattern of writing materials generally uses "general - special type" and "correspondence - comparison type".

In addition, using the language view of system function, the English graduation thesis is the language in use and also a semantic unit. In order to guide the students to choose the language, according to the object of the writing of the English thesis and the purpose of writing, a detailed analysis is made with different emphasis. The right language, words and sentences are selected. Don't overemphasize the theoretical knowledge. It is difficult to guide the students' graduation thesis writing only by the dull linguistic theory.
LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS RESULTS

Corpus and data analysis

Halliday suggests that language is a tool for communication in a specific context. He believes that language has three functions: conceptual function, interpersonal function and textual function, and three functions are realized by a specific semantic system. Based on three major functions, the author finds their differences and similarities through the study of the conclusions of the three academic papers.

The author sets up 3 sub-corpuses according to the classification of subjects: Social subject corpus (law), natural science corpus (physics) and engineering science corpus (mechanical engineering). Each sub corpus is composed of 180 conclusions of the thesis. To analyze all the relevant examples, the Microsoft Word software was used to analyze the found index.

ANALYSIS RESULTS

For the sentence "noun +that", the word frequency in the corpus of legal subject is 79 times/ten thousand. 8 times per thousand words in the mechanical engineering corpus. 22 times per thousand words in the corpus of physics. In the mechanical engineering corpus, the word frequency is 8 times/ten thousand words. In the corpus of physics, the word frequency is 22 times/ten thousand words (shown in table 1). For passive voice, the word frequency in the corpus of legal subject is 102 times/ten thousand. 8 times per thousand words in the mechanical engineering corpus. 22 times per thousand words in the corpus of physics. In the mechanical engineering corpus, the word frequency is 213 times/ten thousand words. In the corpus of physics, the word frequency is 188 times/ten thousand words (shown in table 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Language examples</th>
<th>Total number of words</th>
<th>Frequency (time/word)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laws</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>60228</td>
<td>79/10000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical engineering</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>33714</td>
<td>8/10000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>37422</td>
<td>22/10000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. THE Frequency of The Sentence Pattern of "Noun +That."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Language examples</th>
<th>Total number of words</th>
<th>Frequency (time/word)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laws</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>60228</td>
<td>102/10000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical engineering</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>33714</td>
<td>213/10000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>37422</td>
<td>188/10000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. The Frequency of the Passive Voice.
DISCUSSION

Sentence with “noun + that” structure: The "noun + that" sentence is used to establish a seemingly objective position, and the author can avoid the use of personal subject. In most of the three corpus cases, this position is not directly given to someone. In fact, in the corpus of three subjects, the frequency of personal markers (such as his) is very low. The possessive loss is very important to the position of expression. Because it allows the author to blurt out the source of the evaluation. Therefore, it is difficult for readers to identify the author's subjective position and question it. As shown in figure 1, the frequency of "noun + that" structure appearing in the corpus of legal science is about 10 times greater than in mechanical engineering and is 3.5 times greater than in physics. This data reflects distinct disciplinary differences. The higher frequency in corpus of legal discipline can be understood as that the papers of legal science need to quote some non-research data sources, such as speeches from people or groups in the law field. This is rare in the natural sciences and engineering disciplines. Social sciences tend to construct knowledge in light of different opinions and viewpoints in this field, while natural science and engineering disciplines usually accumulate knowledge based on experimental observation and evidence.

The realization of concept function: Passive voice. Halliday's conceptual functions include the experiential function and the logical function. This article focuses on the former. Experiential function refers to the expression of a variety of experiences in the real world (including the inner world). In other words, it is a reflection of what is happening in the objective world and in the subjective world, including the people and things, the time, the place, and other environmental factors related to it. According to the theory of functional linguistics, the voice is an important way of realizing the function of experience. It shows the connection between a process and a certain participant. Halliday divides the voice into two categories: "middle" and "non-middle". The "non-middle" voice is further divided into two types: active and passive. The so-called passive voice refers to the relationship between the process and the target in the clause, and the subject embodies the goal.

As shown in table 2, the frequency of the passive voice in the corpora of physics and engineering is about 2 times that of the legal corpus. In comparison, natural science and engineering technology tend to draw conclusions through experimental observation, so they can emphasize more objectivity and accuracy. In addition, more passive voices are used. Although the research of social science will also use experimental observation, the subjective expression of experience is selected. The use of passive voice is less.

However, the data also show that both natural and social science papers pay more attention to the use of passive voice. Natural science and social science belong to the category of science. Science and technology take the rule of things development and the application in practice as the object of study. The scientific literature is bound to require objectivity, science, accuracy. Objectivity and science are the life and value of scientific literature. The use of the dynamic voice is beneficial to the exposition of the objective facts. The use of passive voice in scientific and technological discourse can reduce the influence of subjective components.
CONCLUSION

The language selection of the English graduation thesis embodies the comprehensive application level of the students' writing ability. In the course of English teaching, we should pay attention to the coherence and structure of the text in the English writing language. From the perspective of systemic functional linguistics, the meaning of the paper is first determined. Thus, the relationship between the context of the graduation thesis and the use of the language is determined. To sum up, students should choose reasonable and appropriate language according to the writing objects and selected situations of the thesis. The structure of the text is further determined so as to improve the quality of the writing of the English graduation thesis. Through the selection of the language of the students' graduation thesis, the students' ability to find, analyze and apply the theory to solve practical problems is developed.

REFERENCES