

MASTER'S THESIS

Error analysis of the written works produced by the undergraduates from PRC, Taiwan and Hong Kong

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**ERROR ANALYSIS OF THE WRITTEN WORKS PRODUCED
BY THE UNDERGRADUATES FROM PRC, TAIWAN AND
HONG KONG**

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ABSTRACT

**Error Analysis of the written works produced by the undergraduates
from PRC, Taiwan and Hong Kong**

by

Crystal Wai Ching Lee

The study is a cross-sectional one which examines the nature of errors that occurred in the English writings produced by undergraduates from PRC, Hong Kong and Taiwan. The present study adopted a combination of Contrastive Analysis and Error Analysis with the objective to find out if the errors made by the learners of the similar linguistic backgrounds regardless of their nationalities are predominately the result of the influence of their L1. Dulay, Burt and Krashen's surface strategy taxonomy was used for the categorization of errors: Within each error, the sources of them were analyzed and discussed. It was found that the ranking of the errors in terms of frequency was misformation, omission, addition and misordering. Transfer and simplification were found to be the primary source of errors whereas overgeneralization ranked only third. The results answer the three hypotheses that:

- 1) Grammatical differences between Chinese and English lead to errors during the process of writing English.
- 2) A majority of errors made by the learners from the three regions are the result of interference.
- 3) Learners at an advanced level do not inevitably produce more intralingual errors.

摘要

此橫剖研究以中國大陸、香港及台灣三地大學生為對象，分析他們在寫作英文時所犯錯誤的因由。此研究集合了對比分析(Contrastive Analysis)及錯誤分析(Error Analysis)，旨在找出來自不同地方、擁有相似語言背景的學生，所犯的英文文法錯誤是否受母語所影響。本研究使用了杜尼、伯切及克拉斯遜的表層策略分類學(surface strategy taxonomy)為每個文法錯誤歸類。對於每個類別的文法錯誤，他們的成因都會作出分析和討論。結果顯示在所有錯誤當中，出現最多的是構造錯誤(misformation)，其次為省略錯誤(omission)、附加錯誤(addition)以及排列錯誤(misordering)。另外，母語轉移(Transfer)及簡化(simplification)是最常引致文法錯誤的，過分概括化(overgeneralization)只為其次。研究結果剖析了以下假設：

- 1) 中、英文文法之分別會引致學生在寫作英文時犯文法錯誤
- 3) 三地學生所犯的文法錯誤當中，大部份都是受到母語影響
- 3) 學習英文較長時間的學生並非一定犯較多過分概括化的錯誤

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