

## MASTER'S THESIS

### Exploration into nominalization in English and Chinese news reports of economic issues

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**EXPLORATION INTO NOMINALIZATION IN ENGLISH AND  
CHINESE NEWS REPORTS OF ECONOMIC ISSUES**

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis applies Halliday's grammatical metaphor theory to analyze nominalization in English and Chinese news reports of economic issues.

This study uses a quantitative and qualitative approach to investigate the distribution of nominalization types, to reveal the deep shifting mechanism of nominalization, and to explore its metafunctions. Results show that nominalization type one (Process to Entity) appears with the highest frequency and nominalization type two (Quality to Entity) follows it in both English and Chinese news reports of economic issues. Analyses show that the deep shifting mechanism of nominalization is inseparable from the congruent to incongruent realization at semantic and lexicogrammatical levels. Moreover, there are at least four functions of nominalization: lexical density, descriptive potential, objectivity and cohesion.

This study expands the research scope of nominalization from scientific discourses to the news discourses of economic issues and it is the first attempt to make a contribution to cross-linguistic research into nominalization. It has improved our understanding of economic news.

## 摘要

本文運用韓禮德的語法隱喻理論，研究分析在與經濟相關的英文以及中文新聞報導中出現的名物化/名詞化現象。

本研究採用定量與定性的分析方法，調查名物化/名詞化結構的五種類型，統計其分佈情況，剖析其深層轉換機制，探索其純理功能。結果表明，無論是在英文經濟報導中，還是在中文經濟報導中，第一種名物化/名詞化類型（即過程到實體）出現得頻率最高，第二種名物化/名詞化類型次之。分析顯示，名物化/名詞化的內在生成機制與其在語義層和詞彙語法層實現的從一致式到非一致式轉換過程密切相關。研究證明，中、英文經濟報導中的名物化/名詞化至少有四項功能：增大詞彙密度，擴大描寫功能，客觀化以及銜接功能。

本研究擴大了對名物化/名詞化現象的研究範圍——從科技語篇擴大到了新聞報導語篇；同時，也是為透徹理解名物化/名詞化而進行跨語言研究所做的第一次嘗試；另外，本研究可以幫助人們提高對新聞報導的解讀能力。

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