

MASTER'S THESIS

Functional analysis of quotations in Chinese newspapers

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**FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF QUOTATIONS
IN CHINESE NEWSPAPERS**

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes quotations used in the news stories covering five news events in four Chinese newspapers published in Hong Kong, in order to show that quotations are devices to establish styles for the purpose of audience design.

Three types of quotations which have different syntactic formats are identified. They are referred to as Direct Quotation, Iconic Quotation and Iconic Expression respectively.

It is found that newspapers which have different readerships display distinctive patterns in using quotations in the news stories. Apple Daily and Ming Pao show extensive use of quotations. The former prefers the use of direct quotations while the latter seems to favour the iconizing of quotations in indirect speech and the iconizing of key expressions. Sing Pao and Wen Wei Bao, on the other hand, display comparatively much fewer quotations.

It is suggested that quotations are evaluative devices. The amount of quotations used may signify the degree of evaluation and thus contributes to establishing the newspapers' styles. The findings in this study show that quotations may be valid parameters for comparing language use in the news genre within the societies of the modern world.

論文摘要

本篇論文主旨為研究引用語在香港報章新聞中的使用情況，藉以探討引用語的使用會否是報章建立寫作風格的一種途徑，以吸引其目標讀者群。文中比較了四份中文報章有關五宗新聞事件的報導，發現引用語可分為三類，而不同報章使用各類引用語的多寡有別，顯示引用語的運用可能反映報章新聞的寫作風格。

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