

MASTER'S THESIS

Genre analysis of tenancy agreements of a chain store in Hong Kong

Leung, Yuen Pik

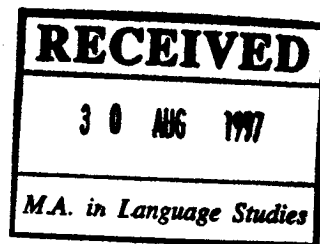
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**GENRE ANALYSIS OF TENANCY AGREEMENTS OF
A CHAIN STORE IN HONG KONG**

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Abstract

Although legal texts are difficult to read and to understand for laymen, some similarities in their structure can be found. This study examines the genre of one type of legal text - tenancy agreement. Genre analysts mainly focus on level of whole structure of texts. Indeed, there are different methods to analyze the whole structure of texts. Analysis of move structure which is pioneered by John Swales is chosen as the approach for this study since this kind of analysis shows the logical sequences of the texts.

In the first part of the study, the distinctive and conventionalized move structure of tenancy agreements will be shown. This structure is shared and acknowledged by the specialist members of the discourse community. After the analysis of the move structure, the communicative purposes of tenancy agreements will be studied in order to understand why tenancy agreements are structured the way they are. The findings will be re-analyzed and confirmed by interviewing three informants who are the draftsmen and specialist members of the discourse community. This study reaches the conclusion that tenancy agreements do have a common and conventionalized move structure. This structure can be explained by the communicative purposes - "definition of rights and obligations" of this type of legal text.

撮要

對一般人而言，法律文章是艱深難明的，然而其文章結構其實是有相同之處的。本文以其中一類法律文章—「租賃合約」的文體作研究。研究文體的學家大多集中研究文章的整體結構。事實上，整體結構之研究是可以不同之方法進行。基於 John Swales 倡導之流程結構研究法反映文章之邏輯次序，本研究將以此為研究方法。

本文的第一部份將列出租賃合約獨有及約定俗成的流程結構。此結構乃為該類文體的專家成員所共有及承認。研究的第二部份將會分析租賃合約之溝通目的以了解該類文體的結構。所有研究結果均會透過訪問由三位既是起草人亦是該類文體的專家成員再次分析及肯定。本研究將會得出兩個結論，首先是租賃合約有共同及約定俗成的流程結構，而此結構可由該類文體的溝通目的—「介定權利與義務」所解釋。

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