

Abstract of thesis entitled  
“A Contrastive Study of Conjunction in Chinese/English  
Legal Parallel Texts”  
submitted by  
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The present thesis is a contrastive study of conjunction in Chinese/English legal parallel texts. Conjunction is one of the five cohesive devices put forward by Halliday and Hasan (1976). Many scholars have applied their model of cohesion to the study of English and Chinese languages. As for the use of conjunction in Chinese and English, most scholars believe that there are more cases of conjunction in English texts than in Chinese ones; that is because it is generally considered that Chinese is predominantly paratactic and English mainly hypotactic. However, up to now detailed contrastive study has mostly been done on conjunction in Chinese/English literary texts, to the exclusion of non-literary texts.

Every field of expertise has its own language features. On a larger scale, every

major human institution, such as medicine, business, and law, develops its special way of conceiving and constructing the world, and its specialized language to express this understanding. Legal language is a specialized language whose distinctive feature is the pursuit of precision. As a result of the importance attached to the letter of the law and the pursuit of precision in legal texts, most studies on legal language are devoted to the characteristic features of legal language at the word and sentence level, while textual and pragmatic considerations tend to be ignored. The present study will mainly look at the features of legal texts from the perspective of conjunction at both the sentence level and the textual level and in order to determine whether Chinese indeed uses fewer cases of conjunction than English in legal texts where the pursuit of precision rather than conciseness plays a more important role at the two levels.

The Chinese and English legal parallel texts about arbitration rules will be used for this contrastive analysis. It is hoped that the findings of this research will test the explanatory force of hypotaxis and parataxis in the use of conjunction in legal texts and give a clearer picture of conjunction both at the sentence and at the textual level in Chinese and English legal parallel texts, and therefore will reconstruct the discourse on Chinese and English languages.

**Key words:** conjunction; Chinese and English; legal parallel texts; hypotaxis; parataxis.