

Abstract

In different languages, people use different phrases to describe locations. This research topic is about the location phrases between different languages and focuses on the location phrases of meaning 'ON' between Chinese and English. The previous researches on this topic are mainly about the location phrases in one single language, or on the comparison between languages from the view of cognitive linguistics. Hence, in this paper, in order to make a comprehensive comparison, three angles of comparative study have been used: semantics, syntax, systematicness.

After processing the data from corpus, it has been found that the main similarities between location phrases of meaning 'ON' are appeared on deep structures and show abstractness and regularity; while the differences are mainly appeared on the surface structures and show concreteness and occasionality. The similarities can be demonstrated in the following three aspects: the completeness of the whole 'ON' system, and the coordination between the meanings of different members in the system; 'ON' phrases both have the same deep formation path; the 'ON' meaning have the same logical route within the category of meaning 'ON'. The differences can also be demonstrated in three aspects: the relationships between the members in the 'ON' systems are different, in Chinese, 'shang' outshines other members, while in English, each performs its own functions; The function of the preposition of 'ON' are different. In Chinese, the function is demonstrated in grammar aspect, while in English, the function is demonstrated both in grammar and meaning aspects; 'ON' phrases also have its own specific meanings in both Chinese and English.

This article can be divided into five chapters:

First chapter gives the literature review, the range and object of study, the research methodology and the values of this research. Second chapter makes the comparative study from the angle of semantics and follows the logical development of the meaning 'ON'. Third chapter compares the two languages under a syntactic view and focuses on the syntactic formation of 'ON' phrases. Fourth chapter makes comparison from the view of systematicness and compares the 'ON' phrases as a whole. Fifth chapter is the conclusion part of the whole paper.

Keywords

**Comparative Study of Chinese and English, Location Phrases of the Meaning 'ON',
Semantics, Syntax, Systematicness**