

Use of Personal Pronouns in Cao Yu's Drama "Leiyu" (雷雨) —Focusing on the Relationships among the Leading Characters—

Keiko IMAI

The present study endeavors to examine the use and distribution of the personal pronouns in Cao Yu's Drama "Leiyu" (雷雨) with special attention to the selectional use between two kinds of the second- person pronouns "ni" (你) and "nin" (您), and the demonstrative use of the third- person pronoun "ta" (他・她) in the words of the three leading female characters —Shi-ping, Fan-yi and Si-feng — by focusing on the relationship between each of them and other characters. The analysis is attempted —at the view point of pragmatics and discourse grammar— through researching individual use of these personal pronouns in the dialogues between the characters. The selectional use between "ni" and "nin" was found in the dialogues of all of the three. Shi-ping used it in the process of changing her situation, Si-feng in strategic dialogues, and Fan-yi in proper use of her two roles. The demonstrative use of "ta" was found mainly in the words of Fan-yi, and Si-feng in the second place. Fan-yi's use is very distinctive, that is, avoiding direct reference which can be said as a reflex of her delicate situation in the Drama. Si-feng's use is characterized as roundabout indication, which is used when pointing her secret sweetheart. It is thus concluded that personal pronouns not only fulfill grammatical or pragmatical functions but also be one of guide markers of the text which can help readers comprehend the complexed textual structure.