

Functional Analysis of Presentative Sentences in Chinese Narrative Discourse

Keiko IMAI

This paper studies function of presentative sentences in modern Chinese narrative discourse, with special attention to the relation with their contexts (preceeding / following sentences).

The results indicate that overlapping or adjoining of time or space between presentative sentences and their preceeding sentences is inevitable, and that this characteristics is very similar to that of [zhi jian] construction which was used frequently in classical Chinese narrative discourses.

And, two kinds of presentative sentences behave differently each other; active one can have contact with the main stream (foreground) of the story, on the other hand, stative one has connection with subordinate parts (background) of the story.

In addition, we indicate that whether information continues to following sentences or not just depends on the nouns which is in focus in presentative sentences.

The several results above mentioned show us that some discorsal factors have more importance than explained generally on presentative sentences.