

Factors Affecting the use of Causal Expressions in Chinese Narrative Discourse

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This paper examines the use of causal markers "yin-wei" and "suo-yi" in modern Chinese narrative discourse of two different texts, the one is a naturally occurred narrative and the other is an improved one.

The research includes two special attentions: differences of use and distribution of causal markers between the two texts; and factors affecting the use of causal markers.

The results indicate that much more causal markers are used in naturally occurred narrative than in improved one. Specially the double causal expression which has another causal relation with the former paragraph is found very little in the latter text. And the post-cause pattern is used mainly when the narrator presented what is contrary to the listener's prediction in discourse sequence, or when the narrator added subjective view to what was told.

The results above mentioned show us that some discursal factors have more important effect than explained generally upon the use of causal expression.