Abstract

English as a lingua franca (ELF) or world language is being used more frequently now by people all over the world than ever before. More varieties of English are used by people, in bilingual or multilingual settings as a contact language for international communication even more than native speakers themselves.

Considerable research on linguistic variations of English has been done in countries where English is studied as a second language. Yet, not a great deal of research has been done on Chinese English (CE), especially on the written form. This fact initiated my research. The focus here is on identifying the salient features in terms of lexicogrammar which are identified as part of ELF appearing in college students’ writing.

To find the lexicogrammatical feature in the written form of Chinese English, 120 essays were collected from sophomore students at Yunnan Nationalities University, from six classes whose majors are Engineering, Law, Political and Economical Management. According to the syllabus, each student is required to take English writing course at least four hours a week. Every participant was asked to write an essay with a minimum 250 words on the topic ‘A journey to glory’ specified by the lecturer.

The analysis of the data followed a framework based on Kirpatrick’s (2007) summarizing the lexicogrammatical features appearing in Chinese English (CE).
From this small-scale research, it becomes fairly clear that the development of the CE is influenced by Chinese as one would expect. In terms of the identified lexicogrammatical features of CE, some were found in other varieties of English, but others only appear as features of CE. These include lexical and grammatical items that are strongly influenced by Chinese in particular word for word translation from Chinese to English. Other items were identified but given the limitations of the data collected, it was not clear whether such features were parts of CE or simply errors.