Syntactic and Semantic Comparison of Modal Verbs in German and Chinese

## 中、德語助動詞語法與語意之比較

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## 摘要

語言有其同質性與異質性。大體而言,同屬一語系之語言,其同質性較高,非同一語系之語言,其同質性相對較低。德文與中文各屬不同語系,不論在語音,語法結構及語意上都有相當的差異性,對於學習中文的德國人或學習德文的中國人而言都有其相當的難度。但這並不代表兩語言間無同質性存在。助動詞乃是動詞詞類的一種,又稱之為情態動詞,在中、德文的使用上,其出現頻繁高。助動詞在語法上具有多種功能,語意上,也因其語法功能及語法結構上的不同而有不同的詮釋。

本論文將以德語之助動詞為主軸,主要分析其在語法及語意上與中文助動詞之雷同處。由於各個助動詞在不同的語法解構與語境上有不同的意義,因此本論文僅以各助動詞之主要意義為分析之依據。為使讀者對中文有初步的認識,所以將在本論文中先就中文的語法結構作一簡略分析,再就中、德語助動詞的語法結構及語意輔以例句分析其同質性。

關鍵詞:中、德文助動詞,中文語法結構,同質性,語意與語法比較

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## Abstract

Similarities and differences are found between languages. Generally speaking, languages, stemming from the same language family, have more in common within the languages; in contrast, differences are found to be more significant between the languages, if they are from different language families. German and Chinese, which belong to the different language families, are two genetically and geographically unrelated languages. There are differences in phonology, semantics as well as syntactic. These differences might lead to the learning difficulties for Chinese learners/ German learners to learn German/Chinese. However, it does not mean that there is no similarity between these two languages.

This paper focuses on modal verbs in Chinese and German. Modality, one kind of verbs, is also known as modal verb. Modal verbs are often used in Chinese and German. In syntactic, modal verbs have many functions; in semantics, the meanings of the modal verbs vary from the syntactic functions and sentence structures.

This paper concentrates on the modal verbs in German and then makes a syntactic and semantic comparison of modal expression in Chinese and German. It is noted that each modal verb has different meanings due to the different conditions and different structures. Thus, the main meaning of each modality was selected for the purpose of this research. For a better understanding of the modal verbs in Chinese, Chinese modal verbs and their syntactic structures were briefly discussed and analysed first. It aimed to find out the similarities between these two languages.

**Keywords:** modal verbs in German and Chinese, Chinese syntactic structures, similarity, syntactic and semantic comparison

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