语言理论与实践

工作论文

Metafunction In Use--An experiential analysis of some material by Systemic Functional Grammar

"The linguistic analysis may enable one to say why the text is, or is not, an effective text for its own purposes—in what aspects it succeeds and in what aspects it fails, or is less successful." (Halliday, 1994: F41) The construction of Systemic Functional Grammar provides a theoretical frame for text analysis. According to Halliday, all languages have three kinds of functions, i.e. metafunctions, which is one of the most important components of Hallidayian Functional Grammar. The first is experiential (in which language is used to "talk about our experience of the world, including the worlds in our own minds, to describe events and states and the entities involved in them"), the second is interpersonal (in which language is used to "interact with other people"), the third is textual (in which language is used to "organize our messages in ways which indicates how they fit in with the other messages around them"). In hallidayian Functional Grammar, the three metafunctions are the basis for exploring how meanings are created and understood. In this term paper, I will try to analyze a short extraction from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. By using the three metafunctions and see how they are working in language. After all, grammar is used to describe language and analyze language.

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