



**Study On
Chinese Semantic Content Based On Syntactic Differences
Between Chinese And English**

**Feng Li
Jinling Institute of Technology
Nanjing, China
HE7179**



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1. INTRODUCTION

Many disputes appear between minimalists and contextualists in explaining semantic content. This article aims to explore Chinese semantic content based on syntactic differences between Chinese and English. The differences roughly include no tense for predicate verbs, no plural forms for nouns, no case change in forms for pronouns, no formal change between verbs and nouns in sentences, no subjects for many sentences, etc. It is very significant and unprecedented to explore the issue of semantic content of Chinese language from the perspective of syntactic differences between Chinese and English, which, as the interest of this article, sheds a light on a new approach of research on minimalism and contextualism.



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2. DISTINCTIVE SYNTACTIC DIFFERENCES OF CHINESE COMPARED WITH ENGLISH

2.1. No Tense for Predicate Verbs in Chinese

2.2. No Plural Forms for Nouns in Chinese

2.3. No Case Change in Form for Pronouns in Chinese

2.4. No Formal Change between Verbs and Nouns in Chinese Sentences

2.5. No Subjects for Many Sentences in Chinese



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3. CONCLUSION

Through analyses, it is revealed that though Chinese is very context-sensitive, both minimalism and contextualism account for its semantic content. These two linguistic views should not be split completely. Chinese semantic content cannot be fully determined by its syntactic structure and lexical content. Grasp of Chinese semantic content involves both 'word reading' and 'mind reading', and the latter is much more context-sensitive. As Chinese thinking mode accepts contradictions, we accept both minimalism and contextualism to account for Chinese language. These two linguistic views should not be split completely. Instead, they should work together to explain natural languages in the world.



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