Zeng X.Y. (2015). *Han yu li mao yong yu de yan jiu xian zhuang ji qi fen lei*. [On the present state and classification of Chinese politeness research]. Journal of Zhengzhou Institute of Aeronautical Industry Management (Social Science Edition), 34(3).

Research on politeness has flourished since Brown and Levinson's (1970) defining politeness theory that proposed the universality of politeness. However, most of the studies are from the Western world and it is refreshing to find Zeng's (2015) study which summarizes the statistical results of research on Chinese politeness in the Chinese academic world. Zeng explored the Chinese politeness research in China by doing a numerical count of journals, master's and doctorate theses produced from 2001 to 2014.

The author carried out the task by using pareto and time-series graphs that are appropriate and adequate as they give a bird's eye view to illustrate the findings clearly. The outcome of the study reviews that there is a "very small number" (p.81) in research -journals, master's theses and doctoral theses. A simple count from the graphs provided shows there is a mere 179 publications in total over the last 3 decades, with the number of journals outweighing (155) the number of the theses significantly.

Zeng highlights the prominent trend in the research within the area of contrastive studies between the Chinese language and other languages, listing the 4 eminent languages used for comparison, namely English, Japanese, Korean and Russian. The author further zoomed in to examine the topics of the Master's theses and presented the results in a time-series graph. The study shows the statistics from 2001 to 2014, thirteen years of research results in China.

It is interesting to note that there were no studies between 2001 to2004 and in the year 2009 in any of the 4 areas mentioned. There is also a rapid surge to reach a peak in 2013 in the area of comparative studies and honorifics but a sudden drop in the following year. Overall, the graph shows a fluctuation of results and it is difficult to articulate trends and extrapolate tendencies through the small number in the investigation.

 Nevertheless, Zeng concludes that research on Chinese politeness language and honorifics is generally in a stable state throughout the years while comparative politeness studies between different languages is more prominent. There has also been an increase in studies on teaching honorifics and polite language and Zeng attributes the emergence of these studies to the established studies of the predecessors on politeness and honorifics.

The second part of the paper focuses on the classification of the types of polite language in Chinese by citing the four distinctive definitions, according to 4 different scholars, such as Fu (1992). Zeng highlights and presents her own classification and it would have been beneficial to cite other classifications by more recent authors for a comparison.

The classification of polite terms in the field is varied and Zeng subdivided the address terms, humble terms and respect terms and produced 7 different lists of examples. The limitations is well articulated by the author through listing the 2 problems: 1) The use of politeness terminologies is diverse and has not yet reached common grounds, and 2) and the lack of meaning and usage classification of the Chinese polite language with regards to honorifics, modest language and respect language .

This paper is a valuable contribution to the Chinese as a foreign language (CFL) literature, inter-language pragmatics and politeness studies. It is hoped that there will be more studies from the Chinese academic field regarding the studies of Chinese politeness as it will be a great asset to the field.

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