

CHITIMA MONTASAWIN : CERTAIN SYNTACTIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SPOKEN
AND WRITTEN IN FRENCH, THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO, PROF, AMARA
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The purpose of this study is to analyze certain syntactic differences in spoken and written French with the focus on the usage of the negative sentence, the yes-no question, the "passé simple" tense, "plus-que parfait" tense and the passive voice.

The data used in the analysis from four French novels purposively selected from the ones published during 1987-1992. Spoken and written French are represented here by conversations and descriptions in the selected novels, respectively. The hypotheses of this study are : In written French, the preferred negative form is the standard variant (ne+verbe+pas), the yes-no question that occurs most is the subject-verb inversion type, also, there is frequent use of the passé simple, the plus-que parfait and the passive voice. In spoken French it is hypothesized that the preferred negative form is the variant without ne (verbe+pas) that the yes-no question marked by high intonation at the end and the Est-ce que type are used more than the subject - verb inversion type. Also, there is no occurrence of the passé simple. Finally, the plus-que parfait and the passive voices are used less frequently than in written style.

The result of the analysis show that negative sentences without "ne" occur more frequently in conversations than in descriptions. The difference is statistically significant ($p = 0.01$). As for yes-no questions, sentences marked by high intonation are most frequent in conversations whereas those with subject-verb inversion are most frequent in descriptions. Regarding the passé simple and plus-que parfait tenses, it is found that spoken and written French are differentiated by these features with a statistical difference at 0.01 level. The data show that the passé simple tense is used twelve times more in written French than in spoken French. As for the plus-que parfait, it is used six times more in written French than spoken French. Concerning the passive voice, the result shows insignificant difference between both style.