

A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF ZHUANG DIALOGUE FOLK SONGS

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Zhuang dialogue folk songs—the singing dialogue used for communication purposes of the Zhuang people in China—have received extensive attention within various disciplinary fields in recent decades. The study aims to explore text structure and interpersonal interaction in the songs from the perspective of systemic functional linguistics. More specifically, text structure is analyzed in terms of rhetorical relations (Matthiessen 2015b), and interpersonal interaction is analyzed in terms of speech functions (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The study also correlates the semantic analysis of rhetorical relations and speech functions into the situational context in terms of field, tenor, and mode (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The Data for analysis are five texts selected from the collection of Liao Songs of Pingguo Zhuang (Luo Hantian & Tan Shaoming, 2008).

The results of analysis reveal that: i) rhetorical relation choices in the songs are determined by the poetic stylistics of the songs, dialogic interactivity of the singers, and field of activity within the context; ii) speech function choices in the songs are constrained by the pre-allocated turn-taking and tenor relationship within the context. Based on the results, the study therefore argues that semantic strategies for language organization and interpersonal interaction in Zhuang dialogue folk songs change with the situational context.

**KEY WORDS: ZHUANG DIALOGUE FOLK SONGS / SYSTEMIC
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