ABSTRACT

This research is about the analysis of figure of speech in Chinese idiom, which focused on the four variants of Chinese idiom, namely maxims, proverbs, allegories, and idioms. The data of this research is the Chinese Idiomatic Phrases for Foreign Students’ book complied by Xu and Ying. In this research, Huang and Liao’s concept about the figure of speech in Chinese language is used to identify the figure of speech. Besides that, the semantic theory of Pateda is also used to describe the function and the meaning of the figure of speech. Method of this research is the combination of qualitative and quantitative method. The result of this research shows that there are nine figures of speech that are used in four variants of Chinese idiom. They are simile/metaphor, personification/depersonification, metonymy/synecdoche, hyperbole, paronomasia, dui’ou, antithesis, repetition, and rhetorical question. The functions of these figures of speech are to make idioms seem more real, figurative, and interesting; easy to understand and to remember. They also can weaken the meaning of idioms or sharpen the meaning of idioms. The meaning of these figures of speech can be viewed in terms of similarity of meaning, the closeness of meaning, the application of the meaning, the equality of meaning, the comparison of meaning and the repetition of meaning.

Keywords: figure of speech; Chinese idiom