

## ABSTRACT

This thesis discussed an X-bar syntax analysis on English prepositional phrases at the phrase level. The first problem was whether there was any similarity between the Traditional Grammar and the X-bar theory, particularly in the functions of prepositional phrases. The second was whether there was any significant difference in proportion between complements and adjuncts in N \_ P NP constructions.

The research conducted in this thesis was a survey. The writer studied the nature of X-bar syntax and analyzed the prepositional phrases in the sentences collected from the randomly selected source books. To see the correspondence between the functions of prepositional phrases in the traditional grammar and in the X-bar theory, the phrases were categorized according to their functions in the traditional grammar and were analyzed by using the X-bar syntax analysis. To see the proportion between complements and adjuncts, a Chi-square test was used.

From the survey, it was discovered that there was not one-to-one correspondence between the functions of prepositional phrases in the traditional grammar and those in the X-bar theory. From the hypothesis testing, it was proved that the proportion of prepositional phrases as complements was different from that of prepositional phrases as adjuncts. The observed value was 26.9138, whereas the  $\chi^2$  value at  $df=1$  and the significant level .05 was 3.841.

Finally, based on the above findings and the supporting references, the writer drew the following con-

clusions: (1) one type of functions of prepositional phrases in the traditional grammar do not always correspond to only one type of functions of those in the X-bar theory because traditional grammar deals with s-structure, whereas X-bar theory deals with d-structure, (2) Complements are more frequent in occurrence because they are regarded as objects that are always required by transitive verbs. Further, the writer argues that, being unaware of different functions of prepositional phrases in sentences, students might get a difficulty in understanding the meanings and functions of English prepositional phrases.

