

ENGLISH AND MANDARAIN COMPARATIVE DEGREES IN NEXT MOVE
STUDENT'S BOOK FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS AND
汉语教程 HANYU JIAOCHENG

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ABSTRACT

In order to enrich students' knowledge about how to use comparative words of English and Mandarin language, the aim of writing this thesis is to find out the similarities and the differences of comparative words of both languages. The concept used in this research is comparative words, and its kinds. The theory used to analyze the similarities and the differences of comparative words is contrastive analysis, syntax, and translation theory. The methodology used in this research is descriptive analysis. The result shows that there are many similarities and differences between English and Mandarin language. The similarities are, both languages have 3 kinds of comparative words, all have the same meaning and same function. The differences are, the usage adjective in English comparative words has to be placed after the Subject of the sentence, while in Mandarin, and adjective is placed in the end of the sentences. There are many other differences and similarities will be discussed in this article.

Keywords: *Comparative Word; Contrastive Analysis; Translation*

INTRODUCTION

Language is essential for the society. It is used for communicating with others. In communicating can be symbols or codes. With language, communication becomes easier and more perfect. Each language actually has a determination or similarity in terms of sound system, form, grammar, and meaning. Based on this, a diversity of languages was established.

Based on Wikipedia "A language is a structured system of communication used by humans, including speech (spoken language), gestures (sign language) and writing." It is clear that a language is always being used by human to express their feeling. Language is essential, especially when it is about jobs. Most people learn new languages to enrich their knowledge of how to communicate to others with different language. English is the first language with the most speaker in the world. While Mandarin Chinese is the second language with the most speaker in the world.

English is the mother tongue for people in United Kingdom, United States, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and etc. English language is the official language in many countries. English language is the family of Anglo-Frisian which is in West German, and the subfamily of Indo European. English is used more than another languages in most countries in the world.

While Mandarin Chinese is an official language in China, it is also categorized as one of the four languages in Singapore. Mandarin Chinese language is considered as the family of Sino Tibetan language and the subfamily of Thai and China. Based on Bloomfield (in *Chaer*, 1994:163), "Word is a minimal free form". One of the words which will be identified in this research is Comparative degree. Comparative degree is comparing two different objects. Comparative degree is the word that is often used in daily conversation. Usually comparative degree is used to compare the adjective or verb in a sentence. Yet, the usage of comparative degree in a sentence must be adapted based on the correct rules,

If not there will be an error or misunderstanding of the meaning. That's why the writer discussed about the usage of comparative degree from both languages.

DATA ANALYSIS

Comparative degrees in English language

In English language, there are 3 kinds of degree which are: *Positive Degree*, *Comparative Degree*, and *Superlative Degree*. The comparative words that will be identified in this research is *Comparative Degree*. In general, this *Comparative Degree* is used to compare two different things or people. This also means it is used to express the adjective of thing or person which is better compare to with the other thing or person. The comparative words that use *-er* consists of one syllable which is also followed by *than*.

These are the way how to make *Comparative degree in Adjective and Adverb*:

1. The Adjective and adverb that consist of one syllable, is only followed by suffix *-er*.

Examples of Adjective:

- Short => shorter
- Hot => hotter
- Strong => stronger

Examples in sentences:

- Billy is **shorter than** jimmy.
- Mark is **hotter than** Austin.
- Arthur is **stronger than** Jack.

Examples of Adverb:

- Hard → Harder
- Fast → Faster

Examples in sentences:

- He drove **faster than** I did
- I work **harder than** before

2. The adjective that consists of one syllable and ended by vocal letter along with consonant letter at the end, must be added with suffix *-er* and the last consonant letter must be duplicated.

Examples:

- Hot => hotter
- Thin => thinner
- Big => bigger

Example in sentences:

- Outdoor sports are **hotter than** indoor sports during the summer.
- My dog is **bigger than** your dog.

3. The adjective that ends with *-y* letter and started by one consonant or two consonants, the *-y* letter must be changed with *-i* then adds *-er*.

Examples:

- Easy => easier
- Lazy => lazier
- Crazy => crazier

Example in sentences:

- My questions are **easier than** your questions.
- James is **lazier than** Rusty.

- Erick is **crazier than** Edward.

4. The adjective that ends with *-y* letter and started with vocal letter, then the *-y* letter doesn't change. It is directly added with *-er* letter.

Examples:

- Grey => greyer
- Lay => layer

Example in a sentence:

- ✓ This morning is **greyer than** yesterday morning.

5. The adjective that consists of two syllables and ended with *-er* or *-ow* must be added with suffix *-er*.

Examples:

- Clever => cleverer
- Shallow => shallower
- Slow => slower

Example in sentences:

- Al's car is **slower than** Jimmy's car.
- My brother is **cleverer than** my sister.
- Indian Ocean is **shallower than** Atlantic Ocean.

6. The adjective that consists of two syllables which are ended with letter *-e*, then must add suffix *-er*.

Example:

- Wide => wider
- Wise => wiser

Example in sentences:

- My father is **wiser than** your father.
- My palm is **wider than** your palm.

7. The adjective and adverb that consists of two syllables, but there is stress for the first syllable. It can't be added with *-er* but it can be added with *more*.

Examples of Adjective:

- Famous => more famous
- Charming => more charming
- Nervous => more nervous

Example in sentences:

- Justin Bieber is **more famous than** Bruno Mars.
- I am **more nervous than** you.
- Edward is **more charming than** Eddie

Examples of Adverb:

- Fluent → more fluently
- Gently → more gently

8. The adjective that consists three syllables or more is added with *more*.

Examples:

- Beautiful => more beautiful
- Difficult => more difficult
- Different => more different

Example in sentences:

- My sister is **more beautiful than** your sister.
- This exam is **more difficult than** previous exam.
- Your clothes are **more different than** my clothes.

Comparative degree in Mandarin language

The comparative degree in Mandarin language is bi (比). This comparative word is often used in a sentence. Bi (比) has some rules in term of its usage in a sentence.

These are the usage:

1. Bǐ 比 express the adjective

The comparative word bi 比 expresses the difference between two different objects' adjective. The adjective is the things being compared.

Examples:

他	比	我	聪明
<i>Tā</i>	<i>Bǐ</i>	<i>wǒ</i>	<i>cōng míng</i>
He	Compare to	Me	Smart
He is smarter than me.			

今天	比	昨天	热
<i>jīn tiān</i>	<i>Bǐ</i>	<i>zuó tiān</i>	<i>rè</i>
Today	Compare to	Yesterday	Hot
Today is hotter than yesterday.			

From two examples above can be seen. The comparative word “比” bǐ is put after subject and before object. The comparative word “比” bǐ is used to compare two adjectives, which are 聪明 cōng míng (smart), and 热 rè (hot).

2. Bǐ 比 uses adverb 更/还 gèng / hái

The comparative word “比” Bǐ is added with the word 更/还 gèng / hái which means “even more”.

Example:

他	比	我	更	聪明
<i>Tā</i>	<i>Bǐ</i>	<i>wǒ</i>	<i>Gèng</i>	<i>congming</i>
He	Compare to	Me	Even more	Smart
He is smarter than me.				

From the sentence above, the word “更/还” “geng/hai” is put after the 我 Wǒ (I/me) object, it also express the adjective word which is : 聪明 congming (smart).

3. Bǐ 比 uses modifier of 一点儿 yīdiǎnr

The modifier of 一点儿 *yīdiǎnr* is used to complete the comparative sentence, so it has clear meaning and without any ambiguities.

Example:

小明	比	我	胖	一点儿
<i>Xiǎomíng</i>	<i>Bǐ</i>	<i>Wǒ</i>	<i>pàng</i>	<i>yīdiǎnr</i>
Xiao Ming	Compare to	Me	Fat	A little
Xiao Ming is a little bit fatter than me.				

In the sentence above, it can be seen that adverb of degree of 一点儿 *yīdiǎnr* is put in the end of the sentence which makes the correct meaning in Chinese/ Mandarin language.

Based on the grammar of Mandarin Chinese language, the structure of a sentence must follow the official rules of Mandarin Chinese grammar. These are the structure of comparative word which are based on the Mandarin Chinese grammar:

1. Subject + “比” *bi* + Object + adjective which is considered as predicate.

From the structure above, it is clear that this the basic structure of comparative word in Mandarin. It consists of subject, adverb and adjective.

Examples:

- 昨天 比 今天 热
Zuò tiān bǐ jīntiān re
Yesterday compare to today hot
Yesterday was **hotter than** today.

- 我的 学校 比 你的 学校 干净 *Wo de xuexiao bi ni de xuexiao ganjing*
I possession school compare to you school clean
My school is **cleaner than** your school.

2. Subject + “比” *bi* + object + adjective as predicate + modifier

From the structure above, it is clear than the basic structure of comparative is added with modifier in the end of the sentence

Example:

- 昨天 比 今天 冷 一点儿
Zuò tiān bǐ jīntiān lěng yīdiǎnr
Yesterday compare to today cold a litte bit
Yesterday was a litte bit **colder than** today.

3. Subject + “比” *bi* + object + verb as predicate + object

Example:

- 我 比 他 了解 情况
Wǒ bǐ tā liǎojiě qíngkuàng
I compare to him understand situation
I understand the situation **more than** him.

4. Subject + “比” *bi* + object + “更/还” *geng/hai* + adj

Example:

• 他 比 他弟弟更 高
Tā bǐ tā dìdì gèng gāo
 He compare to his little brother even more tall
 He is **taller than** his little brother.

5. Subject + “比” bi + object + verb as predicate + complement + adj

Example:

• 他 比 我 起 得 早
Tā bǐ wǒ qǐ de zǎo
 He compare to me wake up complement (de) morning
 He wakes up **earlier than** me.

6. Subject + verb + 得”de + “比” bi + object + adj

Example:

• 他 跑 得 比 我哥哥快
Tā pǎo de bǐ wǒ gēgē kuài
 He walk complement compare to my brother fast
 He walks **faster than** my brother.

7. Subject + “比” bi + object + adverb + verb as predicate + O/C

Example:

• 她 比 我 早 来 十分钟
Tā bǐ wǒ zǎo lái shí fēnzhōng
 She compare to me morning come 10 minutes
 She comes 10 minutes earlier than me.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

English	Mandarin
<p>One syllable S + verb/to be + <i>adj/adv(-er)</i> + than + O Example: He is stronger than me. My dog runs faster than yours.</p>	<p>1. S + “比”bi + O+ adjective Examples: 昨天比 今天 热 <i>Zuò tiān bǐ jīntiān re</i> Yesterday compare to today hot Yesterday was hotter than today.</p>
<p>Two/More than two syllables S + verb/to be + more + <i>adj/adv</i> + than + O Example: This house is more comfortable than my house. An airplane is more expensive than a boat. I speak English more fluently than your brother</p>	<p>我的 学校 比你的 学校 干 净 <i>Wǒ de xuexiao bǐ nǐ de xuexiao gānjìng</i> I possession school compare to you school clean My school is cleaner than your school.</p>
<p>Irregular S+ verb/to be + <i>adj</i> + than + O Adj = base form => irregular form Good => better Bad => worse Example:</p>	<p>2. S + “比”bi + O + adjective as predicate + modifier Example:</p>

<p>This is better than I thought. My marbles are less than yours.</p>	<p>昨天 比 今天 冷 一点儿 <i>Zuò tiān bǐ jīntiān lěng yīdiǎn er</i> Yesterday compare to today cold a litte bit Yesterday was a litte bit colder than today.</p> <p>3. S + “比”bi + O + verb as predicate + O/C</p> <p>Example: 我 比 他 了解 情况 <i>Wǒ bǐ tā liǎo jiě qíngkuàng</i> I compare to him understand situation I understand the situation more than him.</p> <p>4. S + “比”bi + O + “更/还”geng/hai + Adj</p> <p>Example: 他 比 他弟弟 更 高 <i>Tā bǐ tā dìdì gèng gāo</i> He compare to his little brother even more tall He is taller than his little brother.</p> <p>5. S + “比”bi + O + verb as predicate + complement + Adj</p> <p>Example: 他 比 我 起 得 早 <i>Tā bǐ wǒ qǐ de zǎo</i> He compare to me wake up complement (de) morning He wakes up earlier than me.</p> <p>6. S + verb + 得”de + “比”bi + O + Adj</p> <p>Example: 他 跑 得 比 我哥哥 快 <i>Tā pǎo de bǐ wǒ gēgē kuài</i> He walk complement compare to my brother fast He walks faster than my brother.</p> <p>7. S + “比”bi + O + verb as predicate + Adverb + Verb + O/C</p> <p>Example:</p>
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	她 比 我 早 来 十 分 钟 Tā bǐ wǒ zǎo lái shí fēnzhōng She compare to me morning come 10 minutes She comes 10 minutes earlier than me.
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Form

Similarities

From the usage of comparative words in a sentence above, the writer can find some similarities between English language and Mandarin language based on its form from the comparative words.

These are the similarities:

1. From the table above, it can be seen that the comparative word in English Comparative degree and Mandarin 比 (bǐ) comparative word have the same position in the sentence which is put in the middle of the sentence.
2. The subject in both languages is also put in front of the sentence.

Differences

From the table below, it can be concluded that there are some differences between English Comparative degree and Mandarin Comparative word of bi (比) such as:

1. By using the syntax approach, the writer analysed the position of the word in the first example which can be seen that the object (me) in English is put in the end of the sentence, in the other hand the object jintiān (Today) in Mandarin language is put after the comparative word of 比 bi, not in the end of the sentence.
2. In the given example, in English language there is an extra word than which is put after the adjective and adverb so that the meaning is valid, while Mandarin language there is no need to add the extra word like than in order to make the adjective/ adverb becomes valid.
3. From the both examples can be seen that in English language, the adjective of stronger, more comfortable are changed from their based word. The changes are by adding -er and more in the adjective words. While in Mandarin language, the adjectives: 冷 Lěng (cold) and 干 净 gàn jìng (clean) don't have any changes from their based words in the sentence.
4. The comparative word of Comparative degrees in the sentence of English language is rarely put verb while the comparative word of 比 bi in Mandarin language can be added with verb and complement in the sentence.

Distribution

English	Mandarin
S+ adj/adv+ er + than + O	S+“ 比 ”bi + O + Adjective
S+ more + adj/adv + than + O	S+“ 比 ”bi+ O + Adjective+ modifier
S+ irregular adjective + than + O	S+“ 比 ”bi + O + verb + object
	S+“ 比 ” bi + O + “ 更/还 ”geng/hai + Adj
	S+“ 比 ”bi+ O +verb+complement+ Adj

	S+verb+得”de+“比”bi + O +Adj
	S+“比 ”bi + adverb + verb + O/C

Similarities

There are some similarities based on the distribution in English and mandarin language, such as:

1. The position of the comparative word is in the middle of the sentence.
2. Both adjectives are added with a phrase.

Differences

Based on the table, there are some differences between English Comparative degree and Mandarin the comparative word of 比 bi, which are:

1. The object in English comparative degree is put in the end of the sentence. While the Mandarin comparative word of 比 bi, the object is put in between comparative word of 比 bi and adjective/verb.
2. In English comparative degree is rarely put verb while the comparative word of 比 bi in Mandarin language can be added with verb and complement in the sentence.
3. In English there is irregular adjective/adverb which must be changed from its base form to the irregular form, while in Mandarin, the adjective/adverb doesn't have the irregular form which is not changed from its base form.
4. In English the comparative word is only can be placed between Subject and Object. While in Mandarin, the comparative word of 比 bi can be placed either before the verb or before the complement only if the verb has a complement of state.

Function

English	Mandarin
Yesterday is hotter than today.	昨天 比 今天 热 Zuò tiān bǐ jīntiān rè Yesterday compare to today hot
He is smarter than me.	他 比 我 聪明 tā Bǐ wǒ cōng míng He Compare to Me Smart

From the table above, it can be concluded that there is no differences between English Comparative Degree and Mandarin comparative word of 比 bi because both of them have the same function which is used to compare one object to another object which the first object has the superior characteristic that differs from second object.

Meaning

Example 1:

他	比	你	聪明
<i>Ta</i>	<i>Bi</i>	<i>Ni</i>	<i>Congming</i>

He	Compare to	You	Clever
He is cleverer than you			

Example 2:

我	的	妈妈	比	你	的	妈妈	漂亮
<i>Wo</i>	<i>De</i>	<i>Mama</i>	<i>Bi</i>	<i>Ni</i>	<i>De</i>	<i>Mama</i>	<i>Piaoliang</i>
I	Possess	Mother	Compare to	You	Possess	Mother	Beautiful
My mother is more beautiful than your mother.							

From two examples of comparative words above, the writer found out there are some differences of Comparative words in between English language and Mandarin language in a sentence in term of meaning. This is the difference:

From the examples also can be found that the meaning in Example 1, if the words from the sentence are translated one by one, it has different meaning which is same with the Example 2. Because the adjective is put in the end of the sentence. We can see that the first example if it is translated word by word the meaning will be “He Compare to you Clever” which sounds ungrammatical in English.

While the the example 2 the meaning in Mandarin “I possess mother compare to you possess mother beautiful. This also cause ungrammatical sentence in English. Even if we fix the sentence to be grammatical sentence it will be “My mother compare to your mother beautiful. While the formal English Comparative degree is “My mother is more beautiful than your mother”. From the explanation, it is clear that the meaning in English and in Mandarin

Example 3:

他	比	我	跑	得	快
<i>Ta</i>	<i>Bi</i>	<i>Wo</i>	<i>Pao</i>	<i>De</i>	<i>Kuai</i>
He	Compare to	Me	Walk	(Complement)	Fast
He runs faster than me.					

Another example, if we compare English Comparative degree with Mandarin Comparative word of 比 bi, we can see that the meaning in English “He runs faster than me”. While in Mandarin comparative word of 比 bi is “He compare to me walk (complement) fast”. This shows the difference between both language due to its form then it has different meaning based on the Source Language.

CONCLUSION

There can be concluded some conclusions about the between English and Mandarin Comparative degree in Next Move Student’s book for elementary students and 汉语教程 Hanyu Jiaocheng which are:

1. Writer found out three types of comparative word between English and Mandarin, yet in this research the writer discussed about Comparative degrees in English language and comparative word of 比 (bi) in Mandarin language.

2. The comparative word of comparative degrees and the comparative word of 比 (bi) are the comparative word which are often found both of the languages have the usages and have some rules of the usages.
3. The comparative word of comparative degrees in English language and the comparative word of 比 (bi) in Mandarin language have the same function if they are put in a sentence.
4. The comparative word of comparative degrees in English language and the comparative word of 比 (bi) in Mandarin language have the same position which are put right after the subject.
5. The comparative word of comparative degrees in English language and the comparative word of 比 (bi) in Mandarin language have some differences in term of their usages.
6. The adjective/adverb word in English comparative degrees is put right after subject, while adjective word in Mandarin comparative word of 比 (bi) is put in the end of the sentence.
7. The adjective words in English comparative degrees are added with -er and more, while the adjectives in Mandarin comparative word of 比 (bi) doesn't change from its base form.
8. The comparative word of comparative degrees in English rarely uses verb in a sentence of comparative degrees, while the comparative word of 比 (bi) can be added with verb and complement in a sentence.
9. The comparative word of Comparative degrees in English and the comparative word of 比 (bi) in Mandarin don't have the same meaning due to its adjectives position in a sentence.
10. The object in the Comparative degrees in English is always put in the end of the sentence, while the object in Comparative word of 比 (bi) in Mandarin is put in the middle of the sentence which is after the comparative word of 比 (bi) and before adj/ adv/ O/C.

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