

**Invitation à la soutenance publique de thèse**  
**Pour l'obtention du grade de Doctorat en Langues, lettres et traductologie**  
**en cotutelle avec National Chengchi University (Taiwan)**

**Monsieur Hung-Hsin HSU**

**A CONTRASTIVE STUDY OF QUESTIONS IN MANDARIN AND  
FRENCH: FROM THEORY TO CORPUS ANALYSIS**

Le vendredi 24 avril 2026

11H00 (heure belge)

Graduate Institute of Linguistics

National Chengchi University, Taïwan

(en comodal)

**La soutenance sera retransmise en direct**  
**à l'auditoire C.228**



This thesis presents a cross-linguistic investigation of **questions in Taiwan Mandarin and French**. By combining formal theoretical discussion with empirical corpus analyses, I explore three core topics: **question types**, **wh-in-situ**, and **question particles**. The study draws on a self-compiled bi-directional parallel corpus consisting of detective and fantasy novels in Taiwan Mandarin and French, along with their respective translations. Analyses are carried out using three approaches: (1) **bilingual comparable** (i.e., original Taiwan Mandarin vs. original French), (2) **bilingual parallel** (i.e., original Taiwan Mandarin vs. French translation, and vice versa), and (3) **monolingual comparable** (i.e., original Taiwan Mandarin vs. translation, original French vs. translation). From the bilingual comparable perspective, I investigate the distribution of question types and marking strategies in the two source languages. Second, I observe how the trends uncovered with the other two approaches reflect the cross-linguistic differences identified in the initial comparison. To further examine the data, a **Bayesian regression model** is applied to evaluate the influence of multiple variables on the distribution of questions and related syntactic phenomena, including register, language, translation status, and literary genre. The thesis concludes with a dedicated discussion chapter that integrates theoretical insights with empirical findings. This synthesis highlights both alignments and tensions between theory and corpus findings, revealing the value of examining linguistic phenomena from both perspectives. Finally, the study outlines practical applications in areas such as language pedagogy, language acquisition, and translation studies.

**Le jury est composé de Mesdames et Messieurs les Professeur-es :**

Prof. Marie-Aude LEFER (UCLouvain), Promotrice et Secrétaire du jury

Prof. One-Soon HER (Tunghai University/National Chengchi University, Taïwan), Promoteur

Prof. Kristel VAN GOETHEM (UCLouvain), Présidente et lectrice

Prof. Marc ALLASSONNIERE-TANG (Laboratoire Éco-Anthropologie Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, France), Lecteur extérieur

Prof. Kevin HENRY (UMons), Lecteur extérieur

Prof. Elizabeth ZEITOUN (Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica, Taïwan), LECTRICE EXTÉRIEURE