

## ABSTRACT

**DISSERTATION/THESIS/RESEARCH PAPER/CREATIVE PROJECT:** Chinese Metaphors in Political Discourse: How the Government of the People's Republic of China Criticizes the Independence of Taiwan

**STUDENT:** Xiaojing Cheng

**DEGREE:** Doctor of Philosophy

**COLLEGE:** Sciences and Humanities

**DATE:** June, 2009

**PAGES:** 306

This dissertation discusses various underlying conceptual metaphors used to describe the issue of Taiwan's independence in the PRC media in light of Conceptual Metaphor Theory. The conceptual metaphors underlying linguistic expressions that are used to depict the independence issue in Chinese for a total number of nineteen concepts are examined. It is also argued that the conceptual bases for some chengyu, fixed expressions in Chinese, can be explained within Conceptual Metaphor Theory, but others cannot since some of the conceptual mappings constructed are context specific. The secondary metaphors found in some chengyu are based on the original association of one domain with another in the allusion or historical story. In short, this study provides empirical evidence for Conceptual Metaphor Theory in that the use of metaphor is extremely prevalent in at least one genre of Chinese political writing. It also examines Chinese chengyu from a cognitive point of view.