

The central topic of this thesis is the verbal and the adverbial use of nouns in Classical Chinese (5th - 3rd c. BC), which is labelled as *hu6yong* in the traditional Chinese philology. However, a summary of previous research on the phenomenon both in Chinese and in Western languages and above all a theoretical introduction to the issues of word classes in this isolating language represent an integral part of the thesis. Importantly, its aim is not to present an exhaustive treatise about the phenomenon, but to offer a new perspective, to reformulate the questions related to it and to exploit a recent generally linguistic theoretical framework - namely cognitive linguistics - for its description. On its basis, I endeavour to integrate my own observations obtained from the linguistic material and those of my predecessors, provided they are not too much biased by special features of the theories they employed, and to make use of the knowhow of the disciplines associated with *hu6yong*. If we put aside the most general ones, like syntax, semantics and lexicology, it concerns mainly an interrelated multidisciplinary net including e.g. theory of word formation, theory of interpretation of novel expressions, terminography, pragmatics, stylistics, sociolinguistics, or psycholinguistics. Besides this, it is possible to draw especially on the studies in the English word-class conversion, which is both functionally and formally very close to the Chinese *hu6yong*. The analysis is based on excerption from a representative corpus of texts including most of the important works of the Warring States period.