



The Linguistic Society of Hong Kong Newsletter

香港語言學學會通訊

Issue 2, 2010

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Editors of this issue:
Bit-Chee KWOK (CityU) and Carine YIU (HKUST)



Call for Papers

第十一屆粵語討論會

截止日期： 2011年2月7日
會議日期： 2011年3月5日
會議地點： 香港教育學院

「第十一屆粵語討論會」將於二零一一年三月五日（星期六）假香港教育學院舉行。這次討論會的主題是「粵語名詞性成份的句法和語義」。報告者可以就以下幾個課題作出討論：

- 一、粵語名詞性成份的結構
- 二、粵語名詞性成份的有定性和量化作用
- 三、名詞性成份的跨方言和跨語言比較

除此之外，我們也歡迎粵語名詞性成份習得的研究或其他與主題相關的理論性研究。每篇論文的報告時間為二十分鐘，之後有至少十分鐘發問和討論。報告者和參加者可以選擇用粵語、普通話或英語發言。有意報告者請提交一份寫上作者姓名、工作單位和電郵地址的論文摘要，中文、英文均可，長度以一頁A4紙為限。摘要請以DOC電子檔形式儲存，並以電郵擲交以下地址：andychin@ied.edu.hk。

請注意下列兩個重要日期：

摘要截止日期：2011年2月7日（星期一）

接受摘要的通知日期：2011年2月18日（星期五），以電郵通知。

如需查詢或有任何疑問，歡迎用電郵跟錢志安（andychin@ied.edu.hk）聯絡。有關討論會的詳情和最新資料，請瀏覽以下網址：www.swtang.net。「第十一屆粵語討論會」由香港語言學學會主辦，香港教育學院語言資訊科學研究中心贊助。

Workshop on Cantonese-11

Deadline for Submissions: February 7, 2011
Workshop Date: March 5, 2011
Venue: The Hong Kong Institute of Education

We are pleased to announce that the Eleventh Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-11) will be held at the Hong Kong Institute of Education on Saturday, March 5, 2011. The theme of this workshop is Syntax and Semantics of Nominals in Cantonese. Potential issues to be addressed are:

- Structure of Cantonese nominals
- Definiteness and quantificational effect of Cantonese nominals
- Cross-dialectal and cross-linguistic comparisons of nominals

Discussions are not restricted to the above issues. Papers on acquisition and other theoretical aspects of Cantonese nominals are also welcome. Each presentation is tentatively allotted 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for discussion. Languages used at the Workshop can be Cantonese, Mandarin, or English. Abstracts written in Chinese or English should be limited to one A4 page, with the name(s) of author(s), affiliation and e-mail address(es). Abstracts in DOC format should be sent to: andychin@ied.edu.hk.

Please note the following important dates:

Deadline for submission: February 7, 2011 (Monday)

Notification of acceptance (via e-mail): February 18, 2011 (Friday).

If you have further questions, please contact Andy Chin at andychin@ied.edu.hk. For details and updated information of the workshop, please visit: www.swtang.net. WOC-11 is organized by the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong and sponsored by the Research



The 20th International Conference on Historical Linguistics

Deadline for Submissions: January 15, 2011

Conference Dates: July 25-30, 2011

Venue: National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan

* All abstracts are to be submitted through the official website of the conference at:
<http://www.ichl2011.com/>

The 17th International Congress on Phonetic Sciences (ICPhs-17)

Deadline for Submissions: March 1, 2011

Conference Dates: August 17-21, 2011

Venue: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Organizers: Department of Chinese, Translation and Linguistics, City University of Hong Kong / Institute of Linguistics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing / Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica, Taipei

Official Website: <http://www.icphs2011.hk/index.html>

- Authors are invited to submit papers on original, unpublished research in all areas of phonetics.
- All manuscripts must be in English.
- The paper must be not more than four A4 pages in PDF file.
- For congress paper format requirements, please refer to the [template](#) in Word file.
- One of the following IPA fonts is to be used for congress papers:

Unicode encoded fonts:

Charis SIL: http://scripts.sil.org/CharisSIL_download

Doulos SIL: http://scripts.sil.org/DoulosSIL_download

Gentium: http://scripts.sil.org/Gentium_download

Legacy fonts:

SIL IPA93 or SIL IPA 1990: <http://scripts.sil.org/encore-ipa-download>

IPA-SAM: <http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/shop/fonts.php>

- An individual may be a first author of only one paper submitted for consideration.
- Papers will be reviewed by two or more reviewers.

第六屆漢語語法化問題國際學術討論會

截止日期： 2011年3月30日

會議日期： 2011年8月中旬

會議地點： 陝西師範大學(西安)

論文提要要求：(1)正文五號宋體，文體三號宋體，A4紙打印，字數以一面為限；(2)提要一式兩份。其中一份不署名，以便匿名評審。另一份請寫上作者姓名、單位、通訊地址及電子郵件信箱，以便訂裝成冊。

論文提要郵寄地址：710062 西安市長安南路199號陝西師範大學文學院 黑維強教授

會議聯絡人信箱：黑維強 heiweiqiang@163.com



Call for Contributions

為紀念中國現代語言學奠基人之一，我國著名語言學家、教育家、翻譯家、散文家和詩人王力先生，進一步弘揚王力先生的學術成就，王力先生的親屬、學生和中華書局共同組織編纂《王力全集》。《王力全集》旨在總結和梳理王力先生所創造的優秀科學文化成果，系統、科學地展示王力先生在多個領域的學術造詣和創作才能，為學界和廣大讀者提供最為精善、可供依憑的王力先生著作。目前，《王力全集》的編輯出版工作已經正式啟動。

中華書局從即日起至 2011 年底面向社會各界公開徵集王力先生著述的相關資料，以便遴選收入全集，保證全集能夠更加全面、完整地收錄王力先生的著述。徵集內容主要包括：

- 1) 王力先生所寫的書信；
- 2) 王力先生未刊詩、文及相關手稿；
- 3) 王力先生講話錄音及整理稿；
- 4) 以王力先生名義發表的題詞、賀詞、賀電、唁電等；
- 5) 王力先生著述的稀見版本及相關的資訊。

以上徵集的資料只需提供複印件。歡迎社會各界人士提供相關資料與資訊。感謝社會各界對《王力全集》編輯出版工作的大力支持！

中華書局聯繫方式：

聯繫人：周揚

電話：010-63400235

郵編：100073

地址：北京市豐台區太平橋西里 38 號中華書局語言文字編輯室

電子郵件：zhbczhouyang@163.com

Upcoming Events



The 19th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-19)

Date: June 11-13, 2011

Venue: Nankai University, Tianjin

Inquiries:

Email: IACL19questions@gmail.com

Website:

<http://nkyyx.nankai.edu.cn/nkyyx/index.html>

Association for Linguistic Typology 9th Biennial Meeting (ALT-9)

Date: July 21-24, 2011

Venue: The University of Hong Kong

Inquiries:

Email: ALT9HKU@gmail.com

Website:

<http://www.hku.hk/linguist/alt9/Home.html>



Recent Events / Post Conference Reports

The 6th International Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics (TEAL-6)

Date: August 15-16, 2010

Venue: Peking University, Beijing

"The Sixth International Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics" (TEAL-6) was held at Peking University, Beijing, China during August 15-16, 2010. The workshop was organized by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University-Peking University Research Centre on Chinese Linguistics, and co-organized by the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Peking University, Center for Chinese Linguistics, Peking University, and the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.



The TEAL Workshop was first launched in 1990 at the University of California, Irvine as a mid-size workshop intended to foster research on East Asian linguistics. It has been an important forum for presenting new theories and exchanging novel ideas that bear on East Asian languages with theoretical interests. Since 2002, the TEAL Workshop has been an international event. It was held at Doshisha University, Japan in 2002, at National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan in 2004, at Harvard University, USA in 2005, at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong in 2007, and at Potsdam University, Germany in 2008.

The TEAL-6 Workshop posted the call for papers on website in January, 2010. Upon the deadline for abstract submissions (15 March, 2010), a total of 134 abstracts were received, representing 18 countries and areas such as Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, China (Mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan), France, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, The United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States. To ensure a quality workshop, each abstract was blinded and assigned to a minimum of 3 reviewers. Finally, 20 abstracts with the highest average review scores were accepted for presentation, with the research topics ranging over syntax, phonology/phonetics, semantics, language acquisition, and experimental linguistics.

There were 25 authors/co-authors attending the workshop to present their papers. In addition, more than 200 young scholars and graduate students enthusiastically participated in the workshop. Prof. Dingxu Shi, the Executive Deputy Director of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University-Peking University Research Centre on Chinese Linguistics, delivered a speech at the opening ceremony, giving an overall briefing on TEAL-6 and addressing a hearty welcome to all the presenters and participants. A closing speech of TEAL-6 was delivered by Prof. C.-T. James Huang of the Department of Linguistics, Harvard University. Prof. Huang expressed his sincere appreciations to all the contributors and the organizing committee of TEAL-6 and warmly encouraged young scholars to persistently explore more linguistic mysteries in the future.



Contributed by **Sze-Wing TANG, Shuang HONG, Jing JIN**
For the Organizing Committee, TEAL-6

The 43rd International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Language and Linguistics (ICSTLL-43)

Date: October 16-18, 2010

Venue: Lund University, Lund, Sweden

The annual 'Sino-Tibetan' conference traditionally offers a forum for descriptively oriented work on this language family. The conference takes a broad view of Sino-Tibetan, welcoming contributions on Tai-Kadai and Miao-Yao languages as well as Tibeto-Burman and Chinese. Indeed, as Sun Hongkai pointed out in his opening address, such a broad view (dating back to Li Fang-Kuei) remains widely held among mainland scholars.

Languages discussed included Bai, Erkai, Green Hmong, Jinghpo, Jino, Kiranti, Khumi, Lahu, Lisu, Naxi, Nisu, nDrapa, Sorbung Tangut and Zhuang, as well as several varieties of Tibetan and Chinese. Hong Kong was represented by Picus Ding, Pan Yanhong, Virginia Yip and Stephen Matthews.

A special event was the symposium devoted to the Swedish sinologist Bernhard Karlgren (1889-1978). The occasion was the publication of Göran Malmqvist's biography *Bernhard Karlgren: Portrait of a Scholar*, which appeared in Swedish in 1995 and is due to appear in English in late 2010. As Karlgren's 'favorite pupil' Malmqvist recalled studying with him in the 1940s and reviewed the formative years of his career. Sun Hongkai evaluated Karlgren's influence on historical linguistics in China, while Tan Huiying discussed his thinking about language. William Baxter reviewed

Karlgren's landmark reconstruction of Archaic Chinese, noting that despite being hampered by a pre-phonemic view of phonology, many aspects of his reconstruction had been vindicated in subsequent work.



Göran Malmqvist with the collected works of Bernhard Karlgren

Abstracts from the conference are available at <http://conference.ht.lu.se/icstll43/program/>

Contributed by **Stephen MATTHEWS** (HKU)

第十屆粵語討論會

The Tenth Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-10)

時間： 2010年11月13日

地點： 香港中文大學

「第十屆粵語討論會」(WOC-10)在2010年11月13日(星期六)於香港中文大學潤昌堂舉行，由香港語言學學會和香港中文大學中國語言及文學系粵語研究中心聯合主辦。

首次的粵語討論會在2000年舉辦，到了2010年已經有十年的歷史。趁這次慶祝粵語討論會十周年的機會，主辦單位希望能夠回顧過去十年學界曾提出過的理論和研究方法，前瞻今後十年粵語研究的新方向。為了讓我們的同行、同學對粵語研究有新的認識，這次討論會的主題定為「粵語語法學的新視野」，特別強調粵語語法學研究的「新」。所報告的論文一共有九篇，主要圍繞以下這幾方面的語言學問題，發表己見：一、形式句法學和語義學在粵語研究方面的新發現；二、粵語區不同方言比較研究的新角度；三、粵語歷時研究的新方向；四、粵語習得研究的新發現；五、粵語語法新領域的探索。



第十屆粵語討論會的召集人鄧思穎首先代表香港語言學學會和中大中文系粵語研究中心向與會者簡介粵語討論會的緣起，並介紹籌辦這次討論會的宗旨。

接下來是九篇論文的報告，上午一共有三篇：香港教育學院語言資訊科學研究中心鄒家彥的講題是「從社會語言學角度看珠三角地區以外的粵語族群」，介紹了海南三亞、廣西百色、南寧、玉林等地社會語言學調查的方法和主要發現。香港教育學院語言資訊科學研究中心錢志安的講題是「粵語的三維研究方法」，從粵語的歷時、共時、地域等三方面，探討粵語語法的問題，例如雙賓句/與格句的語法特點。香港城市大學中文、翻譯及語言學系郭必之的講題是「粵語家族大分裂的原因：外在因素」，以南寧粵語的「非廣府片」語法特點為例，說明語言接觸怎樣驅動語法結構產生演變。

下午一共有六篇報告：香港中文大學中國語言及文學系鄧思穎的講題是「當粵語遇上句法學——點解做？點樣做？做咩乜？」，簡述句法學在粵語的研究與應用，並嘗試回答三個問題：一、為甚麼從句法學角度研究粵語？二、怎樣研究粵語的句法？三、有甚麼課題可以研究？香港中文大學中國語言及文學系歐陽偉豪的講題是「街頭巷尾日常用語的『小題大做』」，嘗試解說如何從一些街頭巷尾的片言隻字，揭示粵語背後的規律法則，繼而發展成為嚴肅的粵語語言學研究。香港科技大學人文學部姚玉敏的講題是「粵語歷史語法研究綜述」，簡述過去粵語歷史語法研究的參考文獻和重要著作，並且以粵語「起上嚟」一語，討論語言變化的軌跡及其研究方法。香港城市大學中文、翻譯及語言學系李寶倫的講題是「語義學與粵語研究有交叉點嗎？——從粵語動詞詞綴及句末助詞出發」，以粵語的量化、添加助詞「埋」、「晒」和「添」為例，說明語義在這些助詞釋義上所起的作用，以及語義學理論對粵語語法研究的重要性。香港大學教育學院練美兒的講題是「Grammatical Metaphor in Cantonese and Cantonese as an Academic Language」，討論粵語的一些語法隱喻在教學語言應用的問題。香港中文大學語言學及現代語言系李行德的講題是「為甚麼研究兒童語言？」，以粵語兒童如何習得句末助詞、名詞短語結構、動詞後綴等現象，論說兒童語言研究對瞭解語言和思維具有極大的參考價值，而兒童粵語研究對保存本土文化、了解本土歷史、認識文化認同等方面都有重要意義。

除了這九位發言人以外，香港中文大學中國語言及文學系丘寶怡、香港城市大學中文、翻譯及語言學系片岡新、香港大學語言學系丁思志獲邀請主持討論，而出席當天討論會的同行、同學非常踴躍，討論氣氛熱烈，有很好的互動交流。

會後決定第十一屆粵語討論會(WOC-11)將於2011年3月5日(星期六)假香港教育學院舉行，由香港語言學學會主辦，香港教育學院語言資訊科學研究中心贊助，主題是「粵語名詞性成份的句法和語義」。

Contributed by Sze-Wing TANG (CUHK)

News of Research Centres

Research Centre on Linguistics and Information Sciences (RCLIS) Hong Kong Institute of Education 香港教育學院 語言資訊科學研究中心

In the summer of 2010 the Hong Kong Institute of Education's **Research Centre on Linguistics and Language Information Sciences (RCLIS)** was established with the relocation of most staff members from the Language Information Sciences Research Centre of City University of Hong Kong.



The research efforts at RCLIS will be enhanced by the organization and establishment of two new constituent laboratories: **Corpus Linguistics Laboratory** and **Language Development Laboratory**.

RCLIS will continue to welcome more scholars and staff members with a widening variety of disciplinary backgrounds suited for our research on linguistics and language information sciences.

Below are some of the latest research developments of RCLIS:

- 1) Continuous cultivation of the Chinese synchronous and homothematic corpus, LIVAC (<http://www.livac.org>), which now contains 1.5 million word types on the basis of 400 million Chinese characters drawn mostly from newspaper texts from six major Chinese speaking communities (Beijing, Hong Kong, Macau, Shanghai, Singapore and Taipei) since 1995. A number of related publications have followed from these efforts, such as:



- a. Provision of neologism entries drawn from LIVAC for *The Oxford-Chinese Dictionary* [<http://www.oupchina.com.hk/ocd/>] published by Oxford University Press in September 2010.

[http://www.rclis.ied.edu.hk/cms/photo_album/oxford/]

- b. *The Global Dictionary on Chinese Neologisms* 《全球華語新詞語詞典》 published by Commercial Press, Beijing, in September 2010, is based exclusively on LIVAC and support from Chilin Star company in Zhuhai. [<http://www.ied.edu.hk/rclis/view.php?secid=1176&lang=en>]
- 2) Continuous elaboration of search engines and algorithms to enable meaningful parallel linguistic comparison and mediation between bilingual and technical texts in special domains. These have been applied to (3) and (4) below.
 - 3) Optimization on ACKER (<https://acker.chilin.hk/>), the first computerized platform for the automatic alignment of parallel Classical-Colloquial Chinese texts, whose launching in March 2010 was well received. (for trial, please login with your temporary username: **test3390** and password: **test3390**)
 - 4) Mining of *parallel* Chinese-English sentences drawn from *comparable* Chinese-English bilingual patent documents. This has led to the provision of a benchmark corpus and the joint organization in respect of an international competition on Chinese-English Machine Translation by the National Institute of Information and

Communication Technology (NICT) in Tokyo and RCLIS later this year. [<http://ntcir.nii.ac.jp/PatentMT/>]

- 5) Development of innovative web-based and cellphone-based intelligent language learning games involving the ubiquitous and all important 4-character idiomatic expressions in Chinese. Negotiations are underway for professional and industrial support. Trial games are currently available on the android platform. [http://www.rclis.ied.edu.hk/cms/games/cwp_flash/] (for trial, please login with your temporary username: **test3390** and password: **test3390**)
- 6) Following 4 years of intensive fieldwork involving more than 7,000 Primary 3 to Secondary 3 students in Hainan and Guangxi, we have completed a major research project on the quantitative and qualitative analysis of language drift and language shift under rapid urbanization there, with relevant findings for Hong Kong. [http://www.rclis.ied.edu.hk/cms/photo_album/fieldwork/]
- 7) We have been actively working on the production of a new and major dictionary 《全球華語詞典》 based on LIVAC and with collaboration from two universities outside Hong Kong as well as commercial support. Please look out for further update in the near future.
- 8) We will organize two international conferences in 2011, one on *corpus linguistics* and the other on *digital language learning and teaching*, all in the context of Chinese, and **the Eleventh Workshop on Cantonese (WOC-11)** in early March with the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong. [<http://www.swtang.net/woc2011.php>]
- 9) The 2010 LIVAC Annual Celebrity Roster and New Word Roster have been just released! [<http://www.livac.org/celebrity> and <http://www.livac.org/newword>]
- 10) RCLIS is spearheading the preparation of a new MA course in **Educational Linguistics and Communication Sciences** for both language teachers and speech therapists to be introduced at HKIEd in September 2011.

To keep track of these and other developments, such as the release of the new edition of the *Language Atlas of China*, please visit RCLIS's website at <http://www.ied.edu.hk/rclis>.

Phone: (+852) 2948-7750 Fax: (+852) 2948-7751

Email: rclis@ied.edu.hk

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The Hong Kong Institute of Education,
Tai Po, New Territories, Hong Kong

香港中文大學 粵語研究中心 Research Centre for Cantonese, CUHK



香港中文大學中國語言及文學系於 2000 年成立「粵語研究中心」(Research Centre for Cantonese)，旨在推動粵語的研究，是香港首個標榜以研究粵語語言學為重點的研究中心。過往曾協助多項粵音教學和測試的工作，參與普及粵音詞匯等知識的計劃。

到了 2010 年，本中心剛好成立了十年，在該年下半年舉行了一連串的學術活動，總的目的是希望探索語言學理論在粵語的應用，思考粵語研究對語言學理論所作出的貢獻，並作為慶祝中心成立十周年的活動。這些活動包括舉辦了四次的學術講座，邀請了本中心的歐陽偉豪報告「粵語離合詞的離與合」、香港科技大學人文

學部的張敏報告「『界/俾』來源新證：從方言比較看粵語雙及物結構」、暨南大學漢語方言研究中心的甘于恩報告「廣東漢語方言研究的格局與思路」、南加州大學語言學系的 Andrew Simpson 報告「The Syntactic Structuring of Passive in Chinese and Vietnamese: a Comparative View」。

此外，本中心還舉辦了兩次研討會作為慶祝活動，例如在 11 月 13 日與香港語言學學會聯合主辦「第十屆粵語討論會」(WOC-10)，主題是「粵語語法學的新視野」，報告的論文一共有九篇，都圍繞粵語語法學研究的「新」。在 12 月 21 日舉辦了「漢語有定特點學術論壇」(Workshop on Definiteness in Chinese)，一共有四篇論文，包括香港理工大學中文及雙語學系石定栩所發表的「What Marks the Definiteness in a Chinese Nominal Phrase?」、廣東外語外貿大學的張慶文和本中心的鄧思穎所發表的「Classifiers, Modifiers and Definiteness across Chinese Dialects」、香港中文大學語言學及現代語言系的李行德所發表的「Referentiality and Nominal Structure in Early Child Cantonese: a Comparative Exploration」、南加州大學語言學系的 Andrew Simpson 所發表的「The Definite Bare Classifier Construction: a Cross-linguistic Study」。



今後本中心將繼續積極進行和支持粵語語言和語言學的學術研究，並定下新的使命：一、追求粵語語言學研究的卓越成果；二、促進粵語和其他漢語方言的理論研究；三、致力探索和發展粵語研究的新方法和新方向。本中心希望能為學界提供一個充滿活力的平台，可以從具有創意的理論角度，匯集不同的構思和想法，發展和推動可行的研究方向，從而為粵語語言學的理論建設作出貢獻。

有關本中心的詳情，歡迎瀏覽以下的網頁：

<http://www.chi.cuhk.edu.hk/rcc/>

香港中文大學
中國語言及文學系
粵語研究中心

Members' Recent Publications / Dissertation



Editors: **Hung-Nin Samuel CHEUNG** and Song-Hing CHANG
Book Title: **Diachronic Change and Language Contact – Dialects in South East China** 歷時演變與語言接觸 – 中國東南方言
Publication Year: 2010
Publisher: Journal of Chinese Linguistics Monograph Series No.24

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Authors: **David C.S. LI**
 Title: **'Perfective paradox': A cross-linguistic study of the aspectual functions of -guo in Mandarin Chinese**
 Journal: **Chinese Language and Discourse 1 (2)**
 Publication Year: 2010
 Abstract: The toneless aspect mark -guo is generally viewed as a perfective marker with experiential function. It appears to be subject to a number of semantic constraints, such as discontinuity, repeatability or recurrence, reversibility, and indefinite reference. This article demonstrates that 'experiential' is only one of the three main local functions of -guo. Crucial to the determination of the local function of a -guo clause is the boundedness of the verb constellation: 'experiential' (atelic situation, typically Activity verbs), 'deresultative' (telic situation, typically Accomplishment and Achievement verbs), and 'ex-habitual' (stative verbs). We will first elucidate these three local functions and clarify various semantic constraints of -guo before examining a small corpus of 300 -guo sentences to ascertain the distribution of its local functions in authentic texts. Then we will analyze how these functions are manifested in other languages. The evidence suggests that -guo is untypical as a perfective marker; rather, cross-linguistically the lexico-grammatical exponents of the experiential, deresultative, and ex-habitual functions suggest that -guo behaves more like a perfect marker, hence the 'perfective paradox'. This paper is intended to be a contribution to general and contrastive aspectology.
 Keywords: aspect, aspectology, contrastive aspectology, Aktionsart, tense
 關鍵詞：體貌，體貌學，比較體貌學，動詞行為方式，時態

Authors: **Foong-Ha YAP, Pik-Ling CHOI and Kam-Siu CHEUNG**
 Title: **Delexicalizing di: How a Chinese noun has evolved into an attitudinal nominalizer**
 Monograph: **Formal Evidence in Grammaticalization Research**, ed. by An Van linden, Jean-Christophe Verstraete and Kristin Davidse
 Publisher: John Benjamins
 Publication Year: 2010



Author: **Qingwen ZHANG**
Title: **The Syntax of Non-verbal Predication in Mandarin Chinese**
Institution: Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Supervisor: Sze-Wing TANG
Co-supervisor: Dingxu SHI
Year: 2009
Abstract: The central issue of this study is nominal predication in Mandarin Chinese, which specifically refers to the construction composed of a subject and a nominal predicate without the intervention of a copula. Based on Davidson's (1967) event theory, especially the neo-Davidsonian event theory (Parsons 1990; Chierchia 1995, among many others), which claims that each sentence is endowed with a Davidsonian event/state argument, this study intends to give a unified account to the copulaless nominal predication construction in Mandarin Chinese, i.e., the grammaticality of the nominal predicate construction is dependent on whether the Davidsonian argument is visible or not.
Three types of nominal predicate constructions are examined, namely, the constructions whose predicates are temporal/locative nominals, modified noun phrases and possessive noun phrases. The three types of copulaless nominal predication constructions, distinctive as their syntactic manifestations are, have one thing in common: the Davidsonian argument has to be realized via assorted morpho-syntactic devices. To be specific, the Davidsonian argument of the temporal/locative nominal predicate construction is articulated by means of the spelt-out of the spatio-temporal argument; The realization of the Davidsonian argument of the modified nominal predication construction is dependent on the occurrence of non-intersective modifiers; The possessive nominal predicate construction takes advantage of the interplay between the temporal argument in the matrix clause and that of the possessive DP.
By examination to the nominal predication construction in Mandarin Chinese, it is revealed that nominal predication is parallel to verbal predication in that both of them require the visibility of the Davidsonian argument. Furthermore, it suggests that nominal predication in Mandarin Chinese is no different from English nominal predication. The only distinction between Mandarin Chinese and English lies in their different strategies to realize the Davidsonian argument: English puts all the workload on the spelt-out of tense, while Chinese tends to take advantage of different morpho-syntactic ways so long as the Davidsonian argument can be made visible. This indicates that nominal predication in Chinese is not language particular.
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Members' Recent Activities

Principal Investigator: **Pang-Fei KWOK** (City University of Hong Kong)
Project Title: **An Emendation to Wang Niansun's *Dushu Zazhi* (王念孫《讀書雜誌》
輯正)**
Source of Funding: GRF 2009/10
Abstract:



The prestigious Qing dynasty linguists, Wang Niansun (王念孫) and Wang Yinzhi (王引之) (father and son), are two of the leading figures in Chinese philology. Their *Dushu Zazhi* (《讀書雜誌》), which contains over 5000 case studies of linguistic issues identified from various Chinese classics, has long been regarded as one of the most authoritative works in the literature of the field. Since its publication, *Dushu Zazhi* has been used as an essential reference by Chinese philologists and researchers working in classical Chinese philology. While *Dushu Zazhi* is comprehensive and meticulous in its analyses, a number of inaccuracies have been found in their discussions, such as those on loan characters, semantics and syntax. There has not been any work that attempts to provide a systematic rectification of these issues. This project is an attempt to revisit each case study in *Dushu Zazhi* from the perspectives of documentology, etymology, semantics, phonology, and syntax, and provide possible rectification of these "errors."

Principal Investigator: Haihua PAN (City University of Hong Kong)

Project Title: A Semantic Investigation into Indexicals -- with a Special Reference to Chinese

Source of Funding: GRF 2009/10

Abstract:

Indexicals are linguistic expressions (such as I, here, now, today, he, she, and that) which have their reference shifting from context to context. For instance, when you use the word 'I', it designates you; when I use the same word, it designates me. As we have seen, indexicals reflect the economy and flexibility of human language, and consequently require one's higher cognitive capability to grasp their meaning. In this project, we will pursue the meaning of indexicals. In his classic paper on Demonstratives, Kaplan claims that indexicals are directly referential: when an indexical is used in a context, it picks out its referent directly, without the mediation of any propositional component as in the Fregean sense. Kaplan takes this to imply that the referent of an indexical is fixed by the actual context of use, and cannot be affected by logical operators. However, this view is challenged by four kinds of cases: (a) sloppily bound 'I' under 'only'; (b) first-person 'de se' belief reports; (c) shifted indexicals; and (d) the phenomenon of deferred reference. After examining these problematic cases, this project argues that indexicals are indeed directly referential, but their interactions with attitude verbs, modal operators as well as quantifiers are far more complicated than that suggested by Kaplan's analysis. After an intensive study of these interactions, we will extend our analysis to the study of Chinese reflexive pronoun 'ziji'. 'Ziji' behaves in a distinct way from other pronouns. It can be used as an indexical, an anaphor and/or a bound variable. Given the fact that there is no appealing interpretation of it yet, we will conduct a comprehensive study from the semantic perspective based on the comparison between 'ziji' and first person indexical 'wo' (I) in Chinese. Finally, we will unify indexicals, anaphors and bound variables in the framework of Discourse Representation Theory (DRT) to achieve the interpretation of pronominal expressions in a single framework. The present research contributes to the general theory of meaning. It will further benefit the relevant theoretical research such as the nature of belief, self-knowledge, first-person perspective and consciousness. The outcomes generated will improve people's understanding of expressions containing indexicals, and consequently help explain how the communication between groups of people comes true and what the cognitive process and mechanism are like when people learn and use language.

Principal Investigator: Sze-Wing TANG (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Project Title: On the Discontinuous Constructions in Cantonese

Source of Funding: GRF 2009/10

Abstract:



Cantonese is normally regarded as a language that has an unusually rich repertoire of postverbal elements, many of which cannot be found in Mandarin. The question arises as to the syntactic representation of these functional categories and their preverbal counterparts in clausal structure. This project focuses on the syntax of functional categories in Cantonese, concentrating on the discontinuous constructions of functional categories and their dialectal variation under a parametric framework. In this proposed project, I will investigate systematically how a postverbal element in the discontinuous construction interacts with its preverbal counterpart. The descriptive results can be used as a database for future research in Chinese grammar and Chinese dialectology. To account for the empirical findings observed, this project will formulate a syntactic theory of the discontinuous constructions in Cantonese, and identify parameters from which the dialectal variation emerges. The theoretical part of the project will provide a theory of the discontinuous constructions in Cantonese that is grounded on comparative dialectal consideration. The vision behind this proposal is that the differences between Cantonese and Mandarin with respect to the discontinuous constructions can be all traced back to some 'micro-parameters' that will have predictable consequences in a number of constructions in these two dialects. This is a task that has not been taken before. The results are expected to help in fine-tuning the grammatical knowledge of the discontinuous constructions and to enable us to open up a new horizon in the study of functional categories in Chinese at large, resolving some longstanding disputes and controversies surrounding their syntactic nature in Chinese. It is also hoped that the project could provide a perspective from Chinese dialectal grammar on the understanding of the peripheral positions of a sentence in human language, shedding light on the studies of language acquisition and facilitating language learning of Cantonese and Mandarin/standard Chinese.

Obituary

Professor Hwang-Cherng GONG 龔煌城教授 (1934-2010)



香港語言學學會致中央研究院語言學研究所之唁電：

驚聞 龔煌城教授於九月十一日逝世，不勝悲痛。龔教授生前曾到香港作學術交流，對香港語言學界有相當的影響。我們謹向龔教授的家人表示深切的哀悼。

香港語言學學會

龔煌城教授紀念網站：

<http://www.ling.sinica.edu.tw/hcgong/im/biography.asp>