

MULTIPERSPECTIVE STUDIES OF LANGUAGE: THEORY AND APPLICATION

—SELECTED PROCEEDINGS OF THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL FREE LINGUISTICS CONFERENCE

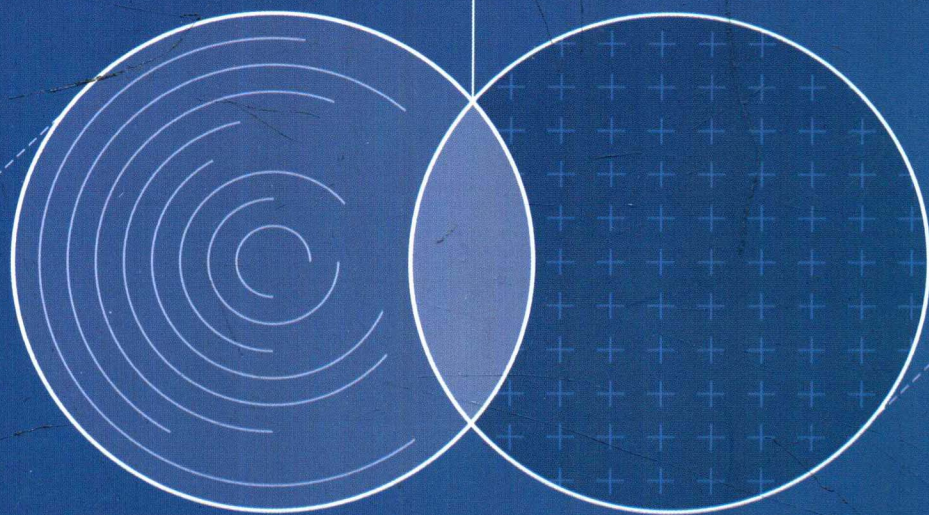
语言的多维视角研究: 理论与实践

——第八届中国跨学科语言学大会论文选集

主 编：赖良涛

副主编：阿玛·马哈布（澳） 王品

Edited by Liangtao Lai, Ahmar Mahboob and Pin Wang



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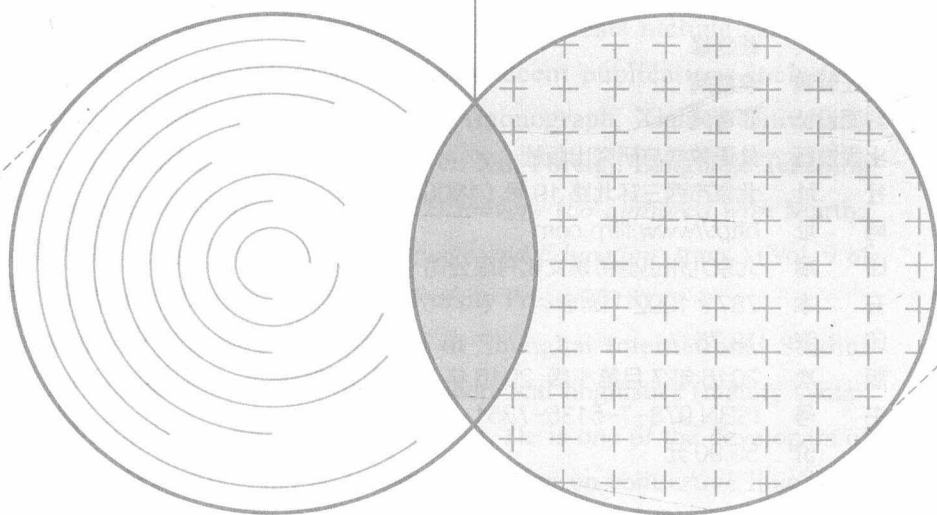
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Introduction

Since its establishment as an independent discipline in the early twentieth century, linguistics has undergone rapid development, as is witnessed by the great diversity of theories, methodologies, and practices in the area. This prosperity is, on the one hand, a blessing for all linguists considering the wealth of linguistic knowledge that we have gained, but on the other, leads to the segmentation of the discipline that should be an organic entirety. According to the Legitimation Coding Theory of Karl Maton (2014: 106), segmentalism in intellectual fields arises with the accumulation of new ideas or approaches that fail to integrate existing knowledge, which is caused by the strong classification and framing values both inside and outside the field. As an intellectual field, linguistics at its current state of development is also characterized by segmentalism, as is shown by the strong boundaries between different schools and subfields, and by the strong framing of research methods and procedures adopted in each school and subfield. Each school has its own premises, aim, methodology, theory, and practices that clearly demarcate its field and prevents trespassers with different backgrounds. As a result, different subfields have their own realms that are often mutually incompatible, which renders it difficult, if not impossible, to integrate them into a coherent unity. Scholars from different backgrounds no longer sit together to communicate; and even if we want, we find it difficult to understand each other as we speak different “languages”. To facilitate further development of linguistics, we need to eliminate this segmentalism, cross the boundaries, and sit together to communicate with each other.

It is out of this belief that the Free Linguistics Conference (FLC) was initiated, which aims at providing a widely accessible forum for linguists in all areas of research to come together and share their diverse perspectives and findings. The 8th Annual International Free Linguistics Conference (the 8th FLC), held at the School of Foreign Languages, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, 26-27 September, 2014, is another significant step toward this aim. In this all-inclusive forum are congregated more than 180 scholars from more than 20 countries/regions. Presentations delivered cover a wide range of mainstream linguistics, including both theoretical linguistics (phonetics and phonology, lexicology, syntax, and semantics), and applied linguistics (such as sociolinguistics, educational linguistics, language teaching and acquisition, computational linguistics, translation studies, and discourse analysis), and involve more than ten languages such as English, German, Chinese, Arabic, Tagalog and Pashto. In one word, as

trespassers of both geographical and intellectual borders, scholars with different intellectual backgrounds sit together, share their insights and discoveries, and make concerted efforts to further our studies of languages.

This book, *Multiperspective Studies of Language: Theory and Application*, is the fruition of the concerted efforts of the scholars presenting at the 8th FLC. It consists of 20 selected papers that are organized into four parts according to the subfields they belong to: theoretical linguistics, educational linguistics, social linguistics, translation studies and computational linguistics. All papers included in this volume were selected after going through a double-blind peer-review process.

Part One focuses on theoretical linguistic studies and includes six papers that deal with topics relating to phonology, lexis, grammar, and semantics. Zhong Yang's paper explores categorization in ancient Chinese philosophy and reveals the striking similarity between the experiential view of Chinese categorization and the view of modern cognitive linguistics and the importance of categorization as the basis of inference. Bingjun Yang shows the underlying similarity between the uses and structures of Chinese and English measure nominals and argues for the inappropriateness of the distinction between classifier and non-classifier languages as far as these two languages are concerned. Liangtao Lai reconsiders evidentiality within the SFL framework and maintains that evidentiality as a source of information is independent of epistemic modality, can be realized by various rank units and has different functions in specific contexts. Mohammad Al-Khawalda and Lina Al-Mawajdeh examine the conceptual and connotative meanings of body part words in Jordanian Arabic, and show the frequent use of their connotative meanings and the neglect of their conceptual meanings. Muhammad Kamal Khan examines the SOV word order and the complex syllable structure of Pashto as a proof of negation against the simplistic correlation between word order and syllable structure. The paper by Aizhen Zhang and Weizhen Chen reviews Russell's theory of types and Wittgenstein's logical symbolism as responses to Russell's set-theoretical paradox, and argues that Wittgenstein's theory of logical symbolism approaches Russell's paradox in a simpler yet more significant way than Russell's theory of types, though neither has achieved the goal of revealing the logic of natural language.

Part Two, comprising six papers, focuses on topics in educational linguistics, that is, it explores the applications of language studies in education. J. R. Martin introduces a practical model for managing specialized knowledge in schools based on the analysis of the power words, power grammar and power composition that characterize educational texts, and interpret the enacting of semantic waves that bridge between students' personal experience and esoteric knowledge. Yongsheng Zhu's paper reviews previous studies on the formative mechanisms of semantic waves and argues for spaciality as another mechanism in addition to theme, new

information, temporality, semantic density and semantic gravity. Bin Tang draws on Martin's theorization of individuation (Martin 2010) to model the redistribution of literacy resources in society and explore its implications for school education. Wei Zhang's paper describes a Systemic Functional approach to content literacy incorporated in a TESOL teacher training program for in-service content teachers, with a view to raise their awareness of text complexity and their capacity of academic language teaching. Thomas Mitchell, Ryan Miller and Silvia Pessoa present a longitudinal case study of a student's development in his use of engagement resources (in SFL use of the term) to incorporate and interpret source texts and manage alternative voices in university history writing. Michael Youles proposes "pinyinising", an adaptation of "Hanyu Pinyin" on the basis of International Phonetic Alphabet, as an effective means to help Chinese students improve their pronunciation of the weak forms and linking in English speaking.

Part Three includes five papers that explore topics in social linguistics studies. Juliane House examines the role of English as a global lingua franca (ELF) and people's worry about its "threat" to multilingualism and translation, and suggests a compromise position of neither bedeviling ELF nor welcoming it naively and uncritically. Qingye Tang's paper examines the self-representation of old-generation Chinese migrant workers on the basis of a small interview corpus, and reveals their rejection of the name "migrant workers" as a stigma, their strong sense of in-group solidarity and sense of negative otherness against hostile outer groups. Jinjun Wang analyzes the matization and nominalization as two strategies for national identity construction as shown in news reports by Chinese and Canadian press about the takeover of Nexen Oil Company. Ambreen Shahnaz, Samina Amin Qadir and Farah Riaz explore gender construction in Pakistani children's literature on the basis of a corpus and reveal a strong presence of gender bias against females. Jing Xu explores strategies for inter-modal construction of institutional identity in multimodal discourses of print ads and academic journals, and argues for the role of semiotic modes other than language in identity construction.

Finally, Part Four includes three papers that focus on language translation and computation. Tangjin Xiao's paper suggests Pinyin expressions as a reflection of nominalization in Chinese-to-English translation of national culture, which can condense meanings, convey unique Chinese culture and help materialize discourse ideology. Chengyu Liu and Xu Zhang discuss Howard Goldblatt's manipulation in his translation of *Red Sorghum* (a masterpiece of the Nobel Prize winner Mo Yan) to cater to target readers' cultural preferences through a comparative transitivity analysis of the source and target texts. Chunlei Yang and Dan Flickinger introduce the methodology of grammar engineering for deep linguistic processing and their development of a computational Chinese grammar—Mandarin Grammar Online in the syntactic framework of head-driven phrase structure grammar using the semantic representation of Minimal Recursion Semantics.

Topics in this book not only cover different subfields, but are also discussed from multiple perspectives and grounded in different theoretical frameworks. Theories drawn upon in the book include systemic functional linguistics, cognitive linguistics, critical discourse analysis, social semiotics, sociology of education, set theory in mathematics, formal logic, computer science, and language engineering, etc. These are combined with a variety of research methods such as theoretical disputation, questionnaire, interview, corpus, statistics, longitudinal case study, mathematical demonstration, and modelling. These features are the result of the concerted efforts of the authors to break the borders between different subfields and share their findings with colleagues who work in other areas of language sciences. Thus, the book, like a piece of polyphonic music, is a sign of heteroglossia in which each author voices their respective positions and dialogizes with each other at the same time and reflects the foundation principles of the Free Linguistics Conference.

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Part One
Theoretic Linguistic Studies

An Exploration into Conceptions of Category in Ancient Chinese Philosophy

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1. Introduction

Categories refer to “the basic and general concepts of thought, language and reality” (Bunnin and Yu 2001: 142). Understood as such, categories are essential to cognition. The process of construing experience in terms of categories is fundamental in human cognition. The position of categorization in cognition is clearly expressed by Taylor (2003: vi): “All living creatures, even the lowest, possess the ability to categorize. In order to survive, a creature has to be able, at the very least, to distinguish what is edible from what is inedible, what is benign from what is harmful”. He points out that categorization serves to reduce the complexity of the environment.

Categories as concepts construe experience, while subcategories reflect re-construal of experience. Sub-categorization as a cognitive process extends human knowledge. Both categories and subcategories are realized lexically. The study of categories has been an academic arena in many disciplines, including linguistics, psychology and philosophy. Aristotle started the philosophical exploration into categories. Almost in the same historical period, the School of Logicians in China’s Warring States period explored the ideas of categories and sub-categories.

This paper first explores, based on data from some Chinese classics, the initiation of the ideas of categories and subcategories from a linguistic perspective and then discusses the function of categorization in reasoning and the position of speculating category in Chinese philosophy of language.

2. The conception of category in Moist thinking

In Chinese epistemology, the relation between language and reality was an important topic during the Warring States period. Due to drastic changes of the society, there appeared to be