

BOUNDARY SHIFT AND THE TYPOLOGICAL CHANGE: A DIACHRONIC COGNITIVE SEMANTIC APPROACH TO THE EVENT STRUCTURE OF THE TOP ONE HUNDRED HIGH-FREQUENCY VERBS IN MANDARIN

Fuyin Thomas Li, Longbo Ren; Yu Shen, Jiayu Yang, Lin Yu and Cuiying Zhang

The past two or three decades have witnessed a rapid increase of the literature on Talmyan two-way typology. According to this bifurcation, the world languages generally fall into two broad types, the verb-framed languages and the satellite-framed languages (Talmy 2000). Recently, scholars have turned their attention to the diachronic aspect of the macro-event, the fundamental concept on which Talmy established his two-way typology. Inspired by the Talmyan typology and its theoretical insights, this theme session will employ even broader theoretical constructs (Bohnenmeyer et al. 2007; Lehmann 2015; Levin 1993; Levin and Rappaport Hovav 1991, 2005; Li 2018, 2019, 2023, 2024; Li and Liu 2023; Vendler 1957, etc.) to explore the diachronic evolution of the event structure in general, and the event structure in Mandarin in particular.

Methodologically, altogether 100 high-frequency monosyllabic verbs in contemporary Mandarin have been identified, and a closed-corpus has been established. The 6 periods are divided according to every 500 years covering the whole range of over 3000 years of the evolutionary history of Mandarin, the data sources and periodization are presented below.

Period 1: (pre-Archaic to 300), archaic-Chinese, selected work Zuo Zhuan (300 BC).

Period 2: (200 BC 100 AC), archaic-Chinese, selected works Hanshu, Lunheng (1st century).

Period 3: (101-600), early-middle-Chinese, selected work Qi Min Yao Shu (500).

Period 4: (601-1100), early-middle-Chinese, selected work Zhu Zi Yu Lei (1100).

Period 5: (1101-1600), early Mandarin, selected work Journey to the West (1600).

Period 6: (1601-2000), modern Mandarin, selected work The-Three-Body (2000).

The top 100 high-frequency monosyllabic verbs can be divided into ten categories. The categories and the amount of verbs are listed below: 1) declarative: 1, 2) existential: 3, 3) motion and direction: 16, 4) state change: 8, 5) activity: 12, 6) analytic causatives: 6, 7) force dynamics: 16, 8) correlation: 10, 9) behavior of organ: 9, 10) psychological: 4, 11) Manners: 14.

Specific research questions will be formulated on the following aims:

- The evolutionary path of the conflation patterns of the semantic elements: Motion, Manner, Figure, Ground, etc.
- The formation of different types of the macro-events: Motion, temporal contouring, state change, realization, etc.
- Distribution of the Vendlerian event types: State, activity, achievement, and accomplishment.

- How the motion boundary shift influences language typology: Description of the change pattern of motion event boundary, boundary crossing, boundary shift, and the translocation of the semantic space (Hu 2006), and how these would affect the typology.
- Ontologically, to examine diachronically the appropriateness of Vendlerian event types.

The theme session consists of 19 abstracts as attached after the references, representing 7 institutions.

References

1. Bohnemeyer, J., Nicholas J. Enfield, James Essegbey, Iraide Ibarretxe-Antuñano, Sotaro Kita, Friederike Lüpke & Felix K. Ameka. 2007. Principles of event segmentation in language: The case of motion events. *Language* 83.495-532.
2. Hu, Chirui. 2006. A Case Study of the Semantic Change of 去-qù-go, *Chinese Language*, 6: 520-530. (胡敕瑞, “去”之“往/至”义的产生过程, 《中国语文》).
3. Lehmann, Christian. 2015. *Thoughts on Grammaticalization* (3rd edition). Berlin: Language Science Press.
4. Levin, B. 1993. *English Verb Classes and Alternations*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
5. Levin, B., and Rappaport Hovav, M. 1991. Wiping the slate clean: A lexical semantic exploration. *Cognition*, 41: 123-151.
6. Levin, Beth and Malka Rappaport Hovav. 2005. *Argument Realization*. Cambridge: CUP.
7. Li, Thomas Fuyin. 2018. Extending the Talmyan typology: A case study of the macro-event as event integration and grammaticalization in Mandarin. *Cognitive Linguistics*, 29(3): 585-621.
8. Li, Thomas Fuyin. 2019. Evolutionary order of macro-events in Mandarin. *Review of Cognitive Linguistics*, 17(1): 155-186.
9. Li, Thomas Fuyin. 2023. The Macro-event Hypothesis. In Li (Eds.) *Handbook of Cognitive Semantics* (Volume 3), 119-145: Leiden: Brill.
10. Li, Thomas Fuyin. 2024. Image schemas and (POINT)-TO-POINT event model for the macro-event. *Review of Cognitive Linguistics*, V22, 1-30.
11. Li, Thomas Fuyin, Na Liu. 2021. Potentials for Grammaticalization: Sensitivity to Position and Event Type. *Review of Cognitive Linguistics*, 19(1): 363-402.
12. Talmy, Leonard. 2000. *Toward a Cognitive Semantics. Volume II: Typology and Process in Concept Structuring*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
13. Vendler, Z. 1957. Verbs and Times. *The Philosophical Review* LXVI: 143-160.

