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## Review of: Aspect in Mandarin Chinese: A Corpus-Based Study

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action, but the semantic component of inaccessibility takes center stage.

The adjective *djup* has the putative antonym *grund* 'shallow', which V finds to correspond to the prototypical meaning, but not to the more peripheral extensions. By contrast, *grund* can describe objects of little height, such as *grunda trappsteg* 'shallow steps (of a staircase)', which cannot be described by *djup*. Finding similar effects also for the other adjective pairs, V concludes that prior accounts have overstressed the antonymous nature of dimensional adjectives.

Cognitive-linguistic accounts of spatial language have primarily been concerned with the semantics of adpositions. V offers a convincing cognitive-semantic account of dimensional adjectives, which are an equally fascinating—and as yet understudied—field of investigation. [MARTIN HILPERT, *Rice University*.]

**Aspect in Mandarin Chinese: A corpus-based study.** By RICHARD XIAO and TONY McENERY. (Studies in language companion series 73.) Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2004. Pp. x, 303. ISBN 1588116018. \$138 (Hb).

The authors of this study pursue two goals. Citing examples from a large corpus of texts rather than relying primarily on native-speaker intuitions, they provide a fine-grained account of how aspect operates on both the lexical and sentential levels in contemporary Mandarin Chinese. Based on this description, they propose a number of refinements to currently existing general theories of aspect. The accompanying discussion revisits such important issues as the difference between aspect and Aktionsart, situation aspect vs. viewpoint aspect, contextual levels of analysis, and the notion of time vs. space in definitions of event boundedness.

Theoretical preliminaries occupy the first three of the book's seven chapters. Important works that inform this discussion are Bernard Comrie's overview of aspectual concepts and categories (*Aspect*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1976) and Zeno Vendler's seminal definition of states, activities, accomplishments, and achievements (*Linguistics in philosophy*, New York: Cornell University Press, 1967). Xiao and McEnery also adopt the definition of semelfactives from Carlota S. Smith's *The parameters of aspect* (2nd edn., Dordrecht: Kluwer, 1997) and elaborate upon Lauri Carlson's distinction between individual-level predicates and stage-level predicates ('Aspect and quantification', *Syntax and semantics, vol. 14: Tense and aspect*, New York: Academic Press, 1981, pp. 31–64) to distinguish two types of stative verbs. Altogether, this yields a system

of six basic situation types rather than Vendler's original four.

Chs. 5 and 6 contain a detailed analysis of how these situation types interact with the expression of various nuances of perfective and imperfective aspect in Mandarin Chinese. Making reference to copious examples, the authors identify eight viewpoint markers, rather than the three (*-le*, *-guo*, *-zhe*) commonly discussed in grammars of Chinese, and offer many insights into how these markers interact with lexical and sentential layers of aspect. All example sentences are rendered in Pinyin (though minus tone marks) and are provided with full morpheme glossing and idiomatic English translations.

Ch. 6 contains a preliminary comparison of aspect in English and Chinese in light of translation patterns of English tense/aspect categories into Chinese. Ch. 7 (281–86) concludes with a brief summary of findings.

As the first published text-based study of aspect in Chinese, this book demonstrates the value of corpus data for purposes of developing linguistic theory. By filling numerous gaps in the description of Chinese aspect, the findings will prove essential to anyone wishing to gain a more complete picture of Mandarin Chinese language structure. The book is also useful for its clear summary of previous approaches to the theory of aspect and for the clarity it brings to the description of basic aspectual categories. Also welcome is the two-layered approach adopted, which accounts for situation aspect in terms of verb classes on the lexical level and as situation types on the sentential level, resulting in a synthesis of ideas presented by both Vendler and Smith. It remains to be seen, however, whether the categories developed here and used with such success in describing Mandarin Chinese will indeed work equally well in the description of other languages. [EDWARD J. VAJDA, *Western Washington University*.]

**The intonational phonology of direct and indirect imperative sentence types in Seoul Korean.** By HYUNG-SOON YIM. Munich: LINCOM Europa, 2003. Pp. 133. ISBN 3895867225. \$68.40.

This book describes the intonation of two sentence types, the direct and indirect imperative sentences in Seoul Korean, and claims that the two morphosyntactically equivalent sentence types are intonationally distinguishable by demonstrating their differences in perception, acoustic properties, and intonational phonology.

The book consists of six chapters. Ch. 1, 'Introduction' (1–8), establishes preliminary concepts that