

TAU+VP AND CLAUSE-FINAL TAU
IN XIAOLONGMEN, A XIANG DIALECT

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ABSTRACT

It is observed that the morpheme TAU 到 in Xiaolongmen, a Xiang dialect, appears in two distinctive positions to give sentences a past tense interpretation. The preverbal TAU (*tau*₁²¹³) indicates that the subject went/came to a location to participate in an event, and the subject has already left the location and the actions/events have been terminated by the speaking moment; the clause-final TAU (*tau*₂²¹³) indicates actions or states happened at least once in the past and they have stopped at the speaking time; it also implies that that is the reason for the current situation. We argue that *tau*₁²¹³ is a perfective aspect marker which assigns a past tense interpretation by using the non-coincidence relationship between the event location and the location of the event initiator. As for *tau*₂²¹³, it is argued to be a resultative perfect aspect marker indicating an action/state happened at least once at some time in the past and it has resulted in the current situation.

KEYWORDS

TAU 到 +VP Clause-final TAU 到 Tense Aspect Xiang

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湘语小龙门方言中的动词前“到”和子句尾“到”

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摘要

本文主要介绍和讨论湘语小龙门方言中动词前“到”以及子句尾“到”的用法。前者（到₁）用来表示主语在话语时间之前去到某个地点或者来到话语地点做某事，在话语时间之时此事件/动作已经终止或完成，且主语在话语时间已经离开事件地点；后者（到₂）表示动作或状态在过去发生，于说话时间动作或状态已经结束或终止。除此之外，句子还传达说话者的肯定性解释语气：所陈述的事实是造成目前状况的原因。本文认为到₁是一个给句子带去过去时解读的完整体标记；语义上，到₁是一个处所谓词，利用话语地点与事件执行者地点的非耦合关系来实现事件定位。到₂则是一个表达结果义且与现时相关的完成体标记。

关键词

动词前“到” 子句尾“到” 时体 湘语