



Noun Phrase Complement Types, Gapless Relatives, and Finiteness

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In spite of some recent proposals to the contrary, there exists abundant evidence for a systematic adjunct-complement distinction among the pre-nominal modifying clauses in Chinese, as it does in other languages. The complements can be further divided into several types, including full-blown complement clauses and so-called ‘gapless relatives’. Building upon recent works by Zhang (2008), Huang (2016, 2017) and Lu (2017), it will be seen that the architecture of NP-complements parallels that of VP-complements to a great extent, exhibiting different clause sizes (CP, IP and vP) as the canonical structural realizations of appropriate S-selected arguments (Propositions, Events, and Actions, respectively). As in the case of VP-complementation, these NP-complement types also bear on the issue of ‘finiteness’ in Chinese. To the extent demonstrable, each type also exhibits typical ‘signature properties’ bearing on the distribution of overt subjects (vs. PRO), certain modal auxiliaries, evaluative adverbs, as well as clause-internal movement.

Date: November 10, 2017 (Friday)

Time: 4:30pm - 6:00pm (Tea reception: 3:45pm)

Venue: 2/F, Activities Room, Art Museum East Wing, Institute of Chinese Studies,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



C.-T. James Huang received his Ph.D. from MIT in 1982 and has held teaching positions at the University of Hawai'i, National Tsing Hua University, Cornell University, and University of California before taking up his current position as Professor of Linguistics at Harvard University (2001--). He has also held short-term visiting lecturing and research positions in Europe, Australia, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. He has published extensively on subjects in syntactic analysis, the syntax–semantics interface, and parametric theory. He is a Fellow of the Linguistic Society of America (2015--), an Academician of Academia Sinica (2016--), and founding co-editor of *Journal of East Asian Linguistics* (1992--present).



All are welcome

