You See What You Believe: On Perception Verbs in Chinese

Prof. Wei-wen Roger LIAO
Academia Sinica

Date: February 7, 2023 (Tuesday)
Time: 4:30pm - 6:15pm (Hong Kong Time, UTC +8)

*Seminar will be conducted via ZOOM

Prior registration is required
The Zoom Meeting details will be provided on February 6, 2023

Abstract

Two types of perception verbs (PVs) can be distinguished in Chinese, called complex PVs (like *kan-dao* 看到) and bare PVs (like *kan* 看). The two types of PVs differ from each other in terms of factivity, abilities to express beliefs, eventualities of the complements, and selections of eventive nouns. It is found that complex PVs in Chinese require their complements to refer to perceivable events, and it is argued that complex PVs can be analyzed within the individual event analysis in much the same way as PVs in Japanese. Complex PVs provide strong evidence for the individual event analysis because the complement can be headed by an eventive noun (or a situation pro), and together, they form a gapless relative clause, which denotes the perceived event. Bare PVs, on the other hand, express a doxastic belief of the perceiver and can be analogized to the ECM-construction. It is argued that the complement is headed by a functional projection encoding the perceiver's belief, and the functional head introduces a control relation between the perceived situation and the 'believed-to-be' situation.

Speaker

Wei-wen Roger Liao is Associate Research Fellow/Professor of Linguistics in Academia Sinica and National Tsing Hua University in Taiwan. He received his PhD in 2011 from University of Southern California. His research interests include comparative syntax, syntax-semantics interface, and Chinese linguistics. He has worked on issues concerning nominal expressions, phrase structural rules, syntax-discourse mapping, and cross-linguistic finiteness.

All are Welcome

Enquiries
Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, CUHK.
Tel: (852)3943 7911   Fax: (852)2603 7755   E-mail: lin@cuhk.edu.hk