Chinese 750C Research Seminar: Structure  
Fall 2014

Lecture Time: Thursday 12:30 p.m. -- 3:00 p.m.  
Lecture Room: Moore Hall 358  
Course Website: https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal/site/MAN.79395.201510  
For the updated version of this syllabus, consult the course website.

Instructor:
L. Julie Jiang (蒋鲤)  
Assistant Professor, Dept. of East Asian Languages and Literatures, College of LLL  
Email: lijiang@hawaii.edu  
Office: Moore Hall 359  
Office hours: Wed 2:30 p.m. -- 3:20 p.m., or by appointment

1. Course Description
The structure of a particular language can be understood more effectively if studied in the context of some grammatical theory. This course aims to introduce and study those aspects of (Mandarin) Chinese syntax that have figured in recent theoretical literature. We will investigate the reason why these aspects pose interesting questions and their relevance to current theoretical research even beyond the study of Chinese. These include the following three main topics: (i) introduction to the basic syntactic structure of (Mandarin) Chinese in the nominal domain, the verbal domain, and the clausal domain, (ii) word order and variation, (iii) syntax-semantics mapping.

2. Student Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students
[1] are able to recognize the key features of some of the structures in Chinese;  
[2] understand the relationship between different structures;  
[3] understand the generative approach to the structure of Chinese;  
[4] demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the kinds of issues on the structure of Chinese frequently studied and debated by Chinese scholars;  
[5] demonstrate sufficient knowledge to examine some of the structures in Chinese at a descriptive level;  
[6] demonstrate sufficient knowledge to analyze some of the structures in Chinese at an explanatory level and to proceed to further studies concerning the structure of Chinese.

3. Course Requirements
[1] Participation in class (20%)  
[2] Readings and presentation of assigned reading materials (20%)  
[3] A paper (about 15 double-spaced pages) that either represents original research with (some) reference to Chinese syntax, or a critical survey of a number of treatments on one (or more) areas of Chinese syntax or syntax-semantics mapping (due Dec 21) (50%)  
[4] A one-page abstract (or outline plan) of [3] due on the 11th Sunday of the semester (Nov 09) (10%)
4. Lecture Topics

I. Basic Syntactic Patterns
   1. Categories
   2. Argument Structures

II. The basic syntactic structure of (Mandarin) Chinese in the nominal domain, the verbal domain, and the clausal domain
   3. The Noun Phrase: its internal syntax and semantics and its external syntax and semantics
   4. The Verb Phrase: adjuncts and complements, Aspectual phrases (-le/zhe/guo), Modals, etc
   5. Topic constructions
   6. Relative Clauses
   7. Questions
   8. The bei and ba construction

III. Language Variation within the Chinese language family
   9. Language variation: word order, internal structures/external syntax, and semantic interpretations

This list may change as we progress in the course. We will try to cover most of these topics (some rather superficially). Even with all these topics included, our coverage of Chinese syntax is far from comprehensive. For general descriptions, see Y.-R. Chao (1968) and Li & Thompson (1981).

5. Course Materials

Textbook

- There is no required textbook for the course. However, the lectures on the topics 1 and the topics 4-8 will be based in part on the chapters of Huang, Li and Li (2009, HLL). (Students may be asked to present some of these or other readings.) If you’d like a structure of Chinese textbook, this work is recommended:

   Huang, C.-T. James, Li, Y.-h. Audrey, & Li, Yafei. 2009 The Syntax of Chinese. Cambridge University Press.

- In addition, for each topic listed above, a number of specific references will be given, some of which will be required reading.

Readings and References

- Most required readings will be made available on the course website.
- Recommended readings are optional, but if you are interested in a specific topic, the recommended readings will help you understand the topic better. Essential items from the recommended reading list will also be posted on the course website.

The list of Readings and References will be updated continually. As always there is more to be read than is possible, so one can only do as much as one can. Regardless of how much you are able to read, the most
The important thing is to read *carefully* and *critically*. Assuming that the facts observed are correct, why are they interesting (i.e., do they raise interesting questions for current theories)? If you know the language well enough, are the observations even correct? Do they lead to the generalizations as stated or implied by the author(s)? Most importantly, why are the facts the way they are? What would count as a good analysis, i.e. one that can derive and predict, hence explaining, the facts?

6. **Statement on Course Materials**

Please note that the course packet and other course materials are copyrighted and you do **not** have permission to distribute them to third parties for reproduction. In particular, private companies that request to purchase course materials from students have not been authorized by the instructor or the University.

7. **Collaboration Policy**

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to academic work. For assignments in this course, you are encouraged to consult with your classmates on the choice of paper topics and to share sources. You may find it useful to discuss your chosen topic with your peers, particularly if you are working on the same topic as a classmate. However, you should ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing and that it reflects your own approach to the topic. You must also adhere to standard citation practices in this discipline and properly cite any books, articles, websites, lectures, etc. that have helped you with your work. If you received any help with your writing (feedback on drafts, etc), you must also acknowledge this assistance.

8. **Disability Accommodations**

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you, and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

9. **Schedule of Topics**

The following is a preliminary schedule of topics. We may diverge slightly from this schedule, and I will notify you if we do.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 1 (Aug 28)</th>
<th>Course Introduction and Preliminaries (Basic clausal structures, Basic nominal structures, Some theoretical issues)</th>
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Fukui 2001 ‘Phrase Structure’: Section 1 and 2, pp. 374-398 |
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 2 (Sept 04)</th>
<th><strong>Categories</strong> (Lexical categories, Functional categories)</th>
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<tr>
<td>REQUIRED READINGS</td>
<td>HLL 2009: chapter 1 ‘Categories’</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 3 (Sept 11)</th>
<th><strong>Argument Structures</strong> (Types of predicates; The Unaccusative Hypothesis)</th>
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<td>REQUIRED READINGS</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 4 (Sept 18)</th>
<th><strong>Theoretical background warm-up: Generative approach to phrase structures (Constituents; Theta Roles; X-bar Theory; Movement)</strong></th>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 5 (Sept 25)</th>
<th><strong>Verbal Expressions</strong> (Adjunct and complements; Postverbal Constituents, Preverbal constituents)</th>
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<tr>
<td>REQUIRED READINGS</td>
<td>HLL 2009: chapter 3 ‘The Verb Phrase’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECOMMENDED READINGS</td>
<td>Huang 1983; Lin 2003a; Sybesma 1999; Tsai 1996</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 6 (Oct 02)</th>
<th><strong>Nominal Expressions</strong> (Bare nouns, Numeral-classifier construction)</th>
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<tr>
<td>REQUIRED READINGS</td>
<td>Jiang 2012: Ch 3 ‘Classifier languages without D: (Num)-CIPs and bare nouns in Mandarin (selected sections)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECOMMENDED READINGS</td>
<td>Cheng and Sybesma 1999; HLL 2009: Ch 9; Li 1998; Li 2011; Tang 1990; Yang 2001</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 7 (Oct 09)</th>
<th><strong>Theoretical Background Warm-up: Syntactic movement and constraints (Wh-movement; Island Constraints; Subjacency Conditions; CED)</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>REQUIRED READINGS</td>
<td>Yoshimoto (2001)</td>
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<td>WEEK 8 (Oct 16)</td>
<td>Topic Constructions</td>
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<tr>
<td>REQUIRED READINGS</td>
<td>HLL 2009: chapter 7 ‘Topics and Relatives’</td>
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<tr>
<td>PREVIEW READINGS</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<th>WEEK 9 (Oct 23)</th>
<th>Relative Clauses (I)</th>
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<tr>
<td>REQUIRED READINGS</td>
<td>HLL 2009: chapter 7 ‘Topics and Relatives’</td>
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<tr>
<td>PREVIEW READINGS</td>
<td>Aoun and Li 2003: Ch 5; Ning 1993; Shyu 1995</td>
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<th>WEEK 10 (Oct 30)</th>
<th>Relative Clauses (II)</th>
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<tr>
<td>REQUIRED READINGS</td>
<td>HLL 2009: chapter 7 ‘Topics and Relatives’</td>
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<tr>
<td>PREVIEW READINGS</td>
<td>Lin 2003b</td>
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<th>WEEK 11 (Nov 06)</th>
<th>Questions (Yes-No questions, A-Not-A questions, Wh-questions)</th>
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<td>REQUIRED READINGS</td>
<td>HLL 2009: chapter 8 ‘Questions’</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECOMMENDED READINGS</td>
<td>Huang 1982: chapter 4, Section 4.2 ‘Wh Questions’; Huang 1991; Aoun and Li 1993a</td>
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<td>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</td>
<td>One-page abstract or outline plan of final project due (Nov 09, Sunday)</td>
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<th>WEEK 12 (Nov 13)</th>
<th>Interim Review &amp; Feedback on Final Project Proposals</th>
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<th>WEEK 13/ (Nov 20)</th>
<th>Passives</th>
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<tr>
<td>REQUIRED READINGS</td>
<td>HLL 2009: chapter 4 ‘Passives’</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECOMMENDED READINGS</td>
<td>Chiu 1995; Feng 1995; Ting 1998; Huang 1999</td>
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<th>WEEK 14 (Nov 27)</th>
<th>No Class</th>
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<th>WEEK 15 (Dec 04)</th>
<th>The ba construction</th>
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<tr>
<td>REQUIRED READINGS</td>
<td>HLL 2009: chapter 5 ‘The ba construction’</td>
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<tr>
<td>PREVIEW READINGS</td>
<td>Sybesma 1999; A. Li 2006; Liu 1997</td>
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| WEEK 16 (Dec 11) | Language Variation within the Chinese Family  
(Word order; Internal structures/external syntax; Semantic interpretations) |
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10. Readings and References  
(to be updated continually)

**General References:**


**References on Specific Topics:**


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Huang, C.-T., Li, Y.-h., & Li, Y. 2009 *The Syntax of Chinese*. Cambridge University Press.


Lü, Shu-xiang (1980) *Xiandai Hanyu Babaici* [Eight Hundred Words of Modern Chinese], Shangwu Chubanshe, Beijing.


