

## **Individual differences in tone learning: how much does musical aptitude and receptive language predict learning performance in a distributional learning paradigm**

**CHUI Yin To, Jeremy**

**Abstract:** Distributional learning refers to acquiring linguistic categories through statistical tracking of frequency counts, instead of explicit instruction. Previous research has demonstrated the effectiveness of distributional learning on learning different output dimensions (consonants, vowels, lexical tones) in different groups (infants, adult learners). However, observations for adult second language learners are less consistent than with first language in infants. This proposal explores if and what individual difference factors predict learning performance, with an emphasis on musical aptitude and receptive language. Specifically, this proposal explores Cantonese learners' ability to distinguish between Mandarin Tone 1 and Tone 4 using novel words after distributional training, and asks the following questions: will musical aptitude further enhance L2 tonal learning, given the learners' L1 is tonal to begin? Will receptive language size predict learning performance, consistent with previous research on consonants?

**Keywords:** distributional learning, statistical tracking, Mandarin tones, Cantonese, individual differences, receptive vocabulary, musical aptitude

## The Implicit Negative Features of Nonexistence-entailing Verbs in Chinese

Yifa Xu

**Abstract:** This article discusses a group of verbs in Mandarin Chinese whose lexical meaning entail the nonexistence of the entities or events denoted by their objects, such as *chaichu* 拆除 ('demolish'), *shanchu* 刪除 ('delete'), *shiqu* 失去 ('lose'), *shudiao* 輸掉 ('lose') and *quxiao* 取消 ('cancel'), etc. Unlike their "affirmative" counterparts, these verbs display certain syntactic and semantic properties which are typical for a negative context, including licensing NPI-minimizers to derive a universal quantification reading when being the predicate of the "*lian...dou...*" ('even...') construction, licensing the weak NPI adverb *yigai* 一概 ('all'), and neutralizing the semantic constraints on the order of the precedent and the consequent in the "*X, ye Y*" (X, also Y) construction, which is parallel to a negative sentence. These features prove that this kind of verbs can be identified as a subcategory of verbs of implicit negation in Chinese. The implicit negative meaning derives from the entailment of nonexistence built in their lexical meanings, which contains a "cognitive structure of negation". Nonetheless, given that such implicit negation does not locate in the level of assertion, and the syntactic level of these verbs is relatively 'low', this kind of verbs do not exhibit as strong negative features as those typical verbs of implicit negation such as *jujue* ('refuse') and *bimian* ('avoid'). The discovery of this type of nonexistence-entailing verbs further brings to light the fine-grained continuum of implicit negation in Chinese.

**Keywords:** Verbs of implicit negation; Nonexistence; Cognitive Structure of Negation; Negative polarity items; Universal quantification

### 漢語中衍推“不存在”義動詞的隱性否定特徵

徐毅發

**摘要:** 漢語中有一些帶體詞性賓語的動詞，其詞匯語義可衍推其賓語所指事物或事件的不存在，如“拆除、刪除、失去、輸掉、取消”等。本文將論證，這批動詞表現出否定句語境的一些典型句法語義特徵，包括在“連……都”構式中充當謂語時可允准極小量否定極項（如“這座房子連半塊磚頭都{拆掉/\*建好}了”），可允准弱否定極性副詞“一概”（如“一概{拆除/\*建造}”），在“X，也Y”結構中出現時可中和肯定句對前後分句的語序限制、表現與否定句一致，等等，可看作隱性否定動詞的一個次類。這類動詞的隱性否定義來源于其詞匯義可衍推對事物和事件存在的否定，隱含一個“否定的認知結構”；但由于這種否定義并非處于斷言層面，且這類動詞的句法層級較低，故它們在允准否定極項等方面的否定特徵又普遍弱于“拒絕、避免”等典型的隱性否定動詞。這一類隱性否定動詞的發現和界定使漢語的“隱性否定”連續統變得更為豐富細密。

**關鍵詞:** 隱性否定動詞；存在否定；否定的認知結構；否定極項；全稱量化