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Some Methodological Issues in Reading Oracle-Bone Inscriptions

In Particular Reference to the *Huayuanzhuang Locus East* Collection

Bulletin of Chinese Linguistics

Ken-ichi Takashima

Abstract

This paper discusses hermeneutics arising from a fastidious reading of Adam C. Schwartz (2019) which is an English translation with commentary of the *Oracle-Bone Inscriptions from Yinxu Huayuanzhuang Locus East*, one of the most contextually cohesive, and archeologically well-documented, collection of OBI (acronym of "oracle-bone inscriptions") unearthed to date. The paper underscores the importance of methodology of reading OBI. It will be seen that Schwartz's book suffers from the lack of disciplined application of any particular persuasion. It is, in this sense, disappointing, though there is much else in the book that offers original ideas. As for the English translations Schwartz provides for each and every inscription of the collection, many are questionable (even unreliable), a few incomprehensible, and this is due mainly to failure of procuring a relevant bibliography and acquiring technical (linguistic) finesse to grasp and assess some important issues in the literature written in English.

Keywords:

Oracle-bone inscriptions ; Methodology of reading ; Translation into English ; Non-royal divination inscriptions ; Grammar ; Semantics

基於概念域的殷墟甲骨文“其”字研究

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時 兵

摘要

殷墟甲骨文“其”字用於知、言、行三域，主要表情態。“其”在知域中表可能性，在正反對貞卜辭中構建矛盾等關係；在言域中表允許，其後在西周金文中進一步虛化表希冀語氣；在行域中表將來時間。這些用法在認知上存在著內在的聯繫。“其”的情態功能與遠指功能之間也有關聯，並延伸至消極情感的表達，這正是司禮義“其”字規則形成的基礎。另外，甲骨文“其”是助詞，具有依附性，一般後附綴於否定詞；與此同時，“其”字前移在句法上已初顯端倪。

關鍵字：

甲骨文 ;「其」字 ; 概念域 ; 情態 ; 遠指 ; 助詞

From *Qièyùn* to *Guǎngyùn*
An Overview of the *Qièyùn* Series Rime Books

Bulletin of Chinese Linguistics

Yue Ji

Abstract

The *Qièyùn* Series rime books (*Qièyùn-xì yùnshū* 切韻系韻書), not only the two complete editions, the *Kānmiù Bǔquē Qièyùn* 刊謬補缺切韻 (also known as *Wángyùn* 王韻) and *Guǎngyùn* 廣韻, but also many other fragments, are of great importance in studying Middle Chinese phonology. This paper aims to comprehensively introduce the materials of the *Qièyùn* Series rime books, from the original *Qièyùn* 切韻 to later revised editions until the Five Dynasties (*Wǔdài* 五代), including essential research on them. And finally, by using specific examples, this article summarized the development from the *Qièyùn* 切韻 to the *Guǎngyùn* 廣韻 through the four-century-long history of revision and extension.

Keywords:

Qièyùn 切韻 ; *Guǎngyùn* 廣韻 ; *Qièyùn* Series rime books ; history of rime books

Middle Chinese Labial Softening

Bulletin of Chinese Linguistics

Yipeng Gao

Abstract

Labiodentalization was an important phonetic change in Middle Chinese sounds. This essay introduces and analyzes Chinese scholars' views and arguments on some problems on labiodentalization. These problems contain the exact time when the labiodentals developed from the bilabials in phonetic value, the condition of development and a special phenomenon of the onset spellers in the Division-III rhymes.

Keywords:

Labiodentalization; Middle Chinese sounds; Chinese studies

500 Years of Old Chinese Phonology
Research on the History of Phonological Scholarship from the Southern Song to the Ming Dynasty

Bulletin of Chinese Linguistics

Xin Zhao

Abstract

This article introduces research on Old Chinese phonology before the Qing dynasty by reviewing the important relevant literature of recent intellectual historians. The article has six parts. The first section is an introduction. The second through fourth parts review the views and arguments over how to understand the works of several important linguists, treating respectively the Southern Song (§ 2, containing Wú Yù 吳棫, Zhū Xī 朱熹 etc.), the Yuan (§ 3, containing Dài Tóng 戴侗, Liú Yùrǔ 劉玉汝, Xióng Pénglái 熊朋來 etc.), and the Ming (§ 4, containing Yáng Shèn 楊慎, Jiāo Hóng 焦竑, Chén Dì 陳第 etc.). Section 5 discusses several methodological issues that concern researchers today, including the historical emergence of three methodologies and methodological issues in researching the history of scholarship. Finally, I point out those topics in need of further investigation.

Keywords:

Old Chinese phonolog ; History of phonological scholarship ; Wú Yù ; Zhū Xī ; Dài Tóng ; Liú Yùrǔ ; Xióng Pénglái ; Yáng Shèn ; Jiāo Hóng ; Chén Dì ; Methodology

台灣閩南語「煞」的左緣化
句法與語義互動

Bulletin of Chinese Linguistics

連 金發

摘要

本文探索現在閩南語中「煞」的句法語義表現。「煞」為多功能的語詞，可充當動詞、動相補語、連接性副詞及助詞。「煞」的語義轉變都與它的句法結構位置息息相關。從「煞」和其他功能範疇的相對語序，可以驗證句法位置與語義詮釋的互動關係。從功能範疇層級觀點來看，「煞」充當動詞，因在動詞詞組中，所以可以預測出現於否定轄域中；而表言談層次或發話者取向的「煞」佔據句標階層中語勢之上的言談行為層，因此必然會出現於否定詞之前。此外，句末助詞所表現的主觀估量語義也反映出其位居言談行為層的結構特性。

關鍵字：

現在閩南語 ; 句法 ; 語義 ; 功能階層