

## **Abstract for SCOL**

Shuyang Wei

Zhejiang University

How Many Classifier-noun Constructions Are There in the Yongjia Dialect of Wu Chinese?

Key Words: Yongjia Wu; Classifier-noun Constructions; Quantifier-rising

This research figures out there are three types of classifier-noun constructions (type-A1, type-A2, and type-B CINCs respectively) in the Yongjia dialect of Wu Chinese (Yongjia Wu), according to their phonetic manifestations, referential meanings, syntactic distributions, syntactic structures, and pragmatic functions. We aim to uncover the factors contributing to the observed differences among them. This study serves as a contribution to the description and analysis of CINC in Yongjia Wu, thereby enriching the field of dialect typology. We hope that our findings will inspire further investigation and refinement in this academic domain.

First of all, based on phonetic manifestations, particularly the tones, we categorize CINC in Yongjia Wu into two types, type-A and type-B CINC. Second of all, within the type-A, further divisions are made depended on referential meanings and syntactic distributions, resulting in type-A1 and type-A2 CINC. In this categorization, we identify and classify type-A1, type-A2 and type-B CINC. In terms of phonetic manifestations, the tones of classifiers in type-A1 and type-A2 CINC maintain their inherent tones. The tones of classifiers in type-B CINC change into checked ones. In terms of referential meanings, type-A1 CINC are indefinite and are semantically interpreted as ‘one+CINC’. Type-A2 and type-B CINC represent two distinct definite CINC. Unlike Shaoxing Wu (Sheng et al., 2016), definite CINC in Yongjia Wu cannot be simply classified into quasi-article CINC and quasi-demonstrative CINC. Actually, type-A2 CINC are similar to ‘the+NP’ in English. Type-B CINC, on the other hand are similar to ‘this/that+NP’ in English. But whether a type-B CINC is proximal or distant depend on the contexts, gestures, and non-linguistic cues. Regarding syntactic distributions, these three types of CINC do not exhibit rigid constraints, though they do display specific distinctions. Type-A1 CINC serves as subjects within the structure ‘...也有/也未/也弗+(VP)’. They seldom function as topics or as subjects in embedded clauses unless comparing multiple objects (two

or more). In contrast, type-A2 and type-B CINC's share similar syntactic distributions. Regarding to stand-alone, type-A2 CINC's cannot stand alone, while type-A1 and type-B CINC's can. Type-A1 CINC's cannot be used in possessive structures, whereas type-A2 and type-B CINC's can. In terms of syntactic constructions, contrary to Li & Bisang (2012), we argue that indefinite type-A1 CINC's adopt the interpretation of 'pure quantities' (A. Li, 1998), characterized by a NumP structure rather than a CIP structure. Classifiers in type-A2 and type-B CINC's have undergone Cl-to-D raising, moving from its original position to the determiner position, resulting in DP structures.

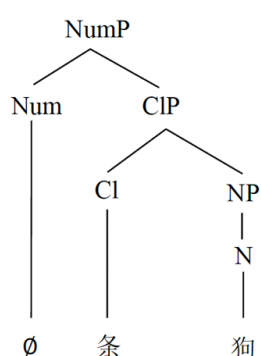


Figure1: Tree of type-A1 CINC's

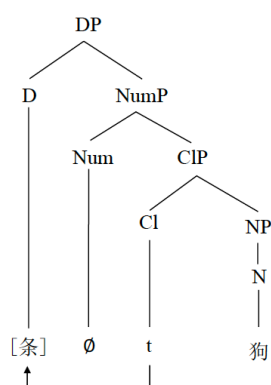


Figure2: Tree of type-A2 and type-B CINC's

In the realm of pragmatic functions, type-A2 and type-B CINC's fulfill various functions, including situational use, discourse-deictic use, tracking use/anaphoric use, recognitional use, and large situational use, while type-A1 CINC's do not bear these features.

- [1] Li, Xuping, Bisang, W. 2012 Classifiers in Sinitic languages: From individuation to definiteness-marking. *Lingua* 122 (2012): 335-355.
- [2] Li, Y.-H.A. 1998 Argument determiner and number phrases. *Linguistic Inquiry* 29(4): 693-702.
- [3] Sheng Yimin et al. 2016 The Quasi-article Type and the Quasi-demonstrative Type: Two Types of Definite CL-NP Constructions in the Shaoxing Dialect of Chinese. *Essays on Linguistics*, (01), 30-51.