**Project:** A Comparative Study of Prepositions in Eastern Min Dialects: from the Perspective on Chinese Dialect Diachronic Grammar

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**Abstract:**

The research of Chinese dialect diachronic grammar is an important issue in the area of Chinese historical grammar. The basic approach of Chinese Dialect Diachronic grammar is comparative method, which was established by the historical linguist. Chinese dialect diachronic grammar emphasizes that for constructing a better system and proper explanation about Chinese historical grammar, it is necessary to combine the research of modern dialect grammar and Chinese document historical grammar.

This project aims to investigate the prepositions in Eastern Min dialects by the perspective of Chinese dialect diachronic grammar. In this project, we will obtain research material through going into the field work of three Eastern Min dialects: Fu-an, Zhe-run, and Xia-pu. Furthermore, we would like to focus on the preposition and deal with related issues as follows: (1) the etymon of prepositions, (2) the grammaticalization processes of prepositions and (3) the difference of preposition between Eastern Min dialects and records of written Chinese.

The whole span of this project is 3 years. The tasks we expect to finish are as follows:

1. To collect preposition data of Fa-an, Zhe-run, and Xia-pu dialects by field work and proceed to structure analysis.
2. To compare the northern Eastern Min material with southern Eastern Min dialects.
3. To proceed the preposition comparative research of Eastern Min dialects and Chinese historical records.

**Keyword:** Eastern Min dialects, Chinese Dialect Diachronic grammar, preposition, etymology, grammaticalization, historical linguistics