Verbal Reduplication and Verbal Classifiers in Chinese*

Marie-Claude Paris (白梅麗)
Université Paris Diderot – UMR 7110
CNRS, Laboratoire de linguistique Formelle

In this paper, after presenting previous analyses of verbal classifiers in Chinese — henceforth abbreviated Clv — we describe their syntactic and semantic characteristics. We compare the sequence V Q Clv to two reduplicated verb forms: (i) VV and (ii) V-yi-V. We show that verb reduplication cannot be equated with V Q Clv and that Clv are not DPs, but MPs. We posit a distinction between weak and strong Clv, according to their quantificational and aspectual properties. In conclusion a parallelism between a Chinese V Q Clv sequence and a light verb followed by a deverbal noun in English is established.

Key words: (a)telicity, [+control] predicates, (delimitative) aspect, light verb + deverbal noun, verbal reduplication, verbal classifiers

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