

Preface

The twenty-third annual conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics was held at Hanyang University, Seoul during August 26–28, 2015. It was memorable for having been held in Korea for the very first time, despite being delayed by a MERS outbreak. At the invitation of Chiu-yu Tseng (IACL president at the time), Jeeyoung Peck and I have edited two special issues of *Language and Linguistics*, sifting through more than 240 papers presented at IACL23. I was mainly in charge of the first issue on phonetics and phonology, while Jeeyoung was in charge of the second issue on semantics and syntax. Eight papers were selected for inclusion in the first issue. Unfortunately, two authors gave up submission, one from the start and the other at a late stage. A further two papers, regrettably, could not pass peer review. Consequently, this issue consists of just four articles from a broad range of areas: phonetics, phonology, prosody- morphosyntax interface, and syntax-semantics interface.

Based on acoustic and articulatory data of fricative vowels in the Suzhou dialect, Hu and Ling's article describes apicalization of high vowels, a less known phonetic process that is of particular importance to the phonology of Chinese dialects. It demonstrates how fine-grained phonetic detail sheds light on the understanding of sound change. Acquiring frication initiates the sound change. The production of fricative vowels in Suzhou is characterized by visible turbulent frication discernible in spectrograms, and a significant lower Harmonics-to-Noise Ratio vis-à-vis the plain counterparts. The acoustic study suggests that spectral characteristics of fricative vowels play a more important role in defining vowel contrasts. The fricative high front vowels have comparatively greater F1 and smaller F2 and F3 values than their plain counterparts. In the acoustic F1/F2 plane, the fricative vowels are located in an intermediate position between their plain and apical counterparts. The articulatory study revealed that not only tongue dorsum but also tongue blade are involved in the production of fricative high front vowels in Suzhou. Phonologically, frication becomes a concomitant and redundant feature in the production of fricative or apical vowels. It concludes that the fricative high front vowels in Suzhou are at an intermediate stage of vowel apicalization in terms of both acoustics and articulation.

Takahashi's article attempts to clarify the phonological status of low tones in the Shanghai dialect. In Shanghai tone sandhi, with the exception of *yangru*

sandhi, a pitch-fall occurs at the second or third syllable of a phonological word. Previous analyses suggest that this is invoked by the insertion of a default Low tone to satisfy the Well-formedness Condition of the autosegmental theory. However, that condition is no longer necessarily satisfied, and an alternative interpretation with a boundary Low tone has been suggested. To determine which is the better interpretation, Takahashi compared pitch contours of polysyllabic words, and the results show that disyllabic words tend to have lower pitch contours than tri- and tetrasyllabic words at the first and/or second syllables, and that, in tetrasyllabic words, minimum pitch values were constantly attested at the third syllable. These indicate that a boundary Low tone, rather than a default Low tone, is assigned at the right edge of a phonological word, and it is further associated with the third syllable in tetrasyllabic words. His article offers a new perspective on the relationship between lexical and boundary tones in Chinese.

In her article, Chen examines how tone sandhi domains (TSDs) are determined by a range of competing factors in the Fuzhou dialect. Her data include a single syntactic construction made up of words of different length, vis-à-vis different syntactic constructions made up of words with the same length. Based on empirical data, the exact prosodic and morphosyntactic factors which affect the formation of TSDs are uncovered. Chen argues for a fully interactional view to explain the formation of TSDs under different contexts. It is proposed that the TSDs are equal to prosodic constituent domains. The formation of prosodic constituent domains is governed by several factors, including the phonological markedness-based factor, the morphosyntactic constituent structure and the process of syntactic and phonological derivations. Departing from previous treatments of the formation of TSDs, Chen takes a derivational approach by applying a model of cyclic interaction of morphosyntax and prosody. Her work provides a new perspective into the long-lasting question about how post-lexical tone sandhi is constrained by morphosyntax.

Finally, Peck and Lin investigate the semantic constraints that permit preposition incorporation (PI) between verbs and the postverbal adjunct locative PPs. If a locative preposition is incorporated into a preceding verb to form a compound verb, then the location NP within the original PP becomes the object of the compounded V-P. Peck and Lin observed that not all postverbal locative PPs can undergo the PI process, and proposed that PI is allowed if the postverbal PP is associated with scalar result meaning in one of the following three ways: (a) a locative PP introduces a closed scalar attribute to the event; (b) a locative PP introduces an open scalar attribute to the event; and (c) a locative PP reinforces or further elaborate the (un)specified endpoint of the scale denoted by their preceding verb (phrases). Peck and Lin is the first work contributing to the analysis of the underlying semantic differences between the locative PPs that can undergo PI and those that cannot. In comparison to the

delimiter hypothesis in previous studies, their scalar analysis is finer-grained and accounted for a wider range of PPs in a unified manner. Their analysis on locative PPs imply that preverbal and postverbal adjunct PPs have different modification scopes within an event composition.

It took me almost three years to edit this special issue. I am very thankful to all the contributors and anonymous reviewers for their time and patience. My sincere thanks extend to Chiu-yu Tseng and Jo-wang Lin, who eventually made this project of publication possible.

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