



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Yě, yě, yě: On the syntax and semantics of Mandarin yě
Yang, Z.

Citation

Yang, Z. (2020, June 25). *Yě, yě, yě: On the syntax and semantics of Mandarin yě*. LOT, Amsterdam. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/123042>

Version: Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/123042>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/123042> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation.

Author: Yang, Z.

Title: Yě, yě, yě: On the syntax and semantics of Mandarin yě

Issue Date: 2020-06-25

Yě, yě, yě

On the syntax and semantics of Mandarin yě

This dissertation presents a description and analysis of the Mandarin particle *yě* 'also'. It provides a comprehensive syntactic and semantic treatment of three different manifestations of *yě*, namely, Additive *yě*, which is similar to English *also*, Parametric/Scalar *yě*, which we find in 'no matter' and *even/even if* contexts, and, finally, Modal *yě*, basically a concessivity marker.

Additive, Parametric/Scalar and Modal *yě* are different in interpretation and require different licensing conditions. Additive *yě* can only be licensed if an antecedent can be retrieved from the context: the antecedent must be explicitly asserted or otherwise present in the active context and it must have the same argumentative orientation as the host sentence. Parametric/scalar *yě* can only be licensed if scalarity is marked in the sentence. Finally, as a concessivity marker, Modal *yě* presupposes the existence of a concessive proposition as an alternative. Pragmatically, the use of Modal *yě* results in a polite, indirect, tactful or less absolute reading of the host sentence. The syntactic properties of the different manifestations of *yě* are explored vis à vis Butler's modal hierarchy and Cinque's adverb hierarchy. We conclude that there are two positions of *yě* in the syntactic structure, one in CP and the other in IP.

ISBN 978-94-6093-356-1



Netherlands Graduate School of Linguistics
Landelijke Onderzoekschool Taalwetenschap



:LOT
571

Zhaole Yang

Yě, yě, yě

Zhaole Yang

Yě, yě, yě

On the syntax and semantics of Mandarin yě

