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

by

Zhaole Yang

1. The discourse condition, viz., similarity in argumentative orientation, is a more fundamental condition to license the use of additive *yě* than similarity at the lexical level.
2. There are two different *yě*s, namely, the additive/lower *yě*, which is located in the IP and the scalar/higher *yě*, in the CP.
3. The *wh*-element in *no matter* sentences with modals or negation should be treated as a Negative Polarity Item-like item rather than as a Free Choice Item.
4. Words expressing *no matter*, like, *bùguǎn* and *wúlùn*, have nothing to do with the scalarity expressed in the sentences in which they occur. Rather, their role in a scalar context is to enforce the exhaustion of the possible alternatives evoked by the *wh*-element.
5. As a concessivity marker, modal *yě* has a neutralization or degradation effect and, as such, makes the host sentence more polite, indirect, or tactful, or less absolute.
6. Errors made by L2 learners can highlight linguistic facts that raise questions that native speakers would otherwise easily overlook.
7. That a particle occurs in various contexts does not necessarily mean that the particle has a different function in each context. It is crucial to distinguish the contextual factors from the contribution of the particle itself.
8. There is a lot to say for Confucius' claim that studying (in the sense of following a teacher, live or in writing) without thinking is useless while thinking without guidance (from a teacher or a book) is dangerous. (子曰：“学而不思则罔，思而不学则殆。”Analects, Wei Zheng)
9. European languages are really not very different from Chinese.
10. Life is too short to not at least try to enjoy every single day of it. Or, as we learn from the *Lao Ch'i-ta*, a textbook of colloquial northern Chinese published in Korea in the 14<sup>th</sup> century: 咱们每年每月每日快活，春夏秋冬一日也[也]不要撇了。‘We should be happy every year, every month and every day. We must not miss [yě] a single day in the spring, summer, autumn or winter.’ (Translation adapted from Dyer 1983.)