Temporal construals of bare predicates in Mandarin Chinese
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Stellingen

Hongyuan Sun

1. While stative predicates allow stative readings, eventive predicates allow generic readings in Mandarin. The contrast is due to the argument structure of the predicates. (this dissertation)

2. Episodic readings of root clauses with eventive predicates are licensed by overt aspect. (this dissertation)

3. Aspect must be overtly realized in Mandarin. (this dissertation)

4. Mandarin, a language without phonologically realized tense, has a covert tense NONFUT, which restricts the time reference of bare sentences to past and present times. (this dissertation)

5. Sentences with bare predicates that allow future readings assert a non-future plan for eventualities located in future times. (this dissertation)

6. The temporal construals of bare predicates vary across languages with no overt tense. (discipline)

7. The cross-linguistic variation in the temporal readings of bare predicates is also attested in languages *with* overt tense. (discipline)

8. Tense (phonologically realized or not) is universal in languages. Languages with no overt tense have semantic tense. (discipline)

9. Tense marking varies across languages (eg. past/non-past, non-future/future, past/present/future), just like number features (ex. singular, singular/plural, singular/dual/plural), and the unmarked form could have different semantic contents across languages. (discipline)

10. Admission to higher education should be selective. (personal)

11. An only child had better not live too far from his/her family. (personal)