

A STUDY OF HAKKA ASPECTUAL SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to describe the aspectual system of Fengshun Hakka dialect spoken in Thailand. The Hakka aspectual system can be divided into two major categories: Bounded aspect and Unbounded aspect. The Bounded aspect refers to an event defined with either a beginning or an endpoint. The Unbounded aspect refers to a situation without a time limit or an ongoing event.

The Bounded aspect is comprised of Perfective, Experiential, Inchoative, Delimitative, and Tentative. The Perfective aspect can be indicated by *liau*⁴² “finish/already”, resultative verb complement (RVC), and *jiu*³³ “have.” The Experiential aspect contains two markers: *kuo*⁴² “pass” and *sit*¹¹ “know.” The Inchoative is shown when an adjective or a state verb is followed by *liau*⁴² “finish/already.” The Delimitative aspect is presented by *jit*¹¹ *ha*¹¹ “one time” and verb reduplication. The Tentative aspect is expressed by *khon*⁴² “look/watch/see.”

The Unbounded aspect contains two subcategories, Progressive and Iterative. The Progressive aspect is marked by *tchɔi*³³ *ka*¹¹ “be there” or *tchɔi*³³ *li*¹¹ “be here” and *kap*¹¹ *pan*¹¹ “fit/suitable.” The Iterative aspect is indicated by the reduplication of a motion verb plus two directional verbs: *lo*²⁴ “come” and *khui*⁴² “go.”

To add a more interesting view on this study, the Miaoli Hakka dialect spoken in Taiwan is compared to the Fengshun dialect. This helps clarify the overall characteristics of the Hakka aspectual system.

The analysis of the aspectual system of Fengshun Hakka spoken in Thailand provides an overview of the semantic and syntactic functions of aspect markers. The comparison with the Miaoli Hakka dialect spoken in Taiwan helps explain how the aspectual system of the two different Hakka dialects is expressed. The language contact between Fengshun Hakka and Chaozhou is one factor that distinguishes the aspectual system of Fengshun Hakka from that of Miaoli Hakka.

KEY WORDS: ASPECT / HAKKA / FENGSHUN / BOUNDED / UNBOUNDED

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