



Theoretical Precision and Cross-Linguistic Breadth: A Review of the 6th International Workshop on Syntactic Cartography

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Abstract

The 6th International Workshop on Syntactic Cartography (IWSC) took place at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) in 2025, marking the 10th anniversary of the prestigious event. Sponsored by the Faculty of Arts, CUHK, the Workshop was jointly organized by the International Association of Syntactic Cartographic Studies (IAOSCS) and multiple key units at CUHK, including the T.T. Ng Chinese Language Research Centre of the Institute of Chinese Studies, the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, and the Department of Japanese Studies. Centring on syntactic issues related to the “D” domain, the event featured keynote speeches by Professor C.-T. James Huang (Harvard University / National Taiwan Normal University) and Professor Luigi Rizzi (Collège de France / University of Siena), alongside 48 presentations by scholars worldwide.

The 6th International Workshop on Syntactic Cartography (IWSC) was held at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) from 31 October to 1 November 2025. Jointly organized by the T.T. Ng Chinese Language Research Centre (CLRC) of the Institute of Chinese Studies, CUHK, the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, CUHK, the Department of Japanese Studies, CUHK, and the International Association of Syntactic Cartographic Studies (IAOSCS), and sponsored by the Faculty of Arts, CUHK, the workshop brought together more than seventy linguists from different regions and theoretical traditions. As the first IWSC to take place outside the Chinese Mainland and the first Hong Kong conference devoted specifically to syntactic cartography, the event marked both the 10th anniversary of the workshop series and a significant moment in the internationalization of cartographic research.

Following the practice established in earlier editions of IWSC, the 6th workshop was organized around a letter-based thematic design. This year's keyword was the letter D, which opened a coherent yet wide-ranging research agenda: Determiners, Definiteness, Degree, Discourse, as well as related themes. The Workshop examined how detailed syntactic positions relate to semantic interpretation, information structure, discourse roles, speech-act force, aspect, modality, and cross-linguistic and dialectal variation.

The opening ceremony featured an opening speech by Professor Fuzhen Si, President and Chairperson of the Council of IAOSCS (second term) and Professor of Linguistics, Beijing Language and Culture University, and a welcoming speech by Professor Sze-Wing Tang, Director of CLRC. Their remarks framed IWSC-6 as an occasion for consolidating the achievements of a decade of cartographic scholarship while extending the field toward new empirical domains. The Workshop then proceeded through six parallel sessions, two keynote speeches, a general meeting of the Association, and a closing ceremony.

A large number of presentations focused on Mandarin, Cantonese, Southwestern Mandarin, Jin, Xi'an, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Zhoushan, Penang Hokkien, Hakka, Archaic Chinese, and Tibetan or Qiangic languages. At the same time, the Workshop placed these materials in dialogue with Japanese, Vietnamese, Italian, Portuguese, and broader cross-linguistic debates. Participants extended cartographic reasoning to the nominal domain, the low periphery, sentence-final particles, embedded imperatives, discourse adverbs, spatial deixis, register, aphasic production, comparative ellipsis, and historical grammaticalization.

Keynote Speeches

Luigi Rizzi, "Dependencies and Locality – The Role of Cartographic Representations"

Professor Luigi Rizzi's keynote returned to one of the founding questions of generative syntax: why syntactic dependencies are constrained by locality. He distinguished two major notions of locality, impenetrability and intervention, and examined whether one could be reduced to the other. Using the contrast between

the Phase Impenetrability Condition and featural Relativized Minimality, the lecture showed that fine cartographic representations of the left periphery and other syntactic zones are indispensable for evaluating the empirical reach of locality principles. The address was especially valuable because it connected the historical core of syntactic theory – islands, *wh*-dependencies, and intervention – with the cartographic project's central methodological claim: only a richly articulated representation of functional structure can reveal the precise mechanisms governing grammatical dependencies.

C.-T. James Huang and W.-W. Roger Liao, “Infinitival Questions and the Finiteness Distinction in Chinese”

The second keynote, delivered by Professor C.-T. James Huang, addressed the finiteness distinction in Chinese through the analysis of embedded infinitival questions such as cases involving *zhidao* ‘know’. The paper argued that Chinese, despite lacking overt tense and person morphology, exhibits a robust distinction between finite and non-finite embedded questions. Infinitival questions encode deliberate or practical knowledge, involve *de se* intention, and contain a performative priority modal anchored to a perspective-related layer. Diagnostics from *akrasia* contexts, modal distribution, VP-ellipsis, PRO, and past-reference restrictions supported the analysis. The keynote therefore made a major contribution to the theory of finiteness by showing that finiteness may be encoded through world-time coordinates and logophoric anchoring even in languages without overt tense/person inflection.

Overview of the Parallel Sessions

Session 1 opened with panels on Determiner, Discourse, and Interrogative Structures. It moved from nominal cartography and relational adjectives to communication structure, evaluative words, Japanese temporal adverbials, and the CP architecture of Vietnamese. The first session covered topics in nominal syntax, discourse syntax, and cross-linguistic comparison.

Session 2 continued the D-themed design through Determiner, Discourse, Decomposition, and Imperatives. Papers on Chinese *de* constructions, Cantonese *gam2*, dynamic phasehood, Chinese embedded negative imperatives, Mandarin *gei* and disposal constructions, Italian negative imperatives, and discourse-level adverbs showed how cartographic analysis can connect clausal peripheries with voice, directive force, and information structure.

Session 3, following the General Meeting of the International Association of Syntactic Cartographic Studies, focused on Definiteness, Discourse, and Sentence-final Particles. The papers examined definite DPs in topicalization, Japanese and Kunming sentence-final particles, Penang Hokkien shared-information markers, Tibetan aspect, and the Chengdu particle *to*. The papers in this session addressed how definiteness, epistemic access, and discourse particles are represented within syntactic structure.

Session 4 addressed Focus, Processing & Realization, and Degree. It included Japanese clefts, the Chinese monosyllabic-disyllabic register contrast, Mandarin verb reduplication and V-(*yi*)-*xia*, Hakka *qiang* ‘only’, Broca’s aphasia and Chinese existential production, and attributive degree phrases. This session connected cartographic syntax with processing, register, diachrony, and clinical evidence.

Session 5, held on the second day, gathered papers on Determiner, Sentence-final Particles, Aspect, and Degree. The topics included anaphors as possessive DPs, Xi’an and Changde sentence-final particles, QUD and sentence-final *le*, Qiang directional prefixes, Jin sentence-final *huan*, Zhoushan spatial deixis, Mandarin *zhishao*, and postpositional degree adverbs. The session examined right-peripheral and aspectual systems in Chinese and related languages.

Session 6 concluded the parallel sessions with presentations on Topic and Focus, Archaic Chinese, and Discourse. The presentations investigated double topicalization in Mandarin, grammaticalization of Archaic Chinese *qi* and *shi*, Mandarin scrambling, Mandarin denials, comparative left-dislocation and topics in Japanese and Chinese, sentence-final particles in Late Archaic Chinese, and Chongqing yes-no questions. The final session covered historical, comparative, and discourse-oriented topics within syntactic cartography.

Abstract Summaries

1. C.-T. James Huang and W.-W. Roger Liao, “Infinitival Questions and the Finiteness Distinction in Chinese”

This paper uses Chinese *know-wh* constructions to argue that Chinese has a genuine finiteness distinction even without overt tense or person morphology. Huang and Liao show that epistemic verbs such as *zhidao* ‘know’ may embed infinitival questions expressing practical or deliberate knowledge, as in *zhidao (yao) zuo shenme* ‘know what to do’. These clauses differ from finite questions because they encode *de se* intention, license only goal-oriented priority modals, contain PRO, and resist past reference. The authors analyze them as self-directive embedded questions with a performative modal anchored through a Perspective Phrase. The study reframes Chinese finiteness as a matter of world-time and participant anchoring.

2. Luigi Rizzi, “Dependencies and Locality – The Role of Cartographic Representations”

Rizzi’s abstract revisits the long-standing problem of locality in syntactic dependencies. It distinguishes two mechanisms: impenetrability, where certain configurations block syntactic access, and intervention, where a dependency is disrupted by an intervening element with relevant features. By comparing the Phase Impenetrability Condition and featural Relativized Minimality, Rizzi asks whether one mechanism can subsume the other or whether both are needed. The central claim is that detailed cartographic representations of the left periphery

and other structural domains are crucial for deciding this question. Cartography, in this view, is not decorative but theoretically necessary for explaining locality.

3. Feng Shengli, “Communication Structure and Register Grammar”

Feng Shengli proposes that communication itself has a structural property of distance, which he terms “linguistic distance”. From this perspective, grammatical forms are not neutral vehicles of meaning but carry distance-related properties that organize interaction among interlocutors. The paper discusses constructions such as dative alternations, adjective comparatives, sentence-final particles, and register variation to show how grammar encodes interpersonal and communicative relations. Its importance lies in extending cartographic thinking from formal syntactic positions to communicative structure and register grammar. The study suggests that grammar is shaped by the need to transmit meaning, thought, and information within situated interaction.

4. Guo Jie and Gu Yang, “A Preliminary Study of the Xi’an Sentence-Final Particle *xie*”

Guo and Gu investigate the Xi’an Mandarin sentence-final particle *xie* and test whether existing cartographic hierarchies of Chinese sentence-final particles can be generalized beyond Cantonese and Mandarin. *Xie* can appear in imperatives, exclamatives, and questions, expressing request, urging, regret, blame, disbelief, or impatience. It can co-occur with particles such as *ma* and *ne*, but must occupy the final position; it is barred from ordinary declaratives, assertions, and sentences with modals. The paper first describes its distribution and then locates it within the right-peripheral structure. It contributes to a broader typology of sentence-final particles across Chinese dialects.

5. Huang Jingwen and Song Yijing, “The Discourse Function of le_2 from the Perspective of QUD”

This study analyzes the Mandarin sentence-final particle le_2 through the framework of Question under Discussion. The authors retain the classic change-of-state insight but refine it by arguing that le_2 updates the interlocutors’ information states in relation to an at-issue proposition. Depending on whether the questioner is uncertain about, inclined toward, or committed to the negated proposition, le_2 may or may not produce a counter-expectation effect. The analysis covers stative, activity, accomplishment, and achievement predicates. By linking le_2 to common-ground update and QUD management, the paper gives a formally precise account of its discourse function.

6. Huang Xinjunrong and Edwin Cheng-yu Tsai, “The Syntax of VV and V-(*yi*)-*xia* in Light of Diachronic Development”

Huang and Tsai re-examine Mandarin verb reduplication VV and the related V-(*yi*)-*xia* pattern. They argue that VV should not be treated as a fixed lexical word or an independent aspectual category, because it remains expandable and

historically connected to V-*yi*-V and V-(*yi*)-*xia*. The paper traces both forms to earlier [verb]- [numeral]- [verbal-classifier] structures and proposes that the modern forms involve a highly grammaticalized Degree Phrase. This DegP contributes meanings of small quantity, short duration, and light degree. By combining diachrony and syntax, the study explains why these superficially different forms share a common semantic and structural source.

7. Huang Yankai and Zhang Heyou, “A Syntactic Classification of *de* Possessive Constructions”

This paper classifies Chinese [NP1 *de* NP2] structures into true possessive constructions, implicit relation constructions, and pseudo-possessive constructions. The most interesting case is the pseudo-possessive type, as in expressions that are literally ‘[his teacher] does well’ (intended to be ‘he does well as a teacher’/‘his “teacher-ing” is good’), where the construction expresses an event rather than simple possession. Huang and Zhang analyze it as a DeP headed by *de*, with NP1 in the specifier and a nominalized phrase as complement. Inside the nominal phrase is a light verb phrase that hosts an implicit empty verb. The analysis explains activity, state, change, and causative readings and highlights the special syntactic status of *de* in Chinese.

8. Li Jiarong and Jiang Nan, “From Imperative to Conditional: Re-examining the Grammaticalization of *shi*”

Li and Jiang revisit the grammaticalization of *shi* from causative verb to hypothetical conjunction. Earlier accounts emphasized semantic development from causation to conditionals, but the authors argue that this cannot explain the full syntactic pathway. Based on Archaic Chinese data and Sanskrit-Chinese Buddhist textual comparisons, they identify imperative clauses as the crucial transitional environment. They distinguish causative *shi* in pivotal constructions from clause-initial imperative *shi*, which is non-factual, subjectless, and followed by an independent clause. These properties closely match later conditional *shi*. The paper therefore provides a more concrete morphosyntactic account of how imperative force could be reanalyzed as conditional meaning.

9. Lim Miao Xiang, “Perspective Encoding in Penang Hokkien Sentence-Final Shared-Information Markers”

Lim examines the Penang Hokkien sentence-final particles [lo⁵³] and [la⁵³], which encode assumptions about whether information is shared between speaker and hearer. [Lo⁵³] requires both parties to have evidence for the proposition, while [la⁵³] indicates that the proposition is assumed to already belong to the Common Ground. The paper adopts a speech-act-layer analysis inspired by Speas and Tenny (2003), locating these particles in a structure that encodes speaker, hearer, evidentiality, and epistemic status. The study is important because it treats shared information not just as a pragmatic effect but as a syntactically represented relation between discourse participants.

10. Pei Xiaoqian, “How Many *sha* Particles Are There in Changde Dialect, and What Are They?”

Pei investigates the sentence-final particle *sha* in Changde Linli Southwestern Mandarin. Previous studies generally describe *sha* as confirmation in declaratives, command in imperatives, and conjecture in yes-no questions, but its distribution across question types and its position in the left-peripheral system remain unclear. Pei argues that Changde has at least three distinct *sha* particles. One realizes illocutionary force across declaratives, imperatives, and yes-no questions; one realizes attitude in interrogatives; one occupies a discourse-related position. By separating these homophonous particles, the paper refines the cartographic map of Changde clause periphery and contributes to the comparative study of Southwestern Mandarin particles.

11. Qiu Xiaoshi and Chen Yunwen, “An Inner-Aspect Analysis of Qiang Directional Prefixes”

Qiu and Chen analyze directional prefixes in Qiang, a Tibeto-Burman SOV language, and challenge the common view that they are simply perfective markers. These prefixes can appear in contexts not normally associated with perfective aspect, alter Vendlerian verb classes, and require quantificational objects for fully telic readings. The authors therefore propose that they contribute to event structure as markers of inner aspect rather than external viewpoint aspect. This account explains why directional prefixes can transform states into achievements and why bounded interpretation depends on object quantification. The paper links Qiang morphology to broader cartographic questions about aspectual layers inside the verbal domain.

12. Shi Dingxu, “A Cartographic Analysis of Evaluative Expressions”

Shi Dingxu analyzes Chinese evaluative expressions such as *guoran*, *jingran*, *juran*, *shibi*, *biran*, and *biding*. These items evaluate a proposition rather than modify the predicate directly: some compare an actual event with prior expectation, while others estimate the likelihood of a future event. Their ordering restrictions show that realis evaluatives precede irrealis probability evaluatives. Shi adopts the cartographic approach to explain their syntactic status and argues that different evaluative expressions occupy distinct high positions associated with speaker judgment. The paper thus clarifies the syntax of so-called high predicates, discourse adverbs, or connective adverbs and shows how evaluation is structurally encoded.

13. Tang Li and Yu-Yin Hsu, “A Cartographic Analysis of Chongqing Yes-No Questions”

Tang and Hsu provide a systematic analysis of yes-no questions in Chongqing dialect, an important variety of Southwestern Mandarin. They distinguish A-not-A questions, negative-particle questions, and sentence-final-particle questions. The

first two function as information-seeking questions without speaker presupposition, while particle questions involve background propositions, presuppositional bias, and requests for confirmation. Chongqing particles such as *mai*, *suo*, and *ha* show complementary distribution and differ significantly from Mandarin *ma* and *ne*. Within cartographic syntax, the paper locates these question types in different structural positions and demonstrates how dialectal evidence can sharpen theories of interrogative force.

14. Wang Xiaoli, “Production Difficulties in Chinese Existential Sentences by Broca’s Aphasia Patients”

Wang Xiaoli brings clinical evidence into the study of Chinese existential sentences. The paper reports that Broca’s aphasia patients can produce *you* existential sentences relatively smoothly but have serious difficulty producing non-*you* existential sentences with verbs such as “lie”, “open”, or “place”. Even when prompted with existential verbs, patients tend to produce *you* sentences instead. Wang explains this dissociation by reanalyzing the syntax of Chinese existentials through unaccusativity and definiteness effects. The study is valuable because it connects cartographic and generative analysis with language impairment, showing how disrupted production may reveal the internal organization of grammatical computation.

15. Wang Yuting, “Semantic Composition and Syntactic Generation of Attributive DegP in Chinese”

Wang Yuting addresses the distribution of marked and unmarked attributives in Chinese, especially when adjective phrases and degree phrases modify nouns. The paper argues that the appearance of *de* is best explained through semantic type and syntactic generation rather than by descriptive notions such as meaning “looseness” of modification or prosody alone. State adjectives and degree phrases are DegPs with saturated degree meaning and typically require *de*; attributive adjectives (“distinguishing words”) behave more like nominal classifying elements and usually appear without *de*; property adjectives vary depending on whether they express kind or gradable meaning. The study integrates degree semantics with nominal syntax to explain a long-standing problem in Chinese attributives.

16. Wu Yinan, “A Cartographic Analysis of Sentence-Final *huan* in Jin Chinese”

Wu Yinan examines the Jin sentence-final item *huan*, often associated with a mildly derogatory or dismissive meaning. Instead of treating *huan* as a single particle, the paper proposes multiple positions inside the CP domain: Focus head, Left-Topic head, Hanging-Topic head, Aboutness-Topic head, and Mood head. Higher positions correspond to a greater degree of speaker subjectivity. The paper also explains how an aboutness-topic structure can be reanalyzed into a sentence-final mood particle through prosodic restructuring. By mapping *huan* across several layers, the study clarifies both its synchronic distribution and its possible grammaticalization pathway in Jin.

17. Zhang Qingyu, “Completeness and Definiteness in Tibetan Aspect Markers”

Zhang Qingyu studies aspect markers in the Zangbawa variety of Tibetan through the notions of clausal completeness and definiteness or specificity. The paper classifies aspect markers into those that can form independent clauses, those that become complete only under specific syntactic or semantic conditions, and those that remain incomplete and behave like converbs. This distinction parallels earlier work on Chinese and Cantonese aspectual markers, but the Tibetan data add a new typological dimension. The study argues that the differential ability of aspect markers to complete a clause reveals the nature of finiteness and propositional anchoring as well as parallelism with definiteness.

18. Zhao Chen and Zhang Futong, “A Cartographic Study of the Grammaticalization of Archaic Chinese *qi*”

Zhao and Zhang combine cartographic syntax with historical linguistics to investigate the development of Archaic Chinese *qi*. They argue that oracle-bone *qi* should be understood as pronominal, with both subject and adverbial pronominal uses, rather than simply as an adverb. From this base, *qi* gradually developed into degree-related and discourse-related elements. The paper compares *qi* with *zi*-like pronominal uses and traces how a determiner or pronoun can be reanalyzed into higher functional material. Its contribution lies in demonstrating how cartographic positions can model grammaticalization from nominal reference to degree and discourse functions in early Chinese.

19. Chigchi Bai, “Anaphors as Possessive DPs: A First Phase Approach”

Bai proposes that anaphors are built from features distributed across multiple syntactic nodes but realized morphologically as a single unit. The analysis separates possessive, reflexive, and phi-features before they are fused or spanned at vocabulary insertion. The possessive feature projects a D head, while reflexive and phi-features occupy non-projecting D positions, producing a possessive DP structure. This approach explains why anaphors show both nominal and possessive properties and why their internal feature composition matters for binding. The paper contributes to first-phase syntax by treating anaphoric forms as complex syntactic objects rather than unanalyzed lexical atoms.

20. Liang-fan Chen, “Mandarin Denials at the Syntax-Discourse Interface”

Chen studies Mandarin denial uses of *wh*-words such as *nali* ‘where’ and *shenme* ‘what’. In these cases, the *wh*-word does not ask a constituent question but rejects or removes a previously asserted proposition from the common ground. The paper treats these as non-canonical *wh*-denials and asks how they differ syntactically from ordinary interrogatives. By focusing on their discourse dependency, position, and interaction with previous utterances, the study places denial at the syntax-discourse interface. It contributes to cartographic research by showing that elements traditionally associated with *wh*-questions can occupy discourse-functional positions dedicated to rejection and disagreement.

21. Gong Cheng and Zhaohui Yi, “Determiner or Classifier: Which Is a Phasal Head?”

Cheng and Yi argue that the classifier, rather than the determiner, should be treated as the phasal head in Chinese nominal phrases. Their argument rests on the cross-linguistic centrality of classifiers or Division morphology, the uncertain status of definiteness as a universal D feature, and the special role of classifiers in licensing nominal structure. If classifiers are phasal heads, then Chinese nominal syntax differs from determiner-centered models familiar from Indo-European languages. The paper therefore has broad theoretical significance: it asks which functional head defines the phasal domain of the DP and how classifier languages challenge standard assumptions about nominal phrases.

22. Minming Cheng, “Scrambling as a Rescue Strategy: Focus, Topics, and Intervention in Mandarin Chinese”

Cheng examines intervention effects in Mandarin, where quantifiers or focused elements can disrupt the relation between *wh*-phrases and their licensing operators. The paper shows that scrambling can rescue otherwise problematic configurations by moving relevant material out of the intervention domain. It analyzes the interaction among focus, topics, *wh*-dependencies, and scope-bearing elements, arguing that Mandarin word order flexibility is not merely optional but can serve a precise grammatical function. The study contributes to the theory of intervention by showing how topic and focus positions in Mandarin participate in repairing dependencies that would otherwise be blocked.

23. Nigel Duffield, “More *Whys* and *Wherefores*: Exploring CP in Vietnamese”

Duffield investigates the pre-subject domain of embedded clauses in Vietnamese. The paper considers subordinating conjunctions, embedded topics, fronted quantifiers, fronted adverbials, and the Vietnamese equivalent of *why*, comparing their ordering with the Italian left-peripheral functional sequence proposed by Rizzi and Bocci. Vietnamese largely follows the expected cartographic pattern but also displays important divergences, especially in the interaction among fronted elements and interrogative material. The paper contributes to comparative CP research by testing whether cartographic hierarchies proposed for European languages can be extended to Vietnamese and by identifying where language-specific adjustments are required.

24. Yoshio Endo, “Discourse Anchoring of Temporal Adverbials in Japanese”

Endo analyzes Japanese temporal expressions such as *korekara* ‘from now’, *saki ni* ‘ahead/first’, and *mukashi* ‘long ago’ as discourse anchors for temporal perspective. The paper argues that these expressions encode spatial metaphors of time and occupy dedicated projections in the CP domain, including layers such as TimeFrameP and PerspectiveP. Rather than treating temporal adverbials as freely adjoined modifiers, the study gives them precise positions in the left periphery.

It thereby connects the syntax of time with viewpoint, discourse anchoring, and speaker perspective, extending cartographic analysis to the interface between temporal interpretation and information structure.

25. Jie He, “A Cartographic Account of the Monosyllabic-Disyllabic Register Contrast in Chinese”

He Jie addresses the register contrast between monosyllabic and disyllabic word pairs in Mandarin. Monosyllabic forms tend to belong to colloquial registers, while disyllabic forms are more formal. Previous analyses often located this contrast inside the *vP*, but He argues that register features belong at the syntax-discourse interface and must be represented in higher functional structure. The paper accounts for cases where formal and colloquial elements interact across different structural positions and proposes that allocutive or register-related features are syntactically encoded. This study is significant because it treats register not as stylistic phenomenon but as part of grammar.

26. Xiaoshi Hu and Rui Tan, “Double Topicalizations: Mechanisms for the Displacement of Topics in Mandarin”

Hu and Tan distinguish external and internal topic positions in Mandarin and examine how each behaves in control and non-control constructions. Their data show that inner topics may be licensed inside embedded non-control clauses but not in corresponding matrix positions, while outer topics are more freely licensed. In control constructions, topicalization inside the embedded clause is excluded. The paper uses these contrasts to identify distinct mechanisms for topic displacement. It contributes to Mandarin cartography by showing that not all topics occupy the same position or undergo the same derivational process.

27. Yanjie Hu, “Dynamic Phasehood: Explaining Non-ATB Extraction from Coordination”

Hu argues that a dynamic theory of phasehood can explain why some non-across-the-board extractions from coordinate structures are grammatical while others are not. Traditional accounts rely on the Coordinate Structure Constraint and the Law of Coordination of Likes, often supplemented by interpretive explanations. Hu instead proposes a syntactic account in which phasehood is not fixed once and for all but depends on derivational conditions. This dynamic approach captures both ordinary extraction failures and exceptional cases where extraction is permitted. The paper is theoretically important because it connects coordination, phases, and locality in a way that reduces reliance on purely semantic repair strategies.

28. Tsz-Ming Tommy Lee, “From Demonstrative to Discourse: The Cartographic Footprint of Cantonese *gam2*”

Lee examines less-studied right-peripheral uses of Cantonese *gam2*, a form better known as a demonstrative or adverbial element meaning ‘like this/that’. In the relevant uses, *gam2* appears near the sentence end rather than preverbally and

contributes discourse-related meanings. The paper traces how a demonstrative meaning can develop a cartographic footprint in the right periphery, interacting with Cantonese sentence-final particles. By linking deixis, manner or degree, and discourse marking, the study offers a fine-grained account of how demonstrative material can be recruited into the organization of clause-final discourse structure.

29. Thomas Leu and Wenli Tang, “*There’s Always That. But This is Different.*”

Leu and Tang explore the morphosyntactic relation between demonstratives and locative adverbs. They argue that demonstratives such as *this* and *that* are not primitive D elements but decomposable structures containing a definite component and a deictic component. The proximal-distal contrast is closely tied to locative and spatial material. By comparing demonstratives and locative adverbs, the paper asks how deixis is built inside nominal expressions and how definiteness interacts with spatial anchoring. The study contributes to nominal cartography by decomposing apparently simple demonstratives into smaller syntactic and semantic components.

30. Fuqiang Li, “Two Types of Postpositional Degree Adverb Structures in Chinese”

Li analyzes two Chinese postpositional degree-adverb structures, X *ji-le* and X *de-hen*. Although they appear different on the surface, the paper argues that they share a common underlying structure. Their derivation is driven by features on functional heads: X moves to the specifier of an affirmative-related projection (AffP), with differences in whether the Aff head is overt or not. The study compares the syntactic motivation, projected locus, and feature composition of the two constructions. It contributes to the cartography of Degree by showing how Chinese expresses high degree not only through preverbal modification but also through postposed degree structures.

31. Yi-Ling Irene Liao, “On the Exclusive Particle *qiang* ‘only’ in Sixian Hakka”

Liao examines the focus-sensitive exclusive particle *qiang* ‘only’ in Sixian Hakka. *Qiang* can appear before the verb or sentence-initially, but unlike English *only* it cannot appear between the verb and object. The paper analyzes the syntactic positions available to *qiang* and asks how it associates with focus and excludes alternatives. The study contributes to comparative focus syntax by showing how a Sinitic language organizes exclusive meaning and how focus-sensitive particles interact with cartographic structure.

32. Charles Lok, “Sentence-Final Particles in Late Archaic Chinese”

Lok applies the cartographic approach to sentence-final particles in Late Archaic Chinese, an area much less studied than modern Chinese particle systems. Building on previous work on particles such as *ye*, *hu*, and *zai*, the paper identifies the discourse functions and functional positions of eight common sentence-final particles. It aims to construct a more detailed hierarchy for the Archaic Chinese right periphery and to show how ancient particles encoded force, modality, evaluation, and discourse relation. The study is significant because it extends

cartographic analysis diachronically and demonstrates that fine-grained right-peripheral structure was already present in earlier stages of Chinese.

33. Xiaofan Long and Ge Guo, “On the Definiteness Effect of Double Object Constructions Between Japanese and Chinese”

Long and Guo compare the Definiteness Effect in double object constructions in Mandarin Chinese and Japanese. In Mandarin, definite NPs are more restricted in certain object positions, reflecting a visibility condition on NP licensing within the *vP* phase. Japanese, by contrast, allows more flexible object licensing, because feature valuation is weaker and can proceed beyond the narrow *vP* domain. The paper therefore treats the contrast as a parametric difference in phase-imposed feature checking. By comparing two East Asian languages, it shows that the Definiteness Effect is not a uniform phenomenon but depends on language-specific licensing mechanisms.

34. Koichiro Nakamura, “A Comparative Cartographic Investigation of Left-Dislocation (LD), Hanging Topic (HT), and Aboutness Topic (AT) between Japanese and Chinese”

Nakamura compares left-dislocation, hanging topic, and aboutness topic in Japanese and Chinese. Building on distinctions in which left-dislocation requires a resumptive or gap relation, hanging topic may not, and aboutness topic lacks an original-position element, the paper examines how the ordering and occurrence restrictions of topic types differ across the two languages. Existing hierarchies such as Aboutness Topic > Hanging Topic > Left Dislocation > Focus > IP are tested against Japanese and Chinese data. The study contributes to comparative topic cartography by showing that languages may share topic categories while differing in their positional restrictions and licensing conditions.

35. Trần Phan and Wei-Tien Dylan Tsai, “Beyond the Question: Denial and Disapproval in Vietnamese Non-Canonical Interrogatives”

Phan and Tsai analyze Vietnamese colloquial non-canonical interrogatives of the *X-wh-mà-X* pattern. Although they contain *wh*-elements, these constructions do not function as ordinary questions. Depending on the *wh*-word and configuration, they express denial or disapproval, roughly meaning that the prejacent is false or inappropriate. The paper derives these meanings through the interaction of syntax, modal particles, and discourse force. By treating denial and disapproval as structurally encoded rather than merely pragmatic, the study broadens the cartographic analysis of interrogatives and connects Vietnamese data with wider East Asian research on non-canonical questions.

36. Sarah Rossi, “Directive Force Meets Genericity: A Cartographic Approach to Two Types of Italian Negative Imperatives with Infinitival Morphology”

This study uses a cartographic approach to investigate two distinct Italian negative imperatives that share the same infinitival form: Negative Imperatives (NI) and

Generic Imperatives (GI). While NI targets a second-person singular addressee at the utterance time, GI provides general, timeless rules. The two types exhibit key empirical asymmetries. GI prohibits indexicals, vocatives, and clitic climbing, whereas NI accommodates them. Structurally, the author proposes that both lack a CP layer but differ internally; NI possesses a null aspectual head that permits clitic climbing, while the more reduced GI lacks this element and features a generic operator.

37. Masaharu Shimada and Akiko Nagano, “Relational Adjectives: Solving the Predicative Puzzle with Discourse Movement”

Shimada and Nagano address a puzzle concerning relational adjectives and the distinction between direct attributive modification and indirect predicative modification. Relational adjectives often behave like direct modifiers inside DP but resist ordinary predicative use, creating a mismatch between their nominal and clausal behavior. The paper proposes a cartographic solution involving discourse movement: the apparently defective predicative behavior can be explained if relational adjectives require movement to discourse-related positions under particular interpretive conditions. This analysis contributes to the cartography of the nominal domain and to the syntax of adjectives by showing how discourse structure can solve problems in predication.

38. Fuzhen Si, “The Left Periphery of Noun Phrases: With Special Reference to Chinese *De* Constructions”

Si investigates the left periphery of noun phrases with special attention to Chinese *de* constructions. Although Chinese surface word order appears different from many Indo-European languages, the paper argues that its deeper base-generated sequences conform to a universal hierarchy of nominal modification. Building on the Strongest Position in cartographic syntax, the study examines how Chinese *de* realizes or mediates functional structure inside the nominal domain. The paper is important because it treats DP as a richly articulated field comparable to CP with discourse-related features.

39. Aquiles Tescari Neto, “Adverbs at the Discourse Level: How Context Helps Linguists Map Positions Targeted by Sentence Adverbs in the Left Periphery”

Tescari Neto argues that tests for distinguishing sentence adverbs from low adverbs must be evaluated in carefully specified discourse contexts. Traditional diagnostics, such as whether an adverb can appear sentence-finally or in a cleft, are often presented without contextual control. Using Angolan, Brazilian, and Mozambican Portuguese, the paper shows that the acceptability and interpretation of sentence adverbs depend on the information-structural context in which they are uttered. The study therefore reinterprets adverb diagnostics as tools for locating discourse-pragmatic flavors in the left periphery. It makes a methodological contribution to cartography by foregrounding context-sensitive testing.

40. Ruifei Wang, “How to Say *Don’t* in Chinese Embedded Negative Imperative Clauses”

Wang examines whether Chinese negative imperatives can be truly embedded. Although negative markers such as *bie* and *buyao* appear in embedded clauses, several diagnostics suggest that they are not genuine embedded imperatives: the expected second-person subject effect fails, and affirmative imperative markers such as *qing* or *geiwo* cannot appear in the same environments. Wang argues that embedded negative imperative-like forms are better analyzed as subject-oriented deontic modals located below TP and AspP, with a null logophoric PRO. The paper refines the syntax of Chinese directives and contributes to the broader debate on whether imperative force can be embedded.

41. Siyu Wang and Qi Hao, “When *gei* Meets Disposal: Decomposing the Voice System in Mandarin”

Wang and Hao analyze the multifunctional Mandarin item *gei* when it attaches directly to verbs and interacts with the *ba* disposal construction. *Gei* can form passive-like structures, appear with unaccusatives, and optionally occur under *ba*, but only in *ba* constructions with strong resultativity. The authors propose that this *gei* realizes a thematic non-active Voice bearing features that semantically encode a causer or agent without syntactically introducing an external argument. The paper decomposes the Mandarin Voice system and uses *gei-ba* interactions to show how affectedness, resultativity, and argument structure are distributed across functional layers.

42. Yuyang Wei and Renfang Zhang, “The Cartography of Sentence-Final Particles in Japanese”

Wei and Zhang classify Japanese sentence-final particles *wa*, *zo*, *ze*, *sa*, *yo*, *i*, *sira*, *ne*, and *na* into three structural classes. Class I particles mark focus in terms of speaker concern, Class II particles encode the speaker’s degree of certainty, and Class III particles seek the addressee’s response. Particles within the same class cannot co-occur, while particles from different classes occur in a fixed order: Class I before Class II before Class III. This ordering supports a cartographic hierarchy in the Japanese right periphery. The study provides a systematic syntax-semantics map of Japanese sentence-final particles.

43. Peiying Wu, “The Mirative Particles *Shuo* and *Shi* in the Kunming Dialect – A Cartographic Perspective”

Wu distinguishes the Kunming dialect sentence-final particles *shuo* and *shi* from sentence-final verbal uses of the same forms. As particles, *shuo* and *shi* encode mirativity, marking unexpectedness from the speaker’s perspective. They typically occur in declaratives and rhetorical questions; when attached to exclamatives or imperatives, they indicate that the quoted or reported content surprises the speaker. The paper uses cartographic syntax to locate these mirative particles and explain

their distribution. Its contribution lies in showing how Southwestern Mandarin encodes surprise and speaker stance through dedicated right-peripheral material.

44. Huaizhe Yang, Yongyi Lin, and Siyuan Wang, “Epistemological Features of Definite DPs in Topicalization”

Yang, Lin, and Wang revisit the role of definiteness in licensing topicalization. Traditional approaches often claim that only definite DPs can be topicalized, but later work shows that some indefinite DPs can also function as topics. The paper argues that the relevant condition is not definiteness alone but epistemological status: what the speaker and hearer know, can identify, or can accommodate in discourse. By placing definite DPs in the cartographic topic field, the authors refine the relation between DP interpretation and TopP. The study thus shifts the analysis of topicalization from simple definiteness to knowledge-based discourse accessibility.

45. Keisuke Yoshimoto, “Cleft Constructions in Japanese: Focus in the Low Periphery”

Yoshimoto proposes that Japanese cleft constructions involve a Focus Phrase below TP, contributing to the theory of the low periphery. In Japanese clefts, the presupposed clause is marked by *wa* and the focused phrase precedes the copula. Building on but revising earlier in-situ focus analyses, the paper treats the copula as the head of a low FocP and moves the focus phrase to its specifier. This approach explains the relation between clefts and *no da* constructions while highlighting an underexplored TP-internal cartographic domain. The study expands focus cartography beyond the CP periphery.

46. Jian Yuan, Yaoyao Ning, and Jie Xu, “A Cartographic Analysis of the Particle *to* in Chengdu Dialect”

Yuan, Ning, and Xu argue that Chengdu dialect has two distinct forms of the particle *to*. One is a vP-domain adverb encoding relative temporal priority; the other is a CP-domain imperative particle that produces a precondition interpretation, as in *tsɔŋje tsu-wan lo to* ‘finish your homework first’. The two differ in embeddability, modal scope, and sentence position. The analysis explains why earlier work treated them as one item: deontic modal sentences and imperatives are pragmatically similar but syntactically different. The paper contributes to Southwestern Mandarin cartography by separating temporal ordering from directive force within the grammar.

47. Qingwen Zhang and Shijia Wang, “Two Types of First Person Singular Pronouns in Mandarin Chinese”

Zhang and Wang compare *wo* ‘I’ and independent-pronominal *ziji* ‘self’ in Mandarin. Although *ziji* can refer to the first person singular, it differs from *wo* because it is felicitous mainly when the speaker reports on the self before a general audience and adopts an objective stance. *Ziji* cannot perform speech acts such

as declaring a meeting open, while *wo* can. The authors propose that *ziji* is a pure DP with reference but no discourse role, whereas *wo* carries both thematic reference and the speaker role. The paper links pronoun syntax to the cartography of discourse roles.

48. Jingna Zhou, “Prominent Space and Silent Time: The Syntax of Spatial Deixis in Zhoushan Dialect and Related Issues”

Zhou analyzes locative enclitics in Zhoushan dialect that anchor events to the speech act through spatial deixis. The system is trinary, includes speaker- and hearer-oriented reference, and produces additional interpretations such as continuity, duration, imperative force, or volitionality. Zhou proposes that these enclitics realize an anchoring category composed of time, speaker-location, and addressee-location layers. A point-of-view layer is likewise divided into temporal and spatial sublayers. The paper is significant because it shows that, in some languages, spatial anchoring may play a role comparable to tense, linking deixis, aspect, and clause type.

49. Jiamu Zhu, “Syntax and Semantics of Mandarin *zhishao*”

Zhu re-examines Mandarin *zhishao* ‘at least’ in comparison with English *at least*, which has epistemic, concessive, and rhetorical readings. The paper argues that previous unified analyses are not precise enough because they assume focus/QUD congruence, whereas many cases lack such congruence. Zhu proposes a revised semantics based on a contextually salient degree question and an ordered answer set, allowing both congruent and non-congruent cases. Syntactically, the paper distinguishes ordinary scalar uses from discourse-level rhetorical uses. The study refines the interface between degree semantics, focus alternatives, QUD, and left-peripheral discourse structure.

50. Luyi Zhu and Saurov Syed, “A Finer Cartography of Mandarin Nominals: Topic, Focus, and Two Types of DEM”

Zhu and Syed analyze the distribution of *A-de/di?* inside Jianghuai and Standard Mandarin nominals. They identify four possible positions for adjective-*de* relative to demonstratives, numerals, classifiers, and nouns. Canonical order yields neutral or focus readings, while non-canonical orders produce contrastive focus, grouping effects, exclusiveness, and topic interpretations. The authors propose nominal-internal phrasal movement to focus and topic projections and distinguish two types of demonstratives: one marking definiteness and the other marking deixis. Their refined nominal cartography shows that topic, focus, exclusiveness, grouping, definiteness, and deixis are all structurally encoded inside the DP.

Conclusions

Contemporary syntactic cartography features a profound theoretical scope and an expansive empirical foundation. The Workshop systematically evaluated whether the structural map required refinement, if the same functional layers appear across

different languages, and how evidence from dialects, history, clinical studies, and discourse-pragmatics could test the accuracy of the proposed hierarchies.

The successful organization of IWSC-6 at CUHK marked a mature stage in which syntactic cartography can serve as a shared research language for scholars working on Chinese dialects, East Asian languages, Indo-European languages, Austronesian languages, Tibeto-Burman languages, historical grammar, discourse syntax, and the syntax-semantics interface. By combining theoretical rigor with a remarkable range of data, the Workshop provided a useful framework for future international collaboration in linguistic research.

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精研理論推導，博採跨語言實證：第六屆句法製圖國際研討會述評

吳多泰中國語文研究中心
香港中文大學

提要

“第六屆句法製圖國際研討會”於 2025 年在香港中文大學舉行。自 2015 年以來，句法製圖國際研討會已走過十年歷程。本屆會議由香港中文大學中國文化研究所吳多泰中國語文研究中心、中國語言及文學系、日本研究學系聯合句法製圖國際研究協會共同主辦，並獲香港中文大學文學院贊助。此次會議的主題圍繞“D”相關的句法學問題，特邀哈佛大學、台灣師範大學的黃正德教授和法蘭西公學院、錫耶納大學的 Luigi Rizzi 教授作主旨報告。來自世界各地的學者齊聚一堂，呈現了 48 場精彩的學術報告。

