



Time is Money: Some Syntactic Arguments from Hong Kong Cantonese

Tommi Leung
United Arab Emirates University

Abstract

This paper investigates the monetary and temporal expressions in Hong Kong Cantonese. For the monetary expressions, we focus on the word *mán* ‘dollar’, *hou* ‘ten cents’, and *go* which we consider as a numerical base. We conclude that all monetary expressions, given their value-denoting nature, modify the silent noun VALUE. In the expression of clock time, the temporal unit *dim* ‘point’ is analogous to the monetary *go* in the sense that both function as a numerical base. Clock time expressions in Cantonese are more complicated in that they represent the relation between hours, the twelve clock segments, and minutes. All clock time expressions modify the silent noun TIME.

Keywords

numerical base, monetary unit, temporal unit, silent noun

時間就是金錢：香港粵語的一些語法論證

梁子祥

阿聯酋大學

提要

本文旨在研究香港粵語的貨幣表達式與時間表達式。對於貨幣表達式，本文將討論香港粵語“蚊”與“毫”的用法，以及論證“個”字於貨幣表達式的語法功能為數值基數。本文認為貨幣表達式修飾無聲名詞“價值”。對於時間表達式，本文認為時間單位“點”跟“個”都能作為數值基數。香港粵語之時間表達式較為複雜，其主要原因在於時間被系統劃分為時、字及分。跟貨幣表達式類同，所有時間表達式都修飾無聲名詞“時間”。

關鍵詞

數值基數，貨幣單位，時間單位，無聲名詞