

FORMATION OF THE TYPOLOGICAL VIEW OF
MANDARIN AS A TOPIC-PROMINENT LANGUAGE:
A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT


The claim that Mandarin is a topic-prominent language has been widely accepted and frequently cited in studies of Mandarin Chinese since its proposal in the 1980s. The validity of this claim, however, was questioned as early as 1984. To date, little progress has been made to resolve this question. This study aimed to revisit this long-standing debate by reviewing the formation of the typological view of Mandarin proposed by Li and Thompson. In addition, this study reviewed closely related studies to highlight a distinctive path for reassessing the validity of this influential view of Mandarin. This study aimed to contribute to future studies related to Mandarin.

KEYWORDS

Typological view Topic-prominent language Mandarin Topic-comment sentences

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汉语是主题突出语言的类型学观点形成综述

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摘要

自上世纪八十年代起,汉语被普遍地认为是一种“主题突出的语言”。自此之后,这一类型学观点就常被引用到汉语的相关研究中。然而,这一类型学观点的可信度早在1984年就已受到了质疑。但至今,与此相关的研究却仍进展缓慢。为厘清此类型学观点的有效性,亦为后续研究可以更好地审视这一类型学观点的可信度,本文将重新回顾这个由Li和Thompson提出的类型学观点的形成和一些相关研究。研究成果将对日后汉语的有关研究起到一定推动作用。

关键词

类型学观点 主题突出的语言 汉语 主题句

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