ON THE SYNTAX OF THE NEGATIVE MARKER *MEI6* IN CANTONESE

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ABSTRACT

Syntactic properties of the negative marker *mei6* in the preverbal and sentence-final positions in Cantonese are examined in this paper. It is argued that the preverbal *mei6* is the head of NegP in the lexical layer while the sentence-final *mei6* is a sentence-final particle of the temporal type in the head of TP that belongs to the inflectional layer, forming VP-Neg questions. A number of empirical facts, such as matching restrictions on the predicate, coexistence with the sentence-final particles of the temporal type, occurrence in embedded clauses, and distribution of the adverb *zung6* 'still', can be explained under the base-generation approach to the derivation of the VP-Neg questions.

KEYWORDS

Negation **S**entence-final particle **V**P-Neg question **C**artography **C**antonese

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粤语否定标记"未"的句法研究

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摘要

本文旨在讨论粤语谓语前和句末否定标记"未"的句法特点。谓语前的"未"属于否定词短语的中心语,位处词汇层次;句末"未"属于时间类句末助词,位于时间词短语的中心语,位处屈折层次,形成反复问句。根据本文对反复问句基础生成的分析,跟"未"相关的谓语匹配要求、与时间类句末助词共现问题、进入嵌套小句、副词"仲"分布等语言事实,都可以得到合理的解释。

关键词

否定 句末助词 反复问句 制图理论 粤语