

CONVERSATIONAL USES OF MANDARIN CHINESE *BURAN* (‘NOT SO’) IN CASUAL CONVERSATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Chinese *buran*, literally meaning ‘not so,’ can be a marker of negative conditionality expressing the speaker’s (un)desirability toward some event and can be used to introduce a proposal or suggestion. Although many studies have analyzed *buran*, most of them have examined its usage in written texts and have focused on its meaning and/or functions as a negative conditional conjunct. In conversation, *buran* frequently co-occurs with questions in “nonconventional uses” and as such deserves closer attention. This study attempts to explore both the conventional and nonconventional uses of *buran* in casual conversation. The data show that *buran* can indicate a wide range of alternativeness, from absolute opposition to relative opposition. Specifically, as a marker of negative conditionality, *buran* provides a nonevent that might take place to highlight the significance of a real event in a preceding proposition. As a marker of alternativeness and a device for making suggestions, *buran* can be used to

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华语“不然”在日常会话的用法探究

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摘要

华语“不然”在古代汉语有“不是如此，不是这样”的意思。它后来发展出“如果不是这样”的意思，表示前面叙述了一种情况，反过来的另一种情况就不是这样了，为一否定条件句的标志。“不然”也有一些变体，如“要不”“要不然”和“再不然”。它常被使用于表达说话者对某一事件的“(不)称心如意”和选择性以表示提议或建议。本研究旨在探究“不然”“要不然”和“要不”出现于日常会话的特色。研究采用 Halliday (1994) 语言的三个元功能作为分析架构，即“表义/概念功能”“语篇功能”和“人际功能”，特别探究它的语篇功能和人际功能。研究发现，“不然”及其变体在日常会话中常作言谈标记使用，除了可表达对某一事件的“(不)合意性”、提议或建议，也被说话者使用作为虚假的不礼貌标记，听起来像调侃，以示说话者与听话者关系亲密或熟识。

关键词

否定条件 (不)称心如意 选择性 虚假的不礼貌