

## AMBIVALENT VOICE IN THE LINXIA DIALECT

Hao Li

*Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Mainz*

### ABSTRACT

“Ambivalent voice” or “voice ambivalence” denotes a linguistic phenomenon where a single grammatical marker or form encapsulates multiple voices in a language. The present study focuses on the ambivalent voice of the dialect Linxia, a northwestern Sinitic language, employing descriptive and comparative methods to analyze its syntactic and semantic features. In Linxia, the causative, passive, and applicative voices are unified under the enclitic marker *ti*, contrasting with the prevalent use of the verb GIVE in adjacent languages. Nonetheless, due to deep contact with neighboring Altaic-type languages (Turko-Mongolic), the Linxia dialect exhibits linguistic convergence within the Gansu-Qinghai area.

### KEYWORDS

Ambivalent voice    Causative    Applicative    Passive    The Linxia dialect    Altaic-type languages

---

**Acknowledgements** I would like to express my deep gratitude to my PhD supervisor, Professor Xu Dan, for her unwavering support and guidance. I am also thankful to the reviewers for their insightful comments, as well as to Professor Hilary Chappell and Professor Andrej Malchukov for their invaluable feedback and revisions. This article was produced with the support of the European Research Council (ERC)-funded research project, “Tracing language and population mixing in the Gansu-Qinghai area,” ERC-2019-AdG-883700-TRAM. Any errors or shortcomings in this work are my own responsibility.

**Hao Li** (黎皓) [haoli@uni-mainz.de]; Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Department of English and Linguistics, Hegelstraße 59, 55122 Mainz, Germany.

## 临夏话中的“语态融合”

黎皓

美因茨大学

## 摘要

“语态融合”(ambivalent voice)是指一个语言中通过同一语法标记或形式实现多个语态类别的语言现象。“语态融合”并不鲜见,极具类型研究的价值和意义。本文以西北方言临夏话为例,通过描写和对比,展示并分析了临夏话中“语态融合”现象的句法及语义特征。临夏话中的致使(causative)、被动(passive)及施用(applicative)语态通过附缀标记 *ti* 来实现,这与周边大多语言通过动词“给”实现“语态融合”有所不同,但在语法功能层面,由于和周边阿尔泰类型语言的深度接触,表现出相似的区域性特征。

## 关键词

语态融合 致使 被动 施用 临夏话 阿尔泰类型语言