

THE SEMANTIC AND SYNTACTIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN  
至于 AND 至於 IN WARRING STATES PERIOD TEXTS

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ABSTRACT

This paper supports and extends the results of previous studies, such as Pulleyblank (1986) and Chang (2012), that argue that the choice of 于 or 於 in Classical Chinese is not random, but rather is conditioned by the features of the preceding verb. Through a close examination of the co-occurrence of 于 and 於 with the high-frequency verb 至 in six Warring States period texts, it is shown that additional semantic and syntactic factors influence the choice between the two. Semantically speaking, while both 至于 and 至於 occur followed by a noun indicating a place, a time, or a person—all of which can be described as [+concrete] goals—it is only 至於 that occurs followed by a degree, result, or extent, which can be described as [-concrete] goals. The [-concrete] goals that appear as objects of 至於 include a near demonstrative pronoun 此, a noun (including an abstract noun) or noun phrase, a verb phrase, and even a sentence. Syntactically speaking, only “至於 + Noun” appears in nominalized contexts in complex syntactic structures, such as before a nominalizer 者, before or after a relativizer 所, and as a head noun after a

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possessive/attributive marker 之. These findings provide additional support for the claim that 于 and 於 represent distinct lexical items, with distinct semantic feature sets, in Classical Chinese.

KEYWORDS

至于, 至於, 于, 於, Warring States period texts

戰國文獻裡出現的‘至于’、‘至於’的語意上、語法上的差異

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### 提要

本文經過調查戰國文獻裡出現的‘至于’和‘至於’的例子來證明它們肯定有語意上、語法上的差異。在語意上，只有‘至於’後邊出現表示程度或者結果的成分。表示程度或者結果的成分包括近指代詞‘此’，名詞句(包括抽象名詞)，動詞句，甚至連主謂結構都可以出現在‘至於’的後邊表示“達到這樣的程度或者結果。”在語法上，只有‘至於’在複雜的語法結構裡出現。“複雜的語法結構”就是說含有名詞化標記‘者’、‘所’、‘之’等的句子。以前，作者曾經主張過‘于’或‘於’的選擇常常跟前邊的動詞的性質來決定。本文強調‘于’或‘於’的選擇不但跟前邊的動詞的性質有關，而且跟後邊的名詞的性質和‘于’或‘於’出現的句子的語法結構有關。

### 關鍵詞

至于 至於 于 於 戰國文獻