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The First Northeast Conference on Chinese Linguistics

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A decision was made by enthusiastic participants in May 1988 at the Third Ohio State Conference on Chinese Linguistics (OSUCCL) to found an annual regional conference on Chinese linguistics to be hosted by different universities in the northeast region on a rotating basis.

Launching the first meeting of this Northeast Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NECCL) was the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at Ohio State University as the host. The meeting was held in Columbus, Ohio on 5-7 May 1989, and organized by Marjorie Chan, Robert Sanders and James Tai. Co-sponsoring the conference were the College of Humanities, Graduate School, East Asian Studies Center, the Department of Linguistics, and the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures. (An unexpected contribution to the conference was a snow flurry on the last morning!)

There was much excitement in the air, and the mood was very lively, particularly in some of the syntax sessions. Some seventy to eighty scholars attended the conference, including local students and faculty, as well as those from other campuses in Ohio and neighbouring states. Presenters and participants also included scholars from Taiwan (Mei Kuang), Singapore (Chen Chung-Yu), Japan (Fumiyoshi Matsumura), and Hong Kong (Thomas Lee and Eric Zee). The audience included several linguists from the Department of Linguistics, Ohio State University: Mary Beckman, Brian Joseph, Ilse Lehiste, David Odden, and Arnold Zwicky. Attending the conference from other departments at OSU included Osamu Fujimura (Speech and Hearing Sciences), Neal Johnson (Psychology), and Keith Walters (English). And coming for two years in a row to Columbus to attend both the OSUCCL and the NECCL conference was James McCawley, University

of Chicago.

The first evening's activity was the keynote address by William S-Y. Wang, University of California, Berkeley, entitled "Theoretical issues in studying Chinese dialects." The conference room was filled to capacity. And no wonder; for Ohio State University, the choice of Professor Wang as the keynote speaker was very symbolic one. He played a crucial role in the history and tradition of Chinese linguistic research at Ohio State University. He was instrumental in establishing the Department of Linguistics at Ohio State University, and in founding the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures. The organizers deemed it most befitting that Professor Wang be the keynote speaker to launch the first of the Northeast Conferences on Chinese Linguistics. Professor Wang's talk, in which he cited studies by some of his current and former students, raised some crucial theoretical issues concerning historical changes among dialects of Chinese, reflecting his profound knowledge of the history of China in the formation and development of Chinese dialects.

On the second evening, Professor Ovid Tzeng, Department of Psychology at University of California, Riverside, presented a talk that was co-sponsored with the Department of Psychology. The topic, "Neuropsychological studies of spoken and written Chinese: a decade's effort," stimulated many questions from the audience.

During the two and a half days of the conference, thirty-seven papers were presented at the regular sessions. Several speakers were invited from universities in the northeast region. Other speakers, whose papers were accepted through a selection process, came from as far as California in the United States, and even included two from Hong Kong.

The regular sessions covered a variety of topics, including dialectology, phonetics, historical and synchronic phonology, morphology, syntax, sociolinguistics and discourse analysis, reflecting the areas of research interest in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at Ohio State University. A list of the presenters, their affiliations (as of Fall 1989), and paper titles are given below for the

interested reader. The Second Northeast Conference on Chinese Linguistics will be held at the University of Pennsylvania in spring 1990. Professor Jerome Packard, Department of Oriental Studies, will be the organizer.

#### List of Presenters and Paper Titles

- AO, Benjamin (Linguistics, Ohio State U.) "(Origin and characteristics of the Nantong dialects)"
- AOUN, Joseph and Yen-hui Audrey Li (Linguistics, U. of Southern California) "The interaction of pronouns and reflexives in Mandarin Chinese: evidence for the existence of Logical Form and raising of reflexives"
- BARTLETT, Thomas (E. Asian Lang. & Civ., Harvard U.) "Ku Yen-wu's vision of the uses of phonology"
- BAXTER, William H. III (Asian Lang. & Culture, U. of Michigan) "From Old Chinese to Middle Chinese"
- BOURGERIE, Dana Scott (E. Asian L & L, Ohio State U.) "A quantitative study of social variation in Cantonese: some preliminary remarks"
- CHAN, Marjorie K.M. (E. Asian L & L, Ohio State U.) "Contour-tone spreading and tone sandhi in Danyang"
- CHAO, Ruth Huey-ju (Linguistics, U. of Illinois) "Correlation between aspiration and pitch"
- CHEN, Chun-yin Doris (Linguistics, U. of Illinois & U. of Delaware) "Function INFL and some asymmetries in Chinese"
- CHENG, Chin-chuan (Linguistics, U. of Illinois) "Syntactic features in quantification of Chinese dialect affinity"
- CHENG, Lisa Lai Shen (Linguistics, M.I.T.) "Aspectual licensing of pro in Mandarin Chinese"
- CHUNG, Raung-fu (Linguistics, U. of Illinois) "On geminate inalterability"

- COLE, Peter and Li-May Sung (Linguistics, U. of Delaware). "Long-distance reflexives revisited"
- DAI, John Xiang-ling (Linguistics, Ohio State U.) "Historical morphologization of syntactic words: evidence from Chinese derived verbs"
- ERNST, Thomas (Linguistics, U. of Delaware) "Adjuncts and Chinese phrase structure"
- FENG, Li (Linguistics, U. of Pennsylvania) "The copula in Classical Chinese declarative sentences"
- HUANG, C.T. James (Modern Lgs. & Ling., Cornell U.) "Complex predicates in Control"
- JIANG, Zixin (Linguistics, U. of Chicago) "The necessity of an omnipresent lexicon in Chinese grammar"
- LEE, Thomas Hun-tak (English, U. of Hong Kong) and Xu Lie-jiong (Fudan U.) "Quantifier scope in Chinese revisited"
- LI, Peter Y. (Computer Science, U. of Pennsylvania) "Sentence-final particles and intonations in Cantonese"
- LIGHT, Timothy (Provost Office, Kalamazoo College). "ZENMA ZOU? Preliminary thoughts on getting from here to there in Chinese"
- LIU, Jocelyn S. (Linguistics Research Ctr., U. of Texas at Austin) "Tone sandhi in the Chinese dialects"
- MEI, Kuang (Chinese, Tsinghua U., Taiwan) "On some problems of Generalized Control"
- MIRACLE, W. Charles (E. Asian L & L., Ohio State U.) "Seeking unity in multifunctionality: the case of NA/NAME"
- PACKARD, Jerome L. (Oriental Studies, U. of Pennsylvania) "Word formation in Mandarin: a lexical morphology approach"
- ROSS, Claudia (Modern L & L, College of the Holy Cross) "Some remarks on BA"

- SANDERS, Robert M. and He Baozhang (E. Asian L & L, Ohio State U.) "Chinese sociolinguistics: a new perspective"
- SHEN, Xiaonan Susan (Modern & Classical Lgs., Texas A&M U.) "An acoustical study of tonal coarticulation in Mandarin"
- SHI, Ziqiang (Smith College) "Decomposition of perfectivity and inchoativity and the meaning of the particle LE in Mandarin Chinese"
- SHIH, Chilin (Chinese, Comp. Lit & Slavic, Rutgers U.) "The interaction of tone and intonation in Mandarin"
- STRECKER, David (Cincinnati, Ohio) "Sino-Mienic evidence for Old and Middle Chinese phonology"
- TAI, James (E. Asian L & L, Ohio State U.) "Iconicity: Motivation in Chinese syntax"
- TENG, Shou-hsin (Asian L & L, U. of Massachusetts) "Trimming topic in Chinese"
- TZENG, Ovid (Psychology, U. of California, Riverside) "Neuropsychological studies of spoken and written Chinese: a decade's effort"
- WANG, William S-Y. (Linguistics, U. of California, Berkeley) "Theoretical issues in the study of Chinese dialects"
- YOON, James H. (Linguistics, U. of Chicago) "Antipassive and the BA construction"
- ZEE, Eric (Anthropology, Chinese U. of Hong Kong) "Vowel devoicing in Chinese: a phonetic study"
- ZHANG, Shi (Linguistics, U. of Arizona) "LE as an aspectual clitic development in Chinese diachronic syntax"
- ZHOU, Xiping (Linguistics, U. of Illinois) "Unaccusativity in Chinese: some theoretical implications"
- ZHAO, Yan (English, Purdue U.) "A semantic analysis of Chinese humor"