CONTENTS OF VOLUME 1

Preface ........................................................................................................iv
Acknowledgement ......................................................................................v
NACCL Conferences (1989-2009) .................................................................vi

PART 1. INVITED PAPERS

1. Yen-Hwei Lin...........................................................................................1
   Loanword adaptation and phonological theory

2. Hongyin Tao............................................................................................13
   Core vocabulary in spoken Mandarin and the integration of corpus-based findings into
   language pedagogy

PART 2. PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY

3. Yufen Chang..........................................................................................28
   The phonology of ABB reduplication in Taiwanese

4. Yen-Chen Hao........................................................................................42
   Tonal adaptation of English loanwords in Cantonese

5. Ting L. Huang........................................................................................55
   Prosodic influences on Chinese tongue twisters

6. Chien-Hui Lee........................................................................................65
   The reconstruction of sk- and kr- clusters about Fang Kuei Li

7. Yu-Leng Lin............................................................................................81
   Tests of analytic bias in native Mandarin speakers and native southern Min speakers

8. Huiu-Hsueh Liu......................................................................................93
   漢語鼻尾小稱與詞根的互動

9. Chin-Wei Wu........................................................................................108
   Partial-reduplication with fixed segmentism in Chinese dialects—An Optimality
   Theory Approach

10. Huili Zhang..........................................................................................120
    懋師方言的兒化及相关问题
PART 3. STUDIES IN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

11. Agnes Weiyun He………………………………………………………………….138
    Conversational Repair: Where Modality and Morality Converge

12. Jidong Chen and Ruixi Ai
    Encoding motion and state change in L2 Mandarin…………………………149

13. Po-Ting Chen…………………………………………………………………….165
    Topic and Topic-Comment Structures in First Language Acquisition
    of Mandarin Chinese

14. Hsiang-Ting Andrea Wu…………………………………………………………178
    Roles of pictures and native language in lexical processing for elementary
    American learners

PART 4. STUDY IN HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS

15. Jung-Im Chang……………………………………………………………………196
    Yaodian (堯典) and (Gaoyao mo)皋陶謨 in the Shangshu (尚書)
PREFACE

The 21st North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL-21) was held at Bryant University on June 6-8, 2009. A total of 135 proposals were submitted to the conference organizing committee. Out of them seventy were selected for presentation at the conference, which covered a full range of issues in Chinese linguistics and applied linguistics and represented scholars from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, North America, and UK.

Two featured speakers with international reputation in Chinese linguistics were invited. They were Professor Yen-Hwei Lin (林燕慧) from Michigan State University and Professor Hong-yin Tao (陶红印) from University of California, Los Angeles. Both presentations were exemplary and highly regarded by the participants.

Although it took place amid the H1N1 flu scare, yet over 120 people attended the conference and actively participated in the presentation sessions, discussions, and networking. There were 94 pre-registered presenters, with the remainder being interested faculty and students from local schools or universities. The conference also attracted book exhibit from Cheng & Tsui Publishing Company and announced a new book entitled *The Syntax of Chinese* (2009), Cambridge University Press, by C. -T. James Huang, Y. -H. Audrey Li, and Yafei Li.

After the conference ended, the presenters were invited to submit their revised papers for publication of the Proceedings of the 21st North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics. Thirty-nine of the presented papers were submitted and included in the proceedings. Based on their research topics, the papers were placed in two volumes and divided into six theme-based parts, including the invited papers. (See Table of Contents for detailed information.)

The conference was organized by Yun Xiao, and the conference website was designed by professional website designer, Connecticut-based Normalkings, Inc. and maintained by Bryant University after the conference ended. The organizing committee included two faculty members in the Modern Language Department, Assistant to the Dean of Arts and Sciences, and the director of US-China Institute at Bryant university. In addition, a dozen of Chinese faculty members, US-China Institute staff, and student interns were involved in the preparation and operation of the conference.

Yun Xiao, Ph.D.

Smithfield, Rhode Island

December 2009
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The NACCL-21 conference was made possible through the generosity of its sponsors, which included the following universities, departments, and agencies:

Bryant University
- Department of Modern Languages
- U.S.-China Institute
- Confucius Institute
- College of Arts and Sciences
- Department of History & Social Sciences
- NACCL-21 Organizing Committee members

China
- Office of Chinese Language Council International (HANBAN)

Brown University
- East Asian Studies
- The Center for Language Studies

Cheng & Tsui Publishing Company, Boston, M.A.

NACCL-21 also profoundly acknowledges the help from the abstract reviewers and volunteers who worked diligently to assist in conference preparation and facilitating many of its activities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Conference</th>
<th>Host Institution</th>
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</tr>
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<td>University of Delaware</td>
<td>Thomas Ernst</td>
</tr>
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<td>NACCL-6</td>
<td>University of Southern California</td>
<td>Yen-hui Audrey Li</td>
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<td>Tsai-Fa Cheng, Yafei Li Hongming Zhang</td>
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<td>University of Victoria, BC Canada</td>
<td>Hua Lin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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