Event nouns are a special type of nouns which lexically encode eventive information, including event structure and time. In this paper, we discuss a typical event noun in Chinese, *huìyì*, to find out the evidences of *huìyì* as an event, and examine the three levels of semantic representation system, i.e. argument structure, event structure and qualia structure, based on the generative lexicon theory.

1. Introduction

Typical nouns are usually used to represent concrete or abstract objects, such as *chuānghu* ‘windows’ and *sīxiǎng* ‘thoughts’. However, there is a kind of nouns which lexically encode eventive information, including event structure and time. These nouns are called event nouns, temporal nouns or process nouns. They are a particular type in Mandarin Chinese. In this study, we use the term event nouns, because an “event” not only has temporal properties, but also includes activities happening in it.

The aims of this research are to find out the evidences of *huìyì* ‘conference’ as an event, and reveal its argument structure, event structure and qualia structure to establish its semantic representation system based on the generative lexicon theory (henceforth GLT).

GLT was first proposed in Pustejovsky (1991) and further developed in Pustejovsky (1995). Its goal is to capture the generative nature of lexical creativity and sense extension phenomena. GLT is a computational system composed of four levels of representation: (I) Argument Structure: the number and type of logical arguments; (II) Event Structure: event type and subeventual structure; (III) Qualia Structure: comprised of formal, constitutive, telic and agentive roles; (IV) Lexical Inheritance Structure: position of a lexical structure in the type lattice.

We adopt GLT as the theoretical basis of this study because it provides a comprehensive account of lexical semantic information of a lexical item. Qualia structure is the most important contribution of GLT which shows the semantic information of a lexical item.
Lexical inheritance structure is using a very shallow ontology in GTL, thus it will not be discussed in this paper.

The data in this study are collected from the tagged Chinese Gigaword Corpus (Second Edition) using Chinese Word Sketch Engine. It includes three distinct international sources of Chinese newswire, e.g. Central News Agency, Xinhua News Agency, and Zaobao Newspaper, with a total of 2,803,632 documents.

2. Related Research

There are various studies that focus on the patterns and properties of events nouns. Ma (1995) points out that typical nominals and predicates are related to denotation meaning and predication meaning respectively, and they are located on both ends of a continuum. Atypical nominals and predicates locate in the middle of the continuum, including nouns with predication meaning and verbs with denotation meaning.

He investigates the combination of nouns and localizers. Localizers are divided into three types:

A(spatial): zuǒ ‘left’ / yòu ‘right’ / dōng ‘east’ / xī ‘west’ / lǐmiàn ‘inside’ / yǐwài ‘outside’
B(temporal): yǐqián ‘before’ / yǐhòu ‘after’ / dāngér ‘when’
C(spatial or temporal): qián ‘before’ / hòu ‘after’ / shāng ‘on’ / xià ‘under’ / zhōng ‘middle, in the course of’

- Common nouns are words that can be followed by type A, but can not be followed by type B: such as qiáo ‘bridges’, mén ‘doors’, yǐzi ‘chairs’
- Process nouns are words that can be followed by type B, but can not be followed by type A: such as zhànzhēng ‘wars’, léiyǔ ‘thunderstorms’, dàhuì ‘large conferences’
- Both common nouns and process nouns can be followed by type C, but the former shows spatial meaning, while the latter shows temporal meaning.

Process nouns can be further divided into continuous and non-continuous ones according to whether they can be followed by zhōng ‘in the course of’. Continuous process nouns are able to collocate with durative temporal expressions, e.g. zhànzhēng ‘wars’, léiyǔ ‘thunderstorms’, while non-continuous ones are in collocation with punctual temporal expression, e.g. jīntiān ‘today’, yuándàn ‘New Year's Day’.

Secondly, process nouns can combine with activity classifiers, for examples:
Chu (2000) proposes three formats in identifying event nouns as shown below:

(I) N + qī jiān ‘during’
(II) N + qián ‘before’/hòu ‘after’/yīqián ‘before’/yíhòu ‘after’/zhīqián ‘before’/zhīhòu ‘after’
(III) N + shíqī/shídài ‘epoch’, including N + shíhou ‘during’, N + niándài ‘era’, N + jiēduàn ‘period’/shíguāng ‘time’

Type I and type III look at the time flow of these nouns from the internal aspect, including starting point, continuity, and ending point. Type II looks at the time flow of these nouns from the external world. According to the above three formats that nouns can enter into, they are divided into five classes:

Class A can only enter type II, including:
- A2: nouns whose last morpheme is qī ‘period’, e.g. huìqī ‘conference period’, xīnqī ‘flood period’, wěixiāngqī ‘dangerous period’, jiāqī ‘holidays’
- A3: activities or events with a short duration, e.g. shǎndiàn ‘lightening’, kōng nàn ‘aircrashes’, bàizhàng ‘lost battles’, shígù ‘accidents’, cān’àn ‘tragedies’, chēhuò ‘car accidents’
- A4: participants in an event, e.g. wǔfàn ‘lunch’, zǎochá ‘morning tea’, zǎodiǎn ‘breakfast’, yèxiāo ‘late snacks’, zuòwén kè ‘writing classes’

Class B can only enter type III. Most words represent human beings or things, e.g. tǎngtài zōng shíqī ‘the period of Emperor Taizong of Tang’, sānyēchōng shídài ‘the era of trilobites’.

Class C can enter any two types, including:
- C1 can only enter I and II. One type is representing activities, and is longer than A3. e.g. shǒushù ‘operations’, wǎnyàn ‘dinners’, dàhuì ‘large conferences’, lǐnyù ‘showers’. The other type is words with jià ‘holidays’ as a morpheme, e.g. hánjià ‘winter vacation’, hūnjià ‘marriage leave’, bìngjià ‘sick leave’.
- C2 can only enter I and III, e.g. dàxué ‘universities’, chūzhōng ‘junior high schools’.
- C3 can only enter II and III. These are nouns representing people, works and dynasties.

Class E cannot enter any of the three formats.

With the above analysis, Chu (2000) sum up the temporality of nouns with a sequence from strong to week: ① according to classes: D > C > A > B > E; ② according to semantics: activities, events or phenomena nouns > human or object nouns, concrete nouns > non-concrete nouns, humanity nouns > natural nouns, distinctive feature nouns > non-distinctive feature nouns, internal temporal nouns > external temporal nouns.

Wang & Zhu (2000) propose a way of subcategorizing nouns according to the classifiers that nouns can be in collocation with. Process nouns can only be modified by activity classifiers or temporal classifiers, e.g. yī chǎn yǒuyì sài ‘a friendly competition’, yī zhèn léiyǔ ‘a burst of thunderstorms’, yī dùn wǎncān ‘a dinner’, and shí nián nèizhàn ‘a decade of civil wars’.

Han (2010) proposes three formats to identify event nouns: (a) numeral + verbal classifier + ___; (b) ___ + hòu ‘after’; (c) ___ + zhōng ‘in the course of’.

Format I is the best frame and Format II is a preferred frame in determining event nouns. They have general application to prototype event nouns. Format III is just an aiding frame in determining event nouns.

From the above mentioned research, we know that a consensus that a noun followed by qián ‘before’ or hòu ‘after’ expresses temporal meaning, the noun is an event noun. Also, activity classifiers can be used to detect event nouns. In section 3, we will follow the two formats to check huìyì.

However, there are some problems with previous research: Ma (1995) regards temporal nouns, e.g. jīntiān ‘today’ and yuándàn ‘New Year’s Day’, as event nouns. In our study, we hold that these nouns only have temporal properties, but do not have event properties. So we do not treat them as event nouns. For Chu (2000), we argue that A2 (nouns whose last morpheme is qī), C1 (nouns with jià as a morpheme) and C2 (e.g. dàxué ‘universities’, chūzhōng ‘junior middle school’) should belong to the same category, because they all purely express time. For this reason, they should have strongest time adaptation, instead of words of class D.

Previous studies have given us a picture of the properties of event nouns. Some questions, however, remain unexplored. In the following sections, we will discuss the three problems: (1) Why huìyì can be treated as an event? (2) What is huìyì’s semantic
representation, e.g. argument structure, event structure and qualia structure? (3) How to represent huiyi’s semantic type system?

3. Evidences of huiyi as an Event

The word huiyi has two basic senses: one is a formal meeting for consultation or discussion, the other is an organization that usually discusses and deals with important issues, such as zhongguo renmin zhengzhi xieshang huiyi (Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference). huiyi on the first sense is regarded as an event, while the second is not.

In this section, we will use four formats to prove that huiyi is an event noun.

3.1 huiyi + qian ‘before’ / hou ‘after’

(Chu 2000; Han 2010; Liu 2004; Ma 1995) all hold that when a noun followed by qian ‘before’ or hou ‘after’ expresses temporal meaning, the noun is an event noun. The following examples show that huiyi can collocate with qian ‘before’ and hou ‘after’, which indicate huiyi’s boundaries and distinguish it from other events. In (1), before the conference event, there is another event that the stock market is rising. In (2), after the conference event, there will be an event of studying an issue.

(1) jingji huiyi qian guoshijiang chiu zhang.
   Economy conference before stock market will continue rise
   ‘The stock market will continue rising before the economy conference.’

(2) zhe ci huiyi hou, jiu yao zhuoshou yanjiu zhe ge wenti.
   This classifier conference after, should will set about study this issue
   ‘After this conference, (we) should set about studying this issue.’

3.2 huiyi + Durative Temporal Expression

huiyi can be modified by durative temporal expression as shown in (3). It means that huiyi is an event with process.

(3) jintian de huiyi jinxing le qi ge duo xiaoshi.
   Today DE conference go on ASP seven CL more hour
   ‘Today’s conference went on for over seven hours.’

This process can be interrupted, for example:

(4) huiyi mei jinxingiang ge xiaoshi jiu you yi ci chaixie.
   Conference every go on two classifier hour at once have one CL tea break
   ‘There is a tea break every two hours during the conference.’

Also, this process has starting point and ending point:

(5) ben ci huiyi cong liuyue qiri kaisi.
   this CL conference from June seventh start
‘This conference starts from June 7th.’

(6) zhōng fā gōngyè hézuò huìyì yuánmǎn jiéshù。
   China France industry cooperation conference satisfactory end
   ‘Sino-French industrial cooperation conference comes to a successful ending.’

3.3 Numeral/Demonstrative + Event Classifier + huìyì

Huang et al. (1997) distinguish event classifiers from activity classifiers. The former is used to enumerate the number of events, e.g. yī bǐ shēngyì ‘a deal of business’; the latter is used to enumerate the times of action, e.g. qù le yī tàng ‘went once’. Moreover, the former usually appear before the enumerated event; the latter usually appear after the enumerated action. Huang & Ahrens (2003) further point out that an event classifier can coerce an event reading from a noun.


huìyì can combine with four of them: lún, jiè, chǎng, cì. Besides, huìyì can also combine with dù ‘frequency of an event’, which is an event classifier similar to cì.

dù can directly modify huìyì to enumerate the times of the conference, which shows that huìyì is an event noun, For Example:

(7) méi nián yī dù de zhōng rì jīngji ěr mào yì huìyì
   every year one CL DE China Japanese economy trade conference
   ‘the annual meeting of the Sino-Japanese economic and trade conference’

(8) yī nián yī dù de yà tà jīng hé huìyì
   one year one CL DE Asia Pacific economy cooperation conference
   ‘the annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference’

Table 1 depicts the frequency and saliency when huìyì combines with event classifiers in tagged Chinese Gigaword (Second Edition). It shows that cì and jiè are the two most salient event classifiers of huìyì, followed by chǎng, lún and dù.
Table 1: Event Classifiers the modify huìyì

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Classifiers</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Saliency</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cì ‘once (re. frequency of event)’</td>
<td>94477</td>
<td>100.13</td>
<td>xiǎozǔ jiāng zài běnzhōu wǔ zài zhàokāi yī cì huìyì  ‘This group will convene another meeting on Friday.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jiè ‘an annual event’</td>
<td>12471</td>
<td>65.05</td>
<td>běn jiè huìyì tāolùn zhūtì wěi gōngyè jī kě jī hézuò  ‘The discussion themes of this conference are industrial and technological cooperation.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chàng ‘a (scheduled) event (with beginning and ending)’</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>19.78</td>
<td>zuìhòu yī chàng huìyì zhúyào tāntāo zázhi de fāzhǎn  ‘The final session of this conference is to probe into the development of journals.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lún ‘a round’</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>17.27</td>
<td>sàimòdá de hǎi gōngsī guòqù 10 gè yuè zhàokāi le jǐ lún gāocèng huìyì  ‘Seaport Terminal of Syed Mokhtar held several rounds of high-level meetings in the past 10 months.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dù ‘frequency of an event’</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>shuāngfāng zhàokāi guò shù dù dāngjūzhē huìyì  ‘The two sides held authority meetings several times.’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4 huìyì + hé ‘and’ / jí ‘and’ / huò ‘or’
If huìyì is an event, then the word that coordinates with it should be an event as well. Such coordination is connected by hé ‘and’, jí ‘and’ or huò ‘or’. For examples, huìyì hé qīngdiǎn ‘conferences and celebrations’, huìyì jí shāngzhǎn ‘conferences and trade shows’, huìyì huò jiǎngzuò ‘conferences or seminars’. Since qīngdiǎn ‘celebrations’, shāngzhǎn ‘trade shows’, jiǎngzuò ‘seminars’ are all events, huìyì is correspondingly an event.

4. Argument Structure of huìyì
4.1 huìyì can Assign Argument Roles
In this section, we argue that huìyì can assign argument roles to its participants. The reasons are:
First, many verbs in collocation with huìyì are light verbs which do not contain much content and do not assign participant role, for examples, zuò ‘作, make’, zuòchū ‘作出, make’, zuò ‘做, make’, zuòchū ‘作出, make’. So we need to look for it somewhere else, for instance, from the event noun.
(9) jīntiān de huiyì méiyǒu zuòchū rènhé juéyì。 
‘Today's meeting did not make any resolution.’

Second, typical verbs, such as tōngguò ‘pass’, xuānbù ‘announce’, xiūgǎi ‘revise’, shēnchá ‘examine’ can assign argument structure.

(10) huiyì tōngguò/xuānbù/xiūgǎi/shēnchá le juéyì 
conference pass/announce/revise/examine ASP proposal 
‘The conference passed/announced/revised/examined the proposal.’

(11) zhōngdōng hépíng huiyì jǔxíng zàijí。 
Middle East peace conference hold soon 
‘Middle East peace conference is to be held soon.’

However, huiyì itself does not meet the selectional requirement of these words. Instead, the participant role specification of these words comes from the qualia structure of huiyì. It is the people who attend the conference passe/announce/revise/examine the proposal. Thus these words are the telic role of huiyì.

4.2 Argument Types of huiyì
Pustejovsky (1995) distinct four types of arguments: true arguments, default arguments, shadow arguments, true adjuncts. True arguments are syntactically realized words, e.g. Julia came. Default arguments are words that participate in the logical expression in the qualia, but they do not need to be expressed syntactically, e.g. Bill made the table out of rosewood. Shadow arguments are words that are lexicalized into the lexical item and they can only be expressed by subtyping or discourse specification; otherwise, they will lead to pleonasm. For example, Evan kicked the door with his left leg. True adjuncts are words that modify the logical expression, but are not fastened to any lexical item’s semantic representation, e.g. Lucy goes shopping in Harbor City. In the following section, we will show that huiyì takes two default arguments as core arguments, and takes a variety of true adjuncts as modification.

4.2.1 Default Arguments of huiyì
huiyì is a kind of event attended by some people with common interests on a particular topic. Thus interlocutors and a topic are the arguments of huiyì. They have the following characteristics:
First, both of them are default arguments, which are not necessarily expressed syntactically. However, even when they do not appear syntactically, they are presupposed by the huiyì event and can usually be found before or after the sentence that does not contain them.
(I) Interlocutors

(12) běiyuēzǔzhī zhàokāi tèbié shǒunǎo huìyì. (expressed syntactically)
NATO hold special head conference
‘NATO held a special summit.’
(13) huìyì yǐ yuánzé tōngguò zài wèilái shí nián nèi jiàn shè
conference already principle pass in future ten year within construct
Three Gorges Project DE resolution
‘The conference has passed in principle the resolution of constructing Three Gorges Project in the next ten years.’

(II) Topic

(14) zhōn jiā gāoděngjiàoyù huìyì zài jiān’ādà jǔxíng. (expressed syntactically)
China Canada high education conference in Canada hold
‘Sino-Canada higher education conference is held in Canada.’
(15) jīntiān de huìyì yuándìng zhōn wǔ jiéshù. (not expressed syntactically)
today DE conference scheduled noon finish
‘Today’s conference was scheduled to finish at noon.’

Second, they are encoded into the huìyì event and are indispensable from it. One can hardly imagine any conference without people or a topic. Therefore they are the core arguments of huìyì.

Thirdly, the interlocutors of huìyì have these properties:

(I) huìyì’s interlocutors must be more than one person. One person speaking without any audience is called monologue, not conference. huìyì has an encoded action of discussion, which need not less than two participants.

(II) position, identity, country, place, and organization are always used to represent the interlocutors.

(a) Position

(16) shíyóushūchū bùzhǎng huìyì zài rìnéiwǎ jǔxíng.
OPEC minister conference in Geneva hold
‘The minister conference of OPEC will be held in Geneva.’

(b) Identity

(17) yuànshì huìyì měi liàng nián zhàokāi yī cì.
The academician conference is held every two years.

(c) Country or Place

South Korea hoped that this fall there can be an arrangement of a historic summit between South and North Korea.

(d) Organization

Next board conference will be held as soon as possible.

4.2.2 True Adjuncts of huiyi

huiyi takes temporal and spatial modification, which are true adjuncts of huiyi.


5. Event Structure of huiyi

Pustejovsky (1995) distinguishes three situation types: state, activity and event, where the last class is divided into accomplishment, and achievement events. In this section, we introduce the situation types of huiyi, reveal the aspectual shift of it, and figure out some tests for huiyi’s situation types. We also notice that some sentences can express more than one situation type.

5.1 Basic Situation Types of huiyi

5.1.1 State

A state has no internal structure, and it can hold for certain time. huiyi itself is a bare noun. When it appears in the subject position, and followed by an adjectival predicate, it describes a state and has a generic reading. For example:

This conference is very interesting.
5.1.2 Activity

An activity describes an unbounded dynamic situation. When a sentence is describing the process of huìyì, then it expresses activity. For example:

(21) yàzhōu fán gōng qínlig àn jǐnjí huì zhèngzhài mànɡǔ júxìnɡ．
Asia prevent bird flu emergent conference now Bangkok hold
‘Asia bird flu emergent prevention conference is being held in Bangkok.’

5.2 Aspectual Shift of huìyì

5.2.1 Words that Lead to Aspectual Shift of huìyì

It is well known that for verbs, their aspectual properties may change due to some factors. For instance, Pustejovsky (1995) finds that adverbial modification (durative and frame), the structure of the NP in an argument position (e.g., definite vs. bare plural), or a prepositional phrase can lead to aspectual shift. Smith (1990) notices that a situation type is affected by constellation of verb, complements and adverbial. Smith (1994) points out that in Mandarin Chinese certain resultative verbal complements, such as wán, hǎo, zháo, chéng convey the completion of an accomplishment.

In this section, we show that huìyì is always shifted to be (interpreted as) an accomplishment when it is delimited by demonstratives, localizers or quantifiers.

5.2.1.1 Demonstratives

(22) nà cì huìyì de yī gè jiéguǒ jiùshì jiànlì le huòbì jījī zhǔjī．
that CL conference DE one result is establish ASP international currency organization
‘One result of that meeting is the establishment of the International Monetary Fund.’

(23) zhè cì huìyì hěn chénɡshènɡ．
this CL conference very successful
‘This conference is very successful.’

5.2.1.2 Localizer

(24) shàng cì huìyì yú 2003 nián 7 yuè zài ɡuǎnɡdùnɡ shǒu ɡuó ɡuó jūxìnɡ．
last CL conference on 2003 year 7 month in Ecuador capital Quito hold
‘Last conference is held in Quito, the capital city of Ecuador, in July 2003.’

(25) xià cì huìyì jiānɡ zài míngnián chū jūxìnɡ．
next CL conference will in next year early hold
‘The next meeting will be held early next year.’

(26) zhè cì huìyì zài qián cì huìyì zhǔtí de jūxìnɡ shànɡ，yòu zhè cì huìyì zhǔtí de jūxìnɡ 3 gè fūzhǔtì．
add ASP 3 CL sub-theme
‘This conference added three sub-themes based on the theme of last conference.’
5.2.1.3 Quantifiers

(27) zài yī cì huìyì shàng, wǒ yùjiàn tā.  
On a CL conference on, I meet him
‘On a conference, I met him.’

5.3 Tests for Different Situation Types

5.3.1 Test for States

When huìyì appears in the format “N+(很 hěn ‘very’)+adj”, it is a state.

5.3.2 Entailment of Activity Sentences

Activity is a homogenous event. Any part of it is the same as other parts. For instance:
(28) huìyì kāi le wǔ gè xiǎoshí le. → huìyì kāi le sān gè xiǎoshí le.  
conference hold ASP five CL hour ASP → conference hold ASP three CL hour ASP
‘The conference has been on for five hours.’ entails ‘The conference has been on for three hours.’

5.4 Ambiguity

We noticed that a sentence or expression with huìyì is sometimes underspecified. In such a case, it expresses more than one situation types. For instance:
(29) zhōngguó zuòxié zhòngqìng huìyì hěn yǒu qù.  
China writer association Chongqing conference very interesting
‘China Writer Association’s conference in Chongqing is very interesting.’

There is no tense marking on verbs in Mandarin Chinese. When there is no temporal expression in a sentence, the event time is not expressed. In such a case, we can understand the above sentence as an event that is just finished, then huìyì here is accomplishment; or we can understand hěn yǒuqù ‘very interesting’ as a regular property of zhōngguó zuòxié zhòngqìng huìyì ‘China Writer Association’s conference in Chongqing’, then huìyì here is state.

Another example is zhè cì huìyì ‘this conference’. It can mean the conference has not started, is ongoing or was just finished. Thus it can be activity or accomplishment.

zhè jītiān de huìyì ‘the several days’ conference’ can mean an ongoing conference or a just completed conference. Consequently, it is activity or accomplishment.

6. Qualia Structure

Pustejovsky (1995) shows how lexical items encode semantic information in the qualia structure. There are four roles in a qualia structure, and each is associated with some values. (I) The constitutive role is about the relation between an object and its constituents or parts. Its role values include material, weight, parts and component elements. (II) The formal role can distinguish the object within a larger domain. Orientation, magnitude, shape, dimensionality, color, and position are its role values. (III)
The telic role is about the purpose and function of the object. (IV) The agentive role describes factors involved in the origin of an object, such as creator, artifact, natural kind, causal chain.

*huiyi* is a formal event on which some people discuss a topic with the aim of reaching a decision. Consequently, the qualia structure of *huiyi* is illustrated below:

\[
\text{FORMAL} = \text{event} \\
\text{CONSTITUTIVE} = \text{Interlocutors, topic, decision, discussion} \\
\text{TELIC} = \text{reach a decision} \\
\text{AGENTIVE} = \text{organized by people or organization}
\]

*huiyi* as a head and a modifier behaves differently. First, the frequency and saliency of nouns appear before and after *huiyi* is quite different as depicted in Table 2. About 2/3 more nouns tend to appear before *huiyi* than after it. Also, nouns before *huiyi* are more salient than after it.

### Table 2. Frequency and Saliency of Nouns before and after *huiyi*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Relation</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Saliency</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tokens</td>
<td>percentage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>N_Modifier</td>
<td>358601</td>
<td>35.38%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Modifies</td>
<td>129350</td>
<td>12.76%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Second, the same noun seldom appears both before and after *huiyi*. Out of all nouns modifying *huiyi* or as heads of *huiyi*, only two can appear in both pre- *huiyi* and post-*huiyi* position. The two nouns are *língxiù* ‘leaders’ and *zhǔxítuán* ‘presidiums’. By intuition, there should be many such nouns, but according to Gigaword corpus data, it is not.

Third, even when the same noun appears both before and after *huiyi*, the meaning can be different. This can be shown in the contrast between *língxiù* *huiyi* and *huiyi* *língxiù*. The former is ambiguous: it can refer to a conference about leaders or a conference attended
by hosts; the latter refers to the role of the participant. Also, the former must be more than one person while the latter can be only one person.

In the following section, we will explore the qualia modification to huìyì when it is the head noun, and huìyì’s modification to other nouns when it is the modifier.

6.1 huìyì as the Head

When huìyì is the head of a structure, its eventive information decides what kind of modification it gets. We find that huìyì usually gets formal and constitutive modification when it is the head.

6.1.1 Formal Modification

\[
\left( \text{dàxíng huìyì ‘large scale conferences’} \right)
\]

QUALIA = \(\{\text{FORMAL} = \text{scale}\}\)

In \(\text{dàxíng huìyì ‘large scale conferences’}\), \(\text{dàxíng ‘large scale’}\) points to the scale of the huìyì event, which is the formal role of huìyì. Similarly, \(\text{dà ‘big’, xiăo ‘small’, xiăoxíng ‘small scale’, shèngdà ‘grand’}\) all refer to the scale of a conference.

6.1.2 Constitutive Modification

According to Pustejovsky (1995), constitutive role expresses the relation between an object and its parts. huìyì is not a typical object, but a kind of event involving a series of activities with a particular topic and a group of people, which are inseparable parts of huìyì, just as a CPU is inseparable from a computer. Here we extend constitutive role to include the relation between an event and its participant roles. Consequently, in jīngjì huìyì ‘economy conferences’ and yuànshì huìyì ‘academician conferences’, economy and academicians are regarded as the constitutive role of huìyì.

\[
\left( \text{jīngjì huìyì ‘economy conferences’} \right)
\]

QUALIA = \(\{\text{CONSTITUTIVE} = \text{economy as the topic}\}\)

\[
\left( \text{yuànshì huìyì ‘academician conferences’} \right)
\]

QUALIA = \(\{\text{CONSTITUTIVE} = \text{academicians as Interlocutors}\}\)


6.2 huìyì as the Modifier
When huìyì is the modifier, it usually modifies the telic and agentive role of the head noun.

6.2.1 Telic Modification

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{QUALIA} &= \left[ \text{TELIC} = \text{conference use} \right] \\
\text{huìyì jìniànpǐn} &= \text{‘conference souvenirs’}
\end{align*}
\]


6.2.2 Agentive Modification

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{QUALIA} &= \left[ \text{AGENTIVE} = \text{source} \right] \\
\text{huìyì juéyì} &= \text{‘conference resolution’}
\end{align*}
\]

juéyì is typically a kind of resolution reached after discussion. In huìyì juéyì ‘conference resolution’, huìyì states the origin of the resolution.


32
To conclude, through the above exploration, we have revealed the argument structure, event structure and qualia structure of *huìyì* and established the semantic type system of it, which is illustrated below.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ARGSTR} &= \begin{cases} 
\text{ARG1} = \text{Interlocutors} \\
\text{ARG2} = \text{topic} 
\end{cases} \\
\text{EVENTSTR} &= \begin{cases} 
\text{E1} = e_1: \text{process} \\
\text{E2} = e_2: \text{state} 
\end{cases} \\
\text{QUALIA} &= \begin{cases} 
\text{FORMAL} = \text{meeting} \\
\text{CONSTITUTIVE} = \text{Interlocutors and topic} \\
\text{TELIC} = \text{reach a decision} \\
\text{AGENTIVE} = \text{organized by people or an organization} 
\end{cases}
\end{align*}
\]

7. Conclusion

In sum, this paper gives a detailed semantic analysis of the event noun *huìyì* based on GLT. First, it finds that *huìyì* takes two default arguments: Interlocutors and two default arguments: time and space. Second, the basic event types of *huìyì* are state and activity. Furthermore, *huìyì* can go aspectual shift and become accomplishment when delimited. Third, *huìyì*’s qulia structure and its qulia modification as the head and the modifier are explored. Finally, we expanded the constitutive qualia role of GLT to include an event and its activities.

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