

PREFACE

The 20th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL-20) was held at The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, on 25-27 April 2008. NACCL-20 celebrated the twentieth anniversary of this annual conference and the conference's first return to its birthplace at The Ohio State University.

A total of 115¹ papers were delivered at the conference in multimedia classrooms and lecture hall, with presenters representing over 70 institutions from 13 countries and regions. Three plenary speakers were invited. Our special invited guest and speaker was Edwin G. Pulleyblank (蒲立本), Professor Emeritus, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, and one of the world's most respected and influential scholars in Chinese linguistics and Chinese history. Co-sponsored in association with The Institute for Chinese Studies (ICS) as part of the Institute's "Rethinking China" Lecture Series, Professor Pulleyblank's plenary speech was a public lecture and was, hence, open to all. Furthermore, indicated in the NACCL-20 conference website (<<http://chinalinks.osu.edu/naccl-20/>>) that was created in August 2008, *The Proceedings of the 20th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics* would be dedicated to Professor Pulleyblank, in honor of his eighty-fifth birthday, which he had then just celebrated that month.

Two plenary speakers with international reputation in Chinese linguistics as well as close connections to NACCL's twenty-year history were James H.-Y. Tai (戴浩一), National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan—senior organizer and inaugurator of the NACCL series when he was a faculty member at The Ohio State University—and Yen-hui Audrey Li (李艷惠), University of Southern California, the creator of the NACCL Proceedings series. Two other colleagues were also invited, who also had historical ties to NACCL, namely, Thomas Ernst (殷天兴), at University of Massachusetts and Dartmouth College, and Robert Sanders (沈德思), University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand. We deeply appreciate our five colleagues who have accepted our invitation to come to join us in celebrating NACCL's 20th anniversary.

In total, over 170 people attended the conference. There were 142 pre-registered presenters and out-of-town attendees, with the remainder being Ohio State University faculty and students (graduate students as well as undergraduate students) who had

¹ The preliminary Schedule in the conference's Program Book contained 116 paper titles. Withdrawal of two papers and adding of one prior to the start of the conference resulted in 115 papers in the final program. All authors who had registered to attend the conference did so, despite some needing to scramble to reschedule their flights when Columbus-based Skybus suddenly went bust on 4 April 2008. The final result was an amazing 100% attendance by the authors in delivering their papers!

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expressed interest in attending the conference and were issued name tags prior to the conference.

After the conference ended, the authors were invited to submit their revised papers for camera-ready publication of the *Proceedings of the 20th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL-20)*. The original deadline given to the authors was 31 July 2008, with the deadline then extended to 10 August 2008. Because the NACCL-20 Proceedings would be the first proceedings to be published online in electronic form, some modifications in the stylesheet were made, with additional instructions placed online at the NACCL-20 website, including some screenshots and sample NACCL papers, to aid the authors to prepare their camera-ready papers.

The authors of 74 of the 115 papers made revisions and submitted their camera-ready proceedings paper to the NACCL-20 organizers. As in the case of the Program Book for the conference, the editorial work on the proceedings was done by Marjorie K.M. Chan, Chair of the NACCL-20 Organizing Committee, and Hana Kang, President of the Graduate Association of Chinese Linguistics (GACL). The papers for the *Proceedings of the 20th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL-20)*, totalling over one thousand pages, have been divided into nine, theme-based parts, and placed in two volumes: Parts 1 through 6 are in Volume 1 and Parts 7 to 8 are in Volume 2. Part 1 contains the five invited speakers' papers (those also being the only papers that were permitted to exceed the 18-page limit); Part 2 are papers on phonetics and phonology; Part 3 is on word-formation and numeral classifiers; Part 4 pertains to some issues in second language acquisition; Part 5 covers sociolinguistics, signed language, and language contact; Part 6 deals with topics in historical linguistics; Part 7, containing 29 papers, deals with syntax and semantics; Part 8 contains papers on sentence-processing and psycholinguistic studies; and Part 9 is on pragmatics and discourse analysis.

The NACCL-20 conference was organized by Marjorie K.M. Chan, who designed the NACCL-20 website (in August 2007) and maintained it. The organizing committee included two committee members, faculty members in Japanese linguistics in her Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at The Ohio State University: Mineharu ("JJ") Nakayama and Etsuyo Yuasa. In addition, a special component of the NACCL-20 Organizing Committee was OSU's Graduate Association of Chinese Linguistics (GACL): Hana Kang (President & NACCL-20 Research Assistant), Bo Zhu (Vice President), Yi He (Treasurer), Chunsheng Yang (President-Elect), Inae Oh, Helena Riha, Jing Yan, and Rongbin Zheng.



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