This is to certify that the

thesis entitled

THE FUNCTION OF SENTENCE TOPICS
IN ORAL AND WRITTEN MANDARIN
NARRATIVE

presented by

Gary Steven Abbott

has been accepted towards fulfillment
of the requirements for

MA degree in Linguistics

Major professor

Date 10 June 1992

THE

THE FUNCTION OF SENTENCE TOPICS IN ORAL AND WRITTEN MANDARIN NARRATIVE

by

Gary Steven Abbott

A THESIS

Submitted to
Michigan State University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

Department of Linguistics

1992

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ABSTRACT

THE FUNCTION OF SENTENCE TOPICS IN ORAL AND WRITTEN MANDARIN NARRATIVE

by

Gary Steven Abbott

Mandarin is often described as a topic prominent language: a language which places more importance and prominence on the sentence topic than the subject of any given sentence. Furthermore, it is wrong to assume that the use of sentence topics in Mandarin is arbitrary. This thesis, then, attempts to determine what discourse parameters influence the function of sentence topics in oral and written Mandarin narratives.

To answer this, a quantitative discourse analysis was done on three oral texts and six written texts. Using the model of information flow as presented in Prince 1981, each sentence topic from the texts was identified as reflecting either brand new, evoked, or inferred information. These were then correlated with three other discourse parameters--animacy, episode boundaries, and topic persistence--in order to determine patterns of sentence topic use. The end results indicate that sentence topics do indeed have characteristic functions within a text.

This thesis is dedicated to my brothers and sisters of
Markey Community Baptist Church
and
Hope United Methodist Church.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to formally thank Dr. Abbott for her many suggestions and questions as I wrote this thesis, especially in 'emphasizing' the need for clarity. I am also grateful to Dr. Preston and Dr. Lin for their time and good counsel. But above all, I give thanks to the Holy Spirit; for without His wisdom, encouragement, and strength none of this would be possible.

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

Topicality is a complex issue in the study of linguistics. It has been studied from a variety of perspectives and applied to a variety of genres. One of the conclusions which can be drawn from this diverse field of study is the importance of topicality in the syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of a language. This is especially true in a narrative. A narrative is also a complex entity, and a well crafted one will incorporate many different devices, syntactic or otherwise, to ensure that the reader/listener will be able to follow the flow of information from beginning to end. No one device will make or break a text, but topicality is certainly of great importance. The effective encoding of topics can help the reader/listener better follow the flow of information that is presented in the story. However, just as poorly constructed sentences can obscure meaning, poorly encoded topics can confuse rather than clarify a story.

This is particularly true for Mandarin Chinese, which is a topic prominent language--as will be illustrated later. This paper, then, will examine the realization of Mandarin topics as they relate to an informational taxonomy of assumed familarity. Additional factors such as animacy,

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episode boundaries, and topic persistence (a numerical indication of the relative importance of a topic to the entire discourse) will be examined to determine what are the discourse rules which are involved in the use of one topic over another. It is the purpose of this thesis to demonstrate that the encoding of topics is conditioned by certain pragmatic factors. Since oral versus written narratives reflect different mediums, the encoding of topics will also follow different, albeit minor, discourse rules.

The remainder of this chapter will be divided into four sections. The first will differentiate among various uses of 'topic' and to define those uses so as to minimize any confusion in how 'topic' is used in this thesis. Next, the theoretical framework used in the analysis of the data for this paper will be presented. In the third section some comments will be made about the texts that are used in this analysis. The final section will present an outline of the remainder of this thesis.

1.2 Defining Topicality

Topicality is a popular area of study in linguistics. Unfortunately, 'topic' can be a confusing term, and defining what 'topic' means can be a challenge. Hakulinen (1989: 62) suggests several possibilities, but ends by rejecting them all. Other linguists, like Levinson (1983:x), feel that there is so much confusion about what is meant by 'topic' that any discussion about topicality is pointless.

Often this confusion results from the use of the same term to refer to related but different aspects of topicality from one discussion to the next. By differentiating between these various domains and applying different terms to refer to each, much of this confusion can be minimized. Therefore, 'topic' will be used to cover three distinct but closely related areas: sentence topic, topic structure, and discourse topic.

1.2.1 Sentence Topics. The first, sentence topic, is perhaps the most well known of the three, and often is defined as what the sentence is about (Davison 1984:804). From this definition it is safe to say that most any sentence in any language will have at least one primary sentence topic. To suggest otherwise would be to claim, paradoxically, that a sentence is not about anything, which is difficult to envision. As a result, the sentence topic of the sentence *I like beans* can be one of three different topics--the speaker who likes beans, the speaker's attitude towards beans, or beans which the speaker likes--depending upon which aspect of the sentence the speaker wishes the sentence to be about. Obviously, context is of primary importance in determining what the true sentence topic of any given sentence is.

Here, it is useful to make a distinction between the concept of 'sentence topic' as opposed to the concept of 'focus.' Both are used to describe what a sentence is about, but they do not refer to the same type of

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information. A sentence topic, for the purposes of this thesis, reflects old or given information of which the participants in the discourse are already aware. Focus, on the other hand, reflects new or reactivated information.

A. What do you like?

B. I like beans.

The old information in B's response is B, which is encoded by the pronoun 'I.' The new information is beans, as the object of what he likes. Therefore, the sentence topic is B, and the focus is beans.

Focus is a useful notion in the study of conversation, where new information gains prominence in reflecting what the speaker is talking about. In the following dialogue all the focused information is in italics.

A. Speaking of *beans*, *I* like them.

B. *I* don't like them at all. I much prefer *avocados*.

A. Isn't *guacamole* made from avocados?

B. Yeah, and *my friend Dorothy* makes the best guacamole in the world.

Here, it is clear that the focused information is not the same from one speaker to the next. Quite often, what was focused, new information, in one utterance, becomes old, nonfocused information in the following utterance. In the rapid give and take of conversation, it is very possible for the focus to change from one speaker to the next. As a result, focused nouns very often are low in topicality--that

is, they are not persistent in the text. They may occur in several clauses, but then are dropped altogether.

Sentence topic, on the other hand, is very useful in the study of a narrative. Unlike conversation, a sentence topic in a narrative is more likely to be repeated (often with zero or pronominal reference) over several clauses. This is useful as it provides a familiar framework for the participants to process new information. In the following mini-narrative, all of the sentence topics are in italics.

> I like beans. *Beans* are a versatile food. *They* are high in protein, and ∅ are inexpensive. Plus, *they* can be prepared in a variety of ways.

Here, beans, as old information, is used repeatedly as a framework to present a variety of new information. It is this sense of a sentence topic reflecting old information which will be used in this thesis.

Therefore, in order to more clearly distinguish sentence topic from focus, the definition of a sentence topic as given by Davison as what the sentence is about needs to be revised. A sentence topic, then, is given or available information which "sets a spatial, temporal, or individual framework within which the main predication holds" (Chafe 1976:50). Note that a sentence topic will still be one of the things that the sentence is about, but it now reflects old-given information not new. Later, when Mandarin sentence topics are discussed, this definition will be illustrated in greater detail.

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1.2.2 Topic Structures. Topic structure is the syntactic and sometimes morphological encoding of the sentence topic by some word or phrase which refers to the sentence topic. Like sentence topic, most languages have some means of doing this. Quite often a sentence topic is more clearly marked by placing it in a sentence initial construction. But a topic structure does not always have to be sentence initial, and the encoding of the sentence topic into a topic structure will vary from language to language. In Mandarin, the sentence topic does occur in a sentence initial construction, as will be shown later in chapter two. English, however, has no such restriction.

This difference in the encoding of a sentence topic between Mandarin and English can present problems in translation. The sentence initial topic structure of Mandarin makes it tempting to employ a sentence initial topic structure in English. But this can result in an awkward or even a pragmatically incorrect translation.

1. Da Hui Lang text, line 42

Lao nainai, toufu hen chang . . .
old grandmother hair very long
The old grandmother had hair that was very long

A more literal translation of the above sentence--*The old grandmother, her hair was very long*--preserves the topic structure as used in Mandarin, but it is not a pragmatically accurate translation of the Mandarin. This is because this type of topic structure in English carries not only an

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element of contrast not present in the Mandarin sentence, it also is a construction more commonly used for new (or reactivated), focused, non-persistent information. But in the Mandarin, this same topic structure is used for old, highly persistent information. This has led some linguists (Li and Thompson 1976) to make a distinction between topic prominent languages (those that consistently use sentence initial topic structures in this nonfocused use) and subject prominent languages (those that do not).

1.2.3 Discourse Topics. Lastly, discourse topic is a topic with a wider scope than that of the sentence. Discourse topic can refer to a variety of different levels in the text--from the entire text (what the whole narrative is about), to episodic units within the text (what the episode is about), to smaller units within the episode. Specifically, when several nearby sentences have the same sentence topic, the overriding topic for a group of such sentences is known as the discourse topic, and the group of sentences, is known as the topical span.

Take, for example, the three lines given below from the Da Hui Lang text. The sentence topic, and also the discourse topic, is indicated in italics (the two little girls in this text are old information--the last previous mention occurring in line 102).

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2. Da Hui Lang text, line 104

Zhe liang ge xiao nuhai gen lao nainai
this two CLSF small girl with old grandmother

yiqi chang da.
together grow big

These two little girls with the old grandmother
grew up.

3. Da Hui Lang text, line 105

Tamen guo de feichang xinfu.
3pl live MNR very happily
They lived very happily.

4. Da Hui Lang text, line 106

Tamen yizhi zai shan li zhu, ∅ zhu de
3pl all the time at hill in live live MNR

feichang hao.
very good

All the time *they* lived in the hills, and lived very well.

The initial mention of the discourse topic in line 104--*these two little girls with the old grandmother*--is a strong identification, using full noun phrases which specifically identify each of the characters involved. The next mention of the discourse topic in line 105, and also in 106, is a weaker identification, using the third person plural pronoun, 'tamen' *they*. And also in the second clause of 106 there is the weakest possible identification--zero anaphor. This is a very typical pattern for a topical span. The first mention of the discourse topic is a strong identification, while successive mentions of the discourse topic use progressively weaker identifications--even to the point of a null reference, or zero anaphor, if allowed.

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1.3 Theoretical Framework

This thesis will involve a discourse analysis of oral and written Mandarin narratives. Though discourse analysis does not exclude more formal theories like Government and Binding, the focus of this paper will not be to determine syntactic constraints on the co-occurrence of certain grammatical items as they relate to topicality as Teng (1974), Huang (1982), Xu and Langendoen (1985), and Shen (1988) do. Rather, this thesis will apply a functional approach in analyzing the discourse structure of the narratives.

The central aim of a functional theory of syntax is to determine "the relation between linguistic form and linguistic function" (Croft 1990:17). Functionalism, then, is founded on the premise that languages encode semantic and pragmatic information into the syntactic structure of an utterance. The key to understanding a language and how it works is to examine how the structure of the language functions to help the discourse participants recover the pertinent semantic and pragmatic intent of the speaker. In English, for example, the most common sentence pattern--the unmarked sentence pattern--used to convey basic straightforward information is the SVO pattern. Thus, *I like beans* is the simple assertion of the speaker's fondness for beans. Since subject position in English is typically also the sentence topic (Givon 1984:140-41), the utterance will be understood to be about the speaker.

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However, if the speaker wishes to make the object of this utterance--*beans*--the focus, he or she will need to employ one of the several focus structure constructions, such as *Beans I like*. This less typical, more marked construction works, then, to encode the pragmatic information that it is the object of the utterance which is to be understood as the focus of the utterance. That is to say the Y Movement construction of *Beans I like* functions as a means to mark the object as the focus.

From this perspective, it is clear that context is a very important factor in influencing the use of one construction over another. But context is a rather difficult entity to pin down and analyze in and of itself. It is only by focusing on certain specific parameters and analyzing how these interact that any insight can be gained into how context affects the use of one form over another. For example, it has been noted that in English, noun phrases which represent new information in the discourse are usually indefinite and will occur in the object position, whereas the subject position tends to have definite noun phrases that represent old information.

5. What did you do today?

   a. I ate a banana and an orange.
      But the banana was spoiled.

   b. ?I ate the banana and the orange.
      ?But a banana was spoiled.

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be used to predict the likelihood of a noun phrase occurring in object or subject position. From this it is possible to claim that the function of the object is to introduce new information into the discourse encoded as indefinite phrases, while the function of the subject is to maintain old information in the discourse encoded as definite phrases.

Myhill (1992:ch.1, 4) sums up this approach to discourse analysis in the following way:

> The basic purpose of typological discourse analysis, then, is to provide a framework for the description of factors affecting alternations between different forms and constructions in languages in general. The parameters used in this description are quantitative, and statements are made along the lines of 'when property X (e.g. human agent) is present, construction A is used a certain percent of the time, while when property Y (e.g. non-human agent) is present, construction A is used a certain percent of the time.'

What remains to be seen is what the parameters are which will affect the encoding of sentence topics in Mandarin.

1.4 The Texts

The analysis in this paper is based upon three oral texts and six written texts. The oral texts were related by three different native Mandarin speakers. Though they range in age from mid-thirties to seventies, they all are college educated and all came from the area of Shanghai. Each was asked to orally relate three stories in Mandarin, which were recorded. Another native Mandarin speaker transcribed the recorded stories into pinyin and gave a word for word translation from the Mandarin into English. From these

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nine stories, three, one from each narrator, were chosen for analysis. Five of the written texts are from a book of Chinese folktales (Qin 1983). One was given to me by a native Mandarin speaker, who is also from the Shanghai area.

Throughout the paper, these texts will be used to illustrate important points as the need arises. Each line from the texts has a word for word gloss. Numerous abbreviations are also used to identify the syntactic categories which occur in each line. Below is a list of those abbreviations.

1s	First Person Singular
1pl	First Person Plural
2s	Second Person Singular
2pl	Second Person Plural
3s	Third Person Singular
3pl	Third Person Plural
ADV	Adverbializer
CLSF	Classifier
CRS	Currently Relevant Status--Perfect Aspect
DO	Direct Object Marker
DUR	Durative Aspect
EXP	Experiential Aspect
GEN	Genitive
INTR	Interrogative
MNR	Manner
PAS	Passive Marker
PRF	Perfective Aspect
PRTL	Sentential Particle
RLV	Relativizer
RST	Resultative

Additionally, for ease of reference, each time a specific line from a text is cited the name of the text it came from and the line number within the text will be given.

6. Si Maguang text, line 5

Zhe xuduo xiaohai dou jingya le.
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This surprised all of the children.

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Each text can also be found in its entirety in the Appendix. Finally, tone is not indicated on any of the Mandarin words. Since tone is not a relevant issue in this paper, to include it would needlessly complicate the examples.

1.5 Thesis Outline

This thesis will include six chapters. The first has primarily dealt with defining the various uses of 'topic' in this thesis, and the theoretical approach that is taken in analyzing the data.

The second chapter concerns topicality and Mandarin syntax. In order to gain a better insight into what a sentence topic is, several prototypical characteristics are given and explained. Following this is a discussion of why Mandarin is considered a topic prominent language. Finally, the syntactic features of how Mandarin sentence topics are encoded is given.

The third chapter presents Ellen Prince's (1981) taxonomy of assumed familiarity. As such, much of the chapter is devoted to explaining the differences between her three levels of textual information: brand new, evoked, and inferred. The last part of the chapter concerns how Prince's taxonomy can be applied to Mandarin sentence topics.

The fourth chapter presents the analysis of the oral Mandarin texts. Each will be broken down into the percentage of brand new, evoked, and inferred sentence topics used. Additionally, other parameters will be examined to determine how they may or may not influence the use of brand

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new, evoked, or inferred sentence topics. These parameters include animacy, episode boundaries, and topic persistence.

The fifth chapter is exactly the same as the fourth. But in this chapter, the written Mandarin narratives will be analyzed to determine what affects sentence topic encoding. The same parameters will be used in this analysis that are used in chapter four. Additionally, at the end of this chapter there will be a discussion on how sentence topic encoding differs from oral to written narrative.

The sixth and final chapter will offer some conclusions on why there are differences in the encoding of sentence topics in oral and written narrative.

TOPICALITY AND MANDARIN SYNTAX

2.1 Introduction

Although topicality has been divided into three domains and a definition for each of these has been given, it is still necessary to have a better understanding of both sentence topic and Mandarin syntax before any analysis of topic encoding is attempted. The following three sections will provide this information. The first will discuss specific characteristics of the sentence topic. Following that will be an explanation of why Mandarin is considered a topic prominent language. Next will be a section on how to identify sentence topics in Mandarin. A final section will summarize the information presented in this chapter.

2.2 Characteristics of the Sentence Topic

Earlier a definition was given for a sentence topic as the identifying framework for the sentence. Though this definition is adequate in describing what a sentence topic is, definitions in and of themselves often lack a list of pertinent characteristics which are actually more useful in identifying a good example of the defined object. The definition for 'cat' is "a common domestic mammal long kept by man as a pet or for catching rats and mice" (Woolf 1974:121). Using this definition alone, it would be rather

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difficult to distinguish a cat from other domesticated mammals. But if told that a cat is an animal that has pointed ears, long whiskers, a rough tongue, and which purrs, mews, and hisses then a cat becomes much easier to identify. Of course, the danger with any list of prototypical characteristics of an object is that not every example of the object will have all of the listed characteristics. However, as long as this danger is kept in mind, then these characteristics can be very helpful.

2.2.1 Sentence Topic as a Discourse Related Construction. Perhaps the most important characteristic to keep in mind about sentence topics is that they are discourse related constructions. That is to say, the sentence topic functions in such a way as to allow the "efficient matching of a sentence to context" (Davison 1984:841). The sentence topic creates a link between the sentence it is a part of and the context in which it occurs. As such, it allows the discourse participants to focus on the relevant contextual setting. This is why it makes no sense for a person to walk up to a stranger in a department store where there are no beans in sight, and say *I like beans.* There can be no context that the person spoken to is aware of which he or she can relate the sentence topic to. Rather than encouraging a dialogue, this type of behavior is liable to get odd looks and hurried exits.

Even if a discourse context has been created, the sentence topic still must be relevant to the ongoing discourse.

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1. A: My cat will eat anything, even beans.

   B: Beans are very tasty. I especially like baked beans.

2.2.2 Sentence Topic as Pragmatic Knowledge. Closely related to the characteristic of the sentence topic as a discourse link is the requirement that the sentence topic must in some way "belong to the pragmatic knowledge of participants" (Hannay 1985:51) in the discourse. Gundel makes this same assertion when she says that sentence topics are presupposed information (Gundel 1977:30). Unless the sentence topic has been previously introduced or represents information that is always accessible to the participants, then it will fail as a discourse link.

Earlier it was noted that *beans* could not be the sentence topic in a discussion about cats. Even if the participants in the discourse were aware of the speaker's fondness for beans, beans have not yet been introduced into the discourse. As such, beans are not part of the current consciousness or pragmatic knowledge of the participants, nor is it presupposed information. This means that typically

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a sentence topic must first be introduced into the context, not as a sentence topic, but as part of the comment. Once the information has been inserted into the discourse, and into the pragmatic knowledge of all participants, it can later be used as a sentence topic. The above dialogue between speaker A and B is a good illustration of this point. Because speaker A introduces *beans* into the discourse, this allows speaker B to use this information as a sentence topic. Of course, in doing so, speaker B may change even the larger discourse topic from cats to beans.

This can also be illustrated from an example from an actual text. In the Dushuren text, line 3 contains the new information that a rope was used to tie some books together; note that the rope in this line is new information and so cannot be the sentence topic of this line.

2. Dushuren text, line 3

Ta dai le hen duo shu, yong *shengzi* kun hao
3s take PRF very many book use rope tie well

le you shutong bei zai jian shang,
PRF by servant carry at shoulder on

yao jin cheng.
want enter city

He had many books, which were tied together with a rope, which his servant carried on his shoulder.

In line 11, the rope is used as a sentence topic.

3. Dushuren text, line 11

Shengzi duan le.
rope break PRF
The rope broke.

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The previous mention of *shengzi* in line 3 establishes this information in the discourse. This allows *shengzi* to later be used as the sentence topic in line 11.

2.2.3 Sentence Topic as Sentence Initial. Since the sentence topic functions as a link between the sentence and the context, it almost always occurs in a sentence initial position (Moutaouakil 1985:83). It makes logical sense to want that part of the sentence which serves as a link to the overall context to occur early in the sentence. This allows the discourse participants to know how the information which follows the sentence topic is related to what has happened previously in the discourse. To place the sentence topic in a sentence final position invites the possibility of initial confusion as to how the information in the sentence is pertinent to the wider context.

2.2.4 Sentence Topic as Definite. The fact that a sentence topic almost always is information that has been previously introduced will naturally require a definite topic structure. As Chafe claims one of the best ways to establish definiteness is "through prior mention in the discourse" (Chafe 1976:40). This is a very common method in English as well as in Mandarin. The first mention of a unit of information is often as an indefinite noun phrase, but further mention will be with a definite noun phrase.

> 4. A friend came to dinner last night and brought a pot of beans. I was pleased to see that the pot of beans contained baked beans and not lima beans.

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5. Si Maguang text, line 3

Zuiwan de shihou, you yi ge xiaohai hurang
playing RLV time have one CLSF child suddenly

duo jin shui gang li . . .
fall into water container in

While they were playing, a child suddenly fell into a large water container . . .

6. Si Maguang text, line 4

Zhe ge shui gang zhuang mang le shui.
this CLSF water container contain full PRF water
This water container was full of water.

In sentence 4, the information of a pot of beans is introduced using an indefinite noun phrase. Once introduced, the information is now established into the discourse and later mention can be done using a definite noun phrase. This same process works in Mandarin as well. In line three of the Si Maguang text, a child falls into a water container. The existence of the water container is new information to the discourse and is entered into the text through an indefinite noun phrase *shui gang* 'a water container'. In the next line, the water container is no longer new information but old, and is encoded by a definite noun phrase *zhe ge shui gang* 'this water container'.

This same process is true for sentence topics. Since a sentence topic must be presupposed information for the participants, the phrase encoding the sentence topic will have been previously entered into the text as new information through an indefinite noun phrase. When the entity is chosen for a sentence topic, the topic structure used

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for the sentence topic will, therefore, be definite. This can be seen in lines three and four of the Si Maguang text, as shown above.

It should not be construed that based on the above examples every nominal sentence topic be will encoded as a full definite noun phrase. As noted earlier in chapter one, the sentence topic is an entity which represents old-given information. As such, a sentence topic can be encoded by any number of definite phrases including pronouns and zero anaphor. Very typically, the use of a full noun phrase, a pronoun, or zero anaphor is not simply a matter of choice but is more often related to referential distance.

Referential distance is determined by identifying "the most recent previous mention of the referent of the NP and then counting how many clauses back it occurred" (Myhill 1992: ch. 2, pg. 14). The fewer the number of clauses to the last mention, the lower the referential distance. The greater the referential distance, the more likely that a full noun phrase will be used for a nominal sentence topic. The smaller the referential distance, the more likely a pronoun or zero anaphor will be used. Therefore, a sentence topic which is repeated for several sentences will not very likely be encoded each time with a full noun phrase. The first mention very likely will be a full noun phrase, but each successive mention will be with a pronoun or zero anaphor. This was illustrated in examples 2-4 in chapter one with the Da Hui Lang text (lines 104-106).

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However, referential distance is not always a safe way to predict the occurrence of a pronoun or zero anaphor. Both Flashner (1987:143) and Tomlin (1987:457) recognize the importance of episode boundaries in the type of definite phrase used. A definite full noun phrase will be used to re-enstate the sentence topic after an episode boundary has occurred. Within the actual episode, a pronoun or zero anaphor will be used after the initial mention.

Therefore, although a sentence topic is always definite, the definite phrase it is encoded in is sensitive to certain discourse parameters. A nominal sentence topic, then, will be encoded as a full noun phrase, if it is the first mention in a new episode, or if the referential distance is sufficiently high enough to warrant a more explicit mention. A pronoun or zero anaphor will be used within an episode and if the referential distance is relatively low.

2.2.5 Sentence Topic as Given Information. Closely related to use of definite noun phrases to encode sentence topics is the fact that sentence topics commonly represent given information. This, of course, goes back to prior mention. Since sentence topics are information that has already been mentioned, it follows that they no longer convey new information--but rather given information. Taken all together, this means that informational entities in the text with characteristics of "previous mention, giveness, and definiteness" are likely candidates for sentence topics (Bolkestein 1985:3).

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2.2.6 Sentence Topic as Inferred Information. It is also possible to use information as a sentence topic even if it has not been previously introduced into the discourse. If this information can be inferred "via logical--or, more commonly, plausible--reasoning from entities already evoked" (Hannay 1985:52-3), then this information can be used as a sentence topic even if no explicit mention has occurred earlier. For example, the following mini-discourse is acceptable:

7. The other day, I got some eggs. One of those eggs was rotten.

The indefinite phrase 'eggs' is used in the first sentence. To have some eggs implies that there are a number of individual eggs which comprise the bunch. Since this relationship of part to whole can be inferred, the mention of one of these eggs is not new information, and so one egg can be the sentence topic of the next sentence.

This very same process also occurs in Mandarin. In the first line of the Da Hui Lang text, the narrator gives the information that there is a family, and that family has four daughters.

8. Da Hui Lang text, line 1

You yi jiaren, ta jia li you si ge
Have one family 3s family in have four CLSF

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There was a family which has four daughters.

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Later, in line 10, the two smallest daughters are used for the sentence topic even though no explicit mention of these specific characters has occurred.

9. Da Hui Lang text, line 10

Liang ge xiao nuer bu dongshi.
two CLSF small daughter no understand
The two smallest daughters did not understand.

Since the fact that there are four daughters has already been mentioned, it is logical to assume that these daughters range in age from youngest, younger, older, oldest. Only in an unusual case where there are twins, triplets, or even quadruplets would this type of inference not be allowed. But this scenario is so unusual the narrator would be obliged to mention it. Therefore, the information that there are two younger daughters can be inferred from the explicit previous mention of the broad information of four daughters--again, a part to whole relationship. This, then, permits the two youngest daughters to be the sentence topic.

From the above discussion, the typical characteristics of a sentence topic can be listed as follows:

A. Sentence topics have a discourse function of linking the sentence to the context.
B. Sentence topics will occur sentence initially.
C. Sentence topics will belong to the pragmatic knowledge of the participants.
D. Sentence topics will be encoded by definite phrases in the topic structure.
E. Sentence topics will either be information previously mentioned in the discourse.
F. Or, sentence topics will be inferrable from other information in the discourse.

Again, these are prototypical characteristics, and every sentence topic may not have all of them. However, the vast majority of sentence topics in both English and Mandarin (as well as other languages) will.

2.3 Mandarin as a Topic Prominent Language

Throughout this discussion of typical sentence topic characteristics, several examples from Mandarin have been used as illustrations side by side for the most part with examples from English. But this should not be taken to mean that English and Mandarin use sentence topics in the same way. In fact, there is such a difference in their respective uses that English has been termed a subject prominent language and Mandarin a topic prominent one (Li and Thompson 1976:460).

This is most readily seen in the translation of a Mandarin sentence.

10. Yanli text, line 7

"Zhe bu shi xiezhe 'guangming zhengzhi' si
this no is write guangming zhengzhi four

ge da zi ma!"
CLSF big character INTR

"Aren't the characters 'guangming zhengzi' written in big characters!"

11. Yanli text, line 8

"'Guangming zhengzi' si ge zi you
guangming zhengzi four CLSF characters have

dou name da, shei kanbujian?
all like that big who cannot see

"Who cannot see those four big characters?"

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The sentence topic of line 8 of the Yanli text is *guangming zhengzi*. This can be determined because *guangming zhengzi* represents old information--it had a previous mention in line 7, and it sets a framework for the remainder of the sentence--the rest of the sentence provides new information about these four characters.

English has a difficult time smoothly translating this. The above translation does not even include the phrase *guangming zhengzi*. A more literal translation would be ''Guangming zhengzi,' the four characters are all big, who cannot see that?' But this is rather awkward. A less stilted translation is 'As for 'guangming zhengzi', who cannot see that those four characters are big?' But this too is not very satisfactory and also has the element of contrastiveness. Other focus constructions are possible, but these too violate the notion of sentence topic as used here. Even to move the sentence topic out of sentence initial position does not help much: 'Who cannot see that guangming zhengzi, those four characters, are all big?' The difficulty is that English does not have an easy way to carry over both the Mandarin sentence topic and subject into a smooth translation without suggesting focus.

But to simply claim that Mandarin is topic prominent just because it is able to use sentence initial sentence topics more freely than English is not conclusive. However, Mandarin syntax does adhere to many of the characteristics that Li and Thompson (1976:466-471) and Fuller and Gundell

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(1987:4-8) list for topic prominent languages. In particular, Mandarin holds to the following topic prominent features: a specific encoding of the sentence topic, lack of a passive construction, absence of dummy subjects, double subject constructions, and lack of subject-verb agreement.

2.3.1 Encoding of the Sentence Topic. In Mandarin, the sentence topic is always encoded as a sentence initial phrase--apart from conjunctions, vocatives, and other discourse support markers. This can be seen in the above example from the Yanli text. English can also encode the sentence topic, and does so in even more ways than just a sentence initial topic structure. However, this is the only feature of topic prominent languages that English shares with Mandarin.

2.3.2 Lack of a Passive Construction. Topic prominent languages typically lack a passive construction, or if they have one it is an infrequent construction. In the nine texts used in this thesis, consisting of over 200 lines, only once is a passive construction used (0.5%). The sole occurrence is found in the Gechangjia text, line 8.

11. Gechangjia text, line 8

Xue Tan bei laoshi de gesheng jingdai le.
Xue Tan PAS teacher GEN voice stun PRF
Xue Tan was stunned by the teacher's voice.

English, on the other hand, makes more frequent use of the passive. Specifically, in works of fiction, like the texts used in this thesis, English passives occurred 9% of the

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time (Givon 1990:573). Certainly, in and of itself, this is not significant. But it represents a rather dramatic increase of usage compared to Mandarin narratives.

2.3.3 Absence of Dummy Subjects. Again, topic prominent languages do not have dummy or subject constructions. Since topic prominent languages promote the sentence topic, they do not pay as much attention to the subject as English does. If a sentence does not need a subject, it is simply left out. English, on the other hand, places much more importance on the subject and little on the sentence topic. Therefore, it will require a subject even if that subject is non-referential. This is seen in the following example where the Mandarin sentence does not have a non-referential subject, but where the English translation at least allows one and probably prefers one. There is no way to say the following Mandarin sentence by using a dummy subject.

11. Da Hui Lang text, line 9

Shan shang you hen duo xian hua.
mountain side on have very many fresh flower
On the mountain side (there) are many fresh flowers.

2.3.4 Double Subject Constructions. Topic prominent languages use what is termed a "double subject" construction. Here, there is a sentence initial sentence topic which is followed by the subject. However, it is not possible to derive every occurrence of these constructions through some movement rule from a more basic sentence type. Though every topic prominent language uses these double

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subject constructions, no subject prominent language does.

12. Da Hui Lang text, line 42

Lao nainai, toufu hen chang . . .
old grandmother hair very long
The old grandmother had hair that was very long.
*The old grandmother, hair is very long.

2.3.5 Lack of Subject-Verb Agreement. Finally, in topic prominent languages, there is rarely any agreement between the subject and the verb. Again, this goes back to the importance of the sentence topic over the subject in topic prominent languages. Mandarin is a case in point. Subjects do not agree with the verbs in number or person.

13. Da Hui Lang text, line 48

Zhe shi da hui lang zhu de difang.
this is big grey wolf live RLV place
This is the place that a big grey wolf lives.

14. Da Hui Lang text, line 106

Tamen yizhi zai shan li zhu . . .
3pl all the time at hill in live
All the time, they live in the hills . . .

In the above two sentences, the verb *zhu* 'to live' occurs first with a third person singular noun *da hui lang* 'big grey wolf,' and in the second sentence with a third person plural noun *tamen* 'they.' But unlike the English, which adds an agreement marker to the verb, Mandarin does not.

Taken all together, Mandarin is a language that encodes the sentence topic in a sentence initial construction, it does not make frequent use of a passive construction, it does not have a non-referential or dummy subject

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construction, it does have a "double subject" construction, and it does not have subject-verb agreement. From this evidence, Mandarin is best understood as a topic prominent language. Since English can only claim the first feature--that of surface coding of the sentence topic--it is best understood as a subject prominent language. Since the topic-comment relationship is so important in Mandarin, a better understanding of how sentence topics are encoded into topic structures in Mandarin syntax is necessary.

2.4 Sentence Topic in Mandarin Syntax

The definition of a sentence topic as setting a temporal, spatial, or individual framework works particularly well in Mandarin and other topic prominent languages. Indeed this is how both Chafe (1976:50) and Li and Thompson (1981: 85) define sentence topics for Mandarin. What this means is that the sentence topic restricts the domain, either by specifying a time, location, or individual (or object), in which the remaining comment must function. Both Chafe and Li and Thompson arrive at this definition based on the specific characteristics of topic prominent languages (as discussed above)--particularly the double subject constructions, and then determining functional uses of the sentence topics. To say that the sentence topic is simply what the sentence is about does not adequately define Mandarin sentence topics. What is needed is this more specified definition of creating a framework in which the remaining sentence will hold.

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Therefore, the two most important keys to determining a Mandarin sentence topic are determining the sentence initial phrase (explicit or implied), and determining if that phrase functions to set a spatial, temporal, or individual framework for the rest of the sentence. Clearly, such things as conjunctions and vocatives, though they occur sentence initially, do not set any framework for the remainder of the sentence.

15. Yanli text, line 12

"Er wei xiansheng nimen shuo de zhei xie
two CLSF mister 2pl say RLV this CLSF

zi, dou xie zai shenme dongxi
character all write at what thing

shangbianr a?
on PRTL

"Two misters, what are the characters, that you are talking about, written on?"

The first phrase in this sentence is *er wei xiansheng* 'two misters.' But this is a vocative, used by the speaker to get the attention of the two people he is addressing. The entities which really set the individual framework are the characters that the two men are discussing. Therefore, it is overgeneralizing a bit too much to say that every sentence topic in Mandarin will be encoded in the sentence initial phrase. But if it is not encoded as the first phrase, it will certainly be encoded soon after. By looking at both sentence initial phrases and by determining what sets the framework for the sentence, Mandarin sentence

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topics can be identified with at least a fair amount of confidence.

2.4.1 Restricting the Spatial Framework. One way in which the sentence topic can specify a domain in which the comment holds is by restricting the location.

16. Da Hui Lang text, line 61

Zhe ge da guizi limian ya, zhe ge da
this CLSF big cabinet inside PRTL this CLSF big

hui lang bu hui qu kai guizi.
grey wolf no will go open cabinet

The big grey wolf will not open the cabinet.

Line 61 of the Da Hui Lang text uses the noun phrase *zhe ge da guizi limian ya* 'inside the big cabinet' as the topic structure encoding the sentence topic. It specifies the exact location where the wolf will not look, and establishes the cabinet as the reference point within which the comment will apply. Though this particular sentence topic does not have a wider domain than this specific line, quite often this type of sentence topic also establishes the overall setting for the remainder of the episode, and quite possibly the text. But in any event, the sentence topic *zhe ge da guizi limian ya* identifies the cabinet as the place where the action of the following comment will occur--the spatial framework.

2.4.2 Restricting the Temporal Framework. A sentence topic can also restrict the time in which the predicate must operate in.

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17. Dushuren text, line 5

Zai zhe ge shihou jiyu yao zou . . .
at this CLSF time hurry want leave
At this time, they began to hurry and wanted to leave . . .

The sentence topic in line five of the Dushuren text is encoded in the phrase *zai zhe ge shihou* 'at this time.' This specifies a definite time in which the two main characters begin to hurry, and restricts the interpretation of this sentence to this particular point in time.

2.4.3 Restricting the Individual Framework. The final function of the sentence topic is to restrict the individual framework. This use is probably the one that is most like the use of sentence topics in English. In the following example from line 7 of the Dushuren text, the sentence topic is encoded by the phrase *teibei na ge xiaohai* 'especially that child.' By restricting sentence topic to one individual, the discourse participants know which character the following information will concern.

18. Dushuren text, line 7

Teibei na ge xiaohai, ta you bei le
especially that CLSF child 3s also carry PRF
shu . . .
book

Especially that child, he was also carrying books.

2.4.4 Other Features of Sentence Topic in Mandarin. In addition to the prototypical characteristics of sentence topics and the more specific function of specifying a

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spatial, temporal, or individual framework for sentence topics in Mandarin, there are some additional features of sentence topics in Mandarin syntax that need to be specified. These relate more to the actual topic structure and how it is used within the sentence. Specifically, in Mandarin, a sentence does not always need to have both the subject and topic explicitly encoded as a phrase. Sometimes there is even no need for an explicit sentence topic. There may also be more than one sentence topic in complex and compound sentences which is encoded in a topic structure for each. And, finally, the topic structure may be marked by a topic marker.

2.4.4.1 Sentence Topics and Subjects. Despite the presence of "double subject" sentences, in which both a topic structure construction and a subject occur, not every sentence in Mandarin will specify both the sentence topic and subject. When the sentence topic and the subject are identical--referring to the same entity--quite often there is only one mention of that entity referred to by both the sentence topic and the subject. In the example below, the sentence topic is encoded in the noun phrase *ta* 'he.' This not only sets the individual framework for the sentence, but *ta* is also the subject of the sentence. Since both the sentence topic and the subject have the same referent, there is no need to redundantly repeat it--*ta* will function as both the encoded sentence topic, and the subject.

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19. Da Hui Lang text, line 76

Ta daochu zhao.
3s everywhere look
He looked everywhere.

2.4.4.2 Absence of Sentence Topic. Sometimes the context is so clear, it is not necessary to explicitly encode the sentence topic into the topic structure. These types of constructions are typically answers to questions or commands. Occasionally, simple declarative sentences will not have an explicit sentence topic.

20. Yongshi text, line 7

Jiran shi yonghsi, hai pa teng ma?!
Since is brave man also fear pain INTR
Since we are brave men, do we also fear pain?!

In line seven in the Yongshi text the sentence topic is the two brave men (the main characters in the story). However, it is not explicitly encoded in a topic structure, because in the preceding context the two brave men are the main focus of attention. Therefore, in line seven there is no need to mention them as the sentence topic. The potential for confusing the implied sentence topic with some other entity is very low. Despite this, this construction was not very common in the nine texts analyzed for this thesis. This is probably due to the importance attached to the sentence topic in Mandarin, and the desire for it not to be mistaken for some other possible sentence topic.

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2.4.4.3 Second Sentence Topic in Complex and Compound Sentences. Though most sentences will only have one sentence topic for the entire sentence, occasionally in complex sentences, a second sentence topic will occur. Quite often, this second sentence topic will follow "verbs of saying . . . and verbs of mental activity" (Li and Thompson 1981:100).

21. Yanli text, line

Diyi ge jinshiyan . . . shuo: "Zhe bu shi
first CLSF shortsighted say this no is

xiezhe 'guangming zhengzhi' si ge da
write guangming zhengzhi four CLSF big

zi ma!"
characters INTR

The first shortsighted man . . . said: "Aren't the characters 'guangming zhengzhi' written in big characters on this board!"

In line seven of the Yanli text, the first sentence topic is encoded in the noun phrase *diyi ge jinshiyan* 'the first shortsighted man.' This character restricts the individual framework for the entire sentence. Following the verb *shou* 'to say,' a second sentence topic is encoded as *zhe* 'this.' This refers to the board which the shortsighted man is pointing at, and it restricts the individual framework of the utterance of the first shortsighted man.

Similarly, a second sentence topic may also occur in a compound sentence. Should the topical framework change following non-conjoining conjunctions--like *suoyi* 'therefore' or *buguo* 'but'--another sentence topic construction

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will occur after the conjunction. In the following example, the first sentence topic is the old grandmother, encoded by the noun phrase *wo* 'I.' But following the conjunction *danshi* 'but,' the individual framework changes from the old grandmother to the two little girls, encoded by the noun phrase *nimen* 'you.'

22. Da Hui Lang text, line 97

. . . "Wo keyi dai nimen xiao shan, danshi
1s can take 2pl down mountain but

nimen yiding de hui lai . . .
2pl certainly ADV return come

"I can take you down the mountain, but you certainly must come back . . .

2.4.4.4 Optional Markers. Occasionally, the topic structure in Mandarin may be immediately followed by one of several topic markers--*a, ne, me, ba* (Li and Thompson 1981:85). Of the three Mandarin speakers who related stories, only one used topic structure markers--*ne*--and then fairly infrequently.

23. Da Hui Lang text, line 16

Liang ge nuer ne, xinggao-cailie de zai
two CLSF daughter PRTL jubilant MNR DUR

zhai hua.
pick flower

The two daughters were excitedly picking flowers.

Here, the sentence topic is encoded in the topic structure with the noun phrase *liang ge nuer* 'the two daughters.' This is immediately followed by the particle *ne*, which marks

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the topic structure. As this marker is used in this text, it most commonly follows a sentence topic which restricts the temporal framework of the sentence. However, as the above example shows, it can also mark a sentence topic which restricts an individual framework. Nor is it the case that every temporal sentence topic is marked with *ne*. Those this seems like a random patterning, it will be shown in chapter four that this use of *ne*, for this speaker, appears to function as an episode boundary marker.

2.5 Summary

The preceding chapter was concerned with specifying in greater detail the prototypical characteristics of sentence topics. It also addressed why Mandarin is considered a topic prominent language, and ended with a discussion on how to identify sentence topics in Mandarin.

Six prototypical characteristics of sentence topics were listed. This included the discourse function of sentence topics linking the sentence in which the sentence topic occurs to the rest of the discourse. Another characteristic is the predominance of sentence topics occurring in sentence initial position. Sentence topics must also be part of the pragmatic or presupposed knowledge of the participants. They will also be encoded in definite phrases, and either have an explicit earlier mention in the discourse or be inferrable from other information in the discourse.

Mandarin is considered a topic prominent language because of certain syntactic features common to other topic prominent languages but not to subject prominent languages like English. Specifically, Mandarin has a specific topic structure construction to encode the sentence topic. Mandarin also makes little use of the passive construction, nor does it employ dummy subjects. Mandarin does have double subject constructions, but lacks subject-verb agreement.

Finally, the use of Mandarin sentence topics was more explicitly stated as a means to better be able to identify sentence topics in Mandarin. Examples were provided which show how Mandarin uses sentence topics to set a spatial, temporal, or individual framework. And other features of Mandarin syntax as they relate to sentence topics were mentioned: sentence topic and subject use, lack of an explicit sentence topic, use in compound and complex sentences, and optional sentence topic markers.

The next chapter will discuss Prince's model of assumed familiarity. As such it will discuss the distinctions Prince makes among Brand New, Inferred, and Evoked entities. And it will be shown how this taxonomy can be applied to Mandarin sentence topics.

PRINCE'S TAXONOMY OF ASSUMED FAMILIARITY

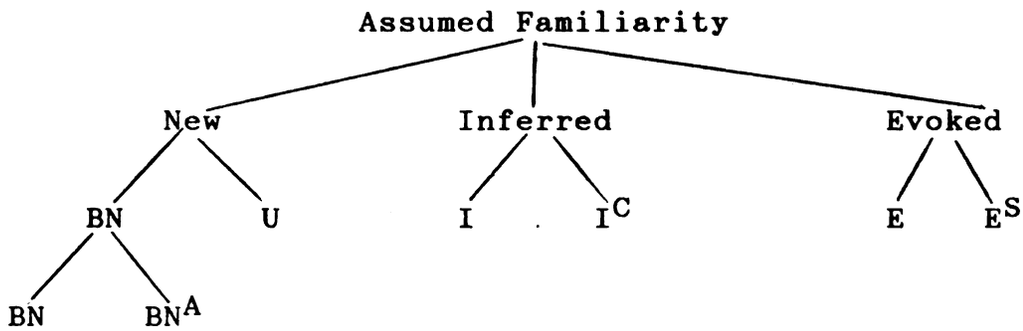
3.1 Introduction

Based on the above discussion, it is now possible to take a Mandarin text and determine what the sentence topic is for each line. But a list of sentence topics is hardly interesting or insightful in and of itself. A still better understanding of Mandarin discourse structure can be had if this list of sentence topics could be analyzed to determine what type of informational entities typically function as sentence topics. If a sentence topic must be presupposed information, how is this achieved by the narrator? There are a variety of models proposed to answer this question, but of these, Ellen Prince's (1981) is one of the more detailed. The following sections will describe her taxonomy of informational entities--new, evoked, and inferred. After this will be a section describing how Prince applied this taxonomy to analyze English noun phrases. The next section will discuss how this taxonomy can be used for Mandarin sentence topics. The final section will summarize the material presented in this chapter.

3.2 Prince's Taxonomy of Given-New Information

Prince devised her taxonomy of given-new information because, though it was a common distinction made by many

linguists in a variety of fields, no one model to characterize this distinction was completely adequate or used in a consistent manner (Prince 1981:225). Her model describes three different levels of shared knowledge between the speaker and the other discourse participants. These levels of shared knowledge are new, evoked, and inferred, each of which have their own subgroupings, which will be discussed below. The following is a diagramatic model of Prince's taxonomy of shared knowledge or assumed familiarity.



BN	Brand New (unanchored)
BN^A	Brand New Anchored
U	Unused
I	Inferrable (non-containing)
I^C	Containing Inferrable
E	Textually Evoked
E^S	Situationally Evoked

3.2.1 New Information. The first level of shared knowledge is new information. This is information that is introduced for the first time into the discourse. As such, it is new information, representing information that was not previously perceived as being an element of the discourse. This new information can be one of two types--brand new or unused.

3.2.1.1 Brand New Information. Brand new information is precisely that--it is information that is completely new to the discourse.

1. Si Maguang text, line 9

Ta zhao le yi zhao, zhaodao yi kuai shitou,
3s look PRF one look find one piece stone

yi kuai da shitou.
one piece big stone

After looking around for awhile, he found a large stone.

In line nine of the Si Maguang text, the large stone represents brand new information in the discourse. It has no previous mention in the text, and the speaker would not assume that the listeners would presuppose this information.

Brand new information can also be furthered divided into two subcategories: anchored and unanchored. Anchored information is "linked by means of another NP, or 'Anchor,' properly contained in it, to some other discourse entity" (Prince 1981:236). Therefore, the noun phrase 'a book I read' anchors brand new information, 'a book,' with another noun phrase 'I.' The anchor, itself, must, however, be information that already has been established into the text. To use an anchor that is also brand new information results in an odd sentence.

2. Yesterday, I talked to a guy I know from work.

3. ?Yesterday, I talked to a guy a man knows from work.

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Unanchored brand new information is simply brand new information that is introduced without the use of an anchor--as in *yi quai da shitou* in example one.

3.2.1.2 Unused Information. Unused information is different from brand new information in that it is presupposed information. The first mention of the unused entity, therefore, does not create a new piece of information which the listener must add to his or her knowledge of the text. Rather, an unused entity simply brings this information to the conscious awareness of the listener.

Proper names, which would be recognized by all discourse participants, are examples of unused information.

4. Talmy Givon teaches at the University of Oregon.

In the above example, Talmy Givon can either be brand new or unused information. If the speaker is addressing people at a linguistic's conference, chances are that those people are aware of who Talmy Givon is. It is new information only in the sense that the listeners will now register Givon as information that is currently important to the discourse. However, if the same utterance was spoken during a Sunday school class, it is unlikely that very few individuals would know who Talmy Givon is. This information, then, will represent brand new information for this group of listeners. But this use of brand new information can only be felicitously employed if the speaker wanted to make some point about Mr. Givon relevant to the class.

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3.2.2 Evoked Information. The second level of familiarity is evoked information. This is information that is "already in the discourse model" (Prince 1981:236). That is to say, this is information that the listeners are already aware of. Entities can be evoked in one of two ways--either textually or situationally. Textually evoked entities are entities which have been mentioned earlier in the text.

5. Dushuren text, line 3

   Ta dai le hen duo shu, yong shengzi kun hao
   3s take PRF very many book use rope tie well

   le . . .
   PRF

   He had many books, which were tied together with
   a rope . . .

6. Dushuren text, line 11

   Shengzi duan le.
   rope break PRF
   The rope broke.

In line 3 of the Dushuren text, brand new information is added to the discourse--that of a rope encoded by the noun phrase *shengzi*. Therefore, the next mention of the rope in line 11 of the text represents textually evoked information--information that the listeners are aware of based on a previous explicit mention of the entity.

Entities can also be situationally evoked through the extratextual context of the discourse. This refers to the setting of the discourse, which would include such things as the participants in the discourse and the physical location in which the discourse occurs. In the following example,

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assume the extratextual context contains a picture which is hanging over a couch--neither of which have been mentioned yet in the discourse.

7. I think that painting over the couch is nice.

In this example, there are three entities which have been situationally evoked. The first is the speaker, encoded with the pronoun 'I.' The second is the painting referred to in the utterance, and the third is the couch. All entities are part of the extratextual context of the discourse, and so the participants would be aware of them.

3.2.3 Inferred Information. The final level of familiarity is inferred information. This is information that the listeners can deduce through logic or common sense from other information presented in the discourse.

8. Da Hui Lang text, line 1

You yi jiaren, ta jia li you si ge
have one family 3s family in have four CLSF

nuer.
daughter

There was a family which had four daughters.

9. Da Hui Lang text, line 103

Ta de liang ge da jiejie jiu jia le
3s GEN two CLSF big older sister then marry PRF

nanren gen tamen de nanren zou le.
man with 3pl GEN man leave PRF

Their two older sisters then married men and with them left.

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In the first line of the Da Hui Lang text, the listeners are provided with information about a family, specifically that there are four daughters in this family. At the very end of the story, in line 103, two older daughters are explicitly referred to with the noun phrase *ta de liang ge da jiejie* 'the two older sisters.' Although there has not been any mention of these two characters earlier, it is still possible for the listeners to infer the identity of the two characters from the information presented in line one of the text.

Inferred entities can either be noncontaining, like the example above, or containing. A containing inferrable is defined by Prince as one in which "what is inferenced off of is properly contained within the inferrable NP itself" (Prince 1981:236). Instead of the inference relying on information presented in a previous line, the inference happens within the one noun phrase in which the inferrable entity is encoded.

10. In the Fall, the leaves of my parent's trees turn bright red and orange.

In this example, 'the leaves of my parent's trees' encodes information through a containing inferrable. By a logical relationship of part to whole, it is possible to infer the identity of the leaves from the trees. All of the information that is necessary to make this inference is encoded by the noun phrase 'the leaves of my parent's trees.'

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3.3 Applying the Assumed Familiarity Taxonomy to English

Using her taxonomy of assumed familiarity, as explained above, Prince went on to analyze an English oral text to determine the patterns of usage of the various informational entity types. Very briefly, her analysis showed that of all the grammatical subjects in her text, 93.4% denoted evoked entities, 6.6% denoted inferred, and 0% denoted brand new. For nonsubjects, on the other hand, the percentages were 48.8% evoked, 30.2% inferred, and 20.9% brand new (Prince 1981:243). Since this analysis is based on only one oral text, no firm conclusions can be applied in general to English, but her analysis does suggest the overwhelming tendency for subjects in oral English narratives to encode evoked entities.

It is interesting to note that Chafe (1987) working with a slightly different model (employing the terms 'given,' 'new,' and 'accessible' instead of Prince's respective terms 'evoked,' 'new,' and 'inferred') reaches very similar numbers. He states, "of the 23 starting points of the narrative, 20 were given, three . . . were accessible and there were none that were new" (Chafe 1987:37). This breaks down into 86.9% given, 15% accessible, and 0% new. However, Chafe was analyzing starting points (his term for topics) as opposed to subjects in English. Even though in English subjects and topics almost always coincide, there cannot be an exact comparison of Chafe's findings to Prince's. And yet, in many ways it does support her analysis.

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3.4 Prince's Taxonomy and Mandarin Sentence Topics

When Prince devised her taxonomy of assumed familiarity, she did so to better characterize those entities which were encoded by noun phrases. One difficulty with applying this taxonomy to Mandarin sentence topics, then, is that not every sentence topic is encoded by a noun phrase. Those sentence topics which are used to set a temporal or locative framework are quite often encoded in adverbial and prepositional phrases, respectively. But this does not have to be a problem. Both time and location can represent new, evoked, or inferred information.

In the following example, a locational setting is introduced as new information, and then later evoked.

11. Da Hui Lang text, line 6

    Ranhou ba tamen ren zai shan shang.
    then DO 3pl leave at mountain on
    Then, he will leave them on the mountain.

12. Da Hui Lang text, line 8

    Shan shang you hen duo xian hua.
    mountain on have very many fresh flower
    On the mountain there are many wild flowers.

Line six of the Da Hui Lang text introduces new information, the setting of the mountain, encoded in a prepositional phrase. Later, in line eight, this same setting, again encoded as a prepositional phrase, is evoked, and becomes the sentence topic of the sentence.

It is also possible to infer settings. In the Dushuren text, the two characters are travelling to a city when the

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13. Dushuren text, line 9

Jieguo zai lu shang, shuai dao le.
therefore at road on fall down PRF
Therefore, on the road, he fell down.

No previous mention of the road is made in the text. But still, it is information that can be inferred. When people travel to and from cities, it is typically done on roads or paths. So even though it is never stated explicitly in the text prior to line nine that the two characters were travelling on a road, it is information that can be inferred through common sense reasoning.

Temporal information is different from locational information in that temporal information refers to an abstract entity while locational information refers to a concrete entity. Therefore, very often, sentence topics which set a temporal framework represent inferred information.

14. Dushuren text, line 10

Yi shuai dao le yihou, ta de shu wanchuan
soon fall down PRF after 3s GEN book completely

san le.
fall apart PRF

Soon after he fell down, his books came apart.

In this line from the Dushuren text, the sentence topic is encoded by the adverbial phrase *yi shuai dao le yihou* 'soon after he fell down.' This is information which can only be inferred from information from the preceding context. Even

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though the preceding line (see example 13) mentions that the character fell down, the sentence topic in line 10 refers to a time right after the events in line 9 happened. Such information can only be inferred through the common sense reasoning that events happen in sequence. The above example is very typical of the way in which a temporal sentence topic is introduced via inference.

3.5 Summary

This chapter presented Prince's taxonomy of assumed familarity. This taxonomy separates the entities of a discourse into three levels of information: new, evoked, and inferred. New entities are those which have not been introduced into the discourse before, and can be further differentiated between brand new and unused entities. Evoked entities are entities in which the phrase encoding the entity has either been previously used in the discourse or are in the extratextual context. And lastly, inferred entities are those which the referent of the entity can be deduced from other information in the discourse. These can be divided into either non-containing inferrables or containing inferrables.

Following this section, was a brief section on how Prince applied this taxonomy in a study of an oral text from English, and the conclusions she was able to at least tentatively draw from her analysis. In a similar fashion, the next section discussed how Prince's taxonomy can be applied to Mandarin sentence topics. Even though Prince

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designed her taxonomy in reference to noun phrases, it was demonstrated that the taxonomy can also work for Mandarin sentence topics which are not always encoded by noun phrases.

The next chapter begins the actual analysis of sentence topics and oral Mandarin narratives. Using Prince's taxonomy, the Mandarin sentence topics will be identified as entities representing information from one of the three levels of assumed familiarity. These will then be analyzed to determine how other discourse parameters are correlated with level of familiarity.

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THE FUNCTION OF SENTENCE TOPICS IN ORAL MANDARIN NARRATIVE

4.1 Introduction

This chapter will examine some of the parameters which may influence the use of one level of familiarity over another in the mention of a sentence topic in oral narrative. The actual list of sentence topics from each text and its corresponding level of familiarity can be found in the Appendix--only the analysis of the data will be recorded in this chapter. The remainder of this chapter will be divided into six sections. The first will present the simple breakdown of the number of each level of familiarity used in the mention of a sentence topic. Following this will be three sections, each of which will examine a separate parameter and how it influences sentence topics. The first of these will examine animacy. The second will examine episode boundaries, and the third will examine topic persistence. The fifth section of this chapter will draw some conclusions based on the findings of the previous sections. And the sixth will summarize the chapter.

One additional note is that for the most part an actual statistical analysis will not be done on the data presented. Much of the data show clear enough patterns that a statistical analysis would not add much more insight. The one exception to this will be the section on episode boundaries.

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4.2 Levels of Familiarity and Sentence Topics in Oral Texts

Before any deeper investigation into the selection of sentence topics can be done, the actual patterning of the use of each level of familiarity must be understood. Though Prince breaks her taxonomy into six levels--brand new, unused, inferred, containing inferred, textually evoked and situationally evoked--only four were present in any given text--brand new, inferred, containing inferred, and textually evoked. Since inferred and containing inferred represent essentially the same level--just different codings--these will be combined into one level--inferred. All of the analysis to follow, therefore, will make use of this three way distinction of brand new (BN), evoked (E), and inferred (I).

The breakdown of the three oral texts into the number of sentence topics used at each level of famiality is given in Table 1 below. Beside each figure is a percentage based on the number of occurrences for that level of familiarity divided by the total number of sentence topics for that particular text. Therefore, for the Da Hui Lang text, each number is divided by 140, for the Si Maguang text 13, and for the Dushuren text 13. The percentages for the combined figures is based upon a total of 166 sentence topics.

Table 1: Oral Texts--Levels of Familiarity

	BN		E		I	
Da Hui Lang	1	(0.7%)	106	(75.7%)	33	(23.6%)
Si Maguang	1	(7.7%)	10	(76.9%)	2	(15.4%)
Dushuren	0	(0.0%)	8	(61.5%)	5	(38.5%)
Combined	2	(1.2%)	124	(74.7%)	40	(24.1%)

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Table 1 presents the simple information that for all three texts, there is a much greater use of evoked sentence topics than the other two. Brand new sentence topics are rarely used (not at all in fact in the Dushuren text), and inferred sentence topics a little under one fourth of the time. Though this is an interesting pattern, what does it really mean?

Actually, this information really does not say much. The above figures, taken by themselves, suggest that an inferred sentence topic, for example, will occur 24.1% of the time in an oral text. This conceivably could mean that the first quarter of the text could be one inferred sentence topic after another, while the remaining three quarters would all be evoked. But this is not the case at all, for others factors will influence the selection of one level of familiarity over another, as the following three sections will illustrate.

4.3 Animacy and Sentence Topic in Oral Texts

The first parameter which will be examined to see how it may or may not affect sentence topics is animacy. Animacy is often an important feature in the coding of various syntactic structures (Croft 1990:127-130). Certainly it affects the encoding of the genitive construction in Mandarin. Therefore, if both the noun phrases in the genitive construction have a high degree of animacy (a pronoun and a human noun) the genitive marker *de* is not required. But if one of the two noun phrases in the genitive construction has

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a low degree of animacy the genitive marker is required. This means that *wo meimei* 'my younger sister' is a correct construction, but *wo mao* 'my cat' is not the correct construction--*wo de mao* is. But how does this affect the use of sentence topics?

Table 2 below gives the breakdown of the number of sentence topics used at each level of familiarity as it relates to an animacy scale. For the purposes of this paper, animacy has been divided into three levels: human (H), inanimate (N), and abstract (A). Human, obviously, is used for all human noun phrases, but it also is applied to the wolf in the Da Hui Lang text. Since the wolf talks, thinks, and functions as a human, it should be regarded as having the same level of animacy as do the old grandmother and the two little girls. Inanimate refers to all concrete nouns that are not human--ropes, roads, mountains. Abstract is used for abstract concepts such as time and human characteristics (like age). Oddly enough, there were no animals, apart from the humanized wolf, in any of texts, oral or written.

The right hand column of Table 2 gives the individual percentage for each level of animacy as it occurs within each level of familiarity. This is based upon the total number of occurrences of a level of animacy divided by the total number of sentence topics which occurred at a particular level of familiarity. For example, the total number of Brand New sentence topics is two. Of these, both refer

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to human entities, which means that 100% of all Brand New sentence topics will have human referents. For the sake of space, each text has been abbreviated: L for the Da Hui Lang text, M for the Si Maguang text, and D for the Dushuren text.

Table 2: Oral Texts--Animacy and Sentence Topic

		L	M	D	Occurrence	Total	Percent
	H	1	1	0	2	2	100.0%
BN	N	0	0	0	0	2	0.0%
	A	0	0	0	0	2	0.0%
	H	91	9	5	105	124	83.9%
E	N	14	1	2	17	124	13.7%
	A	1	0	1	2	124	1.6%
	H	3	0	0	3	40	7.5%
I	N	0	0	1	1	40	2.5%
	A	30	2	4	36	40	90.0%

Several observations can be made based upon Table 2. The first is that Brand New sentence topics, which have a very low occurrence in these three texts, are only used with entities with a human level of animacy. Additionally, sentence topics, which are evoked, are strongly tied to human entities. And Inferred sentence topics are even more strongly linked to abstract entities.

These patterns can be seen more clearly in Table 3, which compares the occurrence of the level of familiarity as it relates to the animacy scale. So that all the human sentence topics, for example, are grouped together to see which level of familiarity is most often used to refer to a human entity.

Table 3: Oral Texts--Animacy and Levels of Familiarity

	Total	BN		E		I	
Human	110	2	(1.8%)	105	(95.5%)	3	(2.7%)
Inanimate	18	0	(0.0%)	17	(94.4%)	1	(5.6%)
Abstract	38	0	(0.0%)	2	(5.3%)	36	(94.7%)

From this table, it is very clear that a human entity is 95.5% more likely to be referred to with an Evoked sentence topic. Inanimate entities are also just as likely to be referred to with an Evoked sentence topics. And finally, abstract entities are highly probable to be referred to with Inferred sentence topics. Before any hypotheses can be made as to why these probabilities exist, other parameters should be examined to see how they affect sentence topics.

4.4 Episode Boundaries and Sentence Topic in Oral Texts

In addition to animacy, the choice of one level of information over another in the use of sentence topics may be influenced by the larger discourse structure. Anyone who has heard or read a story will know that the story can often be divided into smaller units or episodes--specific sections which focus on one character or one event. It is entirely likely that one level of familiarity is most often associated with the first line of a new episode.

The first key to discovering the possibility of this correlation is to know what an episode is. Tomlin (1987: 461) gives a very simple diagnostic in determining episode boundaries--"major changes in time, place, or characters correspond to episode boundaries." This very neatly ties into the various uses for sentence topics in Mandarin--

that of setting a temporal, locational, or individual framework. Therefore, any of the three types of Mandarin sentence topics can be used to signal an episode boundary.

Note that although an episode boundary denotes a change from one context to another--from an old setting to a new one--this does not mean that the sentence topic signalling the episode boundary represents new information, and therefore cannot be a sentence topics as defined in this thesis. For example, in the Yanli text, the information that there are two shortsighted men in this story is introduced early, and hence represent old-given information. One episode centers on the first shortsighted man and what he believes is written on an inscribed board. The episode which follows changes the focus from the first shortsighted man to the second one. Although this represents a new episode, the information about the second shortsighted man is still old-given information. The change in episode boundary may require the encoding of the sentence topic as a full noun phrase (as discussed in chapter 2), but this does not represent new information.

Episodes, in and of themselves, can have different functions within the text. Several linguists have sought to divide up the structure of a narrative in a variety of ways. Labov 1972 lists these categories as follows:

1. Abstract
2. Orientation
3. Complicating Action
4. Embedded Orientation
5. Evaluation
6. Coda

Of these, four are the most pertinent for the purpose of this paper. The first is the 'Orientation.' This sets the stage for the remainder of the discourse. It enables the participants to get at least a rough idea of the basic setting of the text to follow. Next is the 'Complicating Action.' This recounts activities which occur in the text. 'Embedded Orientation' provides additional background information within the text itself. And the last section is the 'Coda.' This is typically the wrap up of the story. The following mini-narrative illustrates these four categories:

Orientation:
Once upon a time in a kingdom far, far away lived a beautiful princess.

Complicating Action:

One day, she found a toad and impetuously kissed it.

Embedded Orientation:

The toad was actually a handsome prince, who was under an evil spell which only a kiss would break.

Coda:

The princess and the prince got married and lived happily ever after.

This is not to suggest that every time a line can be classified into one of these structural units that it corresponds to an episode boundary. Rather this is a useful way to begin to break down the structure of a text into more manageable units so that finer divisions in episode boundaries can be made. For example, a cluster of sentences which are all complicating actions could indicate an episodic unit.

This is not the only way to divide up a text. Longacre 1983 does not make the fine distinctions as proposed by Labov. He divides a text into two basic components--background and foreground. Background typically consists of descriptive comments, much like the 'Orientation' and 'Embedded Orientation' above. Foreground represents important activities in the text, like 'Complicating Action.' But Longacre does include a division in his model which is left out in Labov's. This is the notion of 'Peak.' The peak of a story is point of highest tension, such as when the wolf is searching for the two little girls in the Da Hui Lang text. To reflect this tension, the peak is often quite distinct from other episodes in the text. Changes in the tense/aspect system may occur and other prototypical discourse features may be absent (Longacre 1983:25). These peak marking features will often continue to occur until the resolution of the tension is resolved.

This is readily apparent in the Da Hui Lang text. This was the only text to make use of the optional sentence topic marker *ne*. At first, the distribution of *ne* in this text seemed arbitrary. But when the narrative was broken down into episodes, it became very apparent that at every episode boundary, *ne* was used to mark the sentence topic. However, *ne* is not used throughout the entire text. There is a section from line 63 to 99 in which no *ne* is used, but this same section is clearly not one prolonged episode. What it is, though, is the peak (from line 63 to 85) and the

resolution (lines 86-98). Since this particular narrator was the only one to even use *ne*, it is not possible to even suggest that *ne* is an episode marker in Mandarin narrative. And yet, for this one speaker, it serves this function.

Clearly, a detailed analysis of the discourse structure of each text was not possible, or even desirable. But based on the criteria above, each text has been divided into episodes. These episode divisions are recorded with their respective texts in the Appendix. What follows are the correlations found between episode boundaries and the level of information used at these boundaries in the mention of the sentence topics.

Table 4 below gives the number of episode boundaries which occurred for each text as they related to the levels of information. In the right column are the percentages of the occurrence in one level of information with the total possible number of episode boundaries (29).

Table 4: Oral Texts--Episode Boundaries and Levels of Familiarity

	Lang	Maguang	Dushuren	Total	Percentage
BN	1	1	0	2	6.9%
E	3	3	2	8	27.4%
I	15	1	3	19	65.5%

Table 4 clearly shows the preponderance of Inferred sentence topics occurring at episode boundaries. Inferred sentence topics are almost three times as likely as Evoked sentence topics to be used in this way. And Brand New sentence topics appear to be used hardly at all.

Another way to look at this information is to compare the total number of occurrences of each level of familiarity with the total number of times that level was used at an episode boundary.

Table 5: Oral Texts--Episode Boundaries and Total Occurrences of Levels of Familiarity

	Episode Boundaries/Occurrences	Percentages
BN	2 /2	100.0%
E	8/124	6.5%
I	19/40	47.5%

Based on Table 5, it is now Brand New sentence topics with the greatest occurrence at episode boundaries. This only makes sense, since both uses of Brand New sentence topics occurred in the very first line of the narrative, and the first line has to be an episode boundary. This table also shows that Evoked sentence topics are very infrequently used at episode boundaries, while almost half of all the Inferred sentence topics are used at episode boundaries.

Even greater insight can be achieved by looking at how animacy correlates with episode boundaries.

Table 6: Oral Texts--Episode Boundaries and Animacy

		Episode Boundary	Total Occurrences	Percentage
	H	2	2	100.0%
BN	N	0	0	0.0%
	A	0	0	0.0%
	H	7	105	6.7%
E	N	0	17	0.0%
	A	1	2	50.0%
	H	0	3	0.0%
I	N	0	1	0.0%
	A	19	36	52.8%

From this table some further observations can be drawn. Obviously, since Brand New sentence topics are always human entities, Brand New human sentence topics will always occur at a sentence boundary. Additionally, no inanimate sentence topic is ever used at an episode boundary. However, abstract entities occur at least 50% of the time at an episode boundary no matter if the sentence topic is evoked or inferred.

Here, it could be useful to run a statistical analysis on the above data in an attempt to tease out any further information which may be relevant. To do this the Varbrule statistical program was used. Since Brand New sentence topics only occur at episode boundaries with human entities, and inanimate sentence topics never occur at episode boundaries, only two levels of familiarity--evoked and inferred--and two levels of animacy--human and abstract--were analyzed to determine the probabilities of occurrence at episode boundaries. The results of the analysis showed pretty much what was expected. Table 7 gives the specific probabilities for each factor.

Table 7: Oral Texts--Probability and Episode Boundaries

	Probability
Evoked	0.503
Inferred	0.497
Human	0.198
Abstract	0.802

What this means is abstract entities strongly promote the use of an episode boundary, human entities not at all, and

Evoked and Inferred sentence topics are pretty much neutral in the promoting or retarding of episode boundaries.

The Varbrule program also allows a stepwise regression which identifies factors which are not significant for the parameter being examined--in this case the occurrence of an episode boundary. In this case the stepwise regression showed that level of familiarity is not significant while level of animacy is. This is to be expected from the near equal percentage of abstract entities at episode boundaries regardless of the level of familiarity of the sentence topic. However, it should be remembered that the majority of Inferred sentence topics are at episode boundaries, while the vast majority of Evoked sentence topics are not at episode boundaries.

4.5 Topic Persistence and Sentence Topics in Oral Texts

A final parameter to be investigated that may influence the use of sentence topics is topic persistence. Specifically, do entities with a relatively high topic persistence occur with a certain level of familiarity, while those with low topic persistence occur with another level of familiarity? Topic persistence is a cataphoric measure of the number of following clauses which include a mention of the topic being counted (Givon 1990:908). There are two ways suggested for doing this. One is to count the number of clauses in which the referent of the topic is mentioned (including zero anaphor) in the succeeding ten clauses. The other is to just count the number of consecutive clauses in

which the referent is mentioned. For this paper, the first method was adopted.

A topic persistence count for the sentence topic *Nanguo xiansheng* 'Mr. Nanguo' from the Duzou text, lines 2 to 4, illustrates how this is done (clause boundaries are indicated by a slash):

You ge Nanguo xiansheng/ ∅ zhidao zhei -ge
have CLSF Nanguo mister know this CLSF

qingkuang/ ∅ jiu jian Xuanwang,/ ∅ shuo/ ziji chui de
situation then meet Xuanwang say self play MNR

ruhe ruhe/ ∅ qingqiu/ ∅ canjia zhei ge yuedui/
how how please ask join this CLSF orchestra

∅ wei Xuanwang chui yu./ Xuanwang ba ta bianjin
for Xuanwang play reed pipe Xuanwang DO 3s put

yuedei/ binqie gei ta hen gao de xinshui./
orchestra moreover give 3s very high PRTL salary

Xuanwang si le,/ Minwang jie wei./
Xuanwang die PRF Minwang approach place

There was a Mr. Nanguo, who knew of this situation, went to see Xuanwang, and said that he knew how to play. He asked if he could join the orchestra and play the reed pipe for Xuanwang. Xuanwang put him in the orchestra and gave him a high salary. Xuanwang died, and Minwang took the throne.

In the ten clauses following the first mention of *Nanguo xiansheng*, he is referred to eight times. Therefore the topic persistence count of *Nanguo xiansheng* is eight. This is then averaged with other scores to arrive at an overall topic persistence score. The higher the topic persistence score, "the more it (the entity) recurs in the following discourse and the more topical it is" (Myhill 1992: ch. 2, pg. 15), and the more important it is to the discourse.

The topic persistence score was calculated for each sentence topic in the three oral texts. Table 7 gives the total topic persistence score for each text followed by the total number of sentence topics which occurred at the pertinent level of familiarity. Therefore, in the Da Hui Lang text, for brand new entities, the topic persistence score was four. This is divided by the number of occurrences of brand new sentence topics in the text, which was one. The individual scores from each text are added together for each level of familiarity to arrive at an overall topic persistence score (TP).

Table 8: Oral Texts--TP and Levels of Familiarity

	Lang	Maguang	Dushuren	Total	TP
BN	4/1	1/1	0/0	5/2	2.50
E	445/106	16/10	29/8	490/124	3.95
I	9/33	0/2	0/5	9/40	0.23

Table 8 shows that of the three levels of familiarity, Evoked sentence topics have the highest topic persistence, followed by Brand New sentence topics, and finally Inferred sentence topics, which have an extremely low score.

Just as with episode boundaries, further distinctions can be made by comparing topic persistence with animacy. Table 9 presents the same information as Table 8 above, except Table 9 breaks down each level of familiarity into the three levels of animacy.

Table 9: Oral Texts--Animacy and Topic Persistence

		Lang	Maguang	Dushuren	Total	TP
	H	4/1	1/1	0/0	5/2	2.50
BN	N	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0.00
	A	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0.00
	H	420/91	16/9	27/5	463/105	4.41
E	N	25/14	0/1	2/2	27/17	1.59
	A	0/1	0/0	0/1	0/2	0.00
	H	6/3	0/0	0/0	6/3	2.00
I	N	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/1	0.00
	A	1/30	0/2	0/4	1/36	0.03

From this it is possible to derive a ranking of sentence topic types from highest to lowest in topic persistence.

Evoked Human	TP = 4.41
Brand New Human	TP = 2.50
Inferred Human	TP = 2.00
Evoked Inanimate	TP = 1.59
Inferred Abstract	TP = 0.03
Evoked Abstract	TP = 0.00
Inferred Inanimate	TP = 0.00
Brand New Inanimate	TP = 0.00 (no occurrence)
Brand New Abstract	TP = 0.00 (no occurrence)

This hierarchy clearly indicates that human entities are more "topical"--that is these entities are more salient and more important to the narrative--than the other levels of animacy. Next in the hierarchy are evoked inanimate entities, and finally Inferred abstract entities. All of this makes sense, since the characters (the human entities) are the most important aspect of a story, followed by various props and settings (the inanimate entities) which are used by the characters, and finally the marking of time and other less tangible things (the abstract entities). Note that Evoked abstract and Inferred inanimate entities

not only have a topic persistence score of zero, but they also are used very rarely in the texts--suggesting that they represent entities which are not very important to the overall narrative.

4.6 Discussion

What does all of the above information have to say about the use of sentence topics in oral Mandarin narrative? At the beginning of this chapter, it was noted that of the three levels of familiarity, sentence topics were evoked 74.7% of the time, inferred 24.1% of the time, and brand new 1.2% of the time. Now that other parameters, like animacy, episode boundaries, and topic persistence, have been examined, a more informed explanation can be given for the use of sentence topics as noted above.

4.6.1 Brand New Sentence Topics. Despite the very low usage of Brand New sentence topics, they have a rather important function. Occurring text initially, they provide the orientation for the narrative by introducing somewhat important characters into the text--thus their exclusive use of human entities and their relatively high topic persistence. Brand New sentence topics have such a low occurrence, then, not because they contain unimportant information, but rather because once the discourse is initiated evoked and inferred information can be used. Therefore, they function to start the narrative.

4.6.2 Evoked Sentence Topics. Evoked sentence topics have the highest percentage of usage of the three levels of familiarity. They are also almost exclusively used for human entities (95.5%) and most inanimate entities (94.4%), as well as having the highest topic persistence (3.95). Despite this, they are used only about a quarter of the time for episode boundaries, and only 6.5% of all Evoked sentence topics actually occur at an episode boundary.

Basically, then, Evoked sentence topics function to topicalize the characters of the narrative. Since a narrative is essentially about characters--who they are and what they did--the great preponderance of sentence topics will naturally concern the characters. The clearest, least ambiguous or confusing means to refer to a character is through evoked information--information that has had an explicit previous mention. Using evoked information in conjunction with human entities ensures the characters in a story will be clearly recognized and successfully tracked.

As for the relatively low use of Evoked sentence topics for episode boundaries, it is difficult to say for sure why this is. Though Evoked sentence topics are used 27% of the time for episode boundaries, it is really evoked abstract entities that occur at a higher percentage at these boundaries, which suggests that it is more a quality of abstractness which is linked to episode boundaries than the level of information used, which is reflected in the statistical analysis presented earlier.

4.6.3 Inferred Sentence Topics. Inferred sentence topics occur only 24.1% of the time. But they are heavily correlated with abstract entities (94.7%). They also occur the most frequently at episode boundaries (62.7%), as over half of all inferred sentence boundaries (55.6%) are used as episode boundary markers--all of which are also abstract. Inferred sentence topics also have the lowest topic persistence score (0.23). This drops even more with Inferred abstract sentence topics (0.03).

Based on this information, it seems that Inferred sentence topics function mainly as the temporal sequencing in the text. Certainly time is an important element in any narrative, but it is difficult to evoke information about time. Most often, this type of information must be arrived at through inference. Therefore Inferred sentence topics have a primary function of marking episode boundaries. Earlier, statistical evidence was presented that suggested that abstractness is the true trigger for episode boundaries not level of familiarity. However, this overlooks the strong ties between abstract and inferred entities. It may be true that an abstract entity will promote the occurrence of an episode boundary, but it is also true that most frequent way to refer to an abstract entity is by an Inferred sentence topic.

This will also account for the low topic persistence scores. The temporal framework is something that is only mentioned once, and then is assumed to be presupposed

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knowledge for the text. It would only be in more abstract texts where time would be a topic of discussion for any great length of time--but certainly not in a narrative. The speaker sets the temporal framework and marks a new episode, and then goes on to tell about the important topics in the narrative, the characters.

4.7 Summary

A number of tables were presented to illustrate the use of sentence topics as it correlated with animacy, episode boundaries, and topic persistence. Though these are not hard rules to stand by, the following statements can be made which summarize the function of each of the three levels of information. Brand New sentence topics function to begin the text and introduce important characters. Evoked sentence topics function to track the characters through the text. Inferred sentence topics function to set the temporal framework of the text.

The above generalizations are based on the analysis of oral texts. The next chapter will analyze written texts. This different medium may cause differences to occur in the way the levels of familiarity are used both in frequency and in correlation with the specified parameters.

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THE FUNCTION OF SENTENCE TOPICS IN WRITTEN MANDARIN NARRATIVE

5.1 Introduction

The preceding chapter discussed the use of sentence topics in oral Mandarin narrative. This chapter will use the same framework but apply it to written Mandarin narrative. Therefore, the rest of this chapter will include six sections. The first will present the breakdown of sentence topics as they relate to the levels of information. The second will examine how animacy interacts with sentence topics. The next section will discuss episode boundaries and sentence topics. After this section, the role of topic persistence will be applied to the use of sentence topics. The fifth section will, again, draw some conclusions about the fucntion of sentence topics in written narrative. And the last section will summarize the findings of this chapter. Throughout the first few sections of this chapter only superficial comparisons between oral versus written sentence topics will be made; a more complete comparison will be reserved for the sixth section. The individual sentence topics for each of the six written texts can also be found with their respective texts in the Appendix.

5.2 Levels of Familiarity and Sentence Topics in Written Texts

As in the previous chapter, before any observations can be made about the use sentence topics in written Mandarin narrative, the patterns of distribution across the levels of familiarity must first be established. Table 10 below, then, is the breakdown of the number of occurrences of a sentence topic per level of familiarity per text. Also, next to each number is the percentage of usage of that particular level of familiarity for each text.

Table 10: Written Texts--Levels of Familiarity

	BN		E		I	
Heshang	0	(0.0%)	26	(63.4%)	15	(36.56)
Yanli	1	(5.6%)	9	(50.0%)	8	(44.4%)
Duzuo	3	(30.0%)	5	(50.0%)	2	(20.0%)
Jixinzi	1	(10.0%)	6	(60.0%)	3	(30.0%)
Gechangia	2	(13.3%)	8	(53.5%)	5	(33.3%)
Yongshi	1	(7.7%)	9	(69.2%)	3	(23.1%)
Combined	8	(7.5%)	63	(58.9%)	36	(33.6%)

The same basic frequency of use of the three levels of familiarity as was noted in the oral texts is the same for the written texts. The lowest frequency of use is Brand New sentence topics (7.5%), followed by Inferred (33.6%). The highest frequency is again Evoked sentence topics (58.9%). But again, this table really does not say much about why these patterns are present, and an examination of the parameters of animacy, episode boundaries, and topic persistence is necessary to provide any insight.

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5.3 Animacy and Sentence Topics in Written Texts

One of the parameters which seemed to have a major influence on the selection of oral sentence topics was animacy. Like Table 2, Table 11 gives the individual percentage for each level of animacy as it occurs within each level of familiarity. This is based on the total number of occurrences (designated by 'O' in table 11) divided by the total number of sentence topics which occurred at that particular level of familiarity (designated by 'T'). For the sake of space, each text has been abbreviated as indicated here: Heshang--HE, Yanli--YA, Duzuo--DU, Jixingzi--JI, Gechangjia--GE, Yongshi--YO.

Table 11: Written Texts--Animacy and Sentence Topics

		HE	YA	DU	JI	GE	YO	O	T	Percent
BN	H	0	1	2	1	2	0	6	8	75.0%
	N	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	8	25.0%
	A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.0%
E	H	25	3	5	3	7	9	52	63	82.5%
	N	1	5	0	3	0	0	9	63	14.3%
	A	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	63	3.2%
I	H	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	36	8.3%
	N	1	2	0	1	2	0	6	36	16.7%
	A	14	3	2	2	3	3	27	36	75.0%

As with the oral texts, many of the same patterns occur with the written texts. Once more, Evoked sentence topics are strongly linked to human entities, and Inferred sentence topics are strongly linked to abstract entities. But there are also some differences worth noting. The first is the the occurrence of Brand New inanimate sentence topics in the written texts, where there were no such occurrences in the

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oral texts. The other difference that needs to be pointed out is the marked increase in the use of Inferred inanimate sentence topics (16.7%) in the written texts, as opposed to their relative infrequency in the oral texts (2.5%).

The other way to view this data is to see how the respective levels of animacy pattern within the levels of familiarity. Table 12 provides this information with the number of occurrences of a particular level of animacy noted per level of familiarity, followed by a percentage.

Table 12: Written Texts--Animacy and Levels of Familiarity

	Total	BN		E		I	
Human	61	6	9.8%	52	85.2%	3	4.9%
Inanimate	17	2	10.5%	9	52.9%	6	35.3%
Abstract	29	0	0.0%	2	6.9%	27	93.1%

Human entities are again strongly tied to Evoked sentence topics, but not as predominantly as in the oral texts as Brand New sentence topics have a greater percentage of use--9.8% for written, but only 1.8% for oral. There is also a more even balance in the use of inanimate entities. In oral texts, inanimate entities were 94.4% likely to be evoked. But in written texts, though Evoked inanimate sentence topics are still the most common means to refer to an inanimate entity, their frequency is diminished to 52.9%, while the frequency of use with Inferred sentence topics is increased to 35.3%. And again, there is the strong correlation between Inferred sentence topics and abstract entities.

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5.4 Episode Boundaries and Sentence Topics in Written Texts

As with the oral texts, each of the written texts were divided into episode boundaries. This proved to be a much easier task than before, since most of the texts were already in paragraphs, which naturally serve to separate one episode from the other. Again, these episode boundaries are listed with their respective texts in the Appendix.

Table 13 below gives the text by text breakdown of the number of episode boundaries as they occurred at the three levels of familiarity. On the right are the percentages based on the total number of occurrences of an episode boundary of a particular level of familiarity divided by the total number of occurrences of all episode boundaries (37 in all).

Table 13: Written Texts--Episode Boundaries and Levels of Familiarity

	HE	YA	DU	JI	GE	YO	Total	Percent
BN	0	1	2	1	2	1	7	18.9%
E	7	1	2	1	3	2	16	43.2%
I	3	4	1	2	2	2	14	37.8%

This table shows that Evoked sentence topics are more often used as episode boundary markers that either Brand New sentence topics or Inferred sentence topics. But again this table should not be interpreted as indicating that only 18.9% of Brand New sentence topics will be used as episode boundaries, but rather that as a whole text, their overall frequency in comparison to other sentence topics is less than 20%.

In order to determine the likelihood of any one type of sentence topic being used as an episode boundary the total number of occurrences of that level of familiarity at an episode boundary must be divided by the total number of all occurrences of the level of familiarity. This is what Table 14 does.

Table 14: Written Texts--Episode Boundaries and Total Occurrences of Levels of Familiarity

	Episode Boundaries/Occurrences	Percentages
BN	7/8	87.5%
E	16/63	25.4%
I	14/36	38.9%

Again, like the oral texts, in the written texts a Brand New sentence topic has a high frequency of occurrence at an episode boundary, but at a lower frequency than the oral texts. And there is still the greater chance for an Inferred sentence topic to occur at a sentence boundary than a sentence topic which is evoked. But what is different is the more frequent use of Evoked sentence topics at episode boundaries (a fourth of all Evoked sentence topics) in the written texts as opposed to the infrequent occurrence in oral texts: only 6.5%.

Further distinctions along these lines can be made by dividing the three levels of familiarity into the three levels of animacy. Table 15 below contains this information.

Table 15: Written Texts--Episode Boundaries and Animacy

		Episode Boundary	Total Occurrences	Percent
	H	6	6	100.0%
BN	N	1	2	50.0%
	A	0	0	0.0%
	H	13	52	25.0%
E	N	2	9	22.2%
	A	1	2	50.0%
	H	2	3	66.7%
I	N	0	6	0.0%
	A	12	27	44.4%

This table reveals several things. First, it re-emphasizes the strong correlation of Brand New sentence topics, human or inanimate, at an episode boundary. This table also shows that if an Inferred sentence topic is used at an episode boundary, it will either refer to an abstract entity a human one. This table also shows that Evoked sentence topics can be used at episode boundaries with any level of animacy. A final note, is that, unlike the oral texts, inanimate entities can occur at episode boundaries through either Brand New or Evoked sentence topics.

As before with the oral texts, a statistical analysis was run on the above data. Because in the written texts, a Brand New sentence topic does not always occur at an episode boundary, and since inanimate entities also occur at episode boundaries, these were included in the analysis for the written texts. The initial analysis produced the following probabilities for the above factors to occur at an episode boundary.

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Table 16: Written Texts--Probability and Episode Boundaries

	Probability
Brand New	0.895
Evoked	0.224
Inferred	0.289
Human	0.579
Inanimate	0.257
Abstract	0.678

These figures are quite different than the ones for oral texts. Abstract entities continue to be promoters of episode boundaries, but not as strong as they were in oral texts (.805). Human entities are also promoters in written texts, but not at all in oral (.195). And Inferred sentence topics are no longer promoters at all.

More interesting results happen when a stepwise regression is done on the above data. In the oral texts, this regression indicated that level of familiarity was not a factor in the use of episode boundaries. But now, for the written texts, the reverse is true. Animacy is not significant, but level of familiarity is. What this suggests is that in written texts episode boundaries are not sensitive to distinctions in animacy, and that any one of the three types of sentence topics--Brand New, Evoked, or Inferred--can be used to signal an episode boundary. Whereas in oral texts, abstract entities were most likely to indicate an episode boundary (and in particular Inferred abstract entities), in written texts no distinctions can be made--that is to say, no one type of sentence topic is used more than any other to indicate an episode change. Therefore, it can be concluded that oral texts are more rigid

in the marking of episode boundaries, while written texts are not.

5.5 Topic Persistence and Sentence Topics in Written Texts

The final parameter to be investigated is topic persistence. Again, this measures the cataphoric re-occurrence of a topic in successive clauses. The higher the topic persistence, the greater importance that topic plays in the discourse. Table 17 gives the overall topic persistence score of each of the three levels of animacy. This is based on the individual counts at each level for each text. For example, in the Heshang text for Inferred sentence topic, the numbers 2/13 are given. This means that of the thirteen Inferred sentence topics in the Heshang text, they had a total topic persistence score of 2.

Table 17: Written Texts--TP and Levels of Familiarity

	HE	YA	DU	JI	GE	YO	Total
BN	0/0	9/1	16/3	7/1	15/2	0/1	47/8
E	112/26	11/9	11/5	26/6	44/8	47/9	251/63
I	2/15	12/8	0/2	7/3	4/5	0/3	25/36

BN TP = 5.88
E TP = 3.98
I TP = 0.69

The most startling aspect of this table is the very high topic persistence of Brand New sentence topics. In fact, Brand New sentence topics have the highest topic persistence of the other two levels of familiarity. This is very different from the oral texts, in which the few Brand New sentence topics had much lower topic persistence scores.

Even finer distinctions can be determined by once more dividing the three levels of familiarity into the three levels of animacy. Table 18 presents this information using the same format as found in Table 17.

Table 18: Written Texts--Animacy and Topic Persistence

		HE	YA	DU	JI	GE	YO	Totals
	H	0/0	9/1	13/2	7/1	15/2	0/0	44/6
BN	N	0/0	0/0	3/1	0/0	0/0	0/1	3/2
	A	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
	H	111/25	6/3	11/5	19/3	43/7	47/9	237/52
E	N	1/1	5/5	0/0	7/3	0/0	0/0	13/9
	A	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/0	1/1	0/0	1/2
	H	0/0	9/3	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	9/3
I	N	0/1	2/2	0/0	7/1	7/2	0/0	16/6
	A	2/14	1/3	0/2	0/2	0/3	0/3	3/27

	H	TP = 7.33
BN	N	TP = 1.50
	A	no occurrence
	H	TP = 4.56
E	N	TP = 1.44
	A	TP = 0.50
	H	TP = 3.00
I	N	TP = 2.67
	A	TP = 0.11

The information of Table 18 can be used to group the sentence topic categories into a hierarchy of highest topic persistence to lowest. But unlike the oral topic persistence hierarchy, there are a few surprises. Most notably the placement of Inferred sentence topics towards the top of the scale, which will be discussed below.

Brand New Human	TP = 7.33	
Evoked Human	TP = 4.56	
Inferred Human	TP = 3.00	
Inferred Inanimate	TP = 2.67	
Brand New Inanimate	TP = 1.50	
Evoked Inanimate	TP = 1.44	
Evoked Abstract	TP = 0.50	
Inferred Abstract	TP = 0.11	
Brand New Abstract	TP = 0.00	(no occurrence)

This breakdown in Table 18 reveals a number of interesting facts. The first is that Brand New sentence topics have an even higher topic persistence when a distinction is made between human and inanimate entities. Inanimate entities, used only twice in the texts as Brand New sentence topics, have a low topic persistence score. Whereas, human Brand New sentence topics have a very high topic persistence score, which is significantly higher than the next highest sentence topic type, an Evoked human sentence topic.

Also of interest is the relatively high topic persistence of Inferred inanimate sentence topics. In the oral texts, the topic persistence for this category was 0.00--one of the lowest scores. But in the written texts, it is 2.67, one of the higher scores.

5.6 Discussion

The above tables of information provide a multitude of numbers. And as with the oral texts, it is possible to sift through these numbers and arrive at certain conclusions about the primary function of each of the three levels of information.

5.6.1 Brand New Information. In the oral texts, it was noted that Brand New sentence topics are infrequent, and function mainly to get the discourse going. They introduce less important characters, which have a low topic persistence--at least compared to characters which are evoked.

Brand New sentence topics in written texts seem to have a much more important role in the discourse. Like in the oral texts, Brand New sentence topics occur discourse initially at episode boundaries. But in the written texts, Brand New sentence topics seem to function to introduce major characters into the discourse, as evidenced by the high topic persistence scores. Like the oral texts, they are most often used with human entities (only twice was a Brand New sentence topic used with an inanimate entity with a subsequently low topic persistence score).

Surprisingly, the importance of Brand New sentence topics goes contrary to the statement made in an earlier chapter that a sentence topic must refer to entities, which have a previous mention or which can be deduced through inference. In oral texts, this is not such a problem, as Brand New sentence topics are not really important to the text. They occur infrequently and have fairly low topic persistence scores. Their function, then, seems to be as a way to get the narrative going, but have little other impact on the text as a whole.

This is not the case with Brand New sentence topics in written texts. Even though they only occur discourse

initially (and so also function as in the oral texts to get the narrative going), Brand New sentence topics also introduce major characters into the text. They occur with greater frequency and have the highest topic persistence score of all sentence topic types. Even though they may have the same function as in the oral texts, Brand New sentence topics appear to have a greater importance.

5.6.2 Evoked Sentence Topics. Evoked sentence topics in oral narrative were said to perform the important function of tracking the characters. Their high correlation with human entities and their high topic persistence support this claim. And their overall high occurrence in the text indicates how important the characters are in an oral narrative.

Despite the lower overall frequency of use in the written text (used only 58.9% of the time as compared to 74.7% in oral narratives), Evoked sentence topics still perform much the same function in the written texts as they do in the oral texts. Like the oral texts, the written Evoked sentence topics are strongly associated with human entities, and have a high topic persistence. Consequently, Evoked sentence topics in written narrative also function to track the characters throughout the discourse.

It would also be wrong to conclude that because certain figures are lower in the written text as opposed to the oral text that Evoked sentence topics are not as important to the written text. Most of the discrepancies between

the figures of the written to oral texts can be explained away through the Brand New sentence topics. In written texts, as has been noted above, Brand New sentence topics have a much greater frequency of use, and have very strong correlations with humanness. In a sense, Brand New sentence topics in written texts have taken over or at least have overlapped some of the functions of the Evoked sentence topics. Their greater frequencies and ties with human entities prevent Evoked sentence topics from being used as much as could be. Evoked sentence topics in written texts are just as important in tracking the characters as they are in oral texts.

5.6.3 Inferred Sentence Topics. In chapter four, the function of Inferred sentence topics was described as a means to mark the temporal episode boundaries. Their low frequency, low topic persistence, and high correlation with abstract entities are indicative of this. This is also mostly true for Inferred sentence topics in written texts. There is a high correlation with abstract entities (93.1%), and a low topic persistence (0.69).

But this is not the whole story. The telling anomaly is in the greater frequency of use of Inferred sentence topics in written texts (33.6%) than in oral texts (24.1%). This can be accounted for by a greater percentage of Inferred inanimate sentence topics which occur in written texts (5.6%) as opposed to oral texts (0.6%).

There is also a much stronger correlation of inanimate entities with Inferred sentence topics in written texts. An inanimate entity is occurs 35.3% of the time with an Inferred sentence topic--but only 5.6% of the time in an oral text. Neither is it the case that this is due to episode boundaries in written texts, because there are no occurrences of Inferred inanimate sentence topics at episode boundaries in either oral or written narratives.

The key to understanding this may lie in topic persistence. Earlier in this chapter, it was remarked that in a ranking of topic persistence from highest to lowest, one of the higher topic persistence scores belongs to Inferred inanimate sentence topics. But in oral texts this category has an extremely low topic persistence score. This suggests that, just as Evoked sentence topics function to track human entities, in written texts Inferred inanimate sentence topics function to track inanimate entities--such as the inscribed board in the Yanli text, or the boiled egg in the Jixingzi text.

5.7 Summary

In this chapter the parameters of animacy, episode boundaries, and topic persistence were analyzed to determine how they influenced the use of sentence topics in written narratives. This resulted in several statements about the function of sentence topics as they relate to the levels of familiarity in written texts, and how they were similar or different from the function in oral texts.

Brand New sentence topics appear to have a greater importance in written texts than in oral texts. They are discourse initial, but introduce major characters into the narrative. Evoked sentence topics were shown to function in the same basic manner in both written and oral texts--that is, they serve to track the characters in the text. Finally, Inferred sentence topics were seen to have a much more diverse function in written texts than in oral texts. In both types of text, Inferred sentence topics, especially those that refer to abstract entities, function as episode boundary markers. But also in written texts, Inferred inanimate sentence topics function to track important inanimate objects in the text.

CONCLUSION

The stated purpose of this paper was to demonstrate that the use of sentence topics in Mandarin oral and written narrative is not arbitrary but determined by certain discourse and pragmatic parameters. It was also proposed that the different mediums of oral versus written narratives would also be reflected in differences in the way sentence topics function. These two proposals have been substantiated.

In the last two chapters the examination of animacy, episode boundaries, and topic persistence has provided some insight into what affects the use of sentence topics in oral and written Mandarin narrative. For the most part, and understandably so, both oral and written narratives fall subject to the same patterns. Thus, both oral and written texts make use of Evoked sentence topics, especially those that refer to human entities, to track the characters of the narrative. And both make use of Inferred sentence topics, especially those that refer to abstract entities, to indicate episode boundaries and to track the temporal setting of the text, though this is a much stronger function in oral texts. Since both types of texts are narratives, it makes sense that certain patterns will be consistent from one text to the other.

However, there are other patterns which are more typical for one type of text. Specifically, in written texts there is the increased use of Brand New sentence topics; and there is the use of Inferred inanimate sentence topics to track important inanimate entities in the text. Why are these peculiar to written texts and not to oral texts?

The answer would seem to lie in the nature of the text itself. An oral text is an intangible entity in and of itself. It is non-retrievable, and the narrator must be careful not to lose his or her audience with ambiguities and complexities. There is no way for a listener to go back and mull over a difficult passage--the processing of the text must be simple and easy or the story will fail.

This, then, almost demands a high use of Evoked sentence topics. By topicalizing entities which have had explicit previous mention in the text, the participants are able to quickly discern the referent and have a clear framework in which the remaining sentence will fit into. And since most stories are about people, not concepts or things, the use of Evoked human sentence topics ensures the clear, understandable flow of information from narrator to listener.

Written texts are altogether different. The reader has a record before him or her of the entire text. The reader has the luxury of returning to earlier passages to reactivate forgotten information about a character or event. He or she can take time to make the correct inferences which

the author intended. The written text, then, actually gives the author greater license in how the text is constructed. It is possible to make greater use of Brand New sentence topics to quickly introduce important characters. Certainly, the use of a Brand New sentence topic is a quicker way to establish an individual framework than having to rely on a previous mention. Though it may result in initial confusion, the reader can always return to this passage to gain any clarity that may be lacking.

Since the written text is retrievable, it is not as important to make constant mention of the characters through sentence topics. Several clauses can be devoted to an important inanimate object without too much fear that the readers will lose track of the characters. And it is also possible to establish this referent through inference much more easily than in an oral text. An inference relies on the logical or common sense processing of the participant. But because the information flows so quickly in an oral narrative, he or she may not have the necessary time to establish the referent before additional information is being added. This is not a problem in a written text, where the reader can take as long as need be to clearly understand whatever is being inferred. This is not to say that the author will always use an Inferred sentence topic, only that he or she has option to do so much more than the narrator of an oral text.

Clearly, in these texts there is something which is triggering an increase usage of Brand New and Inferred sentence topics in written texts. Obviously, much the above account for this is speculation, and it is not possible to say with complete surety why these patterns exist. It has been possible, however, by using quantitative discourse analysis to gain a better understanding of the functions of sentence topics as used in narratives. Neither is it an arbitrary process, but one which is dependent upon and is influenced by various discourse parameters, such as animacy, episode boundaries, and topic persistence.

Consequently, this analysis gives support to Chafe's notion of a sentence topic as setting a temporal, locational, or individual framework for the sentence. At least for Chinese, sentence topics, which have been chosen according to Chafe's model, have been shown to be sensitive to various discourse parameters. If this was not the case, then it could be said that Chafe's conception of sentence topic is not a true reflection of language. But the evidence shows that these 'Chafean' sentence topics do indeed function in language. And these are distinctions that other topical studies in languages like Japanese and Chamarro (as reported in Myhill 1992: ch. 2, pp. 23-26) have not been able to make even though they too made use of parameters like animacy and topic persistence.

APPENDIX

THE TEXTS

In the Appendix, the three oral and six written texts are given in their entirety. Preceeding each narrative is a brief summary of the plot. This is followed by the actual text with an English word for word gloss and a free translation for each line. A line, which represents an episode boundary, will be indentified with the notation EB following the line number. After the end of each line the sentence topic will be identified as well as the corresponding level of familiarity, animacy, and topic persistence score. For the sake of brevity and simplicity, only the pertinent information for each sentence topic will be given by means of a specified notation. The following is a list of those notations, and what each refers to.

BN:	Brand New
I (_____)/_____:	Inferrable (entity inferrable from^{type})/inference type
I^{C} (_____)/_____:	Containing inferrable (contained entity, inferrable from^{type})/inference type
E:	Evoked (textually)
SA:	Stereotypic assumption

For example, in line 10 of the Dushuren text, the sentence topic is encoded by the noun phrase *liang ge xiao nuer* 'the

two smallest daughters.' The notation for this sentence topic would be: I (*si ge nuer*^{E})/part-whole. This means that this sentence topic is an inferrable. Furthermore, the entity from which it is inferred is encoded by the noun phrase *si ge nuer* 'four daughters,' which represents an evoked entity (from line 1 of the text). Lastly, the inference is a part to whole relationship.

The Da Hui Lang Text

This is the longest of the three oral narratives, running over a hundred lines. The story concerns two little girls who were abandoned by their father in the mountains. They chance upon a hollow tree in which an old grandmother is living. She tells the little girls that a wolf also lives in that place, but agrees to hide them. The wolf comes home and after awhile realizes that there are more people in the tree then there should be. He attempts to find the two little girls, but fails. After he falls asleep, the old grandmother and the two little girls kill the wolf. And they all live happily ever after.

Da Hui Lang 001 (EB)
You yi jiaren, ta jia li you si ge nuer.
have one family 3s family in have four CLSF daughter

There was a family which had four daughters.

topic: *you yi jiaren*$_i$ 'one family'
entity: BN
Human, TP = 4

Da Hui Lang 002
You yi tian ta mama dui ta baba shuo, "Women
have one day 3s mother to 3s father say 1pl

jia you si ge nuer, women mei you name
family have four CLSF daughter 1pl not have like that

duo dongxi, yang tamen.
many thing feed 3pl

One day the mother said to the father, "We have four daughters, but we don't have much food to feed them.

topic: *you yi tian* 'one day'
entity: I (*jiaren*$_i$)/SA: characters must function in time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 002 (con't)
topic: *women jia*$_i$ 'our family'
entity: E
Human, TP = 2

Da Hui Lang 003
Women yao ba liang ge nuer gei renjia."
1pl want DO two CLSF daughter give other people

We should give two daughters to someone."

topic: *women*$_i$ 'we'
entity: E
Human, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 004
Ta baba shuo, "Shei yao nuer, ruguo shi erzi jiu
3s father say who want daughter if is son then

hao le."
good CRS

The father said, "Who wants a daughter, if it was a son, that would be good."

topic: *ta baba*$_j$ 'father'
entity: E
Human, TP = 5

topic: *shei* 'who'
entity: E
Human, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 005 (EB)
Suoyi zai zhe zhong qingkuang xia ne, ta baba
therefore at this heavy situation under PRTL 3s father

jueding ba liang ge nuer dui qu kan chai.
decide DO two CLSF daughter take go cut firewood

Because of this difficult situation, the father decided to take two daughters with him to cut some firewood.

topic: *zai zhe zhong qingkuang xia ne* 'under this difficult situation'
entity: I (line 5)/proposition=situation
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 006
Ranhou ba tamen reng zai shan shang.
then DO 3pl leave at mountains on

Then he will leave them in the mountains.

topic: *ranhou* 'then'
entity: I (line 5)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 007 (EB)
Dier tian yi da zao ne, ta baba jiu dui
second day one early morning PRTL 3s father then to

suoyou de neur shuo, "Baba jintian yao kan
all GEN daughter say father today want cut

chai.
firewood

The next day, early in the morning, the father said to all of his daughters, "Today, father will be cutting some firewood.

topic: *dier tian yi da zao ne* 'early in the morning of the second day'
entity: I (preceeding lines)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 1

topic: $baba_j$ 'father'
entity: E
Human, TP = 5

Da Hui Lang 008
Shan shang you hen duo xian hua.
mountains on have very many fresh flower

On the mountains there are many wild flowers.

topic: *shan shang* 'on the mountain'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 5

Da Hui Lang 009
Shei yuanyi qu cai hua jiu he baba yiqi
who willing go pick flower then with father together

qu."
go

Whoever wants to pick flowers can come with father."

Da Hui Lang 009 (con't)
topic: *shei* 'who'
entity: E
Human, TP = 8

Da Hui Lang 010
Liang ge xiao nuer bu dongshi.
two CLSF small daughter no understand

The two smallest daughters did not understand.

topic: *liang ge xaio nuer*$_k$ 'the two smallest girls'
entity: I (*si ge nuer*^{E})/part to whole
Human, TP = 5

Da Hui Lang 011
Tamen feichang xihuan hua, jiu shuo, "Baba, baba,
3pl very much like flower then say father father

wo yao qu cai hua."
1s want go pick flower

They like flowers very much and said, "Father, father, I want to pick flowers."

topic: *tamen*$_k$ 'they'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

topic: *wo*$_k$ 'I'
entity: E
Human, TP =5

Da Hui Lang 012
Disan ge nuer he disi ge nuer he ta
third CLSF daughter with fourth CLSF daughter with 3s

baba yiqi shang shan qu kan chai.
father together on mountains go cut firewood

The third and fourth daughters went with their father into the mountains to cut firewood.

topic: *disan ge nuer he disi ge nuer he ta baba yiqi*$_{(j,k)}$ 'the third and fourth daughter and their father'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Da Hui Lang 013 (EB)
Zai shan shang de shihou ne, ta baba shuo,
at mountains on RLV time PRTL 3s father say

"Nimen liang ge zai zhe ge shan shang kan
2pl two CLSF at this CLSF mountains on cut

cai.
firewood

When they got to the mountains, the father said, "You two cut firewood on this mountain.

topic: *zai shan shang de shihou ne* 'when they arrived on the mountain'
entity: I^C (*shihou*, *shan shang*)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

topic: *nimen liang ge*$_k$ 'you two girls'
entity: E
Human, TP = 5

Da Hui Lang 014
Baba dao duimian de shan shang qu kan chai,
father to opposite GEN mountains on go cut firewood

yinwei duimian shan shang de chai bijiao
because opposite mountains on RLV firewood relatively

duo.
many

Father will go to the other side of the mountain to cut firewood, because there is relatively more firewood there.

topic: *baba*$_j$ 'father'
entity: E
Human, TP = 0

topic: *chai* 'the firewood'
entity: E
Human, TP = 1

Da Hui Lang 015
Zher ne xian hua bijiao duo, nimen keyi zai
here PRTL fresh flower relatively many 2pl can at

zher cai hua."
here pick flower

Here are many wildflowers for you to pick."

Da Hui Lang 015 (con't)
topic: *zher* 'here'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 1

Da Hui Lang 016 (EB)
Liang ge nuer ne xinggao-cailie de zai zhai
two CLSF daughter PRTL jubilant MNR DUR pick

hua.
flower

The two daughters were excitedly picking flowers.

topic: *liang ge nuer ne*$_k$ 'the two daughters'
entity: E
Human, TP = 5

Da Hui Lang 017
Tamen yizhi zhai yizhi zhai.
3pl all the time pick all the time pick

They were picking flowers constantly.

topic: *tamen*$_k$ 'they'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Da Hui Lang 018
Zhongwu guo qu le.
noon pass go PRF

Noon passed.

topic: *zhongwu* 'noon'
entity: I (preceeding lines)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 019
Xiawu lai le.
afternoon come PRF

Afternoon came.

topic: *xiaowu* 'afternoon'
entity: I (line 18)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 1

Da Hui Lang 020
Xiaowu ye guo qu le.
afternoon also pass go PRF

The afternoon also passed.

topic: *xiaowu* 'afternoon'
entity: E
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 021
Huanghu lai le.
dusk come PRF

Dusk came.

topic: *huanghu* 'dusk'
entity: I (line 20)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 022
Tian jianjian de heixiao lai le.
sky gradual MNR darken come PRF

The sky gradually darkened.

topic: *tian* 'sky'
entity: I (*huanghu*^{I})/SA: dusk entails a darkening sky
Abstract, TP = 1

Da Hui Lang 023
Keshi tamen zhe hui you er you ke,
but 3pl this time have hungry have thirsty

yizhi zai deng zhe tamen de baba lai jie
all the time DUR wait DUR 3pl GEN father come pick.up

tamen hui jia.
3pl return family

But by this time they were hungry and thirsty and
waiting for their father to pick them up and to home.

topic: *tamen*$_{k}$ 'they'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Da Hui Lang 024
Keshi zenme deng ye deng bu dao ta baba.
but how long wait also wait no until 3s father

But no matter how long they waited, their father did not come.

topic: $\emptyset_k$
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Da Hui Lang 025
Yizhi dao hen wan, tian dou chanbu heile de
all the time until very late sky all whole dark RLV

shihou, ta baba hai mei you lai.
time 3s father still not have come

Meanwhile it was getting late and the sky dark, and their father had still not come.

topic: *yizhi* 'all the time'
entity: I (line 24)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 026 (EB)
Zhe shihou ne, liang ge xiao nuhai feichang de
this time PRTL two CLSF small girl very much MNR

haipa, yinwei shan shang you hen duo lang, ye
scare because mountains on have very many wolf also

you laohu.
have tiger

By this time, the two little girls were very frightened, because in the mountains there are many wolves and tigers.

topic: *zhe shihou ne* 'this time'
entity: I (preceeding line)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

topic: *shan shang* 'on the mountain'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 2

Da Hui Lang 027
Tamen haipa lang he laohu lai chi tamen, erque
3pl scare wolf and tiger come eat 3pl in.addition

tamen bu zhidao zenme hui jia.
3pl no know how return home

They were scared that the wolves and tigers would eat them, additionally, they did not know how to get home.

topic: *tamen*$_k$ 'they'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

topic: *tamen*$_k$ 'they'
entity: E
Human, TP = 5

Da Hui Lang 028
Tamen jiejie dui meimei shuo, "Bu yao
3pl older sister to younger sister say no want

haipa; women shun zhe, zhe ge shanlu wang
scare 1pl along this this CLSF mountain path toward

xiao zou, yiding hui zhaodao jia de."
foothill walk certainly able find home PRTL

The older sister said to the younger one, "Don't be scared, we will follow this path to the foothills, and we will certainly be able to find our way home."

topic: *tamen jiejie*$_l$ 'the older sister'
entity: E
Human, TP = 7

topic: $\not{\emptyset}_m$
entity: E
Human, TP = 9

topic: *women*$_k$ 'we'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Da Hui Lang 029 (EB)
Zhe shihou, zhe ge jiejie ne dai zhe
this time this CLSF older sister PRTL take DUR

meimei yi lu zou yi lu xiang zhaodao
younger sister one road walk one road think find

Da Hui Lang 029 (con't)
tamen de jia, keshi zenme ye zhao bu dao tamen de
3pl GEN home but what also look no arrive 3pl GEN

jia.
home

At this time, the older sister led the younger sister down the path, thinking they would find their home, but what they looked for, they did not find.

topic: *zhe ge jiejie*$_1$ *ne* 'this older sister'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

topic: $\emptyset_k$
entity: E
Human, TP = 2

Da Hui Lang 030
Tamen yizhi zou yi zou yi, zou dao
3pl all the time walk one leave one walk to

ban-shanyao de yi ke da shu dixia.
half way up a mountain RLV one CLSF big tree on ground

While they were walking, they came to the bottom of a big tree that was half way up the side of the mountain.

topic: *tamen*$_k$ 'they'
entity: E
Human, TP = 1

Da Hui Lang 031
Meimei shizai lei le, zuo xiao le dui
younger sister really tired CRS sit down PRF to

jiejie shuo, "Jiejie wo hen lei, wo zai
older sister say older sister 1s very tired 1s again

ye zou bu dong le."
also walk no move CRS

The younger sister is very tired, she sat down and said to the older sister, "Older sister, I am very tired, I cannot walk any farther."

topic: *meimei*$_m$ 'younger sister'
entity: E
Human, TP = 9

Da Hui Lang 031 (con't)
topic: *wo*$_{m}$ 'I"
entity: E
Human, TP = 8

Da Hui Lang 032
Jiejie shuo, "Ni yiding de qilai zou ya, ni
older sister say 2s certainly MNR go up walk PRTL 2s

bu zou de hua ne, laohu hui lai chi ne."
no walk PRTL if PRTL tiger will come eat PRTL

The older sister said, "You must get up, if you don't, a tiger will come and eat you."

topic: *jiejie*$_{1}$ 'older sister'
entity: E
Human, TP = 5

topic: *ni*$_{m}$ 'you'
entity: E
Human, TP = 8

Da Hui Lang 033
Suoyi meimei mei you banfa, yizhi
therefore younger sister not have means all the time

he jiejie zou.
with older sister walk

Therefore the younger sister continued to walk with the older sister.

topic: *meimei*$_{m}$ 'younger sister'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Da Hui Lang 034 (EB)
Zou dao qianbian de shihou ne, turan jian zai
walk to in front of RLV time PRTL suddenly meet at

yi ke shu dixia kanjian you yidian
one CLSF tree on ground catch sight of have little

liangguang.
light

After walking awhile, they suddenly came to a tree from which they noticed a small light was coming out of.

Da Hui Lang 034 (con't)
topic: *zou dao qianbian de shihou ne* 'after they had walked awhile'
entity: I^C (*shihou*, line 33)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 035
Jiejie shuo, "Ya, zhe shi yi jia renjia.
older sister say PRTL this is one CLSF household

The older sister said, "This is a house.

topic: $jiejie_1$ 'older sister'
entity: E
Human, TP = 5

topic: *zhe* 'this'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 3

Da Hui Lang 036
Women jinqu kan yi kan.
1pl enter see one see

Let's enter and look around a little.

topic: $women_k$ 'we'
entity: E
Human, TP = 3

Da Hui Lang 037
Women you jiu le."
1pl have save CRS

We have been saved."

topic: $women_k$ 'we'
entity: E
Human, TP = 2

Da Hui Lang 038
Zhe shihou, tamen faxian zai shu gen dixia you
this time 3pl find at tree with on ground have

yi ge dong.
one CLSF cave

At this time, they found a cave at the bottom of the tree.

Da Hui Lang 038 (con 't)
topic: *zhe shihou* 'this time'
entity: I (preceeding line)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 039
Na ge dong limian fachu yidian weiruo de dengguang.
that CLSF cave inside shine little soft ADV lamplight

Inside the cave a small light softly shone.

topic: *na ge dong* 'that cave'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 2

Da Hui Lang 040
Jiejie ba dong de gaizi jiekai, he
older sister DO cave GEN cover open with

meimei yiqi jinqu.
younger sister together enter

The older sister opened the door to the cave, and
with the younger sister entered.

topic: *jiejie*$_1$ 'older sister'
entity: E
Human, TP = 3

Da Hui Lang 041 (EB)
Zhe shihou ne, zai zhe ge dong libian you yi ge
this time PRTL at this CLSF cave inside have one CLSF

hen lao hen lao de lao nainai.
very old very old RLV old grandmother

At this time, inside the cave was a very old
grandmother.

topic: *zhe shihou ne* 'this time'
entity: I (preceeding line)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 042
Lao nainai toufu hen chang, chuan tou dou shi
old grandmother hair very long all head all is

baifa, ye mei you shutou, yifu ne feichang de
white also not have comb cloth PRTL very.much PRTL

Da Hui Lang 042 (con't)
polan.
shabby

The old grandmother had hair that was very long, white, and uncombed, and her clothes were very shabby.

topic: *lao nainai*$_n$ 'old grandmother'
entity: E
Human, TP = 7

Da Hui Lang 043
Ta zuo zai hunan de deng xia ne fengbu yichang.
3s sit at dim RLV light under PRTL sewing cloth

She was sitting under a dim light sewing.

topic: *ta*$_n$ 'she'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Da Hui Lang 044
Ta kanjian liang ge xiao nuhai jinlai yihou
3s catch sight of two CLSF small girl enter after

wen, "Shui jiao nimen jinlai de ya?"
ask who ask 2pl enter PRTL PRTL

She saw the two little girls enter and asked them, "Who asked you to enter?"

topic: *ta kanjian liang ge xiao jinlai yihou* 'after she saw the two little girls enter'
entity: I (line 43)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

topic: *shui* 'who'
entity: I (unspecified character)/SA: someone must give permission to enter
Human, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 045
Xiao nuhai shuo, "Lao nainai jiujiu women.
small girl say old grandmother save 1pl

The little girls said, "Old grandmother save us.

topic: *xiao nuhai*$_k$ 'little girls'
entity: E
Human, TP = 7

topic: *lao nainai*$_n$ 'old grandmother'
entity: E
Human, TP = 3

Da Hui Lang 046
Women mi lu le, bu zhi zenme hui jia."
1pl lose road CRS no know how return home

We have lost our way and don't know how to return home."

topic: *women*$_{k}$ 'we'
entity: E
Human, TP = 7

Da Hui Lang 047
Lao nainai shuo, "Zhe bu shi ren zhu de
old grandmother say this no is person live RLV

difang.
place

The old grandmother said, "No person lives here.

topic: *lao nainai*$_{n}$ 'old grandmother'
entity: E
Human, TP = 3

topic: *zhe* 'this'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 1

Da Hui Lang 048
Zhe shi da hui lang zhu de difang."
this is big grey wolf live RLV place

A big grey wolf lives here."

topic: *zhe* 'this'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 049
Liang ge xiao nuhai xia de bu de le, shuo,
two CLSF small girl scare PRTL fear PRTL CRS say

"Lao nainai women mei you bunfa, women bu renshi
old grandmother 1pl not have way 1pl no know

lu hui jia.
road return home

The two little girls were scared to death and said, "Old grandmother, we do not know how to get home.

Da Hui Lang 049 (con't)
topic: *liang ge xiao nuhai*$_k$ 'the two little girls'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

topic: *women*$_k$ 'we'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Da Hui Lang 050
Ni neng bu neng rang women zhu yi wan?
2s can no can allow 1pl live one night

Can you let us stay the night?

topic: *ni*$_n$ 'you'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Da Hui Lang 051
Women mingtian zai hui jia."
1pl tomorrow again return home

Tomorrow, we will go home."

topic: *women*$_k$ 'we'
entity: E
Human, TP = 5

Da Hui Lang 052
Lao nainai shuo, "Zhe ke bu xing ya, da hui
old grandmother say this can no do PRTL big grey

lang yihui jiu huilai le.
wolf soon immediately return CRS

The old grandmother said, "You cannot do this, the big grey wolf will soon return.

topic: *lao nainai*$_n$ 'old grandmother'
entity: E
Human, TP = 3

topic: *zhe* 'this'
entity: I (lines 49-51)/proposition=situation
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 053
Ta wen dao ren wei, hui yao lai chi nimen de."
3s smell to person smell will want come eat 2pl PRTL

He will smell you and want to eat you."

topic: ta_o 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 2

Da Hui Lang 054
Liang ge xiao nuhai xia de hun sheng fudou.
two CLSF small girl scare MNR whole body shivering

The two little girls shivered with fright.

topic: *liang ge xiao nuhai*$_k$ 'the two little girls'
entity: E
Human, TP = 8

Da Hui Lang 055 (EB)
Zhe shihou ne, zhe ge lao nainai
this time PRTL this CLSF old grandmother

kanjian zhe liang ge haizi shizai kelian, jiu
catch sight of this two CLSF child really pity then

dui zhe liang ge haizi shuo, "Bu yong baipa, wo ba
to this two CLSF child say no use afraid 1s DO

nimen cangqilai.
2pl hide

Now the old grandmother saw these two children and had pity, and said to them, "Do not worry, I will hide you.

topic: *zhe shihou ne* 'this time'
entity: I (preceeding propostion)/SA: progression in time
Abstract, TP = 0

topic: $\emptyset_k$
entity: E
Human, TP = 8

Da Hui Lang 056
Da hui lang lai de shihou, nimen jiu duo zai
big grey wolf come RLV time 2pl then hide at

nimen de difang bu yao zuo sheng."
2pl GEN place no want make noise

Da Hui Lang 056 (con't)
When the big grey wolf comes, you hide in your place and not make any noise."

topic: *da hui lang lai de shihou ne* 'when the big grey wolf comes'
entity: I (line 52)/SA: the wolf will return at some time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 057
Lao nainai nachu le xian guo he shiwu rang
old grandmother bring PRF fresh fruit and food allow

zhe liang ge xiao nuhai chi.
this two CLSF small girl eat

The old grandmother brought them fresh fruit and food and let the two little girls eat.

topic: *lao nainai*$_n$ 'old grandmother'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Da Hui Lang 058
Zhe liang ge xiao nuhai chi le hao duo hao duo
this two CLSF small girl eat PRF well many well many

de dongxi.
MNR thing

The two little girls eat a lot of food.

topic: *zhe liang ge xiao nuhai*$_k$ 'the two little girls'
entity: E
Human, TP = 7

Da Hui Lang 059 (EB)
Zhe hui ne, tamen turang tingdao waimian you
this time PRTL 3pl suddenly hear outside have

jiaobu sheng.
foot noise

Then they suddenly heard footsteps outside.

topic: *zhe hui ne* 'this time'
entity: I (preceeding propositions)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 060
Lao nainai shuo, "Kuai lai, kuai lai, duo zai yi
old grandmother say hurry come hurry come hide at one

ge da guizi limian.
CLSF big cabinet inside

The old grandmother said, "Hurry up, hurry up, hide inside the big cabinet.

topic: *lao nainai*$_n$ 'old grandmother'
entity: E
Human, TP = 1

topic: $\emptyset_k$
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Da Hui Lang 061
Zhe ge da guizi limian ya, zhe ge da hui
this CLSF big cabinet inside PRTL this CLSF big grey

lang bu hui qu kai guizi."
wolf no will go open cabinet

The big grey wolf will not open the cabinet."

topic: *zhe ge da guizi limian ya* 'inside this big cabinet'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 2

Da Hui Lang 062 (EB)
Ranghou ne, zhe ge lao nainai gei zhe liang
then PRTL this CLSF old grandmother give this two

ge xiao nuhai yi ren yi ge zhuizi.
CLSF small girl one person one CLSF needle

Then the old grandmother gave each little girl a needle.

topic: *ranghou ne* 'then'
entity: I (line 61)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 063 (EB)
Zhe liang ge haizi na zhe zhuizi yihou ne jiu
this two CLSF child take this needle after PRTL then

duo zai da guizi de yifu houmian.
hide at big cabinet GEN cloth behind

Da Hui Lang 063 (con't)
After the two children took the needles, they hid behind the clothes cabinet.

topic: *zhe liang ge haizi na zhe zhuizhi yihou ne* 'after the two little girls took the needles'
entity: I (line 62)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 064
Zhe hui, da hui lang, "dong, dong" de jinlai le.
this time big grey wolf dong dong PRTL enter PRF

Then the big grey wolf said "ding, dong" and entered.

topic: *zhe shihou* 'this time'
entity: I (preceeding line)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 065
Jiu shuo, "Ha, ha, wo hen er, wo hen er."
then say ha ha 1s very hungry 1s very hungry

Then he said, "Ha, ha, I am very hungry."

topic: $\emptyset_o$
entity: E
Human, TP = 9

topic: *wo*$_o$
entity: E
Human, TP = 8

Da Hui Lang 066
Lao nainai shuo, "Ni zuo zai na, wo gei ni
old grandmother say 2s sit at there 1s give 2s

wanfan."
supper

The old grandmother said, "Sit down there and I will get you supper."

topic: *lao nainai*$_n$ 'old grandmother'
entity: E
Human, TP = 3

topic: *ni*$_o$ 'you'
entity: E
Human, TP = 8

Da Hui Lang 067
Da hui lang zuo xialai.
big grey wolf sit down

The big grey wolf sat down.

topic: *da hui lang*$_{o}$ 'big grey wolf'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Da Hui Lang 068
Lao nainai gei ta duan le yi bei cha he hen
old grandmother for 3s bring PRF one CLSF tea and very

duo rou.
many meat

The old grandmother brought him a cup of tea and a lot of meat.

topic: *lao nainai*$_{n}$ 'old grandmother'
entity: E
Human, TP = 3

Da Hui Lang 069 (EB)
Da hui lang chi le rou yihou ne, jiu jue de zhe
big grey wolf eat PRF meat after PRTL then feel MNR this

ge jia li you yi gu ren wei.
CLSF home in have one CLSF person smell

After the big grey wolf ate the meat, he sensed that in the house was the scent of a person.

topic: *da hui lang chi le rou yihou ne* 'after the big grey wolf ate the meat'
entity: I (line 68)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 070
Ta daochu wen ya wen ya xiang zhaodao ren.
3s everywhere smell PRTL smell PRTL want find person

He smelled everywhere trying to find the person.

topic: *ta*$_{o}$ 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Da Hui Lang 071
Ta wen lao nainai, "Zhe jia li hen qiquai
3s ask old grandmother this home in very strange

haoxiang you ren lai guo."
seems have person come EXP

He asked the old grandmother, "There is something strange in this house--it seems there is somebody here."

topic: *ta*$_{o}$ 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

topic: *zhe jia li* 'in this house'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 4

Da Hui Lang 072
Lao nainai shuo, "Zenme hui you ren lai, dou
old grandmother say how able have person come all

jiu shi ni he wo ma?
just is 2s and 1s INTR

The old grandmother said, "How can there be somebody here, all there is just you and me?

topic: *lao nainai*$_{n}$ 'old grandmother'
entity: E
Human, TP = 1

topic: ∅
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 2

Da Hui Lang 073
Hai you beiren ma?"
also have others INTR

Who could it be?"

topic: ∅
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 1

Da Hui Lang 074
Zhe ge da hui lang shuo, "Bu dui, bu dui.
this CLSF big grey wolf say no right no right

The big grey wolf said, "That's not right.

Da Hui Lang 074 (con't)
topic: *zhe ge da hui lang*$_{O}$ 'the big grey wolf'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Da Hui Lang 075
Zhe limian you ren wei."
this inside have person smell

There is the scent of a person in this house."

topic: *zhe limian* 'the inside'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 2

Da Hui Lang 076
Ta daochu zhao.
3s everywhere look

He looked everywhere.

topic: *ta*$_{O}$ 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 5

Da Hui Lang 077
Zhe shihou ta ba dugui dakai.
this time 3s DO cabinet open

Then, he opened the cabinet

topic: *zhe shihou* 'this time'
entity: I (preceeding propositions)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 078
Ta wen, "Zhe limian haoxing you ren wei ya."
3s ask this inside seem have person smell PRTL

He said, "This seems to have a person's scent inside of it."

topic: *ta*$_{O}$ 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

topic: *zhe limian* 'the inside'
entity: I
Inanimate, TP = 1

Da Hui Lang 079
Lao nainai shuo, "Mei you de, mei you de."
old grandmother say not have PRTL not have PRTL

The old grandmother said, "No it doesn't."

topic: *lao nainai*$_n$ 'old grandmother'
entity: E
Human, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 080
Dangshi, yinwei fangzi li bijiao hei, ta kan bu
then because house in relatively dark 3s see no

jian guizi li shifou duo le ren.
see cabinet in if hide PRF person

Because it was relatively dark in the house, he was not able to see if a person was hiding inside the cabinet.

topic: *dangshi* 'then'
entity: I (line 79)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

topic: *ta*$_o$ 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP =6

Da Hui Lang 081
Ta jiu yong shou qu mo.
3s then use hand go feel

He then felt around with his hand.

topic: *ta*$_o$ 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 5

Da Hui Lang 082
Xiao meimei yong zhuizi zha le yi xiao da
small younger sister use needle punch PRF one CLSF big

hui lang de shou.
grey wolf GEN hand

The younger sister poked the big grey wolf in the hand with the needle.

topic: *xiao meimei*$_m$ 'the little sister'
entity: E
Human, TP = 3

Da Hui Lang 083
Da hui lang shuo, "Ai ya, hao tong ya.
big grey wolf say ai ya very painful PRTL

The big grey wolf said, "Ouch, that's painful.

topic: *da hui lang*$_{o}$ 'the big grey wolf'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

topic: ∅
entity: I (line 81)/proposition=situation
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 084
Yiding shi dingzi zha le wo de shou."
certainly is nail punch PRF 1s GEN hand

A nail must have poked my hand."

topic: ∅
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 085
Suoyi, ta gankui ba gui men guanshang, jiu qu
therefore 3s hurry DO cabinet gate shut then go

shuijiao qu le.
sleep go PRF

Therefore, he quickly shut the door of the cabinet, and then went to sleep.

topic: *ta*$_{o}$ 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 5

Da Hui Lang 086 (EB)
Dang da hui lang shui de huhu de shihou, lao
when big grey wolf sleep MNR good sleep RLV time old

nainai ba guizi dakai shuo, "Kuai chu lai,
grandmother DO cabinet open say hurry set out come

kuai chu lai.
hurry set out come

When the big grey wolf was sound asleep, the old grandmother opened the cabinet door and said, "Come out, come out.

Da Hui Lang 086 (con't)
topic: *dang da hui lang shui de huhu de shihou*
'when the big grey wolf was sound asleep'
entity: I^C (*shihou, da hui lang shui*)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

topic: $\emptyset_k$
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Da Hui Lang 087
Women xiang ge banfa ba zhe ge da hui lang
1pl think CLSF means DO this CLSF big grey wolf

shadiao."
kill

We must think of a way to kill the big grey wolf."

topic: $women_{k,n}$ 'we'
entity: E
Human, TP = 3

Da Hui Lang 088

Suoyi tamen zhao le yi ge shensuo.
therefore 3pl look PRF one CLSF rope

Therefore, they looked for a rope.

topic: $tamen_{k,n}$ 'they'
entity: E
Human, TP = 2

Da Hui Lang 089
Ba zhe ge da hui lang nesi le.
DO this CLSF big grey wolf hang PRF

They hung the big grey wolf.

topic: $\emptyset_{k,n}$
entity: E
Human, TP = 1

Da Hui Lang 090 (EB)
Tamen sha le da hui lang yihou, da hui lang jia
3pl kill PRF big grey wolf after big grey wolf home

li you hen duo shiwu, you haizao, you xian guo,
in have very many food have dates have fresh fruit

Da Hui Lang 090 (con't)
hai you qita de shuiguo, gan shuiguo.
also have other PRTL fruit dry fruit

After they killed the big grey wolf, there was a lot of food in his house--dates, fresh fruit, and dried fruit.

topic: *tamen sha le da hui lang yihou* 'after they killed the big grey wolf'
entity: I (line 89)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 091
Suoyi, zhe liang ge xiao nuer ye bu chou
therefore this two CLSF small daughter also no worry

chi, bu chou chuang.
eat no worry cloth

Therefore, the two little daughters did not worry about what to eat or what to wear.

topic: *zhe liang ge xiao nuer*$_k$ 'the two little daughters'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Da Hui Lang 092
Lao nainai shuo, "Nimen liang ge keyi gen wo
old grandmother say 2pl two CLSF can with 1s

zhu zai yiqi.
live at together

The old grandmother said, "You can live with me.

topic: *lao nainai*$_n$ 'old grandmother'
entity: E
Human, TP = 5

topic: *nimen liang ge*$_k$ 'you, two'
entity: E
Human, TP = 8

Da Hui Lang 093
Wo xiang nimen de baba, mama shi bu xiangyao nimen
1s think 2pl GEN father mother is no want 2pl

le."
CRS

I don't think your mother and father want you."

Da Hui Lang 093 (con't)
topic: *wo*$_n$ 'I'
entity: E
Human, TP = 3

Da Hui Lang 094
Suoyi, zhe liang ge xiao nuhai jiu he zhe
therefore this two CLSF small girl then with this

ge lao nainai zhu zai yiqi.
CLSF old grandmother live at together

Therefore, the two little girls then stayed with the old grandmother.

topic: *zhe liang ge xiao nuhai*$_k$ 'the two little girls'
entity: E
Human, TP = 8

Da Hui Lang 095 (EB)
Liang nian guoqu le.
two year pass PRF

Two years passed.

topic: *liang nian* 'two years'
entity: I (line 93)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 096
Zhe liang ge nuhai zhang de da le yidian.
this two CLSF girl grow MNR big PRF little

The two girls had grown a little bigger.

topic: *zhe liang ge nuhai*$_k$ 'the two girls'
entity: E
Human, TP = 9

Da Hui Lang 097
Tamen shuo, "Women yao hui jia kan women de baba,
3pl say 1pl want return home see 1pl GEN father

mama."
mother

They said, "We want to go home and see our mother and father."

Da Hui Lang 097 (con't)
topic: *tamen*$_k$ 'they'
entity: E
Human, TP = 8

topic: *women*$_k$
entity: E
Human, TP = 7

Da Hui Lang 098
Lao nainai shuo, "Wo keyi dai nimen xiao shan,
old grandmother say 1s can take 2pl down mountains

danshi, nimen yiding de hui lai, yinwei nimen
but 2pl certainly ADV return come because 2pl

de baba, mama yijing bu ai nimen le."
GEN father mother already no like 2pl CRS

The old grandmother said, "I can take you down the mountain, but you must come back, because your mother and father do not love you."

topic: *lao nainai*$_n$ 'old grandmother'
entity: E
Human, TP = 1

topic: *wo*$_n$ 'I'
entity: E
Human, TP = 0

topic: *nimen*$_k$ 'you'
entity: E
Human, TP = 7

topic: *nimen de baba, mama*$_{j,p}$ 'your mother and father'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Da Hui Lang 099
Suoyi, zhe liang ge xiao nuhai ti le liang
therefore this two CLSF small girl carry PRF two

lanzi de shuiguo, ganguo, he shiwu qu kan tamen de
basket GEN fruit dry fruit and food go see 3pl GEN

baba, mama.
father mother

Therefore, the two little girls carried two baskets of fruit--dried fruit and food--and went to see their mother and father.

Da Hui Lang 099 (con't)
topic: *zhe liang xiao nuhai*$_k$ 'the two little girls'
entity: E
Human, TP = 5

Da Hui Lang 100 (EB)
Dang tamen zou dao ziji de jia men de shihou ne,
when 3pl walk to self GEN home gate RLV time PRTL

tamen de baba, mama you lao you er, zuo zai
3pl GEN father mother have old have hungry sit at

men kou, chi yidian sheng fan.
gate mouth eat little remaining food

When they walked to the gate of their home, their parents, old and hungry, were sitting in the gateway eating what little remaining food they had.

topic: *dang tamen zou dao ziji de jia men de shihou ne*
'when they walked to the gate of their home'
entity: I^C (*shihou, tamen zou*)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Da Hui Lang 101
Liang ge xiao haizi mei you qu jiao ta baba, mama,
two CLSF small child not have go call 3s father mother

bu liang lan shiwu fang zai men kou, jiu zou
no two basket food leave at gate mouth then leave

le.
PRF

The two little girls did not call to their mother and father, but left the baskets of food at the gate and left.

topic: *liang ge xiao haizi*$_k$ 'the two little children'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Da Hui Lang 102 (EB)
Houlai ta baba, mama, yinwei bu xihuan zhe liang
later 3s father mother because no like this two

ge xiao hai, xinling shou le qianze; you
CLSF small child soul suffer PRF guilt moreover

mei you dongxi chi, jiu lian bing dai er de
not have thing eat then two sick and hungry PRTL

Da Hui Lang 102 (con't)
siqu le.
die PRF

Later, because the mother and father did not love these two little girls, they suffered guilt, and since they did not have anything to eat, they became sick and hungry and died.

topic: *ta baba, mama*$_{j,p}$ 'the mother and father'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Da Hui Lang 103
Ta de liang ge da jiejie jiu jia le nanren
3s GEN two CLSF big older sister then marry PRF man

gen tamen de nanren zou le.
with 3pl GEN man leave PRF

Their two older sisters then married men and with them left.

topic: *ta de liang ge da jiejie* 'the two big sisters'
entity: I (*si ge nuer*^{BN})/part to whole
Human, TP = 1

Da Hui Lang 104
Zhe liang ge xiao nuhai gen lao nainai
this two CLSF small girl with old grandmother

yiqi chang da.
together grow big

These two little girls grew up together with the old grandmother.

topic: *zhe liang ge xiao nuhai gen lao nainai*$_{k,o}$ 'the two little girls with the old grandmother'
entity: E
Human, TP = 1

Da Hui Lang 105
Tamen guo de feichang xinfu.
3pl live MNR very happily

They lived very happily.

topic: *tamen*$_{k,o}$ 'they'
entity: E
Human, TP = 2

Da Hui Lang 106
Tamen yizhi zai shan li zhu, zhu de feichang
3pl all the time at hill in live live MNR very

hao.
happy

All the time they lived in the hills, and lived very happily.

topic: *tamen*$_{k,o}$ 'they'
entity: E
Human, TP = 1

SI MAGUANG TEXT

This text concerns the heroic efforts of Si Maguang. Once, as a child, one of his friends fell into a large water container. Relying on a cool head and quick thinking, he rescues the child.

Si Maguang 001
Si Maguang shi Song Chao hen chuming de zhengzhi
Si Maguang is Song dynasty very known RLV political

gaigejia.
reformer

Si Maguang is a well known political reformer or the Song Dynasty.

topic: *Si Maguang*$_i$
entity: BN
Human, TP = 1

Si Maguang 002
Ta zai xiaoshihou, you yi ci gen henduo xiao
3s at childhood have one situation with many small

pengyou, nannan nunu de xiao pengyou zai changshang
friend boys girls RLV small friend at yard

wan.
play

One time, when he was a child, many of his friends were playing in the yard.

topic: *ta*$_i$
entity: E
Human, TP = 0

Si Maguang 003
Zuiwan de shihou, you yi ge xiaohai, hurang duo
Playing RLV time have one CLSF child suddenly fall

jin shui gang li, yi ge da de shui
into water container in one CLSF big RLV water

gang li.
container in

Si Maguang 003 (con't)
While they were playing, one child suddenly fell into a large water container.

topic: *zuiwan de shihou* 'while they were playing
entity: I^C (*shihou*, line 2)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Si Maguang 004
Zhe ge shui gang zhuang mang le shui.
this CLSF water container contain full PRF water

This water container was full of water.

topic: *zhe ge shui gang*$_j$ 'the water container'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 0

Si Maguang 005
Zhe xuduo xiaohai dou jingya le.
this many child all surprise PRF

This surprised all of the children.

topic: *zhe xuduo xiaohai* douk 'all the children'
entity: E
Human, TP = 3

Si Maguang 006
"Zenme bang?"
what do

"What should we do?"

topic: ϕ_k
entity: E
Human, TP = 2

Si Maguang 007
"Zenme qu jiu zhe ge xiaohai?"
what go save this CLSF child

"How do we save this child?"

topic: ϕ_k
entity: E
Human, TP = 1

Si Maguang 008
Si Maguang shuo, xiang le yi xiang, "Bu yao ji, wo
Si Maguang say think PRF one think no want worry 1s

lai xiang ge bangfa."
come think CLSF way

Si Maguang said, after thinking awhile, "Don't worry, I will come and find a solution."

topic: *Si Maguang*$_i$
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

topic: $\emptyset_k$
entity: E
Human, TP = 0

Si Maguang 009
Ta zhao le yi zhao, zhaodao yi kuai shitou, yi
3s look PRF one look find one piece stone one

kuai da shitou.
piece big stone

After looking around for a while, he found a large stone.

topic: *ta*$_i$ 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 3

Si Maguang 010
Ta naqi zhe ge shitou, yong le li shuipo le
3s pick this CLSF stone use PRF strength break PRF

na ge shui gang.
that CLSF water container

He picked up this stone, and used his strength to break the water container.

topic: *ta*$_i$ 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 1

Si Maguang 011
Zhe yang, shui gang li de shui hen zirang
this way water container in RLV water very naturally

Si Maguang 011 (con't)
jiu liu chu lai le.
immediately flow set.out come PRF

In this way, the water, that was in the container, naturally flowed out.

topic: *zhe yang* 'this way'
entity: I (line 10)/proposition=situation
Abstract, TP = 0

Si Maguang 012
Na ge gang li diao xiaoqu de xiaohai de jiu
that CLSF container in fall into RLV child PRTL save

le.
CRS

The child that fell into the water container was saved.

topic: *na ge gang li diao xiaoqu de xiaohai*$_1$ 'the child that fell into the water container'
entity: E
Human, TP = 0

DUSHUREN TEXT

The Dushuren text is about a student who needs to get to the city before the city gates close for the night. With his servant carrying his books, the two hurry for the city. But the servant falls and the books scatter. In the time it takes to pick them up, the gates of the city close.

Dushuren 001
You yi ci, yi ge dushuren, ta yao jin
have one situation one CLSF student 3s want enter

cheng.
city

One time, a student wanted to go to a city.

topic: *you yi ci* 'one time'
entity: I/SA: a story must occur in time
Abstract, TP = 0

Dushuren 002
Ta dai le shutong yiqi qu, yiqi yao jin
3s take PRF servant together go together want enter

cheng.
city

Together with his servant, they went to the city.

topic: ta_i 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 7

Dushuren 003
Ta dai le hen duo shu, yong shengzi kun hao le you
3s take PRF very many book use rope tie well PRF by

shutong bei zai jian shang, yao jin cheng.
servant carry at shoulder on want enter city

He had many books, which were tied together with a rope and which his servant carried on his shoulder.

topic: ta_i 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Dushuren 004
Keshi, zhe ge ne, taiyang xiaoshan de shihou men
but this CLSF PRTL sun set RLV time gate

yao guan de cheng men yao guan de.
want close PRTL city gate want close PRTL

But by this time the sun was setting and the gates of the city were to be closed soon.

topic: *zhe ge ne* 'this city'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 2

Dushuren 005
Zai zhe ge shihou, jiyu yao zou, yao jin zhe
at this CLSF time hurry want leave want enter this

ge cheng.
CLSF city

At this time, they begin to hurry so that they can enter the city.

topic: *zai zhe ge shihou* 'at this time'
entity: E
Abstract, TP = 0

Dushuren 006
Zhe ge dushuren gen zhe ge xiaohai dou jiyu yao
this CLSF student with this CLSF child all hurry want

jin cheng.
enter city

Both the student and the child hurry to enter the city.

topic: *zhe ge dushuren gen zhe ge xiaohai*$_{i,j}$ 'the student and the child'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Dushuren 007
Teibei na ge xiaohai, ta you bei le shu,
especially that CLSF child 3s also carry PRF book

hen zhong, you jiyu yao zou.
very heavy also hurry want leave

Especially the child, who was carrying the heavy books, also wanted to hurry.

Dushuren 007 (con't)
topic: *teibei na ge xiaohai*$_j$ 'especially that child'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Dushuren 008
Nianji you xiao.
age also small

He was also young.

topic: *nianji* 'age'
entity: I (*xiaohai*^{E})/SA: characters have age
Abstract, TP = 0

Dushuren 009
Jieguo zai lu shang, shuai dao le.
therefore at road on fall down PRF

Therefore, he fell down on the road.

topic: *zai lu shang* 'on the road'
entity: I (line 7)/SA: people travel on roads
Inanimate, TP = 0

Dushuren 010
Yi shuai dao le yihou, ta de shu wanchuan
soon fall down PRF after 3s GEN book completely

san le.
fall apart PRF

Soon after he fell down, his books came apart.

topic: *yi shuai dao le yihou* 'soon after he fell down'
entity: I (line 9)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Dushuren 011
Shengzi duan le.
rope break PRF

The rope broke.

topic: *shengzi* 'rope'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 0

Dushuren 012

Jieguo deng duo na ge shu de, shutong ba zhe
therefore wait until that CLSF book GEN servant DO this

xie shu naqi lai, yao zhongxin kun.
CLSF book pick up want again tie

Therefore, he had to wait until the servant pick up the books and tied them together.

topic: $\emptyset_i$
entity: E
Human, TP = 2

Dushuren 013

Name na ge dushuren, gen zhe ge shutong
like that that CLSF student with this CLSF servant

yiqi dao zhe ge cheng men de na ge
together arrive this CLSF city gate RLV that CLSF

shihou, men yijin guan le.
time gate already close PRF

By the time the student and the servant arrived at the city, the gates were already closed.

topic: *na ge dushuren . . . de na ge shihou* 'that student . . . that time'
entity: I^C (*shihou, dushuren dao cheng*)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

HESHANG TEXT

The Heshang text begins at an old temple in the mountains where a monk lives by himself. Everyday he goes down the mountain to get water. Soon after, a second monk joins him, and together they get the water. Then a third monk arrives and troubles begin. The first monk thinks the other two should get the water since he has done it by himself for so long. The second monk complains of poor health and a need to pray all the time. The third monk claims he does not know his way around and may get lost or even break the water container. They argue like this all day. When it starts the rain, they think their troubles are solved--someone just has to move the water container out into the rain. But no one is willing to do this either. And so they begin to argue once more.

Heshang 001 (EB)
Hen jiu hen jiu yiqian zai yi ge gao shan
very long very long before at one CLSF high mountains

shang you yi ge gu miao.
on have one CLSF old temple

A long time ago on a high mountain there was an old temple.

topic: *hen jiu hen jiu yiqian* 'a long time ago'
entity: I/SA: a narrative occurs in time
Abstract, TP = 0

Heshang 002 (EB)
Miao li zhu zhe ge xiao heshang.
temple in live this CLSF young monk

In the temple lived a young monk.

Heshang 002 (con't)
topic: *miao li* 'in the temple'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 1

Heshang 003
Meitian qing chen ta tiao zhe liang zhi
everyday early morning 3s carry DUR two CLSF

shuitong dao shang xiao de xiao he
water container to mountain bottom GEN small river

zhong qu da shui.
in go get water

Everyday in the early morning, he carries two water containers to a small mountain river and gets water.

topic: *meitian qing chen* 'everytime in the early morning'
entity: I/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Heshang 004
Tiao huilai yihou, jiao cai, zhu fan.
carry return after water vegetable cook food

After he carried the water back, he watered the vegetables and cooked the food.

topic: *tiao huilai yihou* 'after he came back'
entity: I (line 3)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Heshang 005
Rizi guo de pingqin er you guilu.
life pass MNR quietly and have regularity

His life passed quietly and had regularity.

topic: *rizi* 'life'
entity: I (*xiao heshang*$_i$)/SA: characters have lives
Abstract, TP = 2

Heshang 006 (EB)
You yi tian miao li lai le yi ge pang heshang.
have one day temple in come PRF one CLSF fat monk

One day a fat monk came to the temple.

Heshang 006 (con't)
topic: *yi tian* 'one day'
entity: I (preceeding lines)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Heshang 007
Ta he xiao heshang tai zhe yi zhi xiao
3s and young monk carry DUR one CLSF small

shuitong dao shang xia qu da shui.
water container to mountain bottom go get water

He and the young monk each carry a small water container to the bottom of the mountain to get water.

topic: ta_j *he xiao hesang*$_i$
entity: E
Human, TP = 2

Heshang 008
Rizi ye guo de qu.
life also pass MNR okay

Life again passed satisfactorally.

topic: *rizi* 'life'
entity: I (*xiao heshang*$_i$, *pang heshang*$_j$)/SA: characters have lives
Abstract, TP = 0

Heshang 009 (EB)
You guo le yixie shijian, lai le yi ge shou
again pass PRF some time come PRF one CLSF thin

heshang.
monk

Again some time passed, and then a thin monk arrived.

topic: *you guo le yixie shijian* 'again some time passed'
entity: I (preceeding lines)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Heshang 010
Yushi, san ge ren chenglun qilai le.
therefore three CLSF person argue begin PRF

Therefore, the three monks began to argue.

topic: *san ge ren*$_{i,j,k}$ 'three people'
entity: E
Human, TP = 0

Heshang 011 (EB)
Xiao heshang shuo, "Wo tiao shui tiao le zhe duo
young monk say 1s carry water carry PRF this many

nian, zhong cai, zhu fan, yangyang wo ziji lai.
year grow vegetable cook food everything 1s self do

The young monk said, "I carried the water for many years, grew vegetables, and cooked the food--everything I did myself.

topic: *xiao heshang*$_i$ 'the small monk'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

topic: *wo*$_i$ 'I'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Heshang 012
Xianzai gai lun dao nimen xin lai de qu da
now should turn arrive 2pl new come PRTL go get

shui le.
water CRS

Now it is you newcomer's turn to go get the water.

topic: *xianzai* 'now'
entity: I (preceeding line)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Heshang 013
Wo yinggai xiaxi xiaxi, xiang ji tian qingfu le."
1s must relax relax live several day happily CRS

I need to relax happily for several days."

topic: *wo*$_i$ 'I'
entity: E
Human, TP = 2

Heshang 014 (EB)
Pang heshang shuo, "Wo he xiao heshang dan guo zhe
fat monk say 1s and young monk carry EXP this

duo shijian shui le.
many time water CRS

The fat monk said, "The young monk and I have carried the water many times.

Heshang 014 (con't)
topic: *pang heshang*$_j$ 'the fat monk'
entity: E
Human, TP = 7

topic: *wo*$_j$ *he xiao heshang*$_i$ 'I and the young monk'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Heshang 015
Ni shou heshang shi zuixin lai de, gaiyou ni qu da
2s thin monk is latest come PRTL must 2s go get

shui.
water

You, thin monk, are the most recent comer, you should get the water.

topic: *ni shou heshang*$_k$ 'you thin monk'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Heshang 016
Kuangqie, wo you gao xueya; xin zhang
additionally 1s have high blood pressure heart grow

bing.
sick

In addition, I have high blood pressure and heart troubles.

topic: *wo*$_j$ 'I'
entity: E
Human, TP = 5

topic: *xin* 'heart'
entity: I (*pang heshang*)/SA: characters have hearts
Inanimate, TP = 0

Heshang 017
Wo yao hao hao nian nian jin, qiu pusai
1s want well well read read scriptures pray buddist

baoyou wo de jiankang."
protect 1s GEN health

I need to read the scriptures, and say Buddhist prayers to protect my health."

Heshang 017 (con't)
topic: *wo*$_j$ 'I'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Heshang 018
Shuo wan, ta dui zhe dajia nian qi jin
say finish 3s face DUR everybody read begin scriptures

lai le.
come PRF

When he finished speaking, he faced everybody and began to read the scriptures.

topic: *shuo wan* 'finished speaking'
entity: I (line 17)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Heshang 019 (EB)
Shou heshang ting le hen bu gaoxing.
thin monk hear PRF very no happy

When the thin monk heard this he was not very happy.

topic: *shou heshang*$_k$ 'thin monk'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Heshang 020
"Wo shi xin lai de, dui huangjing bu shuxi,
1s is new come PRTL about surroundings no familiar

gua feng, xia yu, tian leng, lu hua.
blow wind fall rain sky cold road slippery

I am the newcomer and am not familiar with the surroundings--the blowing wind, the falling rain, the cold sky, the slippery road.

topic: *wo*$_k$ 'I'
entity: E
Human, TP = 5

Heshang 021
Wanyi wo ba tong shuaihuai le, qibushi danwu
in.case 1s DO container break PRF then delay

dajia de shiqing.
everybody GEN matters

Heshang 021 (con't)
In case I break the container, then I will delay everyone's business.

topic: *wo*$_{k}$ 'I'
entity: E
Human, TP = 9

Heshang 022
Dajia dou mei you shui he le ma?
everybody all not have water drink CRS INTR

Everyone won't have any water to drink, right?

topic: *dajia*$_{i,j,k}$ 'everybody'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Heshang 023
Yinci, bixu women san ge ren yiqi qu da
so necessary 1pl three CLSF person together go get

shui.
water

So, it is necessary that the three of us go get the water.

topic: *women san ge ren*$_{i,j,k}$ 'we three people'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Heshang 024
Zhe yang cai gongping.
this way only fair

This way is the fairest.

topic: *zhe yang* 'this way'
entity: I (line 23)/proposition=situation
Abstract, TP = 0

Heshang 025
Rang wo yi ge ren qu da shui tai bu gongping
ask 1s one CLSF person go get water too no fair

le."
CRS

If you ask me, it's not fair for one person to get water."

Heshang 025 (con't)
topic: *yi ge ren qu da shui* 'one person to get water'
entity: I/proposition=situation
Abstract, TP = 0

Heshang 026
Shuo wan, ta ba shuitong fang zai dishang,
say finish 3s DO water container put at floor

kao zai miao li de zhuzishang sheng qi
lean.against at temple in GEN pillar get enrage

le.
CRS

When he finished speaking, he put the water container on the floor, and leaning against a pillar in the temple became angry.

topic: *shuo wan* 'finished speaking'
entity: I (lines 19-25)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Heshang 027 (EB)
Xiao heshang, pang heshang kanjian ta zhe ge
small monk fat monk catch sight of 3s this CLSF

yangzi dou zhenglan qilai le.
way all argue begin PRF

The small monk and the fat monk see him act this way and they all begin to argue.

topic: *xiao heshang*$_i$, *pang heshang*$_j$ 'small monk, fat monk'
entity: E
Human, TP = 9

Heshang 028
Danshi, dou bu yuanyi qu da shui.
but all no willing go get water

But no one was willing to get the water.

topic: *dou*$_{i,j,k}$ 'all'
entity: E
Human, TP = 7

Heshang 029
Tamen cong zaishang zheng dao zhongwu, cong zhongwu
3pl from morning argue to noon from noon

zheng dao tian hei.
argue to day dark

From morning to noon and from noon to twilight, they argued.

topic: *tamen*$_{i,j,k}$ 'they'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Heshang 030
Mei ge ren dou lei le, qi le, ke le,
every CLSF person all tired CRS enrage CRS thirsty CRS

er le.
hungry CRS

Everyone was tired, angry, thirsty, and hungry.

topic: *mei ge ren*$_{i,j,k}$ 'everyone'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Heshang 031
Keshi, shui dou bu ken dong.
but who all no willing.to move

But no one was willing to move.

topic: *shui dou* 'who all'
entity: E
Human, TP = 2

Heshang 032 (EB)
Zuihou, pang heshang kao zai shuitong
finally fat monk lean against at water container

bian shui zhe le.
side sleep asleep CRS

Finally the fat monk leaned against the side of the water container and fell asleep.

topic: *pang heshang*$_{j}$ 'fat monk'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Heshang 033
Shou heshang kao zai qiang shang chuan qi.
thin monk lean against at wall on breath rapidly

The thin monk leaned against the wall and began to breath rapidly.

topic: *shou heshang*$_k$ 'thin monk'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Heshang 034
Xiao heshang tai tou wang wang tiankong.
young monk raise head look look sky

The young monk raised his head and looked at the sky.

topic: *xiao heshang*$_i$ 'young monk'
entity: E
Human, TP = 4

Heshang 035
"Aiya, shenme shihou tian shang xia yu jiu hao le.
ah what time sky on fall rain then well CRS

"Ah, how wonderful that it is raining.

topic: *shihou*
entity: I (line 34)/proposition=situation
Abstract, TP = 0

Heshang 036
Zhe women dajia dou bu yong qu da shui le.
now 1pl everybody all no use go get water CRS

Now, no one has to go get water.

topic: *zhe* 'now'
entity: I (line 35)/SA: point in time of narration
Abstract, TP = 0

Heshang 037
Keshi, shui ba shuitong tai dao yuanzi li qu
but who DO water container carry to yard in go

ne?"
PRTL

But, who will carry the water container into the yard?"

Heshang 037 (con't)
topic: *shui*$_{i,j,k}$ 'who'
entity: E
Human, TP = 1

Heshang 038 (EB)
Yushi, tamen you zheng le qilai.
therefore 3pl again argue PRF begin

Therefore, they began to argue again.

topic: *tamen*$_{i,j,k}$ 'they'
entity: E
Human, TP = 0

GECHANGJIA TEXT

In this story, a student of singing, named Xue Tan, decides he has learned all that he can from his teacher, Qin Qing, and decides to leave. Qin Qing has a going away party for his student, and at one point sings for Xue Tan. Xue Tan is stunned by the beauty of his teacher's voice, and realizes that he still has much to learn. He begs to stay with Qin Qing, who gladly agrees.

Gechangjia 001 (EB)
Qin Qing shi Qinguo zhuming de gechangjia.
Qin Qing is state of Qin famous RLV singer

Qin Qing is a famous singer from the state of Qin.

topic: *Qin Qing*$_i$
entity: BN
Human, TP = 6

Gechangjia 002 (EB)
You ge jiao Xue Tan de gen Qin Qing xue chang
have CLSF call Xue Tan RLV with Qin Qing learn sing

ge, xue le ji ge yue, jiu renwei ba laoshi
song learn PRF several CLSF month then think DO teacher

de benling dou xuedao shou le, yushi ta gaosu Qin
GEN skill all learn master CRS therefore 3s tell Qin

Qing, shuo ta dasuan zou le.
Qing say 3s intend leave CRS

There was a student named Xue Tan who was learning to sing songs with Qin Qing, and after several months he thought he had mastered all of his teacher's skill, and therefore told Qin Qing that he intended to leave.

topic: *Xue Tan*$_j$
entity: BN
Human, TP = 9

topic: *ta*$_j$ 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 7

Gechangjia 003
Qin Qing mei you wanliu, zhishi shuo ta dasuan
Qin Qing not have pesuade to stay only say 3s intend

songsong ziji de xuesheng.
leave self GEN student

Qin Qing did not persuade his student to stay, but said that he would see his student off.

topic: *Qin Qing*$_i$
entity: E
Human, TP = 9

topic: *ta*$_i$ 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 8

Gechangjia 004 (EB)
Xue Tan dongshen na tian, Qin Qing song
Xue Tan set out on a journey that day Qin Qing see off

ta chu cheng, zai jiaowai yi ge tingzi li
3s set out city at outskirts one CLSF pavilion in

bai le jiu cai, suanshi gei xuesheng
arrange PRF alcohol food.dish regard as to student

jianxing.
give farewell dinner

The day Xue Tan was to leave, Qin Qing arranged to have food and drink at a pavilion at the outskirts of the city, so as to give his student a farewell dinner.

topic: *na tian* 'that day'
entity: I (line 2: *ta dasuan zou*)/SA: a person has to set out on a journey on a certain day
Abstract, TP = 0

Gechangjia 005
He guo ji bei zhihou, Qing Qing shuo chang zhi
drink EXP several CLSF after Qing Qing say sing CLSF

ge gei xuesheng song xing ba, jiu bodong
song to student see off travel PRTL immediately pluck

qinxian, chang le qilai.
stringed instrument sing PRF begin

After drinking for awhile, Qin Qing said he would sing a song for his student to see him off and began to pluck on an instrument and sing.

Gechangjia 005 (con't)
topic: *he guo ji bei zhihou* 'after drinking several glasses of wine'
entity: I (line 4: *tingzi li bai le jiu cai*)/SA: people will drink at a party
Abstract, TP = 0

Gechangjia 006 (EB)
Zhe shi shenmeyang de gesheng a!
this is what GEN voice of a singer PRTL

But what a voice!

topic: *zhe* 'this'
entity: I (line 5: *chang le qilai*)/proposition=situation
Abstract, TP = 0

Gechangjia 007
Shulin zhendong le, shuzhi suizhe gaokang de
woods shake PRF branch echo sonourous PRTL

gesheng qingqing yaobai; shuye susu, jiao'ao
voice of a singer slightly sway leaf rustle proud

de wei yidai geshou banzou.
ADV for best in generation singer accompany

The woods shook, and the branches echoed his sonorous voice; the leaves rustled--proud to accompany the best singer of this generation.

topic: *shulin* 'woods'
entity: I (line 4: *jiaowai*)/association: woods are associated with the outskirts of cities
Inanimate, TP = 3

topic: *shuye* 'leaf'
entity: I (line 7: *shulin*)/part-whole
Inanimate, TP = 1

Gechangjia 008
Qin Qing de gesheng zhi chong yun
Qin Qing GEN voice of a singer straight rush cloud

xiao, bai yun tingxialai, xinshang zhe gan ren
clouds white cloud stop moving admire this feel person

fei fu, dong ren xin xian de gechang.
bottom of heart move person heart string GEN singer

Gechangjia 008 (con't)
Qin Qing's voice rushed to the clouds, and the white clouds stopped moving to admire this singer who could sing so movingly.

topic: *Qin Qing*$_i$ *de geshang* 'Qin Qing's voice'
entity: I^{C} (*geshang*^{I}, *Qin Qing*$_i$^{E})/SA: singers have voices
Abstract, TP = 1

Gechangjia 009 (EB)
Xue Tan bei laoshi de gesheng jingdai le,
Xue Tan PAS teacher GEN voice of a singer stun CRS

yanlei jianjian de mohu le ta de shixian.
tears gradual ADV blur PRF 3s GEN sight

Xue Tan was stunned by his teacher's voice, and tears slowly blurred his vision.

topic: *Xue Tan*$_j$
entity: E
Human, TP = 8

Gechangjia 010
Ta shi duome de wuzhi, you shi duome de kuangwang
3s is how PRTL ignorant and is how PRTL arrogant

a, ta lian laoshi de pimao dou hai
PRTL 3s even teacher GEN superficial knowledge all also

mei you xuedao, que zi yiwei bu zhi de zai
not have learn yet self regard as no worth PRTL at

xiang zheiwei weida de geshou qingjiao le.
direction this place great PRTL singer consult CRS

He realized how ignorant and arrogant he was, and that he did not even know his teacher's superficial knowledge, and he did not feel worthy of being in the same place as this great singer.

topic: *ta*$_j$ 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 7

Gechangjia 011 (EB)
Xue Tan daxiao le hui jia de niantou, kenqiu Qin
Xue Tan give up PRF return home RLV idea implore Qin

Gechangjia 011 (con't)
Qing ba ta liuxia.
Qing DO 3s stay

Xue Tan gave up the idea of leaving, and implored Qin Qing to allow him to stay.

topic: *Xue Tan*$_j$
entity: E
Human, TP = 3

Gechangjia 012 (EB)
Qin Qing reqing de la zhe Xue Tan de shou
Qin Qing warm hearted MNR help DUR Xue Tan GEN hand

yitong huiqu le.
together return PRF

Qin Qing warmheartedly took Xue Tan's hand and together they returned to thier home.

topic: *Qin Qing*$_i$
entity: E
Human, TP = 1

JIXINGZI TEXT

This is a story about an impatient person named Wang Lantian. Once, he became so frustrated with trying to eat an egg, he was driven to extreme and excessive behavior.

Jixingzi 001 (EB)
Wang Lantian shi ge yuanjin wenming de
Wang Lantian is CLSF far.and.wide well.known RLV

jixingzi.
impatient person

Wang Lantian is well known for being impatient.

topic: *Wang Lantian*$_i$
entity: BN
Human, TP = 7

Jixingzi 002 (EB)
You yi ci, ta laopo gei ta zhu -le ji -ge
have one situation 3s wife to 3s boil PRF several CLSF

jidan.
egg

Once his wife boiled him several eggs.

topic: *you yi ci* 'have a situation'
entity: I (line 1)/SA: characters must operate in time
Abstract, TP = 0

Jixingzi 003
Jidan yi duan -shang fanzhuo, ta jiu yong
egg one carry on dining table 3s immediately use

kuaizi qu jia.
chopsticks go pick up

One egg was on the table, and he tried to use his chopsticks to pick it up.

topic: *jidan*$_j$ 'egg'
entity: I (*ji ge jidan*)/member-set
Inanimate, TP = 7

Jixingzi 004
Jixingzi jia hulun dan, yue ji yue
impatient person pick up whole egg more irritate more

jiabuzhu.
not able to pick up

The more he tried to pick up the egg, the more irritated he became.

topic: *jixingzi jia* 'the impatient person'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Jixingzi 005
Wang Lantian zhen ji -le, zhuaqi jidan
Wang Lantian really irritate PRF grab egg

jiu reng zai dixia, kezhi mei you zasui.
then throw DUR on ground but not have break

Wang Lantian became very irritated and threw the egg onto the ground, but it did not break.

topic: *Wang Lantian*$_i$
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

topic: $\emptyset_j$
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 4

Jixingzi 006
Jidan yao tou huang nao -de zai dengzi dixia
egg shake head sway brain ADV at stool on ground

zhi zhuanyou.
continuously roll

The egg shook and waggled and rolled around under the stool.

topic: *jidan*$_j$ 'egg'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 3

Jixingzi 007 (EB)
Zhe ke ba Wang Lantian qizhao -le, ta zhui -shang -qu
this EMP DO Wang Lantian enrage PRF 3s chase on go

yong jiao cai, cai -le jixia, ye mei
use foot trample trample PRF several times also not

Jixingzi 007 (con't)
cai zhao nei zhi guyi gen ta dao luan
trample RST that CLSF intentionally with 3s beat chaos

de jidan.
RLV egg

This enraged Wang Lantian so much that he chased the egg and tried to trample it. But he could not crush the egg which was intentionally causing him trouble.

topic: *zhe* 'this'
entity: I (preceeding proposition)/proposition=situtation

Jixingzi 008 (EB)
Wang Lantian qi -de yanjing mao jinxing, naodai
Wang Lantian enrage MNR eye emit sparks head

chu xuhan, yi wanyao ba jidan zhua -le qilai,
set out sweat one bend over DO egg seize PRF go up

lian tu dai pi saijin zui -li, ehenhen
as well soil and shell sqeeze in mouth in ferocious

de jiao le ji kou, ranhou qichongchong de you
ADV chew PRF several bite then furious ADV and

ba ta tu -le, shuo: "Kan ni hai gan bu gan
DO 3s spit out PRF say see 2s also dare no dare

gen wo daoluan!"
with 1s make trouble

Wang Lantian was so enraged that sparks flew from his eyes and sweat poured out of his head. Bending over, he seized the egg--shell, dirt, and all--and crammed it in his mouth. He chomped it several times furiously, and then spit it out, saying, "I'll see to it that you won't dare make trouble for me!"

topic: *Wang Lantian*$_i$
entity: E
Human, TP = 7

topic: *ni*$_j$ 'you'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 0

DUZOU TEXT

In the Duzou text, Nanguo asks to become part of Qi Xuanwang's reed pipe orchestra. Qi Xuanwang agrees and pays him a good salary. Eventually, Qi Xuanwang dies, and Mingwang takes his place. However, unlike Qi Xuanwang, Mingwang likes to hear solos. Upon hearing this, Nanguo runs away, because all along he had never been able to play the reed pipe--he just faked it in the orchestra.

Duzou 001 (EB)
Qi Xuanwang xi'ai chui yu, you ai jiang
Qi Xuanwang fond of play reed pipe and like stress

paichang, suoyi ta nei ge chui yu de
extravagance therefore 3s that CLSF play reed pipe RLV

yuedui zuzu you san bai ren, ta chang jiao
orchestra full have three hundren person 3s always order

zhe san -bai ren yiqi chui yu
this three one hundred person together play reed pipe

gei ta ting.
to 3s hear

Qi Xuanwang was fond of reed pipes and went in for extravagance. Therefore, he assembled an orchestra of 300 musicians who would always play the reed pipe.

topic: *Qi Xuanwang*$_i$
entity: BN
Human, TP = 5

topic: *yuedei* 'orchestra'
entity: BN
Inanimate, TP = 3

Duzou 002 (EB)
You ge Nanguo xiansheng zhidao zhei -ge qingkuang,
have CLSF Nanguo mister know this CLSF situation

jiu jian Xuanwang, shuo ziji chui de ruhe ruhe
then meet Xuanwang, say self play MNR how how

Duzou 002 (con't)
qingqiu canjia zhei -ge yuedui wei Xuanwang
please ask join this CLSF orchestra for Xuanwang

chui yu.
play reed pipe

There was a Mr. Nanguao who knew of this and immediately went to see Xuanwang. He asked if he could join his orchestra and play the reed pipe for him.

topic: *Nanguo Xiansheng*$_j$ 'Mr. Nanguo'
entity: BN
Human, TP = 8

Duzou 003
Xuanwang ba ta bianjin yuedui, binqie gei ta hen
Xuanwang DO 3s put orchestra moreover to 3s very

gao de xinshui.
high RLV salary

Xuanwang agreed and also gave him a high salary.

topic: *Xuanwang*$_i$
entity: E
Human, TP = 2

Duzou 004 (EB)
Xuanwang si -le, Minwang jie wei.
Xuanwang die PRF Minwang approach place

Xuanwang died, and Minwang took the throne.

topic: *Xuanwang*$_i$
entity: E
Human, TP = 0

Duzou 005
Minwang ye xi'ai chui yu, danshi ta bu xihuan
Minwang also fond of play reed pipe but 3s no like

da yuedui de hezou, ta xihuan duzou.
big orchestra GEN ensemble 3s like solo

Minwang was also fond of the reed pipe, but he prefered solos over a large orchestra.

topic: *Mingwang*$_k$
entity: E
Human, TP = 5

Duzou 005 (con't)
topic: ta_k 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 3

Duzou 006
Minwang jie wei bujiu bian xuanbu, ta yao
Minwang approach place not long soon declare 3s want

nei xie chui yu de yueshi yi -ge yi -ge
that CLSF play reed pipe RLV orchestra one CLSF one CLSF

de yanzou gei ta ting.
ADV play to 3s hear

Not long after Minwang took the throne, he declared that he wanted the orchestra to play solos.

topic: *Mingwang jie wei bujiu bian xuanbu* 'not long after Mingwang took the throne'
entity: I (line 4)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Duzou 007 (EB)
Nanguo xiansheng yi ting, lianye taopao -le.
Nanguo mister already hear that.night run.away PRF

The very night that Nanguo heard this, he fled.

topic: *Nanguo xiansheng yi teng* 'when Mr. Nanguo heard this'
entity: I (line 6)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Duzou 008 (EB)
Yuanlai ta zai da yuedui -li hun -le
turns out 3s at big orchestra in muddle along PRF

zenme duo nian, que genben bu hui chui yu.
MNR many year yet simply no able play reed pipe

It turns out that for many years he had muddled along in the orchestra, because he could not play the reed pipe at all.

topic: ta_j 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 1

YONGSHI TEXT

In this story, two brave men meet and go to a bar to drink and talk. After awhile, one proposes that they get some meat to eat while they are drinking. The other says that they don't need to buy meat, and cuts off a piece of his leg and eats it. The other brave man, not to be outdone, does the same. Eventually, the cut off so much 'meat' they both keel over and die.

Yongshi 001 (EB)
Qiguo you liang ge "yongshi", yi ge zhu zai
Qi have two CLSF brave man one CLSF live at

chengdong, yi ge zhu zai chengxi.
east city one CLSF live at west city

The country of Qi had two brave men--one lived in the east part of the city, and the other lived in the west part of the city.

topic: *Qiguo* 'the country of Qi'
entity: BN
Inanimate, TP = 0

Yongshi 002 (EB)
You yi tian, tamen zai jie shang pengjian le.
have one day 3pl at street on meet CRS

One day they met on the street.

topic: *yi tian* 'one day'
entity: I (line 1)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Yongshi 003
Liang ge ren yi kou tong sheng de shuo,
two CLSF person one mouth same voice PRTL say

"Yongshi jianmian hen nan de, gai he ge
brave man meet very rare ADV should drink CLSF

tongkuai."
heart's content

Yongshi 003 (con't)
The two said with one voice, "Brave men meet very rarely, we should drink to our heart's content."

topic: *liang ge ren*$_{i,j}$ 'the two people'
entity: E
Human, TP = 8

topic: *yongshi*$_{i,j}$ 'brave men'
entity: E
Human, TP = 8

Yongshi 004
Liang ge ren yitong laidao jiudian.
two CLSF person together arrive tavern

The two men entered a tavern.

topic: *liang ge ren*$_{i,j}$ 'the two people'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Yongshi 005 (EB)
He le ji bei zhihou, chengdong de "yongshi"
drink PRF several CLSF after east city RLV brave man

shuo, "Mai dian rou lai xia jiu, hao ma?"
say buy some meat come with alcohol well INTR

After a few drinks, the east city brave man said, "Let's buy some meat to go with our drinks, okay?"

topic: *he le ji bei zhihou* 'after a few drinks'
entity: I (line 3,4)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

topic: $\emptyset_{i,j}$
entity: E
Human, 4

Yongshi 006
Chengxi de "yongshi" shuo, "Ni wo shen shang you
west city RLV brave man say 2s 1s body on have

de shi rou, hai mai shenme rou!
PRTL is meat also buy what meat

The west city brave man said, "You and I have meat on our bodies, why should we buy some!

Yongshi 006 (con't)
topic: *chengxi de "yongshi"*$_i$ 'the west city brave man'
entity: E
Human, TP = 9

topic: *ni*$_j$, *wo*$_i$ 'you and I'
entity: E
Human, TP = 3

Yongshi 007
Jiran shi yongshi, hai pa teng ma?!"
since is brave man also fear pain INTR

Since we are a brave man, do we fear pain?"

topic: $\emptyset_{i,j}$
entity: E
Human, TP = 1

Yongshi 008
Shuo zhe cong yaojian chou chu dao lai, ge xia
say DUR from waist draw set out sword up cut down

tui shang de rou, zhanzhan jiangyou, chixiaqu le.
leg on RLV meat dip in soysauce eat PRF

Having said this, he drew a sword from his waist and cut off a piece of meat from his leg, dipped it in soy sauce, and ate it.

topic: *shou zhe* 'while speaking'
entity: I (line 7)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Yongshi 009 (EB)
Chengdong de nei wei bu gan shi rou, ye chou
east city PRTL that CLSF no willing show weak also draw

chu dao lai ge ziji tui shang de rou chi.
set out sword up cut self leg on RLV meat eat

The east city brave man was not willing to be outdone, and also drew a sword, cut a piece of meat from his leg, and ate it.

topic: *chengdong de nei* $\emptyset_j$ 'the east city (brave man)'
entity: E
Human, TP = 6

Yongshi 010 (EB)

Liang ge ren wei le zhengming ziji geng yonggan
two CLSF person act PRF prove self more brave

xie, ni ge yikuai wo ge yikuai,
little better 2s cut some place 1s cut some place

yikuai jie yikuai, bu yihuir, liang ge
some place follow some place no little while two CLSF

"yongshi" dou dao zai di shang, duanqi le.
brave man all fall at ground on die CRS

The two men continue to prove their braveness, when one cuts a place, the other does too. Cut follows cut, and soon both the brave men fall to the ground and die.

topic: *liang ge re*$_{i,j}$ 'the two people'
entity: E
Human, TP = 2

YANLI TEXT

In this story, two shortsighted men are unwilling to admit their shortsightedness. They arrange a bet to see who can best read a board which is to be hung in a temple. Before they have their competition, each one finds another person to tell them what will be written on the board. When they next meet, they try to out do one another by claiming to be able to read small characaters on the board. Soon, another person arrives and wants to know what they are talking about. As it turns out, the board has not yet been hung.

Yanli 001 (EB)
You liang -ge jinshiyan, budan bu ken
have two CLSF shortsighted not only no willing

chengren ziji jinshi, hai yi ge jinr
admit self shortsighted also one CLSF persistent

de kuayao ziji -de yan li.
ADV brag self GEN eye strength

There were two shortsighted men who would not admit that they were shortsighted, but took every opportunity to boast how well they could see.

topic: *lian ge jinshiyan*$_{i/j}$ 'two shortsighted men'
entity: BN
Human, TP = 9

Yanli 002 (EB)
You yi tian, tingshuo miao -li yao gua xin
have one day hear temple in want hang new

bian le, ta lia yuehao
horizontal inscribed board CRS 3s

yuehao yitong qu
make an appointment together go

Yanli 002 (con't)
kan bian, bi -yi -bi daodi
see horizontal inscribed board compete one compete to

shei de yanli qiang.
who GEN eyesight better

One day they heard that a new inscribed board was to be hung in the temple, and they decided to compete a little to see who had the better eyesight by reading the new board.

topic: *yi tian* 'one day'
entity: I (line 1)/SA: characters must operate in time
Abstract, TP = 0

Yanli 003
Yuehao rizi gang yi fen shou, liang
make an appointment day barely one separate hand two

ge ren jiu xiang ren dating qu -le.
CLSF person then direction person inquire go PRF

Right after they agreed to this, both went off to find a person to question.

topic: *yuehao rizi*$_k$ *gang yi fen shou* 'right after they agreed on the day'
entity: I (line 2)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 1

Yanli 004
Dating shenme ne?
inquire what PRTL

What did they ask about?

topic: $\emptyset_{i/j}$
entity: E
Human, TP = 2

Yanli 005
Dating nei -kuai xin bian -shang
inquire that piece new horizontal inscribed.board on

xie de shi shenme zi.
write RLV is what character

They asked what characters were written on the plaque.

Yanli 005 (con't)
topic: $\emptyset_{i/j}$
entity: E
Human, TP = 1

Yanli 006 (EB)
Dao -le yueding de rizi, ta lia yizao
arrive PRF agree RLV day 3s two early in the morning

jiu laidao miao -li.
then arrive temple in

When the agreed upon day arrived, they both arrived at the temple early in the morning.

topic: *rizi*$_k$ 'day'
entity: E
Abstract, TP = 0

Yanli 007
Diyi -ge jinshiyan xiang gua
first CLSF shortsighted direction hang

bian de de difang piao le yi yan
horizontal inscribed board RLV place glance PRF one eye

shuo: "Zhe bu shi xiezhe 'guangming zhengzhi' si ge
say this no is write guangming zhengzhi four CLSF

da zi ma!"
big character INTR

The first shortsighted man glanced at the place of the plaque and said: "Aren't the characters 'guangming zhengzhi' written in big characters!"

topic: *di yi ge jinshiyan*$_i$ 'the first shortsighted man'
entity: I (*liang ge jinshiyan*)/member-set
Human, TP = 2

topic: *zhe* 'this'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 2

Yanli 008 (EB)
Dier -ge jinshiyan xiang gua
second CLSF shortsighted direction hang

bian de difang xie
horizontal inscribed board RLV place look sideways at

Yanli 008 (con't)
le yi yan, shuo: "'Guangming zhengzhi' si ge
PRF one eye say guangming zhengzhi four CLSF

zi you dou name da, shei kanbujian?
character have all like that big who cannot see

The second shortsighted man glanced at the place of the plaque and said: "Who cannot see those four big characters?"

topic: *dier ge jinshiyan*$_j$ 'the second shortsighted man'
entity: I (*liang ge jinhsiyan*)/member-set
Human, TP = 4

topic: *Guangming zhengzhi*
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 1

Yanli 009
Zhe liangbian haiyou xiao zi, ni neng
this two sides have also small character 2s can

kanjian ma?"
catch sight of INTR

But can you see the small characters on the sides?"

topic: *zhe liangbian* 'these two sides'
entity: I (*bian*)/part-whole
Inferred, TP = 1

Yanli 010
Ta deyi -de yong zuo shou xiang shang
3s look.triumphant ADV use left hand direction on

zhi le zhi shuo; "Gaosuni, zhei yi hang
point at PRF point at say tell you this one line

xie de shi 'Xinhai Zhengyue,' shi Xiangyang Wang
write RLV is xinhai zhengyue is Xiangyang Wang

daren Wang Futang -de shoubi."
His Excellency Wang Futang GEN handwriting

He looked triumphantly as he pointed with his left hand and said, "This line is 'xinhai zhengyue,' written in the handwriting of His Excellency, Wang Futang of Xiangyang.

Yanli 010 (con't)
topic: *ta*$_j$ 'he'
entity: E
Human, TP = 3

topic: shuo: *zhei yihang* 'this line'
entity: I (*bian*)/part of whole
Inanimate, TP = 1

Yanli 011 (EB)
Zhe shihou pangbianr yi wei -le bu shao kan
this time nearby already surround PRF no few see

renao de ren.
lively RLV person

By this time a large group of people had gathered around them.

topic: *zhe shihou* 'this time'
entity: I (line 10)/SA: progression of time
Abstract, TP = 0

Yanli 012
Yi -ge ren haha da xiao -zhe zouguolai shuo:
one CLSF person laughter big laugh DUR walk.over say

"Er wei xiansheng nimen shuo de zhei xie zi,
two CLSF mister 2pl say RLV this CLSF character

dou xie -zai shenme dongxi shangbianr a?
all write at what thing on PRTL

One person was laughing loudly and walked over and said, "On what thing are you saying that those characters have been written?

topic: *yi ge ren* 'one person'
entity: I (*bu shao ren*)/member-set
Human, TP = 3

topic: *zhei xie zi* 'these characters'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 1

Yanli 013 (EB)
Yaoshi shuo zhe shi xin bian
if say this is new horizontal inscribed.board

shang de tici, na yexu chabuli, wo ye
on RLV inscription that maybe not far off 1s also

Yanli 013 (con't)

tingshuo -le, buguo, xin bian yao
hear PRF but new horizontal inscribed board want

zhongwu cai guachulai ne!"
noon only hang PRTL

What you say is written on the new plaque maybe true, for I have also heard what it says, but the new plaque will not be hung until noon!"

topic: *zhe* 'this'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 1

topic: *xin bian* 'the new inscribed board'
entity: E
Inanimate, TP = 0

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