Course Syllabus

HUMA1060 Introduction to Mandarin Chinese Grammar

Instructor: ZHANG Min, office hours: TBA here

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Course Description: The course introduces students to basic concepts in Mandarin Chinese grammar and fundamental techniques of grammatical analysis. Differences between Chinese and English as well as between Mandarin and Cantonese will also be highlighted. Topics include word structure and sentence structure of Mandarin Chinese, and characteristics of Chinese grammar, etc.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

1   summarize how grammar works using the fundamental concepts of morphology and syntax
2   categorize morphemes, words, phrases and sentences in Mandarin Chinese according to their grammatical behaviors
3   identify the major similarities and differences in grammar between Chinese and English, and (particularly for local students) between Mandarin and Cantonese
4   apply the concepts and analytical techniques to uncover rules and regularities from written Chinese data collected online or retrieved from large corpora
5   analyze the syntactic and semantic structure of a Chinese sentence

Course Outline: (tentative - subject to change)

Part I: Introduction 導論

1.1 What is grammar 什麼是語法
1.2 Linguistic signs 語言符號及其關係
1.3 Properties of grammatical structure 語法結構的屬性
1.4 Only God can make a tree 語法構造的層次性
1.5 The autonomy of grammar 語法的自主性

Part 2:   Word Structure of Mandarin Chinese 漢語詞法

2.1 Grammatical Units 語法單位
2.1.1 What is grammatical unit 什麼是語法單位
2.1.2 Morpheme: The smallest grammatical unit 語素：最小的語法單位
2.1.3 Morphemes and characters 語素和漢字
2.1.4 Identification of Chinese morphemes 辨認漢語語素的基本原則
2.1.5 Classification of morphemes 語素的類別

2.2 Wordhood 詞及詞與非詞的界定
2.2.1 What is word 詞是什麼
2.2.2 Composition of words 詞的構成
2.2.3 Identification of words 詞與非詞的判定

2.3 Chinese Compounds 複合構詞法
2.3.1 Roots and affixes 構詞成份：詞根和詞綴

2.3.2 Compounding 複合詞的結構類型

2.4 Affixation 附綴式合成詞

2.5 Summary: characteristics of Chinese morphology 小結：漢語詞法結構的主要特點

Part 3:   Chinese Syntax 漢語句法

3.1 Introducing Syntax 句法概述

3.2 Parts of Speech 詞類劃分的原則與實踐

3.3 Numerals, Classifiers, and Numeral-Classifier Phrase 數詞、量詞和數量結構

3.4 Nouns and Subcategories of Nouns 名詞及時間、處所、方位詞

3.5 Determiner, Adverb, Preposition, and Conjunction 區別詞、副詞、介詞、連詞

3.6 Structural Analysis of Sentences 句子結構的分析

3.6.1 Tree diagrams 層次分析法

3.6.2 Complex sentences 複句

3.7 Syntactic and Semantic Issues of Verbs 與動詞相關的句法、語義問題

3.7.1 Typical and atypical verbs 典型的動詞和不典型的動詞

3.7.2 Aspects 動詞的「體 aspect」

3.7.3 Thematic relations 動詞和動名之間的語義關係

3.8. Ambiguity, Transformation, and Semantic Features 句法歧義、變換、語義特徵

3.8.1 Syntactic ambiguity 句法歧義

3.8.2 From ambiguous sentences to ambiguous constructions 從歧義句到歧義句式

3.8.3 Transformational analysis 變換分析

3.8.4 From transformation to semantic feature analysis 從變換分析到語義特徵分析

3.8.5 Valence and index of ambiguity 動詞的價與歧義指數

Part 4: Conclusion – Characteristic of Chinese Grammar 結語：漢語語法的特點

4.1 Major Differences between Chinese and English 漢語與英語的主要語法差異

4.2 Major Differences between Mandarin and Cantonese 普通話與粵語的主要語法差異

  4.3 Grammar and Language Use 語法與語言運用

Topics for Tutorials: (tentative - subject to change)
1.   「語素分析」
2.   「詞與非詞的判定」
3.   「複合詞的分析」
4.   「附綴詞及複雜複合詞的分析」
5.   「短語結構分析、副詞用法分析」
6.   「虛詞分析」
7.   「複雜句法結構的分析」
8.   「層次分析、虛詞分析及詞類劃分」
9.   「詞類分析」
10.   「詞類分析及語義結構分析」
11.   「綜合練習」

Planned Assessment Tasks:
Attendance: 10%
Two in-class quizzes: 50% (each 25%)

Final Exam: 40%

Readings:

每週課前，閱讀文獻將在「Modules」主頁公佈。閱讀文獻有兩類：「必讀」和「選讀」。必讀文獻的內容大多與授課內容直接相關，有些內容雖在課上不會涉及，但也要求同學們掌握，因此必讀文獻最好在指定的時間內讀完，至少要在課程結束前讀完。選讀文獻的內容可幫助同學們更深入地理解授課內容，但不作要求，大家可根據需要自行選讀。