

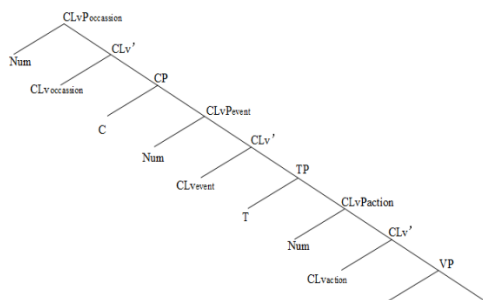
The Hierarchy of Verbal Classifiers

It is observed in this study that in Chinese some verbal classifiers (CLVs) are used in counting actions internal to a certain event, whereas some others are used in counting events or occasions, respectively.

- (1)a. 他 敲 了 三 下 门。 (Counting events)
 ta qiao le san xia men
 He knock Asp three CLv door
 ‘He knocked on the door three times’
- b. 老张 把 那 沓 钱 数 了 三 遍。 (Counting events)
 Laozhang ba na da qian shu le san bian
 Laozhang ba that CLn money count Asp three CLv
 ‘Laozhang counted that money of 100 pieces three times.’
- c. 有 三 四 次 他 一 到 周 五 就 回 家。 (Counting occasions)
 You san si ci ta yidao zhouwu jiu huijia
 Have three four CLv he once Friday just go.home
 ‘There are three or four times he went home in Friday’

Syntactic cartography assumes that there is a one-to-one relation between position and function (Cinque 1999, Benincà & Poletto 2004). Following this assumption, our study proposes that the three types of CLVs being interpreted as counting action, event and occasion respectively are generated in different syntactic positions, instead of a single position. These positions are arranged in a hierarchic structure, as shown in (2).

(2) The hierarchy of verbal classifiers



Besides, we confirm the validity of the hierarchy of verbal classifiers made on the basis of Chinese by considering the CLVs in some languages or dialects, such as English, Japanese and Kam (Dong).

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