A Cartography of Spatial Categories in Cantonese

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The goal of this presentation is to offer novel evidence regarding spatial Categories in Yue (Cantonese), and a unified account of these categories. We show that Yue/Cantonese features verb-like predicative elements or *jiècí* (e.g. *hai2* 'at') and nominal-like elements or *fāngwèicí* (e.g. *leoi5-min6* 'in-side'). Previous works have not documented their morpho-syntactic properties aside declarative sentences including simple *fāngwèicí* (Kwan 2005; Lam 2013; Pacioni 2018). We offer evidence involving structures for the diagnosis of spatial categories: declarative sentences including *ge3* constructions and coordinated *fāngwèicí* (cf. (1)–(2)), *jau5* constructions (cf. (3)), spatial question-answer pairs (cf. (4)), and ground NP ellipsis (cf. (5)):

(1) *Ji1jyun6   hai2   hok6hauu6   ge3   deoi3-min6.*
    Hospital   PREP   school   genitive   opposite-side
    'The hospital is on the opposite side of the school.'

(2) *Keoi5   hai2   gaan3fong4   cin4min6   tung4   hau6-min6 dou1 zung3   zo2   faa1.*
    She   PREP   QNF.house   front   CONJ   back-side   both   plant   PERF   flower
    'She planted flowers in the front and back of the house.'

(3) *(Hai2)   faa1jyun4 leoi6-min6 jau5   han2do1   faa1.*
    PREP   Garden   in-side   there.be   many   flower
    'There are many flowers in the garden.'

(4) *Nei5 hai6 bin1-dou6 dang2 ngo5 hai6   (gaan3uk1)   leoi5-min6.*
    You PREP where   wait   me   PREP   QNF.house   in-side
    'Q: Where are you waiting for me? A: Inside (the house).'

(5) *Gaan3fong4 cin4-min6 zung6zo2   hou3do1   faa1,   hau6-min6 zau6   mou5.*
    QNF.house   front   plant.PERF   many   flower   back-side   CONJ   no
    'There are many flowers in front of the house, but there are no flowers at the back.'

[PP[CIPji1jyun6][P' hai2P [PP[[CIP hok6hauu6k] ge3P][ClassP[NP deoi3]-min6]]]]

Building on these novel data, a theoretical account combining Lexical Syntax (Hale & Keyser 2002) with the Cartography of spatial categories in Sinitic languages (Wu 2015) is offered. We suggest that the basic structure in (6) (for the phrase in (1)) underpins the structure of the spatial phrases attested in (1)–(5). We treat *fāngwèicí* as "prepositional" variants of classifiers; *ge3*, *hai2*, and other *jiècí* as prepositions with flexible valence. Consequences for a cartographic theory of spatial categories beyond Sinitic languages are discussed.

Keywords: Cantonese; Spatial Categories; Lexical Syntax; Cartography: Sinitic Languages;

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