

The Center for Multilingual & Intercultural Communication

The MIC Distinguished Lecture Series

“Entity- vs. Event- Existentials: A New Classification”

Friday, March 15, 2019, 3:00pm – 4:00 pm

Place: SBS Building Room S147

There have been attempts to classify existential clauses (ECs) into different types since at least Milsark (1979). Some of them are structurally oriented, others more semantically based, and still others a mixture of different criteria. Some classifications are concerned with the whole construction as such while others are interested in a specific element within the construction (e.g., the existential verb). In this study we propose a distinction between entity- and event-existentials, with respect to the semantic features of the existent. Since most studies have been concerned with entity-existentials, our discussion will be focused on event-existentials, with some reference to the former when necessary. We will discuss the sub-classes within event-existentials and the co-relationship between this distinction and the two kinds of analyses of the coda in EC (i.e., NP analysis and small clause analysis); and their respective semantic features (i.e., definiteness effect and impersonality).



About the Speaker

WANG Yong received his PhD in functional linguistics from Sun Yat-sen University (Guangzhou, China). He is Professor of Linguistics at School of Foreign Languages, Central China Normal University (CCNU, Wuhan, China). His research interests include functional linguistics, linguistic typology, discourse analysis, and Chinese grammar. He has published more than 50 articles both internationally and within China in these areas in such journals as *Functions of Language*, *Word*, *Linguistics and the Human Sciences*, *Functional Linguistics*, *Foreign Language Teaching and Research*, *Contemporary Linguistics*, *Journal of Foreign Languages*, etc. He is the author of *A Functional Study of the Evaluative Enhanced Theme Construction in English* (Prentice Hall, 2008) and translator of *Modern Chinese Grammar: A Clause-Pivot Approach* (Routledge, 2017).

Yong is currently a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Stony Brook University (2018-2019).

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