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## Emergence of evaluation completive *hǎo* in Chinese

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Anqi Zhang & Weijia Chen

Nanjing University

anqizhang@nju.edu.cn, weijiachen@smail.nju.edu.cn

Completive markers can express speakers' attitudes in Japanese and Korean (Strauss 2002; Davis & Gutzmann, 2015). However, crosslinguistic variations and changes of these evaluative completives have not been extensively studied. This paper offers a diachronic study of V-*hao* 'good' in Chinese, a similar evaluative completive expressing a speaker's positive attitude. We propose that 好 *hǎo* 'good' started with its evaluative meaning as a subjective adjective, and later acquired aspectual semantics, suggesting variations in paths of multi-dimensional meanings for completives.

In Old Chinese, *hǎo* 'good' was a subjective adjective without a completive meaning. When used after VP, *hǎo* 'good' was either predicated of the object or the whole VP, expressing the speaker's evaluation. In Middle Chinese, *hǎo* 'good' started to gain a completive meaning, by appearing with nouns denoting results as and resultative DE constructions. Towards the end of Middle Chinese, V-*hǎo* constructions emerged. In pre-modern Chinese, V-*hǎo* gradually standardized replacing resultative DE constructions. Throughout, *hǎo* has always retained its original usage, creating an ambiguity observed above.

*Hǎo* 'good' originated as a subjective adjective (cf. Lasersohn, 2005) predicative of individuals or events in the Old Chinese. *Hǎo*'s completive semantics emerged as an entailment, when *hao* began to modify resultant states as in Middle Chinese. At this stage, the completive sense is an inference. In pre-Modern Chinese, when V-*hǎo* standardized, the completive meaning became truth-conditional, while the evaluative content became use-conditional. In Modern Chinese, *hǎo* 'good' can be purely completive without a resultant state.

Unlike regular pragmatization (Davis & Gutzmann 2015), the subjective content of *hǎo* 'good' existed before its aspectual semantics, which emerged as an entailment before replacing the subjective meaning as truth-conditional content. This suggests there are at least two origins for 2-dimensional completives: 'finish' verbs as in Japanese and subjective adjectives in Chinese. This exemplifies a different development order from other evaluative completives in Japanese and Korean. Our analysis suggests subjective lexical items as a potential source for multidimensional semantics.

**References.** Davis, C. & D. Gutzmann (2015). Use-conditional meaning and the semantics of pragmatization. In E. Csapak & H. Zeijlstra (eds), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 19*. Göttingen: University of Göttingen, 197-213. • Lasersohn, P. (2005). Context dependence, disagreement, and predicates of personal taste\*. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 28(6), 643–686. • Strauss, S. (2002). Distinctions in completives: The relevance of resistance in Korean.