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communication dans le cadre du Séminaire du CRLAO sur les
« **Recherches actuelles en typologie linguistique** »

présentée par

Shanshan Lü
CRLAO-EHESS

« **Basic Locative Constructions in Caijia – A Descriptive and
Typological Perspective** »

**le mercredi 16 avril 2014
de 16h à 18h**

**INALCO
Salle 131
2, rue de Lille
75007 Paris**

Résumé

Caijia 蔡家, language of Cai 蔡话, or [məŋ³³ni⁵⁵ŋoŋ⁵⁵], spoken by less than 1,000 Cai 蔡 people in northwestern Guizhou 贵州 Province (mainly in Hezhang 赫章 and Weining 威宁) of China, is a non-classified, under-described and critically endangered language.

This paper presents a case study aiming to establish the first description of basic locative constructions in Caijia. A basic locative construction (henceforth BLC) is used to answer the question ‘Where is X?’, in which X is a definite spatial entity (MPI Annual Report 1998). Using the framework of *motion events* of Talmy (2000) and the typology of locative predicates of Ameka and Levinson (2007), this paper aims to show how Caijia structures a relative spatial relation between two objects (*Figure* and *Ground* (Talmy 2000)).

Two main constructions that can answer ‘Where is X?’ are found in this language in which a spatial relation holds between V_{LOC} and the localizer:

- a. *Figure* (V_{manner}) V_{LOC} *Ground* + $Localizer$
- b. *Figure* V_{LOC} *Ground* + $Localizer$ (V_{manner})

Apart from the syntactic structures, I also study the constituents found in the BLCs in this paper, as illustrated in the table below.

Inventory of Constructive Elements in BLC in Caijia

Figure	(Vmanner)	VLOC	Ground	Localizer	(Vmanner)
-NP	-Vposture	VLOC	-NP	-localizers	-Vposture
	-Vplacement	-(stative)	-CL		-Vplacement
	-middle voice				- middle voice
	-(stative)				- durative

Finally, I study the semantic difference between BLCs and ordinary locative constructions in order to demonstrate that semantics gives rise to syntactic changes in the BLCs of Caijia.