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Department B: Scientific Department

Project No.: 230388

Project Acronym: SINOTYPE

**Project Full Title: “THE HYBRID SYNTACTIC TYPOLOGY
OF SINITIC LANGUAGES”**

ERC GRANT

Final Scientific Report

Start date of project: 1st January 2009

Principal Investigator’s name:

Hilary Margaret CHAPPELL

Host Institution’s name:

Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales

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Grant Final Scientific Report

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project No.: 230388

Project acronym: SINOTYPE

Project's full name: "The hybrid syntactic typology of Sinitic languages"

Period number: P3

Period covered - start date: 1st January 2009

Period covered - end date: 30th June 2013

Project start date: 1st January 2009

Project duration [months]: 54 months

Principal Investigator's name: Hilary Margaret CHAPPELL

Host Institution name: Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales

1. SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE ENTIRE LIFETIME OF THE PROJECT

The information provided in this section will only be available to ERC staff, to members of the ERC panels, and to the Scientific Council

Briefly describe the work performed during the entire lifetime of the project, and in particular towards the objectives foreseen for the final reporting period.

(i) ENTIRE PERIOD OF THE ERC SINOTYPE PROJECT, 2009--2013:

The ERC SINOTYPE project began in January 2009 and at its peak was composed of seven team members, namely, one professor (the PI), five postdoctoral fellows and one doctoral student. Each of us chose an unknown Sinitic language on which to carry out intensive fieldwork and linguistic analysis during the 4 ½ years of the project. The team members and their languages were:

THE HYBRID SYNTACTIC TYPOLOGY OF SINITIC LANGUAGES: TEAM MEMBERS

Principal Investigator (PI):

1. Hilary CHAPPELL (PhD, Australian National University, Chair Professor at the EHESS, Paris);
Xianghua, unclassified Sinitic language of Hunan province

Postdoctoral Fellows:

2. Weirong CHEN 陈伟蓉 (PhD, University of Hong Kong)
Hui'an Southern Min, Fujian
3. Yujie CHEN 陈玉洁 (PhD, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing)
Shangshui dialect, Central Plains Mandarin, Henan
4. Hilario DE SOUSA (PhD, Sydney University)
Nanning Pinghua, Guangxi
5. XuPing LI 李旭平 (PhD, Bar Ilan University, Tel Aviv)
Gan dialect of Yichun, Jiangxi
6. WANG Jian 王健 (PhD, Peking University)
Hui dialect of Jixi, Anhui

Doctoral student

7. Sing Sing NGAI 倪星星 (MPhil, Cambridge University)
Western Min dialect of Shaowu, Fujian

By dint of carrying out protracted periods of linguistic data collection and elicitation in the field, the main objective for each team member was to undertake a comprehensive analysis of a little-known Sinitic language that would result in the ultimate outcome of a detailed, descriptive reference grammar, written from a functional, typological perspective.

During the entire period of the project, over thirty field trips were made to China to carry out intensive investigations *in situ* of the languages targeted for description. Based on 4 ½ years

of analysis of linguistic data, the final drafts of the grammars are currently being revised for publication in a new series, entitled *Studies in the Grammar and Typology of the Sinitic Languages of China* which has been created by De Gruyter Mouton Inc. in Berlin and Boston. The PI will be the series editor in this exciting new publishing venture that has arisen out of a cutting-edge project funded by the ERC. This series of grammars will represent the main outcome of the ERC SINOTYPE project. Note that three volumes are to be camera-ready by the end of 2013 and the remaining four by the end of 2014.

Moreover, following upon a blind reviewing process, a 280-page manuscript has been accepted in August 2013 by Oxford University Press. This volume, edited by the PI is to be entitled *Diversity in Sinitic languages*, and contains chapters by all the team members based on their project research (see Appendix 6). Its publication will represent an *additional* outcome not foreseen in the original proposal.

In terms of a further set of project outcomes, the project has seen in total four books either published or in press, 16 articles in refereed international journals, 21 book chapters and 4 papers in conference proceedings. Eighty (80) conference presentations were made at international conferences around the world by team members, all concerning research results that arose from this ERC project.

There were no scientific areas announced in the initial proposal that were not covered in the four and a half years of the ERC SINOTYPE project.

(ii) **FINAL REPORTING PERIOD, P3:**

The Final Reporting Period, P3, covers the period from 1st January 2012 to 30 June 2013. In this final year and a half of the ERC SINOTYPE project, we adhered faithfully to the initial work plan by investigating complex sentences and clause-combining. These are the constructions which employ adverbial subordinators, or conjunctions, to join two or more clauses together, such as the Sinitic equivalents of *when*, *before*, *although* and *because* and included conditional and counterfactual constructions as well.

COMPLEX SENTENCES AND CLAUSE-COMBINING

1. Conjunctions, coordination and subordination
2. Temporal subordination
3. Sequential and simultaneous events
4. Causal and consequence constructions
5. Conditional and counterfactual constructions
6. Concessive constructions
7. Other types of complementation

In general, the dependent clause precedes the main clause in Sinitic languages, in accordance with Greenberg's universal 14. However, interestingly, there is a dichotomy of subordinators between those which occur clause-initially and those, clause-finally. The clause-final type generally belongs to the class of temporal subordinators, and like the sentence-final question particles do not typically align with VO languages. The lexical source and grammaticalization pathways involved were investigated as a potential means of explanation.

We found in general that complex sentences in Sinitic languages often involve zero marking or simple juxtaposition in preference to the use of conjunctions while the clause-final temporal subordinators typically have arisen from clause nominalization by means of a time word.

The third period of the project proved to be crucial for laying the basis for the final writing up of the reference grammars for publication. As just mentioned above, the PI and the EHESS signed a contract on 20 January 2013 with the publishing firm, De Gruyter Mouton

Inc., to create a new series of grammars on the lesser-known Sinitic languages. The logo of the ERC and full acknowledgement of the ERC's financial support will be given in the front matter of each volume, as stated in Clause 22 on page 4 of the contract (Please see Appendix 3 for an electronic version of this contract).

In sum, the seven team members undertook a total of 15 field trips to China in 2012 and 2013 in order to complete data collection on complex sentences and, importantly, to carry out verification work for their entire grammatical analysis. They also took part in a large number of international conferences to disseminate their ERC research findings, presenting over 30 different papers during the P3 financial period, including four plenaries. The same period has also seen the publication – or acceptance for publication – of 32 articles and book chapters, as well as three books, including one edited volume based entirely on the SINOTYPE project, and two monographs, associated with the project (Please consult the list of publications given in Appendix 7).

This final period also saw the conclusion to the project in the form of an international symposium where each team member presented a typological profile of their language, based on the four years of research for the SINOTYPE project, including fieldwork and analysis. The symposium was graced by the presence of two members of the ERC Evaluation Panels who acted as discussants: Professor Milena ZIC-FUCHS and Professor Csaba PLÉH (see Appendix 5).

Please specify the outcome in terms of:

2. RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS, THEIR IMPACT AND USE

The project “The hybrid syntactic typology of Sinitic languages” had for its principal objective to investigate in detail the fundamental syntactic properties and word order correlations for seven Sinitic (or Chinese) languages which have not been previously researched. In particular, we strove to find explanations for the apparent disharmonies in word order correlations, such as for relative clauses and comparative constructions. The experience of the SINOTYPE team is that the diversity present in the Sinitic taxon goes beyond and is, in fact, far more stunning than the examination of problems in basic word order correlations à la Greenberg, important as the latter may be.

The details are provided below for some of our major findings.

As mentioned above in the summary, during the entire period of the project, over **thirty (30) field trips** were made to China to carry out intensive investigations *in situ* of the languages targeted for description (see Project Output Records for details). The fact that our research is based on a purely empirical approach of collecting data on-site in China from native speakers of the languages chosen for the project is certainly a striking, key feature of the SINOTYPE project, a research principle which we adhered to strictly throughout the 4 ½ years.

In terms of the **forty-five (45) publications** associated with the project, four (4) books have been published during the period of the project (and more since!), 16 articles have appeared in refereed international journals, as too 21 book chapters and 4 papers in conference proceedings.

Eighty (80) conference presentations were made at international conferences around the world by team members, all concerning research results that arose from this ERC project (see Appendix 1). As these included **seven (7) plenary and thirteen (13) invited lectures**, the impact of the SINOTYPE project on the international linguistics community is certain to become more and more evident as our research presentations become published in the form of articles and book chapters – the foretaste of the final publication of our seven reference

grammars in the new De Gruyter Mouton Inc. series, *Studies in the Grammar and Typology of the Sinitic Languages of China* (please see Appendix 3 for a copy of this contract).

In line with the research program for the Sinotype project, the seven team members have already undertaken on an average of **five fieldwork trips each** to China for a total of between **ten months' to one year's duration** over the past 4 1/2 years. Each team member has already written up a large proportion of the analysis and interpretation of the data collected in China for Part I (Nominal Structure), Part II (Predicate Structure) and Part III (Clausal Structure) of their individual grammars and are finalizing Part IV on Complex Sentences and Clause Combining.

During the four and a half years of the SINOTYPE project, a total of **124 two-hour research seminars** were presented by team members and also by specialists in Chinese dialectology and typology who were invited to work on this ERC project (please see Appendix 2 for a full list of these seminars conducted at the EHESS, Paris). Five professors were invited to work on the SINOTYPE project for periods of one month or longer, as displayed in the table below:

SCHOLAR	AFFILIATION		DATE OF VISIT
1. Professor Yunji WU	University of Melbourne, Australia	Collaborator with the PI on the Xianghua language; specialist in dialects of Hunan	January - February 2009
2. Professor LIU Danqing	Linguistics Institute, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China	Typologist and specialist in Wu dialects of China	February 2011
3. Professor LI Rulong	Xiamen University, Fujian province, China	Specialist in Min and Hakka dialects of China	September 2011
4. Professor Yunji WU	University of Melbourne, Australia	Collaborator with the PI on the Xianghua language; specialist in dialects of Hunan	September 2011
5. Professor William CROFT	University of New Mexico at Albuquerque, USA	Typologist	May-June 2012
6. Professor LI Lan	Linguistics Institute, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China	Typologist and specialist in Hmong and Southern Sinitic	May-August 2012

The major research outcome of this ERC Advanced Grant project is the finding of a much higher degree of variation amongst Sinitic languages than initially hypothesized, namely, that the generally-accepted view challenged by the SINOTYPE project – concerning a strong typological distinction between Northern and Southern Sinitic languages – is somewhat oversimplified. On the basis of our empirical research, we propose that there are at least five micro-areas within China for the Sinitic languages that are determined by syntactic and morphological patterning and include important grammaticalization zones (H. CHAPPELL):

1. Northern
2. Central
3. Southeastern
4. Southwestern
5. Far Southern

For example, the commonly-accepted view that the **classifier inventory** increases dramatically as one moves from North to South cannot be fully upheld on the basis of our analyses of

nominal structure. Yichun Gan, a central Sinitic language, and even certain non-standard Mandarin dialects such as Shangshui Central Plains Mandarin have smaller inventories of classifiers than standard Northern Mandarin (XuPing LI; Yujie CHEN). Hence, there are other factors at play here than mere geography (*Note*: Classifiers are words that must be used when counting a noun, similar to English ‘a swarm of bees’ or ‘a handful of nuts’ but having the structure *Numeral-Classifier-Noun*).

Other findings are:

- The default or general classifiers vary quite widely from language to language
- The semantic extension that occurs with the use of **bare classifier phrases**, that is, *CL + Noun*, to indefinite or definite markers is uneven across Sinitic and is conditioned by preverbal or postverbal position of the CL-NOUN constituent, among other factors (Yichun, Hui, Nanning Pinghua). Some dialects only use the postverbal position such as Pinghua, Xianghua and standard Mandarin. However, in Pinghua, CL+N can code either definiteness or indefiniteness (H. DE SOUSA) while in Mandarin and Xianghua it codes indefiniteness. Other dialects are able to use both positions such as Hui and Yue dialects, while yet others, such as the Min group cannot use this structure at all. WANG Jian has set up a typology of seven types for this structure in Sinitic languages which have led him to propose three implicational universals regarding pre- and postverbal position and [+/-] definiteness (WANG Jian, 2013, forthcoming).

In certain Jixi dialects, the definite use has clearly arisen from omission of a demonstrative, which can be detected by the tone sandhi patterning (WANG Jian). This may also prove to be the case for other Sinitic languages using the CL+N pattern in subject position, without any numeral or demonstrative.

- Lexical sources for singular **pronouns** and their plural suffixes vary more widely than previously believed: Typically, first and second person pronouns are cognate across Sinitic and it is rather 3rd person pronouns which show more diversity in their sources. In Shaowu, a quite aberrant western Min dialect, the singular forms remain temporarily a mystery, as far as their provenance is concerned: xaŋ³⁵ ‘1SG’, xien³⁵ ‘2SG’, xu³⁵ ‘3SG’ (S. NGAI) and so too for certain pronouns in Xianghua which uses ze³³ ‘3SG’ and zaŋ⁴¹ xaŋ ‘3PL’ (H. CHAPPELL). A restricted group of dialects also has emphatic forms including Hui (J. WANG) and Yichun Gan (X.P. LI), while Nanning Pinghua unexpectedly turns up an inclusive 1PL form, uncommon in Southern Sinitic (H. DE SOUSA).
- A typological study of Sinitic languages by Yujie CHEN shows that while two-way **systems for demonstratives** are very common in Sinitic languages, there are also one-way, three-way, four-way, even five-way systems, based on the scale of distance and visibility. For example, Nanning Pinghua has a basic two-term system with the use of /kə⁵⁵/ ‘this’ and ‘that’ /ɲi²²/. However, the distal demonstrative is rare in use, showing a tendency towards conflation into a one-term system. Yichun Gan has a three-term system in which one is distal, /len⁴⁴/, one is proximal, /li⁴²/, and the other is distance-neutral, /ko³⁴/ (X.P. LI). Xianghua has a three-term system based on a proximal and distal contrast, but making a finer division for the distal demonstrative – ‘that over there’ versus ‘that far away’ for objects at quite some distance from the speaker.
- Both classifiers and demonstratives may double up as **relative clause markers**, similar to the use of ‘that’ in English ‘the diplomatic gaffe **that** brought down the government’. One of our interesting findings is the widespread use of postposed relative clauses, for example, in Shangshui Mandarin (Y. CHEN) and in Hui’an Southern Min (W. CHEN), whereas in standard Mandarin relative clauses are preposed to the head noun. This non-standard Mandarin dialect (as well as other languages being analysed as part of our project) thus shows a word order alignment that is head-initial and in harmony with

SVO order, thereby resolving at this level one of the conundrums of the hybrid syntactic typology of Sinitic languages.

- **Diminutives** are typically coded by suffixes. Furthermore, in both Yichun Gan and Shangshui Mandarin, not only do nouns undergo diminutive derivation but also, quite unusually, classifiers. This produces the meaning of approximation in Gan (X.P. LI). Tone sandhi may also signify the diminutive meaning as, for example, in Jixi Hui (WANG Jian).
- **Gender affixes** for animal terms reputedly show a North-South division for Sinitic languages: prefixes in the North and suffixes in the South. Once again, the SINOTYPE team found that the situation is more complicated. For example, Pinghua has gender prefixes yet is a Far Southern Sinitic language (H. DE SOUSA). Xianghua, located in central China has both prefixes and suffixes (H. CHAPPELL).
- Counterexamples exist where the claimed Northern feature is possessed by a purportedly Southern Chinese language. A case in point is the **basic ditransitive order** in Southern Min which is IO-DO and not DO-IO as might be supposed (CHAPPELL & PEYRAUBE 2007, W. CHEN). The same ordering is found even further south in Nanning Pinghua of the Guangxi Autonomous Region (see DE SOUSA). The SINOTYPE team also identified a large number of languages spoken in the central and southeastern areas of China that do not possess a verb of giving, as predicted by ZHANG Min (2011). Instead, they coerce TAKE verbs into this function in conjunction with a third recipient argument NP and, in some cases, with a locative or benefactive prepositional phrase as well, as in Yichun Gan, Shangshui Mandarin, Xianghua, Caijia and Shaowu Min (X.P. LI, H. CHAPPELL, S.NGAI).
- **Comparative constructions of inequality** in Sinitic languages fall into seven main structural types. Unlike the object-marking or disposal construction, most dialects will have at least two colloquial strategies for coding the comparative meaning. In the Northern area which is largely Mandarin territory, we find Type I, the prepositional Compare comparative, *She compared to me is tall*, co-existing with Type IV, the zero-marked comparative *She tall me*. Type II, the transitive Surpass comparative, *I tall surpass you*, is widely used across the Far Southern area and the Southwest where Yue, Hakka, Pinghua and Southwestern Mandarin are spoken. It is used alongside the Type IV zero-marked comparative.

Although it has been generally held that there are two main types of comparative which divide China into the North versus the Centre and the South (Type I and Type II), notwithstanding this, an area of high variation has been identified by the SINOTYPE project which spreads from the Central-eastern to the Southeastern area where the Topic comparative (Type VI) is found in certain Wu dialects of Zhejiang province; the Adverbial Comparative (Type III) proves to be an identifying feature of Min dialects and the Hybrid Comparative (Type V) is widespread in the Min and Hakka dialects. Type VII, a polarity comparative, has been newly identified in Xianghua (H. CHAPPELL). Certain Southern Min dialects, such as Hui'an, may possess up to six different types of comparative construction (W. CHEN).

Type II is harmonic with SVO word order while Type I is not. Diachronically viewed, the Compare comparative (Type I) is a late development which has diffused rapidly throughout Sinitic languages as a borrowed form. It has developed from a serial verb construction, a common grammatical pattern in Sinitic and other Asian languages. An historical explanation may therefore help to explain this word order disharmony.

- According to M. HASHIMOTO (1976, 1986), the North-South linguistic division for China is apparent in the use of a verb of giving as the *source* for a **marker of the agent NP in the passive construction** in the South, versus a causative verb in the North. In contrast to this, the SINOTYPE team distinguished five micro-areas, classified according to the source of the marker: a clear Northern area which mainly uses causative verbs, and the SUFFER verb, BEI, as in the standard language; the two micro-areas of Southwestern SUFFER/CONTACT verbs and Southeastern GIVE verbs, in addition to a further two central areas that are quite mixed in their use of agent markers.

The Southeastern area for GIVE verbs is in fact adjacent to these two mixed areas in central China, for example, eastern Hunan and Jiangxi provinces where ambiguous GIVE and TAKE verbs act as the source for agent markers and object (or disposal) markers simultaneously, as well as causative verbs derived from WAIT, found principally in the Gan dialects of northern Jiangxi and also in Xianghua (H. CHAPPELL, X.P. LI). The source of an agent marker in GIVE verbs is highly unusual typologically (H. CHAPPELL).

- The SINOTYPE team examined and described the crosslinguistic variation found in **object-marking (or ‘disposal’) constructions** in Sinitic languages for the sources of prepositional markers that introduce a direct object noun in preverbal position. In terms of grammaticalization pathways, verbs of holding and taking such as *bǎ* 把 and *ná* 拿, which are well-described for Mandarin, do not, however, turn out to be the sole source of object markers in Chinese languages (H. CHAPPELL). A second important source is found in comitative prepositions in Min, Wu and some Jianghuai Mandarin dialects and also in Xianghua (H. CHAPPELL), while another new lexical source is found in a third type based on verbs of giving and helping in central China (S. NGAI, X.P. LI, WANG Jian). In the very far Southern region of China, this type of construction is dispreferred and serial verb constructions with TAKE verbs are used in its stead (H. DE SOUSA). Many languages make use of several markers for this construction type.

3. NOVEL AND/OR UNCONVENTIONAL METHODOLOGIES

The SINOTYPE team applied a combination of approaches simultaneously to the analysis of their linguistic data: For the first time in the domain of Chinese linguistics, we used a consistently typological perspective to investigate each language. Instead of describing the grammar of the language in a purely static manner without reference to other languages, each team member considered the agreed set of topics concerning grammar and morphology from the point of view of language universals and whether or not similar phenomena, paradigms or systems have been identified in other language families of the world. This provided a refreshing new angle from which to tackle the analyses in conjunction with the description of grammaticalization pathways and diachronic change. This approach has rarely been applied to the grammatical description of Sinitic languages. In this sense, it is pathbreaking in the domain of Chinese linguistics.

The SINOTYPE team also considered their data in terms of a blend of perspectives: areal linguistics, language contact and interdialectal contact. We explored the possibility of establishing micro-areas based on the patterning of each language in our sample with respect to a range of morphosyntactic phenomena. For example, H. DE SOUSA considered the complex interrelationship between Northern Zhuang (Tai-Kadai), Pinghua (Sinitic) and Yue dialects (Sinitic) from historical, demographic and areal points of view, while WANG Jian weighed up the evidence concerning the Hui dialects with neighbouring Wu dialects and Jianghuai Mandarin, concluding that the Hui dialect of Jixi is not Hui after all, but essentially

belongs to the Wu dialect group. S. NGAI similarly concluded that the Shaowu dialect of Min is heavily influenced by many linguistic features of the neighbouring Gan dialects.

4. INTER- AND CROSS-DISCIPLINARY DEVELOPMENTS

Although this was not the main thrust of the SINOTYPE project, some of the team members were inspired to explore collateral, anthropological topics associated with their fieldwork (see publications by DE SOUSA, in particular, on Pinghua love songs). The team members deliberately set out to collect a wide range of different genres of discourse for their recording work during field trips, including narratives, discussions of local customs, two- or three-party conversations, songs, local forms of poetry, fables, nursery rhymes and word games. This type of data is of course highly conducive to research on anthropology and sociology.

Other team members considered topics in phonology and tone sandhi systems (WANG Jian) or on the linguistic evolution of numeral systems (see conference presentations by NGAI).

5. KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

During the entire period of the ERC SINOTYPE project, over 124 two-hour seminar presentations were delivered by team members and specialists invited to work on the project at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. The seminars – which all concerned the principal topics of the SINOTYPE project – were made open to all interested parties and saw the participation of a large number of doctoral students and colleagues from the PI's own research centre, the CRLAO, but also those from the *Centre National de Recherche Scientifique* (CNRS), from the *Institut des Langues et Civilisations Orientales* (INALCO) and from other universities in Paris who similarly work on topics in Chinese and general linguistics. As knowledge of the SINOTYPE project spread, some students also made weekly trips from outside Paris to take part in the seminars, and one in particular decided to take up doctoral studies with the PI on another, little-known Sinitic language – Caijia, spoken in Guizhou province of China which enabled her to benefit from the research experience of senior team members as well..

As mentioned above, eighty conference presentations were also given by team members at international conferences during the period of the the Sinotype project.

6. ENHANCING THE IMMEDIATE RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

The seminar series mentioned in the section just above were held on a weekly basis over four years with breaks only for field trips to China and during the non-teaching periods. The seminars concerned the main topics of the ERC SINOTYPE project and, given the participation by local researchers, Masters and doctoral students, can justifiably be considered to have made a contribution to the immediate research environment in Paris. The topics were as follows:

2009-2010: Nominal structure in Sinitic languages

2010-2011: Predicate structure in Sinitic languages

2011-2012: Clause structure in Sinitic languages

2012-2013: Complex sentences in Sinitic languages

Moreover, the whole community of linguists in Paris benefited from the seminars presented by five invited professors during the 4 ½ year period of the project who spent a month or more working on the project, as well as over a dozen short-term visiting professors, all specialists in either typology or Chinese linguistics (please see Appendix 2: *List of research seminars*).

The library of the ERC SINOTYPE project was made available to local doctoral and Masters students for their use on-site.

In addition to these benefits, four conferences and workshops were organized by members of the team, some jointly with colleagues from the CNRS, including:

- 2–4 July, 2009 17th *Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-17)*. Paris, France. (Hilary CHAPPELL, Redouane DJAMOURI and Sing Sing NGAI)
- May 26–27, 2011 Workshop on “Ecology, Population Movements, and Language Diversity.” Collegium de Lyon, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Lettres et Sciences Humaines, co-organised with the CNRS linguistics laboratory, “Dynamique du langage”, during the *4th International conference of AFLICO (Association française de la linguistique cognitive)* (Salikoko MUFWENE, François PELLEGRINO, Hilary CHAPPELL)
- 30 June–1 July 2011 *Les 24èmes Journées de Linguistique de l’Asie Orientale*. CRLAO, CNRS-EHESS, Paris. (Hilario DE SOUSA, Guillaume JACQUES)
- 26th June 2013 *Final Symposium for the ERC “Sinotype” project “The Hybrid Syntactic Typology of Sinitic Languages”*, École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris. (Hilario DE SOUSA, Sing Sing NGAI and Hilary CHAPPELL)

These events were important for stimulating interest in the areas of research carried out by the Sinotype project.

7. ESTABLISHMENT AND/OR CONSOLIDATION OF THE RESEARCH GROUP AND TEAM COMPOSITION

One of the major very positive achievements of the ERC SINOTYPE project has in fact been the establishment of a new research team on the typology of Sinitic languages and Chinese linguistics, by whose very nature very many ‘value-added’ characteristics have arisen due to working in close co-operation during the 4½ years of the project, witnessing the establishment of strong team solidarity and a very high degree of reciprocity and enthusiasm in assisting each other with research questions and issues. It is true to say that we achieved a remarkable *esprit de corps* during this period and one which will undoubtedly endure well beyond the limits of the project itself.

In line with the project description and goals, this international team of seven researchers, was first established in 2009 in order to carry out the ERC SINOTYPE project. One member completed his PhD during the project, his doctorate being awarded on 17 June, 2011: this is Dr XuPing LI, while another member joined the team in late 2011, Dr Weirong CHEN, after completing her PhD thesis at the University of Hong Kong. The individual team members and the name of the Sinitic language for which they are currently writing up a grammatical description are recapitulated below:

1. Hilary CHAPPELL (Principal Investigator)
A grammar of Xianghua, an unclassified Sinitic language of Northwest Hunan

Postdoctoral Fellows

2. Dr WANG Jian
A grammar of the Shangzhuang language of Jixi Hui (Anhui province, China)

3. Dr Hilário de SOUSA
A grammar of the Nanning Southern Pinghua (Guangxi province, China)
4. Dr Yujie CHEN
A grammar of the Shangshui language of Central Plains Mandarin (Henan province, China)
5. Dr Xuping LI
A grammar of the Yichun language of Gan Chinese (Jiangxi province, China)
6. Dr Weirong CHEN
A grammar of the Hui'an language of Southern Min (Fujian province, China)

Doctoral Student

7. Ms. Sing Sing NGAI
A grammar of the Shaowu language of Northwestern Min (Fujian province, China)

Several features that are worthy of comment are listed below:

- The collaboration between the PI and her team members has continued post-ERC Project, for working on the Sinitic grammars series with De Gruyter Mouton
- The PI was appointed as a ‘High-end foreign expert’ (高端外国专家) (National award of the Ministry of Education in China) to work as invited professor at Shanghai Jiao Tong University for a period of one month per year during the three year period, 2015-2017. She collaborated with her former team member, Prof. WANG Jian.
- Two of the team members have serendipitously been appointed to the same university in Hangzhou – the University of Zhejiang, one of China’s key universities.
- The PI has an ongoing joint project with one of the team members on the typology of interrogative pronouns in Sinitic languages, and will certainly continue to propose joint research work with several other of the team members.

8. EMPLOYMENT POST- SINOTYPE

All the Postdoctoral Fellows, except for one, have been able to find new positions in their home country:

Hilario DE SOUSA: Postdoctoral Researcher in Olfactory Language and Cognition, Department of Communication & Information Studies, Radboud University, THE NETHERLANDS

Yujie CHEN: Professor at Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, CHINA and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities

XuPing LI: Lecturer in the Department of Chinese and Research Fellow at the Center for the Study of Language and Cognition, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, CHINA

WANG Jian: Full Professor in the Faculty of Humanities, Changshu Technological University, Jiangsu province (常熟理工学院人文学院教授), China and Adjunct Professor at Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Weirong CHEN: Lecturer, School of Chinese Language and Literature, The University of International Business and Economics

9. PUBLISHABLE BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

The summary should be a stand-alone description of the project and its outcomes. This text should be as concise as possible and suitable for dissemination to non specialist audiences.

- *Note: This summary presents a resumé of much of the preceding information.*

The project “The hybrid syntactic typology of Sinitic languages” had for its principal objective to investigate in detail the fundamental syntactic properties and word order correlations for seven Sinitic (or Chinese) languages which have not been previously researched. In particular, the team of seven linguists was able to propose diachronic motivations for the apparent disharmonies in word order correlations, such as for relative clauses, comparative constructions and several other parameters. The experience of the SINOTYPE team is that the diversity present in the Sinitic taxon goes beyond and is, in fact, far more stunning than the examination of problems in basic word order correlations à la Greenberg, important as the latter may be.

Each team member was able to carry out protracted periods of fieldwork and data collection to lay the empirical basis for a comprehensive analysis of the given language that will result in the final outcome of writing a detailed, descriptive reference grammar in a clearly functional, typological perspective.

The SINOTYPE team considered their data in terms of a blend of approaches: areal linguistics, language contact and interdialectal contact. The North-South hypothesis made by M. HASHIMOTO was challenged in the exploration of the possibility of establishing micro-areas based on grammatical patterns for Sinitic languages, including those in the SINOTYPE sample. Consequently, five micro-areas have been proposed on the basis of their empirical research and analysis: Northern, Central, Southwestern, Far Southern and Southeastern.

In fact, during the entire period of the project, over thirty field trips were made to China to carry out intensive investigations *in situ* of the languages targeted for description. Based on 4 ½ years of analysis of linguistic data, the final drafts of the grammars are currently being revised for publication in a new series entitled *Sinitic Languages of China: Typological descriptions* which has been created by De Gruyter Mouton Inc. in Boston/Berlin. The Principal Investigator, Hilary CHAPPELL, is the series editor in this exciting new publishing venture that has arisen out of a cutting-edge project funded by the ERC. This series will thus represent the main outcome of the SINOTYPE project, above and beyond the 44 publications described below.

In addition to these outcomes, Oxford University Press published a volume in 2015 edited by the Principal Investigator, Hilary CHAPPELL, entitled *Diversity in Sinitic languages*, which contains chapters by all the team members based on theoretical problems which intrigued them during their project research.

In terms of a further set of project outcomes, the project has seen four books either published or in press, 16 articles in refereed international journals, 21 book chapters and 4 papers in conference proceedings. **Eighty (80) conference presentations** were made at international conferences around the world by team members, all reporting on research results that arose from this ERC project. These included 20 plenary and invited lectures and so have had great impact in the domain of Chinese linguistics and typology. Four conferences and workshops in the domain of Chinese linguistics were also organized by members of the team with colleagues from the CNRS.

Since most of the linguistic literature on Chinese concerns the standard language, Mandarin, the knowledge that is steadily being made available on Sinitic languages by the SINOTYPE team to the wider linguistics community will be certain to change immeasurably, if not irrevocably, the profile of what is known about this vast language group in the years to come.

10. OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT

The information provided in this section will only be available to ERC staff, to members of the ERC panels, and to the Scientific Council

<p>To what extent have you achieved your objectives?</p>	<p><i>Resoundingly:</i> The project has gone way beyond its initial objectives to produce in-depth descriptions from a novel perspective of seven little-known Sinitic languages which include analyses of intriguing theoretical problems of much current interest in the domain of linguistics.</p>
<p>What are the most important conclusions of your research?</p>	<p>Sinitic languages (also known as Chinese dialects) are far more diverse in their architecture than previously believed. Only through intensive periods of fieldwork and analysis, which the ERC grant made possible over the 4 ½ years of the project, has a situation of great linguistic variation come to light for the first time.</p>
<p>To what extent have you gone beyond the state of the art?</p>	<p>As outlined in section 2 above, many new discoveries have been made about morphological and syntactic features of Sinitic languages that heretofore were not considered as plausible from a typological point of view. We have also applied a blend of new methodological approaches in the analysis of our linguistic data (see section 3 above) and established a set of new linguistic micro-areas which go beyond a simple North-South division for China.</p>
<p>What is the impact of the project (within the scientific community and on society)?</p>	<p>The project has furnished first-hand information on a language taxon that is very under-researched in linguistics – the Sinitic branch of the large Sino-Tibetan language family. Of the hundreds of languages belonging to Sinitic, only Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese can be said to have detailed descriptions available. As this information trickles down to the larger linguistics community over the coming years with the publication of our seven grammars in the new series created for SINOTYPE by the prestigious publishing house, De Gruyter</p>

	Mouton Inc., it will inform the larger picture for the world's languages with important data and analyses that have been lacking up until now.
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LIST OF FREE KEYWORDS

Typology, grammaticalization, grammar, morphology, Sinitic languages, Chinese dialects, areal linguistics, language contact,

Non-standard Mandarin dialects, Hui dialects, Yue dialects, Min dialects, Pinghua dialects, Gan dialects, Xianghua