

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
SYNCHRONIC AND DIACHRONIC PERSPECTIVES ON THE GRAMMAR
OF SINITIC LANGUAGES
The University of Melbourne
July 15th - 17th, 1996

A three-day symposium will be held at the University of Melbourne from July 15-17 1996 on the topic of "Synchronic and diachronic perspectives on the grammar of Sinitic Languages". Through generous funding from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, approximately 16-20 eminent scholars in the fields of Sinitic grammar and Chinese dialectology from Australia, China, France, Japan, Taiwan and the USA have been invited to present papers at this symposium, jointly hosted by the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University. The symposium will bring together for the first time linguists who research Sinitic languages such as Wu (e.g. Shanghaiese), Yue (e.g. Cantonese), Xiang, Gan, Min (e.g. Hokkien) and non-standard Mandarin dialects from either perspective of synchronic or diachronic variation. Our intention is to stimulate further in-depth grammatical research in an area which linguists have only begun to explore in recent times.

Organization of symposium: All symposium papers will be pre-circulated in a draft proceedings volume to enable fuller discussion during the symposium. The symposium will consist exclusively of plenary sessions with two main workshop-style discussion periods each day.

Official symposium languages: English and Mandarin are the two official symposium languages. Approximately one quarter of the papers will be delivered in Mandarin and

the rest in English. The language will be clearly indicated on the final symposium program.

Targetted audience: the symposium is open to all interested. the scope ranges over the fields of Chinese dialectology, Chinese descriptive linguistics and language universals and typology. The specific topics are, however, limited to the areas of grammar and morphology. The symposium may be of potential interest to Chinese language teachers involved in contrastive linguistic research on Chinese dialect grammar versus standard Mandarin grammar as well as to linguists in general.

Pre-registration deadline: March 15, 1996

For further information, including requests to obtain registration forms, contact the symposium organizers.

Contact:	Dr. H. M. Chappell	or:	Dr. Yunji Wu
	Symposium director		Symposium Co-organizer
	School of Linguistics		Department of Japanese and Chinese
	La Trobe University		The University of Melbourne
	Bundoora 3083 VIC		Parkville VIC 3052 VIC
	AUSTRALIA		AUSTRALIA
e-mail:	linhc@lurc.latrobe.edu.au	e-mail:	wu_yunji@muwayf.unimelb.edu.au
fax:	[61-3] 9479 1520	fax:	[61-3]9344 4543