The Morphology of Chinese

This innovative study dispels the common belief that Chinese ‘doesn’t have words’ but instead ‘has characters’. Jerome Packard’s book provides a comprehensive discussion of the linguistic and cognitive nature of Chinese words. It shows that Chinese, far from being ‘morphologically impoverished’, has a different morphological system because it selects different ‘settings’ on parameters shared by all languages. The analysis of Chinese word formation therefore enhances our understanding of word universals. Packard describes the intimate relationship between words and their components, including how the identities of Chinese morphemes are word-driven, and offers new insights into the evolution of morphemes based on Chinese data. Models are offered for how Chinese words are stored in the mental lexicon and processed in natural speech, showing that much of what native speakers know about words occurs innately in the form of a hard-wired, specifically linguistic ‘program’ in the brain.

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构词法

The Morphology of Chinese
A Linguistic and Cognitive Approach

JEROME L. PACKARD
Dedicated to the memory of
Nicholas C. Bodman, Jim McCawley and Ron Walton
All past experience has taught that . . . we must be prepared for new facts, of an entirely different character from those of our former experience . . . that in reality new orders of experience do exist, and that we may expect to meet them continually.

PERCY BRIDGMAN (1927)

Is it really any wonder that the price of significant scientific advance is a commitment that runs the risk of being wrong?

THOMAS KUHN (1962)

For what it's worth, it was worth all the while.

BILLIE JOE ARMSTRONG (1997)
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Chinese speech production and the lexicon

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