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A Reference Grammar of Chinese

A Reference Grammar of Chinese is a comprehensive and up-to-date guide to the linguistic structure of Chinese, covering all of the important linguistic features of the language and incorporating insights gained from research in Chinese linguistics over the past thirty years. With contributions from twenty-two leading Chinese linguists, this authoritative guide uses large-scale corpora to provide authentic examples based on actual language use. The accompanying online example databases ensure that a wide range of exemplars are readily available and also allows for new usages to be updated. This design offers a new paradigm for a reference grammar where generalizations can be cross-checked with additional examples, and also provides resources for both linguistic studies and language learning. Featuring bilingual term lists, this reference grammar helps readers to access relevant literature in both English and Chinese and is an invaluable reference for learners, teachers, and researchers in Chinese linguistics and language processing.

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A Reference Grammar of Chinese
中文参考语法

Edited by

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Dedicated to 献给

Y.R. Chao 赵元任　　*Zhu Dexi* 朱德熙

Giants Whose Shoulders We Stand On
高山仰止 景行行止

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Preface

A reference grammar is a snapshot of language in action as well as a comprehensive description of how language is used. In addition, a reference grammar attempts to describe the range of possibilities of how words and other larger linguistic units may be put together in the language, and how they can present different meanings in different contexts. Moreover, a reference grammar aids linguists in constructing theories for one language in particular, and all languages in general. A reference grammar also provides roadmaps for both language learners and teachers to navigate the complexity of learning or teaching a new language. Lastly, a reference grammar shares with all language lovers the beauty of language as a knowledge system, including the cultural heritage of the language.

A Reference Grammar of Chinese is designed with all of the above functions in mind. We are keenly aware of the challenge and constraints of containing a grammar within the confines of the book format. Hence, we worked out a solution by constructing an example corpus in parallel while drafting our grammar. This example corpus constitutes a distinguishing feature of this book. On the one hand, all the generalizations reported in this grammar are based on expert linguists' observations of a large set of corpus data. On the other hand, when reading this reference book, a reader can refer to the example corpus (at the website http://crg.cbs.polyu.edu.hk) using chapter, section, and example numbers, so that the reader can form his/her own generalizations and/or tease out more details that could not be included in the grammar due to space considerations. Thus, the example databases allow *A Reference Grammar of Chinese* to be not only an evidence-based grammar, but also a grammar not constrained by the limitations of the pages of the book.

We are also fully aware of the fact that a reference grammar must refer to a familiar framework of grammar. As English is the academic metalanguage used for this book, and English grammar is the most familiar language grammar due to its largest number of second language learners, we choose to adopt and follow the framework of English descriptive grammar. In particular, we follow the structure and drafting guidelines of *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language* (*CGEL*) as closely as possible. In this connection, we would like to express our gratitude

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to the two authors of *CGEL*, Professors Rodney Huddleston and Geoffrey Pullum. Professor Pullum flew to Hong Kong to meet both chief editors as well as many chapter authors and to provide us with advice and encouragement as we embarked on our long and arduous journey.

Similar to the *CGEL*, *A Reference Grammar of Chinese* (*ARGC*) has chief editors who have done research on various aspects of Chinese grammar in their respective academic careers. However, even though the *ARGC* chief editors were heavily involved in drafting and revising, they are not listed as co-authors of the chapters except for the chapters in which they had a direct hand in the original drafts. It is perhaps not difficult to see that in a grammar covering such a wide range of topics, inconsistencies in descriptions among the submitted early drafts would arise and the editors would eventually need to be responsible for the final revisions to ensure a consistent voice and perspective. In such a context, the chapters were meticulously modified by varying degrees. Therefore, please bear this in mind while reading and attribute the contributions to both the chapter authors and the editors. Any remaining errors, however, are the responsibilities of the editors.

The completion of this reference grammar was the result of a long journey that we took with many friends. In addition to thanking Geoffery Pullum for sharing his wisdom and encouragement, we would like to thank Helen Barton of Cambridge University Press for her unfailing support to guide us through this journey and for helping us with various unexpected difficulties. We would also like to thank the enthusiasm, professionalism, and linguistic acumen of all the editorial team members, including the associate editors Prof. Kathleen Ahrens, Dr. Jing Jin, Dr. Sophia Y. M. Lee, and Dr. Jingxia Lin, and assistant editors Dr. Helen Kai-yun Chen, Dr. Jiajuan Xiong, and Dr. Hongzhi Xu. Many colleagues in our research group helped at various stage of preparation, especially with extraction of examples from corpora, and among the people whom we cannot list exhaustively here, we would like to thank in particular Dr. Shuang Hong, Dr. Jia-fei Hong, and Ivy Wing Shan Chan. In addition, we would like to thank Professor Qin Lu for the construction of the working database and interface for extracting and storing example sentences from corpora. Last, but not least, we would like to thank the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, as well as the PolyU-Peking U Research Centre on Chinese Linguistics for providing support for research that was crucial to the completion of this grammar.

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English–Chinese term list

A	啊
abstract noun	抽象名词
accomplishment (verb)	完结(动词)
achievement (verb)	达成(动词)
acronym	缩略词
activity (verb)	活动(动词)
adjective	形容词
adjunct	附接语
adverb	副词
adverbial	状语, 副词短语
affirmative	肯定式
affix	语缀
agent	施事
AI	唉
anaphor	照应语, 回指语
anaphoric chain	回指链, 照应链
antecedent	先行语
appositive	同位语
argument	论元
article	冠词
aspect	体, 体貌
atelic	无终结
attributive	定语(的)
auxiliary (verb)	助动词
BA	吧; 把, 将
BALE	罢了
bare NP	光杆名词, 光杆名词短语
BEI	被
beneficiary	受益者
blending	缩合
borrowing	借词

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bounded	有界
case	格
CL	classifier, 量词, 分类词
cleft	分裂句
closed class	封闭类
code	语码
common noun	普通名词
complement	补(足)语
complex sentence	复(杂)句
concessive	让步语
conditional	条件句
consonant	辅音
coordinator	并列连词
copula	系词
corpus	语料库
correlative	关联(词)
DE	地, 得, 的, 之
declarative (sentence)	陈述(句)
definiteness	有定, 定指
deictic	直示
demonstrative	指示代词
denotation	外延
deontic	义务(情态)
dependency relation	依存关系, 依赖关系
derivation	派生
determiner	限定词
deverbal	动转(的)
direct object	直接宾语, 直接受词
ditransitive	双及物
entailment	衍推
existential (sentence)	存在句
experiencer	感受者
gap	缺位
GEI	给
generic	通指
goal	目标
gradability	级差性
grammatical function	语法功能
GUAN	管

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GUO	过
headless relative clause	无核关系句
illocutionary force	示意语力, 言外力量
imperative	祈使
imperfective	未完成体
indirect object	间接宾语 间接受词
inflection	屈折
instrument (case)	工具格
intensifier	程度状语
interrogative pronoun	疑问代词
intonation	语调
intransitive	不及物的
inversion	倒置
irrealis	非现实
lexeme	词位
LA	啦
LAIZHE	来着
LE	了
Lit.	literal
LI	哩
MA	吗; 嘛
mass noun	不可数名词
metalinguistic negation	元语言否定
metaphor	隐喻
metonymy	转喻
modality	情态
mood	语态
morphology	形态学; 构词, 词法
NA	拿; 哪
NE	呢
NEG	不, 不是, 未, 非, 没有, 不必, 没
nominal	名词性成分
O	喔
object	宾语, 受词
oblique	旁格, 斜格
ORDINAL	ordinal marker, 第
part of speech	词类
particle	小词, 助词
passive	被动

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patient	受事
perfective	完成体
phoneme	音位
PL	们
polarity	极性
PREP	preposition, 介词
preposing	前置
presupposition	预设
pro form	指代形式
progressive aspect	进行体
proper noun	专有名词
proposition	命题
prosody	韵律
QI	起
QILAI	起来
quantifier	量化成分, 量词
recipient	接受者
reduced clause	缩减小句
reduplication	重叠
reference	指称
referent	所指
reflexive pronoun	反身代词
resultative	结果补语
resumptive pronoun	复指代词
rhetorical question	反问
scope	辖域
selectional restriction	选择限制
SHI	是
state (verb)	状态(动词)
stative	静态
subordinate	从属(成分)
suffix	后缀
SUO	所
SUOXIE	缩写
syntax	句法
telic	终结
thematic role	论旨角色
theme	主位
topic	话题

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trajectory	轨迹
truth conditions	真值条件
truth value	真值
type	类
variable	变数; 变体的
vocative	呼格
voice	语态
volition	意愿
vowel	元音
WA	哇
XIAQU	下去
YA	呀
YO	哟
YOU	有
ZAI	在, 正在
ZHE	着
ZHE_NE	着呢

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Chinese–English term list

啊 *a4*	A
唉 *ai0*	AI
吧 *ba0*	BA
把 *ba3*	BA
罢了 *ba4liao3*	BALE
被动 *bei4dong4*	passive
被 *bei4*	BEI
变数 *bian4shu3*	variable
变体的 *bian4ti3de0*	variable
宾语 *bin1yu3*	object
并列连词 *bing4lie4lian2ci2*	coordinator
补(足)语 bu3(*zu2*)yu3	complement
不必 *bu2bi4*	NEG
不是 *bu2shi4*	NEG
不及物的 *bu4ji2wu4de0*	intransitive
不可数名词 *bu4ke3shu3ming2ci2*	mass noun
不 *bu4*	NEG
陈述(句) *chen2shu4(ju4)*	declarative (sentence)
程度状语 *cheng2du4zhuang4yu3*	intensifier
重叠 *chong2die2*	reduplication
抽象名词 *chou1xiang4ming2ci2*	abstract noun
词法 *ci2fa3*	morphology
词类 *ci2lei4*	part of speech
词位 *ci2wei4*	lexeme
从属(成分) *cong2shu3(cheng2fen4)*	subordinate
存在句 *cun2zai4ju4*	existential (sentence)
达成(动词) *da2cheng2(dong4ci2)*	achievement (verb)
倒置 *dao4zhi4*	inversion
的 *de0*	DE
得 *de0*	DE
地 *de0*	DE

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第 *di4*	ORDINAL, ordinal marker
定语(的) *ding4yu3(de0)*	attributive
定指 *ding4zhi3*	definiteness
动转(的) *dong4zhuan3(de0)*	deverbal
反身代词 *fan3shen1dai4ci2*	reflexive pronoun
反问 *fan3wen4*	rhetorical question
非现实 *fei1xian4shi2*	irrealis
非 *fei1*	NEG
分类词 *fen1lei4ci2*	CL, classifier
分裂句 *fen1lie3ju4*	cleft
封闭类 *feng1bi4lei4*	closed class
辅音 *fu3yin1*	consonant
副词短语 *fu4ci2duan3yu3*	adverbial
副词 *fu4ci2*	adverb
附接语 *fu4jie1yu3*	adjunct
复(杂)句 *fu4(za2)ju4*	complex sentence
复指代词 *fu4zhi3dai4ci2*	resumptive pronoun
感受者 *gan3shou4zhe3*	experiencer
格 *ge2*	case
给 *gei3*	GEI
工具格 *gong1ju4ge2*	instrument (case)
关联(词) *guan1lian2ci2*	correlative
管 *guan3*	GUAN
冠词 *guan4ci2*	article
光杆名词短语 *guang1gan3ming2ci2duan3yu3*	bare NP
光杆名词 *guang1gan3ming2ci2*	bare NP
轨迹 *gui3ji4*	trajectory
过 *guo4*	GUO
后缀 *hou4zhui4*	suffix
呼格 *hu1ge2*	vocative
话题 *hua4ti2*	topic
回指链 *hui2zhi3lian4*	anaphoric chain
回指语 *hui2zhi3yu3*	anaphor
活动(动词) *huo2dong4* (dong4ci2)	activity (verb)
级差性 *ji2cha1xing4*	gradability
极性 *ji2xing4*	polarity
间接宾语 *jian4jie1bin1yu3*	indirect object
间接受词 *jian4jie1shou4ci2*	indirect object
将 *jiang1*	BA

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接受者 *jie1shou4zhe3*	recipient
结果补语 *jie2guo3bu3yu3*	resultative
介词 *jie4ci2*	PREP, preposition
借词 *jie4ci2*	borrowing
进行体 *jin4xing2ti3*	progressive aspect
静态 *jing4tai4*	stative
句法 *ju4fa3*	syntax
肯定式 *ken3ding4shi4*	affirmative
啦 *la1*	LA
来着 *lai2zhe0*	LAIZHE
类 lei4	type
哩 li0	LI
量词 *liang4ci2*	CL, classifier; quantifier
量化成分 *liang4hua4cheng2fen4*	quantifier
了 *liao3*	LE
论元 *lun4yuan2*	argument
论旨角色 *lun4zhi3jue2se4*	thematic role
吗 *ma0*	MA
嘛 *ma0*	MA
没有 *mei2you3*	NEG
没 *mei2*	NEG
们 *men0*	PL, plural marker
名词性成分 *ming2ci2xing4cheng2fen4*	nominal
命题 *ming4ti2*	proposition
目标 *mu4biao1*	goal
拿 *na2*	NA
哪 *na3*	NA
呢 *ne0*	NE
喔 *o0*	O
派生 *pai4sheng1*	derivation
旁格 *pang2ge2*	oblique
普通名词 *pu3tong1ming2ci2*	common noun
祈使 *qi2shi3*	imperative
起来 *qi3lai2*	QILAI
起 *qi3*	QI
前置 *qian2zhi4*	preposing
情态 *qing2tai4*	modality
屈折 *qu1zhe2*	inflection
缺位 *que1wei4*	gap

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让步语 *rang4bu4yu3*	concessive
施事 *shi1shi4*	agent
示意语力 *shi4yi4yu3li4*	illocutionary force
是 *shi4*	SHI
受词 *shou4ci2*	object
受事 *shou4shi4*	patient
受益者 *shou4yi4zhe3*	beneficiary
双及物 *shuang1ji2wu4*	ditransitive
缩合 *suo1he2*	blending
缩减小句 *suo1jian3xiao3ju4*	reduced clause
缩略词 *suo1lüe4ci2*	acronym
缩写 *suo1xie3*	SUOXIE
所指 *suo3zhi3*	referent
所 *suo3*	SUO
体貌 *ti3mao4*	aspect
体 *ti3*	aspect
条件句 *tiao2jian4ju4*	conditional
通指 *tong1zhi3*	generic
同位语 *tong2wei4yu3*	appositive
哇 *wa1*	WA
外延 *wai4yan2*	denotation
完成体 *wan2cheng2ti3*	perfective
完结(动词) *wan2jie2* (dong4ci2)	accomplishment (verb)
未完成体 *wei4wan2cheng2ti3*	imperfective
未 *wei4*	NEG
无核关系句 *wu2he2guan1xi4ju4*	headless relative clause
无终结 *wu2zhong1jie2*	atelic
系词 *xi4ci2*	copula
辖域 *xia2yu4*	scope
下去 *xia4qu4*	XIAQU
先行语 *xian1xing2yu3*	antecedent
限定词 *xian4ding4ci2*	determiner
小词 *xiao3ci2*	particle
斜格 *xie2ge2*	oblique
形容词 *xing2rong2ci2*	adjective
形态学 *xing2tai4xue2*	morphology
构词 *gou4ci2*	morphology
选择限制 *xuan3ze2xian4zhi4*	selectional restriction
呀 *ya0*	YA

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言外力量 *yan2wai4li4liang4*	illocutionary force
衍推 *yan3tui1*	entailment
依存关系 *yi1cun2guan1xi4*	dependency relation
依赖关系 *yi1lai4guan1xi4*	dependency relation
疑问代词 *yi2wen4dai4ci2*	interrogative pronoun
义务(情态) *yi4wu4(qing2tai4)*	deontic
意愿 *yi4yuan4*	volition
音位 *yin1wei4*	phoneme
隐喻 *yin3yu4*	metaphor
哟 *yo1*	YO
有定 *you3ding4*	definiteness
有界 *you3jie4*	bounded
有 *you3*	YOU
语调 *yu3diao4*	intonation
语法功能 *yu3fa3gong1neng2*	grammatical function
语料库 *yu3liao4ku4*	corpus
语码 *yu3ma3*	code
语态 *yu3tai4*	mood; voice
语缀 *yu3zhui4*	affix
预设 *yu4she4*	presupposition
元音 *yuan2yin1*	vowel
元语言否定 *yuan2yu3yan2fou3ding4*	metalinguistic negation
韵律 *yun4lü4*	prosody
在 *zai4*	ZAI
照应链 *zhao4ying4lian4*	anaphoric chain
照应语 *zhao4ying4yu3*	anaphor
着呢 *zhe0ne0*	ZHE_NE
真值条件 *zhen1zhi2tiao2jian4*	truth conditions
真值 *zhen1zhi2*	truth value
正在 *zheng4zai4*	ZAI
之 *zhi1*	DE
直接宾语 *zhi2jie1bin1yu3*	direct object
直接受词 *zhi2jie1shou4ci2*	direct object
直示 *zhi2shi4*	deictic
指称 *zhi3cheng1*	reference
指代形式 *zhi3dai4xing2shi4*	pro form
指示代词 *zhi3shi4dai4ci2*	demonstrative
终结 *zhong1jie2*	telic
主位 *zhu3wei4*	theme

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助词 *zhu4ci2*	particle
助动词 *zhu4dong4ci2*	auxiliary (verb)
专有名词 *zhuan1you3ming2ci2*	proper noun
转喻 *zhuan3yu4*	metonymy
状态(动词) *zhuang4tai4*(dong4ci2)	state (verb)
状语 *zhuang4yu3*	adverbial
着 *zhe0*	ZHE

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