Construction-Based Research in China 🔓

Xu Yang, Wuhan University and Randy J. Lapolla, Beijing Normal University - Zhuhai Campus

Summary

Research on construction-based grammar in China began in the late 1990's. Since its initial stages of introduction and preliminary exploration, it has entered a stage of productive and innovative development. In the past two decades, Chinese construction grammarians have achieved a number of valuable research results. In terms of theoretical applications, they have described and explained various types of constructions, such as schematic, partly variable, and fully substantive constructions. They have also applied the constructionist approach to the teaching of Chinese as a second language, proposing some new grammar systems or teaching modes such as the construction-chunk approach (构式-语块教学法), the lexicon-construction interaction model (词汇-构式互动体系), and trinitarian grammar (三一语法). In terms of theoretical innovation, Chinese construction grammarians have put forward theories or hypotheses such as the unification of grammar and rhetoric through constructions, the concept of lexical coercion, and interactive construction grammar (互动构式语法).

However, some problems have also emerged in the field of construction grammar approaches. These include a narrow understanding of the concept of construction, a limited range of research topics, and a narrow range of disciplinary perspectives and methods. To ensure the long-term development of construction-based research in China, scholars should be encouraged to make the following changes: First, they should adopt a usage-based approach using natural data, and they should keep up with advances in the study of construction networks. Second, they should broaden the scope of construction-based research and integrate it with language typology and historical linguistics. Finally, they should integrate cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research findings and methods. In this way, construction-based research in China can continue to flourish and make significant contributions to the study of grammar and language.

1. Introduction

Construction-based research has flourished in China in recent years, with numerous scholars joining the field and substantial research results being produced. As B. J. Zhang (2018, pp. 2–3) asserts, "The rapid spread and wide application of constructionist approaches in Chinese studies has surpassed the influence of any previous foreign methods." Two attitudes have emerged in this regard, one arguing that "the constructionist approaches can be used to generalize and explain all linguistic phenomena" (Y. Wang, 2011, Vol. 1, p. 194); one arguing that "we cannot infinitely exaggerate the status and role of constructionist approaches, leading to the cult of constructions (构式崇拜)." (C. H. Shi, 2013, p. 36. Although there have been some reviews of

construction-based research in China (e.g., Chang, 2021; Hou, 2014; C. H. Shi, 2017; Wen & Si, 2021; J. Zhang, 2013), they have certain shortcomings, such as ignoring literature that uses Chinese translations of "construction" other than *goushi* (构式), the current standard term, and the fact that these reviews were written in Chinese, making them inaccessible to non-Chinese-speaking scholars. Therefore, the purpose of this article is to provide an overview of construction-based research in China that is accessible to non-Chinese-speaking scholars. The structure of the article is as follows: First, an overview of the development of construction-based research in China is provided. Next, the three main issues that exist are discussed. Finally, an outlook is offered regarding the future development of construction-based research in China. It should be noted that this paper primarily focuses on the situation in Mainland China, and the studies presented are mainly about the language phenomena in Mandarin Chinese.

2. Overview of Construction-Based Research in China

The core idea of the constructionist approach has a long history in China. L. Wang (1943/1984, p. 117) argued that the meaning of the *ba* (把) construction as a whole is "performance" (处置). Li and Fan (1960) proposed that the meaning of a special quantitative construction such as *Yi ge ren na yi ge* (一个人拿一个) 'one person takes one', is distributive and asserted that the meaning does not lie in *yi* 'one' , but is determined by the construction. Aside from this, in a paper on the ditransitive construction Ma (1983, p. 194) pointed out that "the meaning of the verb sometimes depends on the construction." And the teaching of Mandarin Chinese has always been done in terms of constructions, for example the *ba* (把) construction, the *bei* (被) construction, the *shi* (是) . . . *de* (的) constructions, and so on. However, the current constructionist approach originated in and was imported from the United States. Construction-based research in China began when B. J. Zhang (1999) discussed the ditransitive construction in Mandarin Chinese on the basis of Goldberg (1995), proposing that "the construction as a whole has an independent grammatical meaning" (B. J. Zhang, 1999, p. 176). After that, many articles were published that introduced constructionist approaches (e.g., Dong & Liang, 2002;[1] Ji & Lin, 2002) and analyzed Chinese-language phenomena based on constructionist approaches (e.g., J. M. Lu, 2004; Shen, 2000). According to Wen and Si (2021), the development of construction-based research in China has gone through different stages, from the initial stage of introduction and preliminary exploration (1990s–2006), through a stage of rapid development and maturity (2007–2015), and then moving into the current stage of reflection and innovation (2016–present). During this 20+ year period, many active construction grammarians have emerged, such as Chen Manhua (陈满华), Gao Hang (高航), Hou Guojin (侯国金), Lin Zhengjun (林正军), Liu Zhengguang (刘正光), Lu Jianming (陆俭明), Shi Chunhong (施春宏), Wang Yin (王寅), Wei Zaijiang (魏在江), Wen Xu (文旭), Xiong Xueliang (熊学亮), Yan Minfen (严敏芬), Yuan Ye (袁野), Zhang Jianli (张建理), and Zhong Shuneng (钟书能). In addition, a large number of works on constructionist approaches have been published, including Chinese versions of classics or textbooks such as Niu et al. (2013, 2017), H. B. Wu (2007, 2013), G. H. Zhang (2016); theoretical monographs such as Y. Wang (2011), Niu (2011), Niu et al. (2020), Yuan (2017), Yan and Li (2018); empirical monographs such as Zhu (2010), Gu (2013), W. S. Wu (2016), C. H. Shi (2018), Y. S. Zhang (2020), Luo and Zheng (2021); and some much-cited papers can be found in Z. G. Liu (2011). In addition, some journals have organized sections on constructionist approaches (e.g., the "Theory and Application of Construction Grammar" section

in *Language Teaching and Linguistic Studies* [语言教学与研究], No. 4, 2018), and some universities or institutions have organized forums or conferences on constructionist approaches (e.g., the influential Forum on Construction Grammar Research [构式语法研究论坛] has been held four times). The following sections introduce the various Chinese translations of the word *construction*, the theoretical applications, and the innovations in constructionist approaches in China.

2.1 *Chinese Translations of the Word* Construction

The earliest reference to the terms *construction* and *construction grammar* in the Chinese literature can be traced back to a conference review by Y. W. Liu (1988) entitled "The 1987 Spring Conference of the Japanese National Language Society Held at Kobe University." Liu mentioned that Professor Fillmore's presentation was titled "On Grammatical Constructions: Toward the Theory of Construction Grammar." Unfortunately, no Chinese translation was provided at that time. Since the early 1990s, *construction* has been translated using various Chinese terms, including *jiegou* (结构; Liao, 1991; Rong, 1990), *jiegoushi* (结构式; Shen, 1994; B. J. Zhang, 1999), *geshi* (格式; M. Zhang, 1998), *jushi* (句式; J. M. Lu, 2004; B. J. Zhang, 1999), *goushi* (构式; Shen & Wang, 2000), *jiangou* (建构; W. H. Tao, 2000), *goukuai* (构块; Xu, 2000), *goujia* (构架; Cheng, 2003), *gouzao* (构造; Y. Z. Shi, 2007; Y. Wang, 2006), *zugou* (组构; W. H. Tao, 2007), and others.[2] Before 2004, *jushi* (句式) was popular for a while, as a result of the influence of two important papers by Shen (1999) and B. J. Zhang (1999). For instance, J. M. Lu (2004, p. 412) said "*construction grammar* is mostly translated as *jushi yufa* (句式语法)." From 2004 to 2007, the term *goushi* (构式) gained popularity (Shen & Wang, 2000 used *goushi* [构式] for the first time). During that period, a lot of the literature consciously discussed the advantages and disadvantages of different translations (e.g., Dong & Liang, 2002; Ji & Lin, 2002; G. H. Liu, 2007; J. M. Lu, 2004; Y. Wang, 2006), and many scholars chose to use *goushi* (构式) from then on. After 2007, *goushi* (构式) became the most widely used translation, while other translations declined in usage. Lu (2008, p. 143) noted "the *goushi* (构式) translation is now more commonly used in China," in contrast to the situation in 2004. Since 2023, the third edition of the *Great Encyclopedia of China* online has adopted *goushi* (构式) as the Chinese equivalent of *construction*, and it can be said that a standard translation of *construction* has been established in China.[3]

2.2 Theoretical Applications

Theoretical applications of constructionist approaches include describing and explaining Chinese grammatical phenomena, teaching Chinese as a first or second language, Chinese-language acquisition, natural-language processing and artificial intelligence, lexicography, and translation studies, among others. This article mainly focuses on the first two applications.

Chinese scholars have discussed various constructions. There are schematic constructions, such as the ditransitive construction, and fully substantive constructions such as the four-character fixed phrases common in Chinese, and also constructions between these two poles that are partly variable. Schematic constructions include the ditransitive construction (Xu, 2007; B. J. Zhang,

1999, 2008), the causative construction (Guo, 2004; Zhang & Xu, 2011), the existential construction (Ren, 2009; Y. Wang & Xu, 2010), the verb-complement construction (C. H. Shi, 2008; Yang, 2021; Y. Zhang, 2009), and the supply-and-use construction (J. M. Lu, 2004, 2008). The basic research procedure for discussing constructions is to describe the form and meaning of the prototype of a specific construction, and then explain the polysemy of the construction based on derivational mechanisms such as metaphor. Partly variable constructions include the *ba* (把) construction (Niu, 2008; Shen, 2002; B. J. Zhang, 2000, 2008), the *bei* (被) construction (B. J. Zhang, 2001, 2008), the *lian* (连) construction (D. Q. Liu, 2005), "*hai* (还) NP" (Zheng, 2009), "*bu dao nali qu* (不到哪里去)" (W. S. Wu & Xia, 2011), and "*yao* (要) *duo* (多) A *you* (有) *duo* (多) A" (G. S. Wang et al., 2015), as well as various popular-idiom constructions such as "*Bushi suoyou de* X *dou jiao/shi* Y (不是所有的X都叫/是Y, Not all X are called/are Y)" (Y. S. Zhang, 2020). The basic research procedure of these studies is to demonstrate that these constructions meet the criteria of a construction (because most Chinese scholars do not accept the broad definition of construction, as discussed in Section 3.1); to discuss the construction's meaning (as a construction) and semantic extensions of the construction; and to analyze the components of that construction from multiple perspectives, sometimes including its historical development (Chang, 2021).[4]

Chinese scholars have reflected on and applied constructionist approaches to the teaching of Chinese as a second language (C. H. Shi, 2011), and several representative theories are presented here. Su and Lu (2010) and J. M. Lu (2016b) proposed the construction-chunk approach (构式–语块教学法), which advocates that in teaching certain special grammatical constructions, one should not be limited to the traditional syntactic concept of "subject-predicate-object" and the semantic concept of "agent-verb-patient," but should outline the meaning of the construction, the constituent chunks, and the chain of chunks. Yuan et al. (2014) proposed the lexicon-construction interaction model (词库–构式互动体系), advocating the "big lexicon, small grammar" strategy, focusing on the knowledge structure of a large number of words and a small number of constructions. They applied this approach to the practice of international Chinese teaching, forming a set of teaching concepts and strategies based on the new Chinese knowledge system and database resources, which they believe are more suitable for Chinese. Feng and Shi (2011, 2015) proposed a new model of Chinese teaching and learning called trinitarian grammar (三一语法), which consists of three parts: the structure of the construction, the function of the construction, and the typical context of the construction. This model also reflects the core idea of the constructionist approaches that a construction is a pairing of form and meaning, in particular including pragmatic information as part of the construction's meaning.

2.3 Theoretical Innovations

Chinese scholars have explored several issues in the field of constructionist approaches, including: the definition of construction; the classification of constructions; the origin of construction meanings; the interaction between constructions and constituents (such as verbs); the relationships between constructions; construction polysemy; and construction coercion, where a construction forces a word within the construction to have a marked meaning it does not have in other constructions (Goldberg, 1995, p. 159). With this in mind, this section will focus on some innovative ideas or theories proposed by Chinese scholars.

Some Chinese scholars argue that constructionist approaches offer a new perspective for integrating grammar and rhetoric. For instance, D. W. Liu (2010a, 2010b) outlines the evolutionary path of "grammatical constructions > rhetorical constructions > new grammatical constructions," which was further refined and complemented by J. M. Lu (2016a). Liu and Lu both believe that this approach not only advances the constructionist approaches but also provides a new angle for rhetorical studies. Similarly, Y. Wang (2010, p. 47) claims that "the constructionist approach lies at the interface of grammar and rhetoric, and its theoretical framework and specific methods are also applicable to the study of figures of speech." C. H. Shi (2012) sees construction coercion as the interface between grammar and rhetorical studies, providing an interactive perspective on the relationship between grammar and rhetoric, and accurately capturing the continuum between grammatical and rhetorical phenomena.

Su and Lu (2010) and J. M. Lu (2016b) proposed the construction-chunk approach (构式-语块分析法), which combines constructions and chunks: The "chunk" refers to "a syntactic-semantic aggregation in a construction that carries a semantic unit in a particular syntactic form" (Su & Lu, 2010, pp. 559–560). And it serves as the "basic unit of a construction" and "the intermediary between a construction and its internal lexical items." Let us take the following as an example (J. M. Lu, 2016b, p. 6):

> *shige ren chi le yiguo fan, yiguo fan chi le shige ren* (十个人吃了一锅饭/一锅饭吃了十个人, Ten people ate from one pot of rice/One pot of rice fed ten people, J. M. Lu, 2016b, p. 6)

When describing a construction, like this example, one should first grasp the construction meaning of the quantitative relationship as a whole and then explore the meaning of the chunks that make up the construction. For example, this construction could be described as "quantity of accommodation, manner of accommodation, quantity accommodated."[5]

Y. Wang (2011) discusses and compares lexicalism, clausalism, and constructionism, and suggests that

> the Chinese linguistics community has put forward many different views in establishing the basic units for studying the Chinese language, such as: morpheme-based, Chinese character-based, word-based, phrase-based, clause-based, sentence-based, and complex sentence-based. We believe that they can be unified into a construction-based approach. (Vol. 1, p. 81)

In addition, Y. Wang (2009, 2011, Vol. 1, p. 364) proposes the idea of "lexical coercion," which means that in addition to construction coercion, lexical items can also adjust or change the meaning or usage of the whole construction. The combination of construction coercion and lexical coercion represents true interaction between a construction and lexical items, and is consistent with the findings of usage-based research.

C. H. Shi (2016, 2018) systematically constructed a new model of construction analysis, interactive construction grammar (互动构式语法). First, he emphasizes the multi-interactional view, which means that all constructions result from the interaction of multiple factors,

including both the interaction of the components within the language system and the interaction between the intra- and extralinguistic components. Second, Shi considers synonymous or near-synonymous constructions as the same "construction group" (句式群) and tries to reveal the differences and connections in forms and meanings between them through the interactive-derivational approach. This theory strengthens the interactive concept of constructionist approaches, expands the synchronic and diachronic analysis of constructions based on the interactive view, and emphasizes the necessity and feasibility of the methodological principles of sophisticated reductionism (精致还原主义) or sophisticated holism (精致整体主义) in the study of constructions; that is, while adhering to holism in methodology, it tries to figure out the components that make up the whole, the interaction between them, and the processes that make up the whole, in order to explain the characteristics of the whole that emerges.

3. Comments

3.1 *Narrow Understanding of the Concept of* Construction

Constructionist approaches comprise various schools that can be broadly divided into formal and usage-based categories (Hoffman, 2022, pp. 14–15). The former includes embodied construction grammar, fluid construction grammar, and sign-based construction grammar, while the latter includes cognitive grammar, radical construction grammar, and cognitive construction grammar. In China, cognitive construction grammar dominates, but instead of a broad definition of construction, characterized by sufficient frequency in language use and entrenchment in speakers' minds (e.g., Goldberg, 2006, p. 5, 2013), a narrow definition of construction—characterized by more than one unit, formal or semantic unpredictability, and schematic patterns—is still popular.[6] As a result, the Chinese linguistics community has not fully accepted the term *goushi* (构式) or *construction* and has spent much effort distinguishing it from traditional concepts such as *juxing* (句型), *julei* (句类), *jumo* (句模), and *jushi* (句式; Fan, 2013; J. M. Lu, 2016b). As for Croft's radical construction grammar, which has a broad definition of construction and a radical grammatical system and methodology, only a few Chinese papers have adopted it, limiting themselves to language comparisons or cross-linguistic investigations (e.g., Gao, 2020; Xiong, 2016; L. J. Zhang, 2011).[7] Chinese scholars have also rarely adopted formal constructionist approaches, as opposed to usage-based constructionist approaches.

3.2 Narrow Range of the Research Topics and Objects of Inquiry

The narrow range of the research topics and objects is manifested in three aspects. First, due to the adoption of a narrow definition of constructions, the range of linguistic units studied is relatively limited, focusing mainly on complex and schematic constructions, such as argument structure constructions and partly variable constructions (especially idiomatic constructions).[8] This is because these constructions best fit the characteristics of the narrow definition of constructions mentioned in Section 3.1. Although early construction-based research in the 1980s and 1990s was initially based on the study of idioms (e.g., Fillmore et al., 1988), idioms are only one type of construction. Unfortunately, the study of constructions in China is still mainly

focused on them. Moreover, although these studies are said to be in the realm of construction grammar, the authors still rely on traditional grammar or structuralist approaches that contradict the basic notions of construction grammar. Second, probably due to the influence of a written language bias (Linell, 2005), the corpora adopted by Chinese construction grammarians are mainly written corpora, with spoken corpora in the minority. Many Chinese scholars have not yet come to the conclusion that "every text has its own grammar" or consciously thought about the relationship between grammar and register as well as genre (but see Hu, 1993; H. Y. Tao, 1999; B. J. Zhang, 2007). Third, Chinese construction grammarians have mainly focused on the synchronic study of Mandarin Chinese, and while the number of diachronic studies is growing, cross-linguistic comparative studies are still rare.[9] As a result, there is a tendency to mechanically apply categories from other languages or assumed global or universal categories to Chinese, or to apply Chinese-based categories to minority languages, reflecting the need for Chinese scholars to move away from the Indo-European perspective (摆脱印欧语的眼光) and the traditional Chinese perspective.

3.3   Narrow Range of Disciplinary Perspectives and Research Methods

Chinese scholars face three major methodological problems in applying constructionist approaches to the study of languages. First, constructionist approaches in China are still limited to syntax, with little attention paid to phonetics, lexicology, semantics, pragmatics, language acquisition, and language evolution. Or rather, many Chinese scholars have not thoroughly implemented the noncomponential view of the constructionist approach, but still distinguish between different components such as phonological components, syntactic components, and semantic components, and try to use the concept of interface or linking rules to explore the relationships between them. Second, interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary studies, such as with the fields of cognitive psychology, neurolinguistics, and computational linguistics, remain relatively underdeveloped. Third, many Chinese scholars rely purely on introspection to explain constructions, without using quantitative or empirical methods such as in-situ analysis of constructions in extensive natural data, corpus-based statistics, or psychological experiments, which makes their explanations highly subjective.

4.   Outlook

4.1   Adopting a Usage-Based Approach and Keeping Up With the Advances in the Study of Construction Networks

Construction grammarians emphasize that constructions are the basic units of language, with scholars such as Goldberg (2003, p. 223) proposing constructions "all the way down," Taylor (2012, pp. 143–145) proposing constructions "all the way up," and Boogaart et al. (2014, p. 1) proposing constructions "all the way everywhere." This is the reason why constructionist approaches continue to develop and be adopted by many fields, including language acquisition and natural-language processing. In order for Chinese construction grammarians to keep up with international scholars, they need to go beyond the narrow definition of constructions. On the one

hand, they should implement the general idea of a usage-based approach such as the creation of meaning (LaPolla, 2015), integrationist linguistics (Harris, 1981), and radical construction grammar (Croft, 2001, 2022), all of which view grammar as a dynamic system of emergent categories and elastic constraints that are constantly changing in response to domain-general cognitive processes in language use. This would allow for the exploration of the rationale for language systems in both language history and acquisition (Bybee, 2010; Diessel, 2016, 2019; Hoffman, 2022; Perek, 2015). On the other hand, construction grammarians should focus on and engage in discussions around construction networks, adopting a "networks all the way down" perspective (Hilpert, 2021) that emphasizes the one-to-many, many-to-one, and many-to-many pairings of form and meaning/function. This would involve treating the constructicon, which is a full list of the constructions that make up a speaker's entrenched repertoire or a community's conventionalized grammatical knowledge, as a complex, nested network with multiple links (e.g., symbolic, syntagmatic, paradigmatic, taxonomic, pragmatic; Diessel, 2019, 2023; Hilpert, 2021; Schmid, 2020).[10]

4.2 Broadening the Scope of Construction-Based Research and Integrating It With Other Fields

If a broad view of constructions is taken, all linguistic categories can be examined from a constructionist perspective, including morphology, words, phrases, idioms, clauses, sentences, discourses, word classes, syntactic relations, information-structure constructions, transitivity, and so on, in addition to more complex and schematic constructions.[11] In fact, some Chinese scholars have already discussed some of these linguistic categories from a constructionist viewpoint, such as B. J. Zhang (2016) Shen (2017), and Song (2018), who argue that the basic clause type in Chinese is the "topic-comment" construction,[12] and Gao and Zhang (2008), R. Zhang (2009), and Yang (2019), who discuss and question the status of lexical categories or word classes in Chinese based on the usage-based constructionist approach. Unfortunately, these studies have been more or less ignored in existing reviews, probably because of the relatively small amount of literature on them, and more likely because the review authors hold a narrow view of constructions. In terms of using information-structure to understand constructions, *Wang Mian si le fuqin* (王冕死了父亲) 'Wang Mian lost his father', Lit. 'Wang Mian died father', has received a great deal of discussion (e.g., Lü, 2013; Ren, 2009; Shen, 2006; Y. Zhang, 2010), but its information structure as a topic-comment structure which has an event presentative structure as the comment (LaPolla & Poa, 2023) has not been given much attention.

Regarding registers, some Chinese scholars have emphasized that registers are a part of the conventionalized knowledge of constructions, and have suggested that constructionist approaches can be applied to the study of spoken language (Zheng, 2012). To further advance this field, Chinese construction grammarians could benefit from strengthening their exchanges with disciplines such as sociolinguistics, corpus linguistics, multimodal construction grammar, conversation analysis, and interactional linguistics. In this regard, H. Y. Tao (2003) represents one of the most promising directions in terms of spoken discourse, multiple modalities, and on-going language change.

Construction-based research in China should also focus on integration with fields such as historical linguistics and language typology. A research trend in the international grammar community is to observe and study constructions from both a historical (Bybee, 2010; Traugott & Trousdale, 2013) and a typological perspective (Croft, 2022; LaPolla, 2013b). Historical linguistics and linguistic typology have been relatively well studied in China, thanks to the preservation of more than 2,000 years' worth of written materials and the availability of a large number of Chinese dialects and minority languages. So why is it still necessary to combine them with the constructionist approach? On the one hand, constructionist theories or hypotheses can be tested using the methods of linguistic typology and historical linguistics, which facilitate the refinement or formulation of a more empirically valid theory. On the other hand, scholars engaged in linguistic typology and historical linguistics can also benefit from the constructionist approach. When writing reference grammars and making cross-linguistic comparisons, they do not need to assume any global or universal categories but only to summarize the constructions or categories that are found inductively in the language.[13] For the study of historical linguistics, grammaticalization, and lexicalization, the constructionist approach shows that the evolution of linguistic units is not a change in isolated forms but rather a change in form and meaning interacting with each other on a constructional basis. Nor is it a change in individual units, but rather a change in units within constructions or a change in constructions as a whole.

Broadening the scope of research on constructions and integrating it with language typology and historical linguistics can solve the problem, mentioned by Wen and Si (2021), that there are many case studies but few systematic studies, and the research results are relatively fragmented and do not form a system. By doing so, a construction grammar system that is rooted in Chinese culture, reflects the characteristics of Chinese, and is proposed by Chinese scholars themselves can be built, as proposed by Niu et al. (2020, p. 291).

4.3 Integrating Cross-Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Research Findings and Methods

Although linguistics has long been fragmented with disconnected and incompatible perspectives, there is a trend toward synthesis and integration in the field thanks to cross-disciplinary work (Christiansen & Chater, 2017; LaPolla, 2017, 2023). In this process, the constructionist approach plays a key role. As Goldberg (2013, pp. 30–31) stated, "the constructionist approach is the fastest-growing linguistic and interdisciplinary approach to language." The construction-based research in China should also adapt to this trend by (a) implementing the noncomponential view of the constructionist approaches and moving away from fragmentation within linguistics, for example by including syntax, semantics, phonology, language typology and change, computational linguistics, language processing, child language acquisition, and language evolution; (b) strengthening relationships with disciplines outside linguistics, such as cognitive psychology, cognitive neuroscience, sociology, evolution studies, anthropology, complexity science, network science, natural-language processing, and more; and (c) drawing on diverse research methods from other fields, including corpus-based quantitative methods, experimental methods (e.g., eye-tracking, event-related potential scanning, and functional magnetic resonance imaging), and using multiple data sources as converging evidence, including authentic

corpora, cross-linguistic surveys, historical surveys, sociolinguistic records, psycholinguistic and neurolinguistic experiments, instrumental speech analysis, and so on. The emphasis should be on the use of cross-validation studies to confirm or falsify theoretical hypotheses related to constructionist approaches. In short, not only should multidisciplinary linguistic research results be utilized and integrated, but also cross-disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and supra-disciplinary research methods should be developed, resulting in a multidisciplinary research paradigm.[14]

Further Reading

Chang, F. L. (2021). Jin shinian guonei Hanyu goushi yufa yanjiu [Research on Chinese construction grammar in the past decade]. *Beijing Keji Daxue Xuebao* (*Shehui Kexue Ban*) [Journal of Beijing University of Science and Technology (Social Sciences)], *37*(6), 606–613.

Hao, T., & Sun, C. H. (2022). Goushi yufa de yingyong kongjian tanxi [Exploring the application of construction grammar]. *Yuyan Wenzi Yingyong* [Applied Linguistics], *121*(1), 17–30.

LaPolla, R. J. (2021a, March). Basics of construction grammar [Lecture Online] *<https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1Dy4y1b7xF/?spm_id_from=333.999.0.0&vd_source=6565364fc54ee70d88a01694afb3c487>*. Construction Grammar Reading Club.

LaPolla, R. J. (2021b, April). *Hanyu de leixing tedian* [Typological features of Chinese] [Lecture online]. College of Chinese Language and Literature, Wuhan University, Wuhan, China.

Liu, Z. G. (Ed.). (2011). *Goushi yufa yanjiu* [Studies on construction grammar]. Shanghai, China: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.

Shi, C. H., & Cai, S. (2022). Goushi yufa yanjiu de lilun wenti lunxi [A theoretical analysis of issues in construction grammar research]. *Waiyu Jiaoxue yu Yanjiu* [Foreign Language Teaching and Research], *54*(5), 643–655.

Ungerer, T., & Hartmann, S. (2023). *Constructionist approaches: Past, present, future*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Wen, X., & Si, W. G. (2021). Zhongguo goushi yufa yanjiu 20 nian: Huigu yu zhanwang [20 years of construction grammar research in China: Retrospect and prospect]. *Jiefangjun Waiguoyu Xueyuan Xuebao* [Journal of PLA University of Foreign Languages], *44*(5), 43–51.

Wu, W. S. (2023). *Goushi yufa yu Hanyu goushi (xiuding ban)* [Constructional grammar and Chinese constructions (Rev. ed.)]. Shanghai, China: Xuelin.

Zhang, B. J. (2018). Goushi Yufa ying yong yu Hanyu yanjiu de ruogan sikao [Several considerations on the application of construction grammar in Chinese studies]. *Yuyan Jiaoxue yu Yanjiu* [Language Teaching and Linguistic Studies], *4*, 11.

References

Boogaart, R., Colleman, T., & Rutten, G. (2014). Constructions all the way everywhere: Four new directions in constructionist research. In R. Boogaart, T. Colleman, & G. Rutten (Eds.), *Extending the scope of construction grammar* (pp. 1–14). Berlin, Germany: De Gruyter Mouton.

Bybee, J. (2010). *Language, usage and cognition*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Chang, F. L. (2021). Jin shinian guonei Hanyu goushi yufa yanjiu [Research on Chinese construction grammar in the past decade]. *Beijing Keji Daxue Xuebao (Shehui Kexue Ban)* [Journal of Beijing University of Science and Technology (Social Sciences)], *37*(6), 606–613.

Cheng, Q. (2003). Lingshu kuangjia jiqi yufa tixian [Possession frames and their grammatical expressions]. *Waiyu yu Waiyu Jiaoxue* [Foreign Languages and Their Teaching], *169*(4), 1–4.

Christiansen, M. H., & Chater, N. (2017). Towards an integrated science of language. *Nature Human Behaviour, 1*(8), 0163.

Croft, W. (2001). *Radical construction grammar: Syntactic theory in typological perspective*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Croft, W. (2022). *Morphosyntax: Constructions of the world's languages*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Diessel, H. (2016). Usage-based construction grammar. In M. Aronoff (Ed.), *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Linguistics* (pp. 295–321). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Diessel, H. (2019). *The grammar network: How linguistic structure is shaped by language use*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Diessel, H. (2023). *The constructicon: Taxonomies and networks*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Dong, Y. P., & Liang, J. Y. (2002). Zoujin goushi yufa [Getting closer to construction grammar]. *Xiandai Waiyu* [Modern Foreign Languages], *2*, 143–152.

Fan, X. (2013). Guanyu jushi de jidian sikao [Some thoughts on construction patterns]. *Hanyu Xuexi* [Chinese Language Learning], *4*, 3–12.

Feng, S. L., & Shi, C. H. (2011). Lun Hanyu jiaoxue zhong de sanyi yufa [On the Trinitarian grammar in Chinese teaching]. *Yuyan Kexue* [Linguistic Sciences], *10*(5), 464–472.

Feng, S. L., & Shi, C. H. (2015). *Sanyi yufa, jiegou, gongneng, yujing* [Trinitarian grammar, structure, function, and context]. Beijing, China: Peking University Press.

Fillmore, C. J., Kay, P., & O'Connor, M. C. (1988). Regularity and idiomaticity in grammatical constructions: The case of *let alone*. *Language*, *64*, 501–538.

Gao, H. (2020). Jijin goushi yufa shijiao xia mingci weiyu ju de kuayuyan yanjiu [Cross-linguistic study of noun-predicate sentences from the perspective of radical construction grammar]. *Xiandai Waiyu* [Modern Foreign Languages], *43*(4), 463–476.

Gao, H., & Zhang, F. (2008). Cilei de goushi yufa shijiao [The view of construction grammar on word classes]. *Tianjin Waiguo Yu Xueyuan Xuebao* [Journal of Tianjin Foreign Studies University], *69*(3), 1–8.

Goldberg, A. E. (1995). *Constructions: A construction grammar approach to argument structure*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Goldberg, A. E. (2003). Constructions: A new theoretical approach to language. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, *7*(5), 219–224.

Goldberg, A. E. (2006). *Construction at work: The nature of generalization in language*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Goldberg, A. E. (2013). Constructionist approaches. In T. Hoffmann & G. Trousdale (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of construction grammar* (pp. 14–31). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Gu, M. D. (2013). *Renzhi goushi yufa de lilun yanyi yu yingyong yanjiu* [Theoretical deduction and application research of cognitive construction grammar]. Shanghai, China: Xuelin Press.

Guo, S. (2004). *Xiandai Hanyu zhishi jushi yanjiu* [A study on causative constructions in modern Chinese] [Doctoral dissertation, Beijing Language and Culture University ,Beijing].

Harris, R. (1981). *The language myth*. London, UK: Duckworth.

Hilpert, M. (2021, Dec). Networks all the way down? Reflections on constructions and the links between them [Lecture]. Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany.

Hoffman, T. (2022). *Construction grammar: The structure of English*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Hou, G. J. (2014). Goushi yufa de xianzhuang he qianjing [The current situation and future prospects of construction grammar]. *Yingyu Yanjiu* [English Studies], *12*(1), 1–9.

Hu, M. Y. (1993). Yuti he yufa [Register and grammar]. *Hanyu Xuexi* [Chinese Language Learning], *2*, 1–4.

Ji, Y. X., & Lin, S. W. (2002). Yi zhong xin de yuyan lilun: Goukuaishi yufa [A new theory of language: Construction grammar]. *Waiguo Yu* [Foreign Languages], *5*, 16–22.

Jing-Schmidt, Z. (2013). Introduction. In Z. Jing-Schmidt (Ed.), *Increased empiricism: Recent advances in Chinese linguistics* (pp. 1–21). Amsterdam, The Netherlands: John Benjamins.

LaPolla, R. J. (2009). Chinese as a topic-comment (not topic-prominent and not SVO) language. In J. Z. Q. Xing (Ed.), *Studies of Chinese linguistics: Functional* approaches (pp. 9–22). Hong Kong, China: Hong Kong University Press.

LaPolla, R. J. (2013a). Arguments for a construction-based approach to the analysis of Chinese. In C.Y. Tseng (Ed.), *Human language resources and linguistic typology*: Papers from the Fourth International Conference on Sinology (pp. 33–57). Taipei, China: Academia Sinica.

LaPolla, R. J. (2013b). Arguments for a construction-based approach to the analysis of Sino-Tibetan languages. In G. Peng & F. Shi (Eds.), *Eastward flows the great river—Festschrift in honor of professor William S-Y. Wang on his 80th birthday* (pp. 127–141). Hong Kong, China: City University of Hong Kong Press.

LaPolla, R. J. (2015). On the logical necessity of a cultural connection for all aspects of linguistic structure. In R. De Busser & R. J. LaPolla (Eds.), *Language structure and environment: Social, cultural, and natural factors* (pp. 33–44). Amsterdam, The Netherlands: John Benjamins.

LaPolla, R. J. (2017, December 3). Zunzhong yuyan shishi, tichang kexue fangfa [Respect linguistic facts and promote scientific methods]. Guangming Ribao [Guang Ming Daily].

LaPolla, R. J. (2023). Yi ren wei zhongxin: Jiaocha yanjiu de biran zouxiang [The inevitability of interdisciplinary integration: Towards human-centered research]. *Yuyan Zhanlue Yanjiu* [Chinese Journal of Language Policy and Planning], *3*, 93–96.

LaPolla, R. J., & Poa, D. (2023). Jiaodian jiegou de leixing ji qi dui Hanyu cixu de yingxiang [The typology of focus structures and their effect on word order in Chinese]. In L. J. Xu & H. Pan (Eds.), *Jiaodian jiegou he yuyi de yanjiu, zengdingben* [Studies on the structure and semantics of focus] (Rev. ed., pp. 38–52). Shanghai, China: Shanghai Education.

Li, L. D., & Fan, F. L. (1960). Shilun biao "mei" de shuliang jiegou duying shi [A discussion of the parallel quantitative construction with meaning of "every"]. *Zhongguo Yuwen* [Chinese Language], *11*, 379–382.

Liao, Q. Z. (1991). Ye tan xingshi zhuyi yu gongneng zhuyi [On formalism and functionalism]. *Guowai Yuyanxue* [Foreign Linguistics], *2*, 31–33.

Linell, P. (2005). *The written language bias in linguistics*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Liu, D. Q. (2005). Zuowei dianxing goushiju de feidianxing *lian* zi ju [Non-typical *lian* constructions as typical constructions]. *Yuyan Jiaoxue yu Yanjiu* [Language Teaching and Linguistic Studies], *4*, 1–12.

Liu, D. W. (2010a). Cong yufa goushi dao xiuci goushi (shang) [From grammatical constructions to rhetorical constructions (Part 1)]. *Dangdai Xiucixue* [Contemporary Rhetoric], *159*(3), 7–17.

Liu, D. W. (2010b). Cong yufa goushi dao xiuci goushi (xia) [From grammatical constructions to rhetorical constructions (Part 2)]. *Dangdai Xiucixue* [Contemporary Rhetoric], *160*(4), 14–23.

Liu, G. H. (2007). Goushi yufa de *goushi* zhi bian [On the debate of *goushi* in construction grammar]. *Waiyu yu Waiyu Jiaoxue* [Foreign Languages and Their Teaching], *221*(8), 1–5.

Liu, Y. W. (1988). Riben guoyu xuehui 1987 nian chunji dahui zai Shenghu Daxue zhaokai [The Spring meeting of the Linguistic Society of Japan held at Kobe University in 1987]. *Guowai Yuyan Xue* [Foreign Linguistics], *1*, 37+20.

Liu, Z. G. (Ed.). (2011). *Goushi yufa yanjiu* [Studies on construction grammar]. Shanghai, China: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.

Lu, J. G. (2022, December). *Chuncui goushi yufa zai Hanyu yanjiu zhong de yingyong* [Radical construction grammar and its application to Chinese] [Paper presentation]. The 6th International Symposium on Chinese Language and Discourse, University of Macau, Macau, China.

Lü, J. J. (2013). *Wang Mian si le fuqin de* goushi guishu [The attribution of the construction *Wang Mian si le fuqin*]. *Yuyan Jiaoxue yu Yanjiu* [Language Teaching and Linguistic Studies], *163*(5), 75–83.

Lu, J. M. (2004). Jushi yufa lilun yu Hanyu yanjiu [Construction grammar theory and Chinese language research]. *Zhongguo Yuwen* [Chinese Language], *5*, 412–416.

Lu, J. M. (2008). Goushi yufa lilun de jiazhi yu juxian [The value and limitations of construction grammar]. *Nanjing Shifan Daxue Wenxueyuan Xuebao* [Journal of School of Literature, Nanjing Normal University], *49*(1), 142–151.

Lu, J. M. (2016a). Cong yufa goushi dao xiuci goushi zai dao yufa goushi [From grammatical constructions to rhetorical constructions and back to grammatical constructions]. *Dangdai Xiucixue* [Contemporary Rhetoric], *193*(1), 1–9.

Lu, J. M. (2016b). Julei, juxing, jumo, jushi, biaoda geshi *yu* goushi [Sentence types, sentence structures, sentence patterns, sentence styles, expression formats, and constructions]. *Hanyu Xuexi* [Chinese Language Learning], *211*(1), 5–13.

Lu, J. M. (2022, July). *Tongyi goushi de liangzhong fenxi celue* [Two analytical strategies for synonymous constructions] [Paper presentation]. Third Construction Grammar Summit Forum, Beijing Language and Culture University, Beijing, China.

Luo, Y. H., & Zheng, Y. J. (2021). *Goushi yufa lilun yu Hanyu goushi yanjiu* [Construction grammar theory and Chinese construction research]. Beijing, China: China Social Sciences Press.

Ma, Q. Z. (1983). Xiandai Hanyu de shuang binyu gouzao [The double-object construction in Modern Chinese]. In the Editorial Board of Yu Yan Xue Lun Cong, Department of Chinese, Peking University (Ed.), *Yu Yan Xue Lun Cong (Di Shi Ji Ji)* [Studies in Linguistics] (Vol. 10, pp. 166–196). Beijing, China: Commercial Press.

Niu, B. Y. (2008). *Ba* zi ju yuyi jiangou de dongyin yanjiu [A study on the motivation of the semantics of the *ba* construction]. *Xiandai Waiyu* [Modern Foreign Languages], *120*(1), 69–73.

Niu, B. Y. (2011). *Goushi yufa lilun yanjiu* [Research on construction grammar theory]. Shanghai, China: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.

Niu, B. Y., Li, X. L., & Shen, S. S. (2020). *Goushi yufa yanjiu* [Construction grammar research]. Beijing, China: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press.

Niu, B. Y., Wang, Y., Xi, L. S., & Gao, H. (Trans.). (2013). *Renzhi yufa jichu (Diyi juan, lilun qianti)* [Foundations of cognitive grammar: Vol. I. Theoretical prerequisites]. Beijing, China: Peking University Press.

Niu, B. Y., Wang, Y., Xi, L. S., & Gao, H. (Trans.). (2017). *Renzhi yufa jichu* (*Dier juan, miaoxie yingyong*) [Foundations of cognitive grammar: Vol. II. Descriptive application]. Beijing, China: Peking University Press.

Perek, F. (2015). *Argument structure in usage-based construction grammar*. Amsterdam, The Netherlands: John Benjamins.

Ren, Y. (2009). Lingshu yu cunxian: Cong gainian de guanlian dao goushi de guanlian [Possession and existential: From the association of concepts to the association of constructions]. *Shijie Hanyu Jiaoxue* [Chinese Teaching in the World], *23*(3), 308–321.

Rong, P. (Trans.). (1990). Renzhi yufa gaiguan [An overview of cognitive grammar]. *Waiyu yu Waiyu Jiaoxue* [Foreign Language and Teaching], *1*, 26–33.

Schmid, H.-J. (2020). *The dynamics of the linguistic system: Usage, conventionalization, and entrenchment*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Shao, J. M. (2015). Guanyu kuangshi jiegou yanjiu de lilun yu fangfa [On the theory and method of frame construction research]. *Yuwen Yanjiu* [Studies in Language and Literature], *135*(2), 1–6.

Shen, J. X. (Trans.). (1994). R. W. Langacker de renzhi yufa [R. W. Langacker's cognitive grammar]. *Guowai Yuyanxue* [Foreign Linguistics], *1*, 12–20.

Shen, J. X. (1999). *Zai* zi ju he *gei* zi ju [*Zai* and *gei* construction]. *Zhongguo Yuwen* [Chinese Language], *2*, 94–102.

Shen, J. X. (2000). Ju shi he peijia [Construction patterns and valence structure]. *Zhongguo Yuwen* [Chinese Language], *4*, 291–297.

Shen, J. X. (2002). Ruhe chuzhi chuzhi shi: Lun *ba* zi ju de zhuguanxing [How to deal with the "disposal structure": On the subjectivity of the *ba* construction]. *Zhongguo Yuwen* [Chinese Language], *5*, 385–397.

Shen, J. X. (2006). *Wang Mian si le fuqin* de shengcheng fangshi [The generating of *Wang Mian si le fuqin*]. *Zhongguo Yuwen* [Chinese Language], *4*, 291–300.

Shen, J. X. (2017). Han yu you mei you zhu wei jie gou [Does Chinese have a subject-predicate structure?]. *Xiandai Waiyu* [Modern Foreign Languages], *40*(1), 1–13.

Shen, J. X., & Wang, D. M. (2000). "N *de* V" he canzhaoti-mubiao gou shi [The "N *de* V" and reference-point constructions]. *Shijie Hanyu Jiaoxue* [Chinese Teaching in the World], *4*, 25–32.

Shi, C. H. (2008). *Hanyu dongjieshi de jufa yuyi yanjiu* [The syntactic and semantic study of Chinese resultative constructions]. Beijing, China: Beijing Language and Culture University Press.

Shi, C. H. (2011). Mianxiang dier yuyan jiaoxue Hanyu goushi yanjiu de jiben zhuangkuang he yanjiu quxiang [Basic situation and research orientation of Chinese construction studies for second language teaching]. *Yuanyan Jiaoxue yu Yanjiu* [Language Teaching and Research], *6*, 98–108.

Shi, C. H. (2012). Cong goushi yazhi kan yufa he xiuci de hudong guanxi [The interaction between grammar and rhetoric from the perspective of construction coercion]. *Dangdai Xiucixue* [Contemporary Rhetoric], *169*(1), 1–17.

Shi, C. H. (2013). Jushi fenxi zhong de goushiguan ji xiangguan lilun wenti [The view of construction and related theoretical problems in construction analysis]. *Hanyu Xuebao* [Chinese Journal of Linguistics], *2*, 23–38.

Shi, C. H. (2016). Hudong gou shi yufa de jiben lilun jiqi yanjiu lujing [The basic concept and research path of interactive construction grammar]. *Dangdai Xiucixue* [Contemporary Rhetoric], *194*(2), 12–29.

Shi, C. H. (2017). Goushi yufa de lilun lujing he yingyong kongjian [Theoretical path and application space of construction grammar]. *Hanyu Xuebao* [Chinese Journal of Linguistics], *57*(1), 2–13.

Shi, C. H. (2018). *Xingshi he yiyi hudong de jushi xitong yanjiu: Hudong gou shi yufa tansuo* [The study of the construction system with interactive form and meaning: Exploring interactive construction grammar]. Beijing, China: Commercial Press.

Shi, Y. Z. (2007). Gouzao yufa lilun guanyu construction dingyi wenti yanjiu [Research on the definition of construction in construction grammar]. *Chongqing Daxue Xuebao* (*Shehui Kexue Ban*) [Journal of Chongqing University (Social Science Edition)], *64*(1), 108–111.

Song, W. H. (2018). *Zhuyu he huati* [Subject and topic]. Shanghai, China: Xuelin Press.

Su, D. J., & Lu, J. M. (2010). Goushi-yukuai jufa fenxi fa he jiaoxue fa [The syntactic analysis and teaching method of construction-chunk]. *Shijie Hanyu jiaoxue* [Chinese Teaching in the World], *24*(4), 557–567.

Tao, H. Y. (1999). Shilun yuti fenlei de yufa xue yiyi [On the grammatical significance of register classification]. *Dangdai Yuyanxue* [Contemporary Linguistics], *3*, 15–24.

Tao, H. Y. (2003). Cong yuyin, yufa he huayu tezheng kan "zhidao" geshi zai tanhua zhong de yanhua [The evolution of the "zhidao" construction in conversation from the perspectives of phonetics, grammar, and discourse features]. *Zhongguo Yuwen* [Chinese Language], *4*, 291–302.

Tao, W. H. (2000). Lun xiangzheng jiegou: Renzhi yufa lilun de hexin [On the symbolic structure: The core of cognitive grammar]. *Waiyu yu Waiyu Jiaoxue* [Foreign Languages and Their Teaching], *2*, 20–22.

Tao, W. H. (2007). Lun renzhi yuyanxue de dingyi he lilun kuangjia [On the definition and theoretical framework of cognitive linguistics]. *Zhongguo Waiyu* [Foreign Languages in China], *19*(5), 37–46.

Taylor, J. R. (2012). *The mental corpus: How language is represented in the mind*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Traugott, E. C. (2007). The concepts of constructional mismatch and type-shifting from the perspective of grammaticalization. *Cognitive Linguistics*, *4*, 523–557.

Traugott, E. C., & Trousdale, G. (2013). *Constructionalization and constructional changes*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Wang, G. S., Yang, L., & Li, P. (2015). Goushi "yao duo A you duo A" de kuaju yufahua [Cross-clause grammaticalization of the "yao duo A you duo A" construction]. *Yuwen Yanjiu* [Studies in Language and Literature], *135*(2), 16–21.

Wang, L. (1984). Zhongguo yufa lilun [Chinese grammar theory]. In Editorial Board of Wang Li Wenji (Ed.), *Wang Li Wenji* [Collected works of Wang Li] (Vol. 1, pp. 1–116). Jinan, China: Shandong Education Press. (Original work published 1943)

Wang, Y. (2006). Guowai gouzao yufa yanjiu zuixin dongtai [Latest developments in foreign construction grammar research]. *Xiandai Waiyu* [Modern Foreign Languages], *2*, 197–202.

Wang, Y. (2009). Goushi yazhi, cihui yazhi he guanxing yazhi [Construction coercion, lexical coercion, and inertial coercion]. *Waiyu yu Waiyu Jiaoxue* [Foreign Languages and Their Teaching], *249*(12), 5–9.

Wang, Y. (2010). Jiyu renzhi yuyanxue de renzhi xiucixue [Cognitive rhetoric based on cognitive linguistics]. *Dangdai Xiucixue* [Contemporary Rhetoric], *157*(1), 45–55.

Wang, Y. (2011). *Goushi yufa yanjiu* [Construction grammar research] (Vols. 1 and 2). Shanghai, China: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.

Wang, Y., & Xu, J. (2010). Hanyu cunzaiju de goushi yufa yanjiu [Construction grammar research on the Chinese existential construction]. *Yuyan Yanjiu* [Linguistic Research], *30*(3), 62–70.

Wen, X., & Si, W. G. (2021). Zhongguo goushi yufa yanjiu 20 nian: Huigu yu zhanwang [20 years of construction grammar research in China: Retrospect and prospect]. *Jiefangjun Waiguoyu Xueyuan Xuebao* [Journal of PLA University of Foreign Languages], *44*(5), 43–51.

Wu, C. A. (2016). Daiqian goushi de wajue jiazhi he weilai huati [The research value and future topics of embedded constructions]. *Dongbei Shida Xuebao* (*Zhexue Shehui Kexue Ban*) [Journal of Northeast Normal University (Philosophy and Social Sciences)], *282*(4), 8–12.

Wu, H. B. (Trans.). (2007). *Goushi: Lunyun jiegou de goushi yufa yanjiu* [Constructions: A construction grammar approach to argument structure]. Beijing, China: Peking University Press.

Wu, H. B. (Trans.). (2013). *Yunzuo zhong de goushi: Yuyan gaikuai de benzhi* [Construction at work: The nature of generalization in language]. Beijing, China: Peking University Press.

Wu, W. S. (2016). *Goushi yufa yu Hanyu goushi* [Constructional grammar and Chinese constructions]. Shanghai, China: Xuelin.

Wu, W. S., & Xia, F. F. (2011). "A *bu dao nali qu*" de goushi jiexi, huayu gongneng jiqi chengyin [A constructional analysis of the expression "A *bu dao nali qu*" and its discourse function and origin]. *Zhongguo Yuwen* [Chinese Language], *343*(4), 326–333.

Xiong, X. L. (2016). Pouxi yukuai de Jijin Goushi Yufa jinlu [Radical construction grammar approach to analyzing syntactic units]. *Shandong Waiyu Jiaoxue* [Shandong Foreign Language Teaching], *37*(5), 3–8.

Xu, S. H. (2000). Cuntong qiuyi zebei qiuquan: Chuangxin gong zhenzhuo [Seeking commonalities while recognizing differences: Collaborative innovation]. *Waiyu yu Waiyu Jiaoxue* [Foreign Languages and Their Teaching], *1*, 6–9.

Xu, S. H. (2007). Xianglin guanxi shijiao xia de shuangjiwu ju zai yanjiu [A re-analysis of double-object sentences from the perspective of adjacency]. *Waiyu Jiaoxue yu Yanjiu* [Foreign Language Teaching and Research], *4*, 253–260.

Yan, M. F., & Li, J. X. (2018). *Jiyu yongfa de goushi yufa yanjiu* [A usage-based study of construction grammar]. Suzhou, China: Suzhou University Press.

Yang, X. (2019). Cong cilei de xiuci goushi dao yufa goushi [From rhetorical constructions of word classes to grammatical constructions]. *Yuyan Jiaoxue yu Yanjiu* [Language Teaching and Linguistic Studies], *197*(3), 67–76.

Yang, X. (2021). "*Chibao fan/hezui jiu*" lei jiegou de fenbu yu shengcheng [The distribution and generation of the "*chi bao fan/he zui jiu*" construction]. *Yuyan Yanjiu Jikan* [Bulletin of Linguistic Studies], *2*, 102–115.

Yang, X., & Li, S. S. (2022). Zouxiang xin jushi guan [Towards a new perspective on construction patterns]. *Duiwai Hanyu Yanjiu* [Chinese Teaching in the World], *26*, 118–129.

Yuan, Y. (2017). *Goushi yufa de lilun, liupai he yingyong* [The theory, schools and applications of construction grammar]. Beijing, China: High Education Press.

Yuan, Y. L., Zhan, W. D., & Shi, C. H. (2014). Hanyu ciku-goushi hudong de yufa miaoxie tixi jiqi jiaoxue yingyong [On the lexicon–construction interaction model of Chinese grammatical description and its application in TCSL]. *Yuyan Jiaoxue yu Yanjiu* [Language Teaching and Linguistic Studies], *166*(2), 17–25.

Zhang, B. J. (1999). Xiandai Hanyu de shuangjiwu jiegoushi [Double-object construction in modern Chinese]. *Zhongguo Yuwen* [Chinese Language], *3*, 175–184.

Zhang, B. J. (2000). Lun *ba* zi ju de jushi yuyi [On the syntactic and semantic features of *ba* constructions]. *Yuyan Yanjiu* [Linguistic Research], *38*(1), 28–40.

Zhang, B. J. (2001). *Bei* zi ju he *ba* zi ju de duicheng yu buduicheng [The symmetry and asymmetry of the *bei-* and *ba*-constructions]. *Zhongguo Yuwen* [Chinese Language], *6*, 519–524.

Zhang, B. J. (2007). Yuti chayi he yufa guize [Differences in register and grammatical rules]. *Xiuci Xuexi* [Studies in Rhetoric], *140*(2), 1–9.

Zhang, B. J. (2008). Jushi yufa lilun yu Hanyu jushi yanjiu [Construction grammar and Chinese syntactic research]. In S. L. Feng (Ed.), *Dangdai yuyanxue lilun he Hanyu yanjiu* [Contemporary linguistic theory and Chinese research] (pp. 497–507). Shenyang, China: Commercial Press.

Zhang, B. J. (2016). Hanyu huati jiegou de genbenxing [The fundamental nature of Chinese topic-comment structures]. In B. J. Zhang (Ed.), *Xiandai Hanyu yufa de gongneng, yuyong, renzhi yanjiu* [Functional, pragmatic, and cognitive studies of modern Chinese grammar] (Vol. 2, pp. 501–515). Beijing, China: Commercial Press.

Zhang, B. J. (2018). Goushi Yufa ying yong yu Hanyu yanjiu de ruogan sikao [Several considerations on the application of construction grammar in Chinese studies]. *Yuyan Jiaoxue yu Yanjiu* [Language Teaching and Linguistic Studies], *4*, 11.

Zhang, G. H. (Trans.). (2016). *Goushi yufa jiaocheng: Goushi yufa jiqi zai yingyu zhong de yingyong* [Construction grammar and its application to English]. Beijing, China: Peking University Press.

Zhang, J. (2013). Guonei Hanyu goushi yufa yanjiu shinian [A decade of research on Chinese construction grammar in China]. *Hanyu Xuexi* [Chinese Language Learning], *194*(2), 65–77.

Zhang, J. L., & Xu, Y. (2011). *Goushi yufa* dui Hanyu "xingrongci + binyu" jiegou de yantao [A construction grammar approach to the "adjective + object" construction in Chinese]. *Waiguo Yu* [Foreign Languages], *34*(6), 11–18.

Zhang, L. J. (2011). Jiyu jijin goushi yufa de yuyan duibi yanjiu [A radical construction grammar approach to comparative language studies]. *Dongbei Daxue Xuebao (Shehui Kexue Ban)* [Journal of Northeastern University (Social Sciences)], *13*(1), 74–78.

Zhang, M. (1998). *Renzhi yuyanxue yu Hanyu mingci duanyu* [Cognitive linguistics and Chinese noun phrases]. Beijing, China: China Social Sciences Press.

Zhang, R. (2009). Guanyu cilei benzhi de yige dongtai renzhi shijiao [A dynamic cognitive perspective on the nature of word classes]. *Dangdai Yuyanxue* [Contemporary Linguistics], *11*(3), 233–243.

Zhang, Y. (2009). Daozhi dongjieshi de renzhi goushi yanjiu [A cognitive construction grammar approach to the inverted verb–complement construction]. *Waiguo Yu* [Foreign Languages], *32*(4), 34–42.

Zhang, Y. (2010). *"Wang Mian si le fuqin"* de renzhi goushi xin tan [A new exploration of the construction of *"Wang Mian si le fuqin"*]. *Jiefangjun Waiguoyu Xueyuan Xuebao* [Journal of PLA University of Foreign Languages], *33*(4), 17–20.

Zhang, Y. S. (2020). *Dangdai Hanyu liuxing goushi yanjiu* [Research on popular constructions in contemporary Chinese]. Shanghai, China: Shanghai Sanlian Shudian.

Zheng, J. M. (2009). *"Hai* NP *ne"* gou shi fen xi [Analysis of the *"hai* NP *ne"* construction]. *Yuyan Jiaoxue yu Yanjiu* [Language Teaching and Linguistic Studies], *136*(2), 9–15.

Zheng, J. M. (2012). Hanyu kouyu yanjiu yu goushi yufa lilun [Research on Chinese oral language and construction grammar]. *Jinan Xuebao (Zhexue Shehui Kexue Ban)* [Journal of Jinan University (Philosophy and Social Sciences)], *34*(1), 115–118.

Zhu, J. (2010). *Hanyu goushi yufa yanjiu* [Research on Chinese construction grammar]. Beijing, China: China Social Sciences Press.

Notes

1. This article was the first comprehensive introduction to constructionist approaches in China and has played an important role in familiarizing people with this linguistic theory. It has the second-highest citation rate and the fifth-highest download rate among articles featuring the keyword "construction grammar" in CNKI (China National Knowledge Infrastructure). The authors made a significant contribution to the growing popularity of the term *goushi* (构式) by revising its translation from *jushi* (句式) to *goushi* (构式), as recommended by an anonymous reviewer.

2. The way *construction* is translated reflected Chinese construction grammarians' understanding of the concept of construction, which may be different from what we understand now. For example, 结构 might be 'structure'; 结构式 might be 'structural pattern'; 句式 might be 'sentence pattern'; 句型 might be 'sentence form'. These translations all reflect a view of construction as being just about syntactic structure rather than the totality of the natural utterance.

3. https://www.zgbk.com/ecph/words?SiteID=1&ID=154382&Type=bkzyb&SubID=45054 *<https://www.zgbk.com/ecph/words?SiteID=1&ID=154382&Type=bkzyb&SubID=45054>*

4. Shao (2015) and C. A. Wu (2016) have reflected on this type of research and provided an outlook on future research topics.

5. One of the distinctive features of this theory is that its chunks are not borrowed from a pre-existing list of semantic roles, but are instead analyzed based on the meaning of the whole construction. This approach fully embodies the top-down research orientation of constructionist approaches. Consequently, the semantic roles of the chunks are determined by the specific constructions, which fully reflects the trend of "from abstract to concrete" in the study of Chinese grammar (Yang & Li, 2022).

6. Based on this narrow definition, morphemes are not considered constructions; only idioms are usually considered as such, as are schematic patterns like "N V N N," while constructs like *ta song le wo yiben shu* (他送了我一本书) 'He gave me a book' are not.

7. J. G. Lu (2022) discusses possible reasons for the neglect of radical construction grammar in China, including the misconception that it is a common constructionist approach like the others; the inappropriateness of translating *radical* as *jijin* (激进), which he suggests should be *chuncui* (纯粹) 'pure'; and that the basic position of radical construction grammar is too subversive and not easily accepted.

8. Following Traugott's (2007) distinction, it seems that Chinese scholars are more concerned with macro-constructions and meso-constructions, and less concerned with micro-constructions and constructs. As a result, constructionalization, as well as the systematic connections between constructions, may be neglected.

9. The literature cited in this paper focuses mainly on Mandarin Chinese, since research on this language is the most abundant.

10. Due to the influence of structuralism and transformational-generative grammar, Chinese scholars used to focus more on the relationship between homomorphic constructions. For instance, in his study of ditransitive constructions, B. J. Zhang (1999) only emphasized "similarities between forms" and did not examine "the relationship between synonymous constructions," as commented on by B. J. Zhang (2018, p. 6). Similarly, Chang (2021) notes that comparative studies of construction pairs/clusters with the same meaning or function are scarce. In recent years, however, Chinese scholars have begun to explore relationships between synonymous constructions. Shi's (2016, 2018) multi-interactional perspective and treatment of construction groups embody the network view, and J. M. Lu (2022) discusses the differences in information structure and chunk arrangement between synonymous constructions.

11. LaPolla (2013a) examines a variety of Chinese phenomena from a constructionist approach, including the *ba* (把) construction, the *zhe ben shu de chuban* (这本书的出版, publication of this book) construction, and the topic-comment construction, as well as the clausal referential phrase-modifying construction with *de* (的), among others.

12. LaPolla (2009) takes a similar view, treating topic-comment as the unmarked focus structure, but outlines several marked focus structures.

13. For the study of Mandarin Chinese, LaPolla (2013a) suggests that

> the most useful approach to Chinese grammar then is to take the constructions as basic, and not try to impose global categories on the language for which there is no empirical evidence, as taking the constructions as basic means there is no need for abstract global categories in individual languages or cross-linguistically. (p. 51)

14. Fortunately, Chinese linguistics on the global stage is becoming increasingly focused on empirical methods, with a clear shift from a more rationalist mode of inquiry to a more empirical one (cf. Jing-Schmidt, 2013, p. 1; LaPolla, 2017).

Related Articles

Coordination in Syntax

Construction Morphology

Copular Constructions in Syntax

Meanings of Constructions

Cognitively Oriented Theories of Meaning