

## History of Chinese – Literary Chinese Syntax and Morphology I

### 1. Classical Chinese 古文 and Literary Chinese 文言

In principle, Classical Chinese refers to the language of *jīngdiǎn* 經典:

《詩經》、《尚書》、《周禮》、《儀禮》、《禮記》、《周易》、《左傳》、《公羊傳》、《穀梁傳》、《論語》、《爾雅》、《孝經》、《孟子》。

Literary Chinese, on the other hand, includes the variety of Chinese that have been “written” down in literary documents, much of which reflect the influence of spoken (vernacular) forms of the time. This does not suggest that CC was not spoken.

### 2. Classical Chinese has no grammar? -- Norman's (1988) response

#### *Bimorphemic syllables*

Fú 弗 *p̥p̥t	=	bù 不 *p̥jəg	+	zhī 之 *tjəg
Wù 勿 *mjət	=	wú 無 *mjag	+	zhī 之 *tjəg
Hé 盒 *gap	=	hé 何 *gar	+	bù 不 *p̥jəg
Yān 焉 *gwjan	=	yú 於 *gwjag	+	n- (? 爾 *njidx)

Also, 然 \*njan = 如 \*njag + \*n ?

#### *Morphological derivation with qù-tone*

度 duò (*dak) ‘to measure’	;	dù (*dagh) ‘measure’
行 xīng (*grang) ‘to walk, behave’	;	xíng (*grangh) ‘behavior, route’
傳 chuán (*drjuan) ‘to transmit’	;	zhuàn (*drjuanh) ‘a record’
惡 è (*ʔak) ‘evil, to be evil’	;	wù (*ʔagh) ‘to hate’

#### *Morphological variation by initial voicing*

見 jiàn (*kianh) ‘to see’	;	xiàn (*gianh) ‘to appear, be seen’
繫 jì (*kigh) ‘to tie’	;	xì (*gigh) ‘to be attached’
背 bèi (*pəgh) ‘back’	;	bèi (*bəgh) ‘to turn back on’

## 2. Word Classes of Classical Chinese

The traditional Chinese way of classifying words is *shící* 實詞 - *xūcí* 虛詞. More recent (Western) way of classifying of words, as employed by Norman, is as follows.

### 2.1. substantive

#### a. nouns

- (1) 蔡侯淫而不父
- (2) 鞭之見血

#### b. pronouns--demonstrative, personal, interrogative, indefinite

彼, 此 (cf. *cí* 茲), 是, 斯  
余, 吾, 我 / 汝, 而, 爾, 若 / 其, 之, 焉,  
所V (cf. V的)

#### c. localizers

東, 西, 南, 北, 上, 下, 內, 外, 前, 後, 中 (N+/+N/+V)

#### d. time words

日, 月, 今, 昔 etc.

### 2.2. predicative

#### a. verbs

- a1. transitive (6) 老者食肉
- a2. intransitive (7) 醫來
- a3. causative (8) 既來則安之
- a4. putative (9) 自巧而拙人
- a5. passive (10) 直木先伐

#### b. adjectives

至善, 高於泰山 etc.

#### c. auxiliary verbs

#### d. prepositions

yú 于	*ʔjag	locative
yú 於	*gwjag	locative
hū 乎	*gwag	locative
zì 自	*dzidh	ablative
yóu 由	*rəgw	ablative
wèi 為	*gwjarh	benefactive
yǔ 與	*ragx	comitative
yǐ 以	*rəgx	instrumental

- (11) 為小門於大門之側
- (12) 有朋自遠方來
- (13) 為長者折枝
- (14) 吾與回言終日
- (15) 擊之以戈

e. Pro-verb  
然

f. Adverbs  
皆, 亦, 果, 固, 最, 猶, 方, 將, 屢 (今, 昔 are not adverbs)

g. Particles  
語助詞 (eg. 之)  
語氣詞

h. Conjunctions  
N與N, N及N

i. Interjections

### 3. Sentence structures of Classical Chinese

- a. Nominal/Verbal sentences
- b. Negations
- c. Imperative sentences
- d. Questions
- e. Sentential particles
- f. Modal auxiliaries
- g. Passive
- h. Place and time adverbials
- i. Nominal and verbal modification
- j. Nominalization
- k. Conjoining construction

- |     |                   |                       |                  |
|-----|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| a1. | 文王我師也。<br>是孔丘之徒與? | 無傷也, 是乃仁術也。<br>可以為師矣。 | 君子哉, 若人!<br>子為誰? |
| a2. | 公賜之食。<br>有人於此。    | 堯以天下與舜。<br>山有喬松。      | 托其妻子於其友。         |

b. 不, 弗, 非, 無, 毋, 勿, 未

d1. 若非吾敵人乎? 非夫子之友耶?

d2. 焉, 惡, 幾, 何, etc. 牛何之? 不索何獲?

e1. 也, 矣, 哉, 耳 (<而+已), etc.  
吾聞其語矣, 未見其人也. 堯舜與人同耳.

e2. 蓋, 夫  
蓋有不知而作之者, 我無是也。  
蓋有之矣, 我未之見也  
夫人幼而學之, 壯而欲行之

f. kě 可, néng 能, yù 欲, bì 必, yí 宜, zú 足, kěn 肯 etc.

qí 其 -- 齊師其遁. 君其待之. 其能久乎?

g. 昔者龍逢斬  
盆成括見殺  
蔡澤見逐於趙  
為蛇所食

h. 褒於道病死.  
此時沛公亦起沛  
明日隨行  
子於是日哭  
子來幾日矣?