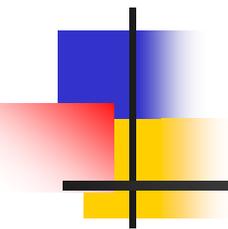
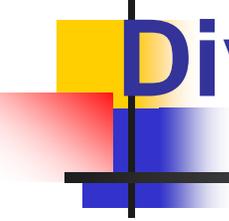


Syntactic Analyticity and Parametric Theory



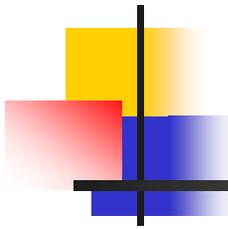
C.-T. James Huang

12-10-2004



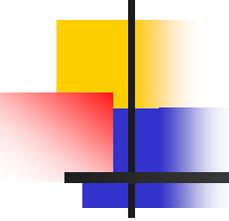
Diversity in a biolinguistic model

- Nature + Nurture = Grammar_L
- UG, Experience, PG
- Language diversity
- Explaining diversity: parametric theory
- Mac- and micro-parametrics
- Parameters and acquisition
- Origins, change, and acquisition
- Consequences in other domains



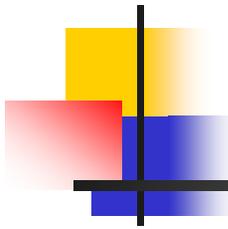
Diversity: some examples

- (1) E.T. phoned home. (English)
- (2) E.T. **da** dianhua **hui** jia. (Mandarin)
E.T. hit telephone back-to home
- (3) John-was Bill-ni denwa **shita**. (Japanese)
- (4) Washakoty'tawitsherahetkvhta'se' (Mohawk)
He made the thing that one puts on
one's body ugly for her.



•Analyticity and synthesis

Isolating	Analytic	Synthetic	Polysynthetic
Chinese . . .	English . . .	Italian/Latin . . .	Mohawk
. . . . Japanese	Irish		Austronesian



More variations: Simple vs. compound verbs

Synthetic

English:

Enter, exit, etc.

Classical Chinese

Ru, chu

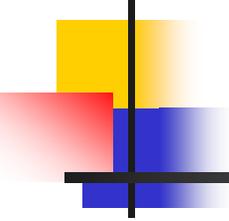
Analytic

English:

come in, go out, etc.

Modern Chinese

jin lai, chu qu



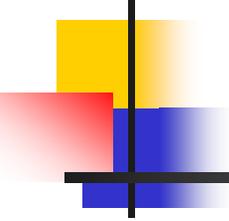
More Variations: classifiers, plural morphology, etc.

Chinese, Japanese, etc.

yi-**ben** shu, liang-**ge** ren, san-**zhang** zhuoz
one-CL book, 2-CL person, 3-CL table

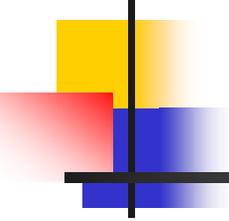
English, French, etc.

one book, two persons, three tables



More Variations: word order

- Japanese: Last year John often Bill **visited**.
- Chinese: Last year John often **visited** Bill.
- English: Last year John often **visited** Bill.
- French: Last year John **visited** often Bill.
- German: Last year **visited** John often Bill.
- Irish: **Visited** John last year often Bill.



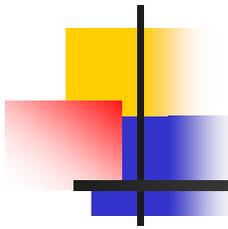
The clustering of distinctive properties (I)

Mandarin Chinese, etc.

- Extensive use of light verbs
- Compounds and phrasal expressions
- Nominal classifiers
- Head-final word order
- Do not have expressions like *nobody*, *each other*, or 'bi-nominal *each*'
- Do not have *wh*-movement
- Do not have *gapping* constructions

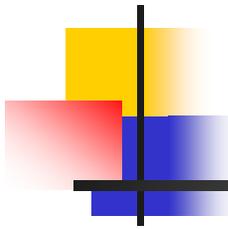
English, Romance, etc.

- Limited light verb constructions
- Simplex expressions or compounds
- No nominal classifiers
- Head-initial tendencies
- Have negative quantifiers, reciprocals and 'bi-nominal *each*'
- Have *wh*-movement
- Have *gapping* constructions



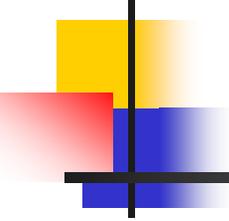
The clustering of distinctive properties (II)

- **No agreement, tense, case, or plural morphology**
- **“I have drunk three hours of water”**
- **“I criticized 3 years of Bush”**
- **“Bash your Bush, ...”**
- **Resultatives violate DOR**
- **Etc.**
- **Have agreement, tense, case, and/or plural morphology**
- **I have been drinking water for 3 hours**
- **I criticized Bush for 3 years**
- **Go on Bush-bashing...**
- **Resultatives show DOR effects**
- **Etc.**



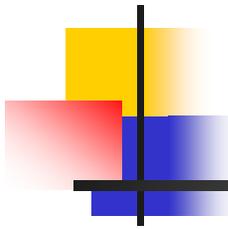
Explaining the variations (I)

- **The clustering reflects the analyticity-synthesis difference at three levels:**
 - Lexical categories (light verbs, classifiers, synsem mismatches, etc.)
 - Functional categories (n-words, reciprocals, tense, agreement, wh-movement, etc.)
 - Argument structure as grammatical features ('eat restaurant, cut knife, etc.; DOR in resultatives, etc.)



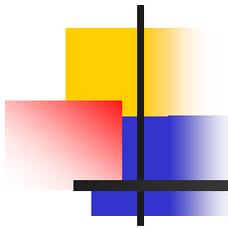
Explaining the variations (II)

- **Chinese as a Davidsonian language par excellence**
 - Decomposition at the verbal level (light verbs [i.e. verbal classifiers], etc.)
 - Decomposition at the nominal level (classifiers = [light nouns, auxiliary nouns if you like], etc.)
 - Decomposition at the functional level (*wh*-movement, *n*-words, reciprocals, etc.)



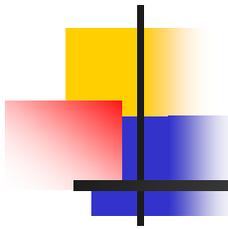
Explaining the variations (III)

- **Chinese as a Healthy (“Virus”-free) language**
 - No virus (no relevant uninterpretable grammatical features that drive syntactic operations), hence
 - No *wh*-movement, no “EPP”-movement, no case-driven checking movement, no n-words, etc.
 - No (or limited) argument structure requirement, hence some syn-sem mismatches, lack of some DOR effects, etc.



Explaining the variations (IV)

- **The lexical parameterization hypothesis**
 - Cross-linguistic variations in syntax reduce to (are the results of) morphological differences in lexical and functional items among languages
 - A theory of syntactic computation based on the notion that syntactic operations are driven by grammatical features



Other important issues

- Macro- and micro-parametric theories
- Variation and language acquisition
- Origins, change, and acquisition
- Parameters in other domains:
processing, pathology, etc.