

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
LIST OF TABLES	xii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xiii

CHAPTER ONE	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Background of Tense and Aspect	1
1.2	Literature Review of Tense and Aspect in Chinese	8
1.2.1	Background	8
1.2.1.1	Traditional Attitudes	8
1.2.1.2	Confusion over Terminology	9
1.2.1.3	Residual Problems from Archaic Chinese	12
1.2.1.4	Impact of Pragmatics, Semantics and Phonology on Syntax	16
1.2.2	Previous Studies of Tense in Chinese	19
1.2.2.1	Studies that Regard Chinese as a Tenseless Language	19
1.2.2.2	Studies that Regard Chinese as Having Tenses	23
1.2.3	Previous Studies of Aspect	27
1.2.3.1	Studies that Regard Chinese as Having a Combined Aspectual and Temporal Value	26
1.2.3.2	Studies that Regard Chinese as Having Only Aspect	30
1.3	Significance of Study	42
1.4	Scope of Study	45
1.5	Organisation of the Study	48

CHAPTER TWO	THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	49
2.1	Theoretical Framework	50
2.1.1	Lexicase Grammar	50
2.1.2	Properties of Lexicase	59
2.1.2.1	Perceptual (versus Situational)	59
2.1.2.2	Monostratal Representation	62
2.1.2.3	Patient Centrality	66
2.1.2.4	Triune Sign and Lexical Entries	68
2.1.2.5	Seamless Morphology	72
2.2	Application of Lexicase in This Study	76
2.2.1	The Triune Sign	78
2.2.2	Subcategorisation	82
2.3	Concluding Remarks	88
CHAPTER THREE	SYNTACTIC CLASSIFICATIONS OF VERBS IN CHINESE	90
3.1	Significance of the Subcategorisation	91
3.2	Syntactic Subcategorisation of Verbs in Chinese	95
3.3	Preliminary Observations	105
3.3.1	<i>Le₂</i>	105
3.3.2	<i>Le₁</i>	107
3.3.3	<i>Zhe</i>	108
3.3.4	<i>Guo₁/guole</i>	108
3.3.5	<i>Guo₂</i>	109
3.3.6	<i>Zai</i>	110
3.4	Syntactic Constructions with “Simple” and “Complex” Verbs	113
3.4.1	Syntactic Constructions with “Simple” Verbs	119
3.4.2	Syntactic Constructions with “Complex” Verbs	125
3.5	Conclusion	140

CHAPTER FOUR	TENSE IN CHINESE	141
4.1	General Theories on Tense	144
4.2	Reference Points in Chinese	149
4.3	Identification of Tense Markers	150
4.3.1	<i>Le</i> (<i>le₁</i> and <i>le₂</i>) as a Tense Markers	152
4.3.2	<i>Guo</i> (<i>guo₁</i> / <i>guole</i> and <i>guo₂</i>) as a Tense Marker	176
4.3.3	<i>Zhe</i> as a Tense Marker	186
4.3.4	<i>Zài</i> a Tense Marker	195
4.4	Schematic Representation of Tense in Chinese	203
4.5	Analogical Representation of Tense in Chinese	220
4.6	Concluding Remarks	222
CHAPTER FIVE	ASPECT IN CHINESE	224
5.1	General Properties of Aspect in Chinese	229
5.2	Propositional Level	232
5.2.1	Perfective <i>Le₂</i>	232
5.2.2	Imperfective Marker <i>Zài</i>	228
5.3	Lexical Level	240
5.3.1	Perfective Aspect Markers	241
5.3.1.1	<i>Le₁</i>	241
5.3.1.2	<i>Guo₂</i>	251
5.3.1.3	<i>Guo₁</i> / <i>Guole</i>	254
5.3.2	Imperfective Marker <i>Zhe</i>	259
5.4	Sentence Final <i>Le</i>	266
5.5	Interface of Tenses and Aspect	269
5.6	Concluding Remarks	274

CHAPTER SIX	CONCLUSION	
6.1	Summary of The Study	276
6.2	Significance of The Study	278
6.2.1	On Tense	278
6.2.2	On Aspect	279
6.2.3	On the Markers	281
6.2.4	On the Grammar	282
6.3	Problems in the Study of Tense and Aspect in Chinese	283
6.4	Topics for Future Studies	285
6.5	Concluding Remarks	289
APPENDIX I	Types of Sentence Constructions (English)	291
APPENDIX II	Types of Sentence Constructions (Chinese)	301
APPENDIX III	Glossary in Lexicase	311
BIBLIOGRAPHY		313

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1	Chinese Aspectual System (Huang, 1988:279)	35
Table 1.2	Chinese Aspectual System (Egerod, 1994:304)	37
Table 2	Syntactic Analysis Model: Tense and Aspect	83
Table 3.1	Syntactic Analysis Model: Tense and Aspect	90
Table 3.2	Syntactic Subcategorization of Verbs in Chinese	98
Table 3.3	Co-occurrence of Transitive Verbs with Aspect Markers in Sentence	100
Table 3.4	Co-occurrence of Intransitive Verbs with Aspect Markers in Sentence	102
Table 3.5	Examples of Different Types of Sentence Constructions	115
Table 3.6	Semantic Difference of Verbs in Simple Transitive Sentences	120
Table 3.7	Semantic Difference of Verbs in Simple Intransitive Sentences	133
Table 4	Acceptability of <i>Zhe</i> -Constructions with Time Adverbials	187
Table 5.1	Proposed Distribution of Aspect Markers	227
Table 5.2	Distribution of Aspect Markers	270
Table 5.3	Proposed Schematic Representation of Tense and Aspect	271
Table 5.4	Interface between Tense and Aspect Markers in Chinese	273
Table 6.1	Distribution of Aspect Markers	280
Table 6.2	Interface between Tense and Aspect Markers in Chinese	281

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A-R Tense	Absolute-Relative Tense	NP	Noun Phrase
Acc	Accusative	obnd	opening boundary
actr	actor	P	Preposition
Adj	Adjective	p	modal particle
Adv	Adverb	Past	past
AGT	Agent	PAT	Patient
bndd	bounded	plrl	plural
cbnd	closing boundary	pnct	punctual
cmpn	compound	prdc	predicate
CF	Case Form	prfc	perfect/perfective
CL	classifier	prnn	pronoun
COR	Correspondent (CR)	rmot	remote
CR	Case Relation	rslt	resultative
CRS	Current Relevance State	rvrs	reversible
crsp	correspondent (verb)	spct	aspect
Det	Determiner	Sprb	Sperrbaum
fint	finite	sstn	Sustaining Aspect
dfnt	definite	stag	stage
gnrc	generic	sttv	stative
lctn	location/locational	telc	telic
Lcv	Locative	trns	transitive
Lfct	local effect	trtv	iterative
LOC	Locus	V	Verb
mnnr	manner	VP	Verb Phrase
MNS	Means	WFS	Word Formation Strategy
mrk	marker	xlry	Auxiliary
ndex	index	xprn	experiential
Nom	Nominative	xtns	extension