

Dong Xiufang (Peking University)

Some Features of Chinese Morphology

Although there are not many affixes, we can find clear regularities in Chinese morphology. In this talk, we will discuss three features in Chinese morphology. First, most derivations in Chinese belong to the type of expressive derivation. Second, compounding is dominant in Chinese morphology. We will discuss several types of compounds in detail: meronymy compounds, VO compounds, [[A+N]+N]N compounds and antonymy compounds. Third, there are some 'semi-free morphemes' in Chinese. They are like bound morphemes in spoken language, but under certain prosodic condition, they can be used as word in written language. The property of semi-free morphemes is syntactically free but phonologically bound, and they are the result of language change.