THE GRAMMAR OF DISTRIBUTIVITY IN ANCIENT CHINESE

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Aims & overview

- We propose a morpho-syntactic-semantic analysis of the quantifier particle *jie* 皆 in Ancient Chinese (AC) in relation to quantifier *jin* 盡.
- We try to resolve the following questions:
 - What is the nature of differential universal Quantifiers (Qs) in subject and object positions? (Harbsmeier, 1981: Chap. 2)
 - What is the relation between the distributive quantifier *jie* 皆 and other non-distributive quantifier 畫 in AC?
 - What is the cross-linguistic and diachronic typological connection between *jie* 皆 and quantifier particles in other languages such as Indo-European and Japonic?

1.2 Theoretical assumptions

- We assume the following as ingredients for our account:
- (1) <u>Grammar is modular</u>: a structure building engine, SYNTAX, is elemental: once syntactic structures are built and converging (Chomsky, 1995), they are transferred or 'sent off' to the two interfacing modules:
 - * PHONOLOGY where syntactic structures undergo Vocabulary Insertion (VI) (Halle & Marantz, 1994; Embick & Noyer, 1999, 2001; Embick, 2010; Myler, 2014; Bobaljik, 2012) are ultimately converted in Phonological Form (PF)
 - * SEMANTICS where syntactic structures undergo compositional meaning calculation as they converted to Logical Form (LF).
- (2) <u>Transfer is phasally dictated</u>: core syntactic phases (π) are v^0 and C^0 . (Chomsky, 2001)
- (3) <u>Phases also constrain scope adn word-shape</u>

2 GRAMMATICAL ASYMMETRY OF DEPENDENT QUANTIFICATION:皆 VS 盡

- (1) THE HARBSMEIER GENERALISATION [HG] (Harbsmeier, 1981: 78):
 - a. Quantifier particle *jie* 皆 quantifies the subject. (It may quantify the object only when the subject is unquantifiable.)
 - b. Quantifier particle jin \triangleq quantifies the object. (It may quantify the subject only when the object is unquantifiable.)
- HG is by no means trivial from a theoretical perspective

- I know of no language that has a doubleton set of dedicated quantifiers for subjects and objects
 - a. [John likes **all**₁ the girls] = $\forall x [GIRL(x) \rightarrow LIKE(j)(x)]$
 - b. $[All_2 \text{ the girls like John.}] = \forall x [GIRL(x) \rightarrow LIKE(x)(j)]$
 - where **all**₁ and **all**₂ are morphologically distinct given their structural position and interpretational role.
 - └ [[all₁]]=[[jin 杰]]
 - ↓ **[[all**2]]=**[[jie** 皆]]
 - (2) 百姓 皆爱 其 上
 Baixing jie ai qi shang people JIE love their superior
 'The people all like their superiors.' (Xun 10.76.)
- (3) 百姓 盡殺其上
 Baixing jin sha qi shang people JIN kill their superior
 'The people killed <u>all</u> their <u>superiors</u>.' (Harbsmeier, 1981: 80, ex. a)
- We take HG to be an empirically valid observation and provide a theoretical account.
 - We assume *jie* 皆 is a subject-level ∀⁰ triggering rotation (left-ward movement to Spec(∀P) of its complement over which constitutes it takes scope.
 - Covertly, the quantifier *jie* 皆 raises so as to take scope: it binds the variable in the <u>subject</u> position of the nucleus.
 - Obversely, we assume *jin* \triangleq is an object-level \forall^{0} over which nuclearly scopes.
 - Covertly, *jin* 盡 also raises so but binds the variable in the <u>object</u> position of the nucleus.
 - (4) A general sketch of syntactic structure and compositional interpretation:





- (5) 民 各愛 其 上
 Min ge ai qi shang people GE love their superior
 'The people each like their own superiors.' (Harbsmeier, 1981: 80, ex. c)
- 2.1 The allosemy of 皆 and 盡
 - HG translates (in its strong sense, excluding the exception proviso in brackets in 1)
 - (6) An account of the harbsmeier generalisation:
 - a. 皆 morphologically realises the subject in the quantificational nucleus.
 - b. 盡 morphologically realises the object in the quantificational nucleus.
 - Phases delimit scope.
 - Marantz (2011, 2012) on phases and interpretation:
 - (7) It's the structure of the grammar itself that determines the domain of contextual allomorphy: derivation by phase. So the domain of contextual <u>allosemy</u> should also be <u>the phase</u>.
 [emph. mine] (Marantz, 2011, 2012)
 - (8) $\forall^{0} \leftarrow \{jie, jin\}$ a. $\forall^{0} \leftrightarrow [d_{3}ie] / \bigsqcup_{C_{\pi}P} (subject hood condition)$ b. $\forall^{0} \leftrightarrow [d_{3}in] / \bigsqcup_{v_{\pi}P} (object hood condition)$

3 THE DISTRIBUTIVITY PROPERTY: 皆 VS 盡

- Why does 皆 and (盡 does not) force distributivity?
- Can we derive the distributivity property from asymmetry of dependent quantification? Yes.
- How do we encode the distributivity property of 皆?
- We take 皆 to be a governing quantifier in the sense of Milačić et al. 2015 under which the indefinite undergoes skolemisation.

- 3.1 A solution: skolemisation and dependent quantification
 - Intro to theory and skolemisation.
 - (9) two trees with an LF each.
 - (10) Evidence for grammaticised distributivity from Swedish (Milačić et al., 2015: ex. 7):
 - a. **Varje** flicka drack en öl **each** girl drank a beer 'Each girl drank a beer.'
 - b. Barnen läste varsin bok. children.the read each.poss book
 'The children read a book each.'
 - c. Flickorna drack en öl var. girls.the drank a beer each
 'The girls drank a beer each' → obligatorily distributive
 - (11) ex from hungarian etx.
 - Milačić et al. (2015) cite a plethora of cross-linguistic evidence for the grammaticisation of distributivity: East Cree, Russian, SerBo-Croatian, Hungarian, German.
 - We take AC 皆 to such a grammaticisation.

3.2 Analysis: obtaining distributivity

- AC structures under discussion are of the form [∀∃] and as such are potentially ambiguous between a collective and a distributive reading in presence of a subject-oriented 皆 quantifier, only the distributive reading is available.
- Following Milačić et al. (2015), we assume the [∀∃] form to be the generated LF but that such an LF <u>may be strengthened via skolemisation</u>, i.e., turning it into a Skolem Normal Form.
 - We make the denotation of the indefinite *dependent* on the universal.
 - (12) SKOLEMISATION OF $[\forall \exists]$
 - a. [[Every boy lifted a table]] = $[\forall x : BOY(x)][\exists y : TABLE(x)](LIFTED(x)(y))$
 - b. [[Each boy lifted a (different) table]] = $\exists f [\forall x : BOY(x)] (LIFTED(x) (f(x, TABLE)))$
- We assume an indefinite (objects in 皆 -structures) denotes a variable-arity Skolem function.
 - <u>When 皆 is not present</u>, the arity of the Skolem term (object) is 0 and a standard interpretation applies.
 - <u>When 皆 is present</u>, positive arity of the Skolem term is licensed by the governing quantifier 皆 and an enriched interpretation obtains.
- What about ge 各?
- *Ge* 各 is marks the Skolem variable left behind, analogous to the binominal English *each* (Milačić et al., 2015), Slavonic *po* or the reduplicant morphemes in Hungarian.
- This explains why { 皆, 各 } can co-occur but why 皆 does not occur in tandem with collective predicates (like *qi* 齐).

3.3 Additional evidence: quantifying over mass terms

- 皆 cannot but 盡 can quantify over mass terms.
- (13) 姦 盡止
 Jian jin zhi
 wicked JIN stop
 a. All the wicked people.
 b. All wickedness stops.
 (HF46 / 322.6; Harbsmeier 1981: 80)
- (14) 姦 皆止
 Jian **jie** zhi
 wicked JIE stop
 a. All the wicked people stop [their activities].
 - b. <u>never</u>: All wickedness stops.
- Why? :: 皆 is inherently distributive mass terms cannot be Skolemised.

3.4 Exceptions to HG

- What about exceptions to HG?
- (15) 宋 人 皆 臨 之
 Song ren jie hai zhi
 Song people JIE stew pro
 'The people of Song stewed <u>them all</u>.'
 (Zuo Zhuang 12.5.)
- (16) 法 皆说 之乎
 ru jie shuo zhi hu
 you JIE enjoy pro Q
 'Do you enjoy <u>all</u> these things?'
 (Zhuang 2.16.; Harbsmeier 1981: 78, ex. 1)
- (17) 孙子 皆杀之
 Sunzi jie sha zhi
 Sunzi JIE kill pro
 'Sunzi killed <u>them all</u>.' (Zuo Xiang 14.4.)
- (18) 皆赏 之
 Jie shang zhi JIE rewarded pro
 '[And] he rewarded <u>them all</u>' (Zuo Ding 3 fu 1.)
- Object 皆 -quantifications are consistently leftward and subject-dicrected.
- Scope shifts rightward and is object directed when the subject is unquantifiable (=HG).
- How do we derive this?
- We assume the subject is covertly existentially quantified over, hence 皆 cannot quantify over the subject.
- The only other argument that is available for quantification is the object.
- We predict Skolemisation of the object in such cases to be impossible and hence no distributivity should arise.
- This is confirmed, cf. (15–18).
- Other options exist for exploring the distributive nature of 皆:
 - Chierchia (2013) proposes an exhaustification approach which has been applied to quantifier particles by Mitrović (2014) (for Japonic and Indo-European) and Xiang (2016) (modern Mandarin).
 - We could (should!?) harwire 皆 with subsethood meaning (Mitrović & Sauerland, 2014, 2016) so as to obtain comparative parallels with the Japonic and Indo-European branches.
- 4 DIACHRONIC TYPOLOGY: A SUPERPARTICLE VIEW OF 皆 FROM INDO-EUROPEAN AND JAPONIC

- (19) The μ -series (*mo*/ ξ)
 - a. CONJUNCTION $\forall \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{5}) \times \mathcal{T} \mathcal{Y} - \mathbf{5}$ Bill mo Mary mo B μ M μ '(both) Bill and Mary.'
 - b. Additivity
 - メアリーも Mary mo M μ 'also Mary'
 - c. \forall quantification
 - i. 誰 も dare **mo** who µ **'every-/any-**one'
 - ii. どの 学生 も dono gakusei **mo** INDET student µ **'every/any** student'
- (21) $\bigwedge_{x \in \{r_1, \dots, r_n\}} P(x) \iff P(r_1) \land \dots \land P(r_n)$

- (20) The κ -series $(ka/2^{3})$
 - a. DISJUNCTION

ビル(か) メアリーか Bill ka Mary ka B κ M κ '(either) Bill or Mary.'

- b. QUESTION
 - 分かる か? wakaru **ka** understand κ 'Do you understand**?**'
- c. \exists quantification
 - i. 誰か dare **ka** who ĸ **'some**one'
 - ii. どの 学生 か dono gakusei ka INDET student ĸ 'some students'
- 5 DIACHRONIC SEMANTICS OF ANCIENT CHINESE 皆, AND µ SUPERPARTICLES GENERALLY
 - The JP and IE families show a diachronic rise of polar-sensitive μ .
 - (22) 皆 AS NEGATIVE POLARITY MARKER?:
 - 夫美 也者 F 下 内外 小 大 远 近 皆无 害 焉 Fu [mei] ye zhe shang xia, nei wai, xiao da yuan jin, **jie** wu hai yan FU beauty YE ZHE, UP down in out small big far near JIE (not harm) YAN 'For beauty, it will not do any harm whether it be up or down, inside or outside, small or big, far away or nearby.'

(Guo Shu 国书, cca. 4C. BCE)

- The JP and IE families also show a development of conjunction systems from such quantifier particles.
- (23) 皆 AS CONJUNCTION MARKER?:
 弥 与 纥 吾 皆 爱 之
 Mi yu Ge wu jie ai zhi
 Mi and Ge my Jie love pro

(Xiang, 2016: 3, ex. 5b)

I love both Mi and Ge. (Zuo Xiang 23.11.; Harbsmeier 1981: 78, ex. 3 夫仁 礼 勇 皆民 Ż 为也 (24) li Fu [ren yong **jie** min zhi wei ye FU benevolence ritual courage JIE people pro/Poss do YE 'Benevolence, ritual and courage are (all) what people do". (Guoyu 国语, CCa. C. 4C. BCE) • The μ particle in all three families eventually ended up with a quantificational type of its hosts, i.e. $\langle \langle e, t \rangle, t \rangle$ (This seems to be in line with Aldridge (2006, 2007)) (25) 百姓 皆爱 其 F Baixing **jie** ai qi shang people JIE love their superior 'All the people like their superiors.' (Xun 10.76.) a. [Shui] (**dou**) he -guo jiu. (26) who DOU drink -EXP alcohol 'Anyone/everyone has had alcohol.' (Xiang, 2016: 3, ex. 5a) -guo hejiu.

- b. [Na-ge nanhai] *(dou) he -guo hejiu.
 which-cL boy DOU drink -EXP alcohol
 'Any/Every boy has had alcohol.'
- The discrepancy in the internal QP structure seems to reduce to the following diachronic development (*pace* Chierchia 1998 with respect to [[cl]]—irrelevant here):



6 CONCLUSION & OUTLOOK

- We contended that the two quantifiers *jie* and *jin* are allosemic variants of the same underlying universal QUANT.
- We appreciated HG and shown that AC universal quantification is unique and what challenges that empirical uniqueness poses to theoretical linguistics.
- We proposed how two seemingly facts about *jie* and *jin* may be accounted for.
- Having assumed that the ∀-LF is the default for both quantifying strategies, we are able to retain the unique analysis of AC grammar of distributivity with key semantic ingredients required to explain other universal quantifier particles and their semantic evolution.

	Indo-European		Japonic		Chinese	
	Hittite	Sanskrit	OJ	Cl/MdJ	AC	MdM
inherent distributivity μ hosts	+	+	+	+	+	+
NPI μ-formation	_	+	_	+	(-)	(-)
scalar additivity (even)	+	+	+	+	_	+
non-scalar additivity (ALSO)	+	+	_	+	—	-
conjunction	+	+	_	+	—	-
obligatory type-lift of μ hosts for QUANT. terms	+	+	_	+	_	+

TABLE 1: Some comparative and diachronic-semantic parameters for IE, JP, and AC

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