

## SEMINAR

Jointly organized by

Department of Chinese Studies and Chinese Linguistics Groups  
NUS

### Understanding the *Bǎ*-construction in Mandarin: In the Light of Typology of Resultative Constructions 从类型学对结果式的研究看官话里的‘把’字句

( In Mandarin )

Speaker : A/P Ding Sizhi  
Chairperson : Dr Wang Hui  
Date : Tuesday, 30 October 2007  
Time : 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm  
Venue : AS1, Seminar Room 03-02

#### Abstract

Being one of the most (but not the best) studied constructions, the *bǎ*-construction represents a major research topic in Chinese linguistics. Outside China, it has been almost exclusively approached as a syntactic problem; hence the English literature on the *bǎ*-construction largely concerns syntactic aspects of the construction, involving such key concepts as object marker/case marker, and word order change (cf. Li and Thompson 1978).

Jing-Schmidt (2005) is the first monograph on the *bǎ*-construction written in English. It also stands out in its approach to the *bǎ* problem, which essentially focuses on the pragmatic aspect of the construction under the novel notion of *drammatization*. The notion, however, can apply also to the passive construction and the causative construction in Mandarin.

Wang (1947) contains a classical semantic analysis of the *bǎ*-construction in terms of the concept of *disposal*. While the analysis captures the essential function of the construction, it remains an issue as to how to understand the concept in general linguistic terms. This issue can be resolved in the light of typology of resultative constructions in Nedjalkov (1988). In this talk, reporting findings from Ding (2007), I will present a positive case where research achievements from independent typological studies enhance our understanding on the core function of the *bǎ*-construction, demystifying this linguistic puzzle in Mandarin.

#### Speaker

Dr Ding Si Chi is currently a Associate Professor & Program Co-ordinator for Public Relations at the Macao Polytechnic Institute. He received his Ph.D. in Linguistics from Australian National University. His major research areas are: Chinese linguistics, descriptive linguistics, sociolinguistics of languages in Southwestern China and typological phonology of tone languages .