

# Lexicalization Patterns of Events of Causative State Change in Mandarin Chinese- from a Diachronic Perspective

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The present research examines the typological status of Mandarin Chinese in encoding events of causative state change from a diachronic perspective. We investigate the lexicalization patterns of events of causative state change in four periods of Chinese language, i.e. Old Chinese, Middle Chinese, Pre-Modern Chinese and Modern Chinese. Our statistical study shows that (i) Chinese has been undergoing a typological shift from a verb-framed language to a satellite-framed language, (ii) in the period of Old Chinese, people tend to use verb-framed structures to encode events of causative state change, but in quite different patterns from some typical verb-framed languages, (iii) the typological shift is motivated syntactically, semantically and prosodically, (iv) Modern Chinese is still in a transitional stage from V-language to S-language, so the typological shift has not yet been fully achieved.

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