

Mandarin

Multivaluation @ Frankfurt

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1 Language Information

- Source: Li and Thompson (1981)
- Glottlog: <http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mand1415>
- ISO-identifier: cmn
- Speakers:
- Location: China
- Geneology: Sino-Tiberan > Sinitic > Classical-Middle-Modern Sinitic > Middle-Modern Sinitic > Northern Chinese > Mandarinic > Mandarin Chinese

2 Nominal Morphology

Number is not marked on the noun. Plurality can be expressed by a separate word.

3 Verbal Morphology

The verb does not inflect.

4 Conjunction

The adversative conjunction in Mandarin are *kěshi/dànshi/búguò/ránér* 'but'

- (1) wǒ běnlái xiǎng zǎo yidiǎn lái, kěshi wǒ méi gǎn - shàng
I originally think early a.little come but I not chase - ascend
gōnggòng - qìchē
public - automobile
'I had originally intended to come earlier, but I didn't catch the bus.' [Li and Thompson, 1981, p. 652]

- (2) wǒ yào dǎ tā - de chēzi qù xuéxiào
 I want ride 3SG - GEN vehicle go school
 'I want to ride his/her car to go to school.' [Li and Thompson, 1981, p. 652]
- (3) kěshi tā - de chēzi méi yǒu qìyóu le
 but 3SG - GEN vehicle not exist gasoline CRS
 'But his/her car is out of gas.' [Li and Thompson, 1981, p. 652]
- (4) tā hěn bèn, búguò kǎo - shàng dàxué le
 3SG very stupid but exam - ascend university CRS
 CRS current relevant state
 'S/He is very stupid but s/he passed the university entrance exam.' [Li and Thompson, 1981, p. 654]

5 Disjunction

háishi (used in question) and *huòshi/huòzhě/huòzheshi* 'or' mark disjunction.

- (5) nǐ yào wǒ bāng nǐ háishi yào zìjǐ zuò?
 you want I help you or want self do
 'Do you want me to help you, or do you want to do it yourself?' [Li and Thompson, 1981, p. 654]
- (6) wǒmen zài zhèlǐ chī huòzhe chī fàndiàn dōu xíng
 we at here eat or eat restaurant all OK
 'We can either eat here or eat out.' [Li and Thompson, 1981, p. 654]

6 Prepositions

Here is a list with some of the prepositions in Mandarin:

1. *gēn/hàn/hé/jiù/tóng* 'with'
2. *cóng/dǎ/jiě* 'from'
3. *cháo* 'facing'
4. *yán* 'along'
5. *lí* 'be apart from'
6. *zài* 'at'
7. *gěi* 'for, by'
8. *wèi* 'for'
9. *yú* 'to, for'

References

Li, Charles N. and Sandra A. Thompson (1981). *Mandarin Chinese: A Functional Reference Grammar*. Berkley: University of California Press.