

Contents

<i>Preface to the English edition</i>	ix
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xiii
<i>Periodization of Chinese history</i>	xv
1 Introduction	1
1.1 What is 'Chinese linguistics'?	1
1.2 Aims and scope of this book	3
1.3 Organization of this book	4
2 Sinitic languages: A historical and typological overview	6
2.1 'Chinese', 'dialects', and 'Sinitic languages'	6
2.2 A short history of Chinese	13
2.2.1 Language in pre-imperial China	13
2.2.2 The Qin unification, language, and writing	17
2.2.3 'Standard' varieties in imperial China	23
2.2.4 The birth of a national language	29
2.2.5 The periodization of Chinese	37
2.3 The classification of Sinitic languages	43
2.3.1 Sinitic languages: genealogy and typology	44
2.3.2 The structure of the Sinitic family	54
3 Chinese writing	62
3.1 Chinese characters	62
3.1.1 The classification of Chinese characters	62
3.1.2 Quantitative data	68
3.2 A short history of Chinese writing	71
3.2.1 Early attestations of writing in China	71
3.2.2 Writing in imperial China	75
3.2.3 Writing in republican China: phonetization vs. simplification	80

3.3	Writing other languages	87
3.3.1	Writing Chinese dialects	87
3.3.2	The <i>Chũ' Nôm</i> and <i>Sawndip</i> writing systems	100
4	The sounds of Chinese	105
4.1	Historical phonology	105
4.1.1	The reconstruction of earlier stages of Chinese	105
4.1.2	Old Chinese	116
4.1.3	Middle Chinese	120
4.1.4	Early Mandarin	123
4.2	The phonology of modern Sinitic languages	126
4.2.1	Modern Standard Chinese	128
4.2.2	Mandarin and Jin	135
4.2.3	Wu	138
4.2.4	Xiang	140
4.2.5	Gan	141
4.2.6	Hakka	142
4.2.7	Yue	144
4.2.8	Min	145
4.2.9	Hui, Pinghua, and unclassified <i>patois</i>	147
5	Morphology and the lexicon	150
5.1	The morphology of Chinese	150
5.1.1	Morphemes and words	151
5.1.2	Word formation in Old and Middle Chinese	157
5.1.3	Word formation in Premodern and Modern Chinese	166
5.1.3.1	Compounding	167
5.1.3.2	Derivation	173
5.1.3.3	Reduplication	176
5.1.3.4	Abbreviation	183
5.1.3.5	Nonconcatenative morphology	187
5.2	Foreign words in the Chinese lexicon	191
5.2.1	The evolution of the lexicon after the Opium Wars	192
5.3	Recent trends in Chinese word formation	197
5.3.1	Chinese 'buzzwords' (流行語 <i>liúxíngyǔ</i>)	200
5.3.2	A case study: Chinese 客 <i>-kè</i> neologisms	202
5.4	On lexical differences among Sinitic languages	206

6 Topics in Chinese syntax	211
6.1 Word order	211
6.1.1 Word order in Old Chinese	212
6.1.2 Word order in Modern Chinese	215
6.1.3 Word order in Chinese dialects	222
6.2 Word order, subjecthood, and topichood	227
6.2.1 On the notion of 'subject' in Chinese	232
6.2.2 Some features of the topic in Chinese	238
6.3 Serial verb constructions	244
6.3.1 Serial verb constructions and grammaticalization	247
6.4 Tense and aspect	249
6.4.1 Lexical aspect	257
6.4.1.1 Aspect in resultative compounds	262
6.5 Argument structure: the case of resultative compounds	265
6.6 Word classes	270
6.6.1 Proposed criteria for establishing word classes in Chinese	279
6.6.1.1 Nouns and verbs	280
6.6.1.2 Adjectives	282
6.6.1.3 Prepositions	286
<i>References</i>	291
<i>Index of languages and language families</i>	333
<i>Subject index</i>	337