

**REPETITIVE STRUCTURES
IN THE LANGUAGES OF
EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA**

STUDIA ORIENTALIA
PUBLISHED BY THE FINNISH ORIENTAL SOCIETY
88

Repetitive Structures
in the Languages of
East and South-east Asia

by
Vesa-Jussi Vuori

重疊

HELSINKI 2000

Vesa-Jussi Vuori

Repetitive Structures in the Languages of East and South-east Asia.

Studia Orientalia, Vol. 88. 2000.

Copyright © 2000 by the Finnish Oriental Society,

Societas Orientalis Fennica,

c/o Institute for Asian and African Studies

P.O.Box 59 (Unioninkatu 38 B)

00014 University of Helsinki

FINLAND

Editorial Board:

Tapani Harviainen (Semitic Studies)

Arvi Hurskainen (African Studies)

Juha Janhunen (Altaic and East Asian Studies)

Petteri Koskikallio (Publication Secretary)

Kaj Öhrnberg (Secretary of the Society)

Heikki Palva (Arabic and Islamic Studies)

Asko Parpola (South Asian Studies)

Simo Parpola (Assyriology)

Rein Raud (Japanese Studies)

ISSN 0039-3282

ISBN 951-9380-44-2

Lai-Net Oy

Rauma 2000

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was carried out in the Institute for Asian and African Studies, University of Helsinki. I wish to express my sincerest gratitude to Professor Asko Parpola, the former Head of the Institute, and Professor Arvi Hurskainen, the present Head, for providing excellent research facilities. Without Professor Parpola's gentle pressure the present work would have taken a much longer time to be completed.

I am deeply indebted to my supervisor, Professor Juha Janhunen (East Asian Languages and Cultures), who encouraged me to write on the subject and also contributed many valuable comments after reading both the preliminary and final versions of the study. I would also wish to extend sincere thanks to Dr. Tapani Salminen (University of Helsinki) for reviewing it and offering constructive criticism especially in respect to technical details.

My thanks also go to the professors and scholars of the entire Institute who showed interest in my study at the meetings of the Graduate School which I had the pleasure of attending. And without M.A. Juri Ahlfors' ADP expertise the Chinese characters, Vietnamese letters and the many phonetic symbols so vital for the work would probably never have appeared on paper. I also owe thanks to Department Secretary Harry Halén for reminding me over the years of the practical realities of this world.

Special thanks go to Professor Fred Karlsson (Department of Linguistics, University of Helsinki) without whose support at a critical point earlier in my studies, this work would never have been realized. And if it were not for the efforts of Dr. Vo Xuan Que in Hanoi (Institute of Linguistics, National Center for Social and Cultural Studies), my Vietnamese data would have been very meagre indeed. I wish to express my warmest gratitude for his assistance. Dr. Gao Mingming (University of Helsinki) was always willing to help me out in problems relating to Standard Chinese, for which I am indebted to her. I am also grateful to Phil. Stud. Elliott Yeung for suggesting important bibliographical items and also for the discussions on Cantonese in general and Cantonese repetition in particular. Lic. Theol. Michael Cox's skills were needed for correcting my English, and Petteri Koskikallio's expertise was required for editing the manuscript for printing. I wish to thank both of them. Thanks go also to my friend Vesa who with his visits provided refreshing pauses during the process of writing this study.

During the years, I have received the warmest encouragement from my parents and my sister. Without their help this work could not have been carried out.

Finally, I want to thank my wife, Eija, for her constant support and encouragement, and my sons, Jaakko and Joonas, as well as my daughter Johanna, for their patience especially during the last hectic phase in the preparation of this study.

I appreciate the fact that the Finnish Oriental Society has accepted my work for publication in *Studia Orientalia*.

Helsinki, January 2000,

Vesa-Jussi Vuori

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	v
1. Introduction	1
2. Nominal lexemes	4
2.1. The Sinitic group	6
2.1.1. Denotative meaning	6
2.1.1.1. Kinship terms	6
2.1.1.2. Terms referring to people and parts of the body	9
2.1.1.3. Animals and plants	13
2.1.1.4. Necessities and natural phenomena	17
2.1.1.5. Diminutives	23
2.1.1.6. Distributive meaning	25
2.1.1.7. Diversity/completion	27
2.1.1.8. Emphatic meaning	28
2.1.2. Connotative meaning	30
2.1.2.1. Children's language	30
2.1.2.2. Other connotative categories	32
2.1.3. Compositional meaning	33
2.2. The Tibeto-Burman group	38
2.3. The Tai group	44
2.4. The Viet-Muong group	49
2.5. Other Mon-Khmer languages	62
2.6. The Miao-Yao group	68
3. Pronouns and measure words	71
4. Adjectival lexemes	77
4.1. The Sinitic group	78
4.1.1. Standard and Old Chinese	79
4.1.2. The Mandarin dialects	94
4.1.3. The Wu dialects	104
4.1.4. The Xiang and Gan dialects	113
4.1.5. The Hakka dialects	120
4.1.6. The Yue dialects	124
4.1.7. The Min dialects	134
4.2. The Tibeto-Burman group	143
4.3. The Tai group	157

4.4. The Viet-Muong group	164
4.5. Other Mon-Khmer languages	171
4.6. The Miao-Yao group	174
5. Verbal lexemes	180
5.1. The Sinitic group	181
5.1.1. Standard and Old Chinese	181
5.1.2. The Mandarin dialects	185
5.1.3. Other Sinitic dialects	192
5.2. The Tibeto-Burman group	203
5.3. The Tai group	208
5.4. The Miao-Yao group	213
5.5. The Viet-Muong group	217
5.6. Other Mon-Khmer languages	220
6. On the history of repetitive vocabulary: Chinese and Vietnamese	224
7. Conclusion	231
Bibliography	239