ON THE SEMANTICS OF THE CHINESE MODAL ADVERB YOU

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate the modal meanings of *you* under Kratzer (1981)'s and Xie (2006)'s modality theory. Data is collected from Academia Sinica Balanced Corpus of Modern Chinese (ASBCMC hereafter). In ASBCMC, *you* has two types of modal meanings. It expresses the divergence between the speaker’s expectation and the situation presented by the sentence (labeled as *you*¹ hereafter). It also can indicate the convergence between the expectation and the situation (labeled as *you*² hereafter).

In respect to *you*¹, the proposition that describes the situation has a truth value opposite to that of the expectation. In this condition, the expectation is from the speaker’s presupposition developed upon objective factors. The proposition that describes the situation which *you*² presents always has the same truth value as that of the expectation from the speaker’s personal wish. The simple necessity of negation can be put in use to define the truth value of the proposition of *you*.

*You*¹ tends to denote the lexical meaning ‘transition’ which *you*² cannot denote.

In declarative sentences, *you* is the predicate to predicate the proposition. Meanwhile, it is also adverbials to modify the predicate of the sentence. In the negative sentence and rhetorical question sentences, *you* has no contribution to the sentential contents and is only predicated on the proposition. The speaker frequently uses *you* to refute the obligation from others and his own ability. *You* is also employed to indicate the speaker’s agreement about his judgment or others’ ability.

本文的研究结论是，“又”在表达期望与命题事实背离时，命题真值与说话者的期望为对立关系；“又”表期望与命题符合时，命题真值与说话者期望相同。 “又”的命题真值可用否定必要性来定义。
“又”表背离预期时，含有“重复”，“递进”，“并列”及“转折”词汇义，也存在对句子没有语义贡献的情况。而“又”表符合预期时，不含有“转折”义，只含有重复，递进，井列三种词汇义。这与“又”表达的情景有关。

另外，在语料库中，“又”用在陈述句型中，都对句子有语义贡献，即都含有词汇意义，如“递进”，“重复”等。此时“又”既修饰句中谓语，又充当高层谓语对整个命题进行评注。而在特殊句型中，“又”无词汇意义，仅作为高层谓语作用于整个命题，表达说话者的主观情态。

最后，本文归类了与“又”共现的情态词，结果显示说话者常用“又”来反驳来自外部的义务或否认自身的能力，也用来表达说话者对自身的判断及别人的能力的肯定。
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