Interaction of Thematic Structure and Syntactic Structures: On Mandarin Dative Alternations

One-Soon Her
National Chengchi University

Abstract

This paper gives an account of Chinese dative alternations: (a) [V NP1 get NP2] and (b) [V(get) NP2 NP1] and compares them with their English counterparts. I establish the compound status of Vget in (b), identify in Vget compounding a subclass of V with clearly definable lexical semantics, and demonstrate that post-object get in (a) can be either a goal-marking preposition or a verb heading a VP adjunct. I then render a formalized account within the simplified lexical mapping theory given in Her (1997ms). The dative operation assigns [+o] to goal in Chinese and English alike, while the difference with passivized goal in the two languages is accounted for with an optionality parameter of the syntactic assignment of [−r] to goal in passive operations.

1. Background

The dative alternations in Chinese and English seem to parallel, as in (1)-(2), where Mandarin post-object get3 looks suspiciously similar to the English goal-marking preposition to. This indeed is the most widely accepted view among Chinese grammarians and most accounts (e.g. Teng 1975, Tang 1979, Li and Thompson 1981, Her 1990, Huang 1995, Her and Huang 1995b) also extend the prepositional status to
get3 immediately following the verb, as shown in (3).

(1) a. Li3si4 song4 le tal yi1 duo3 hua1.
   Lee   give   ASP she one CLS flower
b. Lee gave her a flower.

(2) a. Li3si4 song4 le yil duo3 hua1 get3 tal.
   Lee   give   ASP one CLS flower to she
b. Lee gave a flower to her.

(3) a. Li3si4 song4 get3 le tal yi1 duo3 hua1.
   Lee   give    to ASP she one CLS flower
b. ?Lee gave to her a flower.

Against this conventional view and in support of Chao (1968), Huang and Mo (1992) argue instead that (2a) involves a serial verb construction, where post-object get3 is a verb, and in (3a) get3 is a verbal suffix in the Vget3 sequence (Huang 1990, 1993). Thus, in their view, no parallel is justified between English dative to and Mandarin get3.

This paper will argue that get3 is not a suffix in the Vget3 sequence, rather it is the verb head in Vget3 compounds. I further argue that get3 as the second verb in a serial verb construction does not rule out the grammaticality of preposition get3 in constructions like (2a). Thus, (1a) and (3a) are identical in syntactic structures, while (1a) and (2a) are two distinct surface structures related to each other by the same thematic structure, parallel to their English counterparts, (1b) and (2b). Section 2 also demonstrates that the prepositional analysis of post-object get3 is indispensable in identifying a natural class of verbs that form Vget3 compounds.

Section 3 then incorporates this analysis of Mandarin dative shift within a revised lexical mapping theory (LMT) of Lexical-Functional Grammar (LFG). I will first introduce the various components of the theory before presenting a formalized account of dative and passive in Chinese and English. Section 4 discusses the implications of this LMT
implementation and concludes the paper.

2. Status of gei3 and Dative Shift

Like other Chinese prepositions, e.g. gen1 and zai4, gei3 has rather diverse functions. It functions as a verb meaning 'to give', and it is also a preposition. In this paper, however, I will not discuss its preverbal functions as a preposition, such as an agent marker, patient marker (e.g. Paul 1988, Dan 1994), and beneficiary marker (e.g. Li and Thompson 1981, Paul 1988). The focus here is on gei3 the ditransitive verb, as in (4) below, and its somewhat controversial status in postverbal positions, as in constructions (5) and (6).

(4) gei3 NP2 NP1
(5) V gei3 NP2 NP1
(6) V NP1 gei3 NP2

It is certainly without question that gei3 is a full-fledged ditransitive verb in construction (4), much like Mandarin song4 (1a) and English give (1b); however, its status in (5) and (6) is less clear. In 2.1 I present several pieces of evidence for Vgei3 in construction 5 as a ditransitive compound verb. In 2.2 I argue that gei3 in (6) may be either a verb or a preposition, depending on the argument structure of the matrix V. I then bring the analyses in 2.1 and 2.2 together, in 2.3, by identifying a semantically coherent class of verbs that constitute the first member in a Vgei3 ditransitive compound verb. In 2.4 and 2.5, I demonstrate that although Chinese and English share the same dative shift constructions, the interaction between dative shift and passive is different in the two languages.

2.1 Vgei3 Compounds

The attachment of aspect markers is the most commonly employed
test for the verb status of a Mandarin word. It is often misused, however, to test the lack of verbhood as well. While verbs typically allow aspect attachment, some, e.g. pivot verbs such as *shi3 'cause', *ling4 'make', *bil 'force', and *rang4 'allow' and modal verbs such as *ying1/gai1 'should', *neng2 'can', and *hil3/xul 'must', do not (e.g. Her 1990). On the other hand, only verbs, not prepositions or anything else, allow aspect markers (e.g. Chao 1968. Her 1990, McCawley 1992). The crucial point is thus that aspect attachment is a sufficient condition of verbhood in Mandarin, but not a necessary one. Indeed no other test is more reliable for the positive identification of Mandarin verbhood (e.g. McCawley 1992:227).

(7) a. Li3si4 dia1 le yi1 duo3 hua1 gei3 tal
Lee toss ASP one CLS flower to she
Lee tossed a flower to her.

b. Li3si4 dia1 gei3 le tal yi1 duo3 hua1
Lee toss ASP she one CLS flower
Lee tossed her a flower.

c. *Li3si4 dia1 le gei3 tal yi1 duo3 hua1
Lee toss ASP to she one CLS flower

(8) a. Li3si4 mai3 le yi1 duo3 hua1 gei3 tal
Lee buy ASP one CLS flower to she
Lee bought a flower for her.

b. Li3si4 mai3 gei3 le tal yi1 duo3 hua1
Lee buy ASP she one CLS flower
Lee bought her a flower.

c. *Li3si4 mai3 le gei3 tal yi1 duo3 hua1
Lee buy ASP to she one CLS flower

Sentences (7a) and (8a) thus show that *dia1 'toss' and *mai3 'buy' are verbs. Likewise, le attachment in (7b) and (8b) positively identifies *dia1/gei3 and *mai3/gei3 as verbs, while the ungrammaticality of (7c) and (8c) also indicates that V/le sequences are lexical units, whose lexical integrity must be maintained (cf. Huang 1984). Huang (1990) and
Huang and Mo (1992) are therefore entirely correct in this respect and should be applauded for supporting this position of Chao’s (1968), which indeed had been long overlooked. The remaining issue is, however, whether *gei3* is a suffix or *vgei3* sequences are V-V compounds.

First, a word on terminology is needed. McCawley (1992:227), using the same test of aspect attachment, has reached the same conclusion that *vgei3* is a verb. Without giving any reasons, he also calls it a compound. Huang and Mo (1992), on the other hand, in treating *gei3* as a derivational suffix in *vgei3* compounds, may have confused the terminology. Affixing and compounding are two distinct processes: a compound, e.g. English *freeze-dry* and Mandarin *kan4jian4* (look-see) ‘see’, is generally considered a word formed by the combination of words or free morphemes (e.g. Liles 1975, Tatter 1986, Todd 1987, Starosta 1985:251), while affixes, e.g. English *pre- and -ize* and Mandarin ordinal prefix *di4-* and plural suffix *-men*, are bound lexical formats that are distinctively different from words or free morphemes that form compounds. Chi (1985:38), for example, defines a compound in Chinese as a word that “consists of at least two

---
1. Both Huang and Mo (1992) and McCawley (1992) also use the data that involve ellipsis of the NP following *gei3* to show that *gei3* cannot be a preposition in *V-gei3* sequence. The following (58) and (59) are from McCawley (1992:227), (60) from Huang and Mo (1992:111).

(58) Wo3 fu4gei3 $200 de nei4 ge ren2.
I pay $200 COMP that CLS person
The person whom you paid $200.

(59) Nei4 ge ren2, wo3 fu4gei3 $200.
that CLS person I pay $200
That person, you paid $200.

(60) ... di4gei3 yi1 er4 qian1 yuan2 de xiao3fei4.
hand-out one two thousand dollar DE tip
Handing out tips of one or two thousand dollars.

However, all of the dozen or so native speakers I have checked with find such sentences difficult to accept. Huang and Mo (1992:114), citing Huang (1992), actually got it right with the observation that “Mandarin does not allow indirect object gap in general”. Their example above is thus self-contradictory. Such evidence is not necessary for the positive identification of verbhood, for not all verbs allow immediate NP ellipsis.
morphemes *neither of which is affixal* (emphasis added). Since Huang and Mo specifically argue for *gei3* as a suffix, they cannot consider *Vgei3* as a case of compounding: in fact, Huang (1993:363), citing Starosta's (1985:251-252) position, does state explicitly that *gei3* is a suffix and that *Vgei3* verbs should not be mischaracterized as compounds.²

Huang and Mo (1992) base their suffix account on four observations. First of all, *gei3* selects a (somewhat arbitrary) class of verbs. Secondly, *Vgei3* sequences observe lexical integrity, and thirdly they may show semantic shift and idiosyncratic gaps. Finally, *gei3* introduces an additional goal role to the thematic structure of the verb *Vgei3*. (I will show in 2.3 that *gei3* in fact selects a clearly definable class of verbs in *Vgei3* compounds, but let's accept these observations for the moment.) None of these observations is inconsistent with *gei3* as the verb head in *Vgei3* compounds. Compounding, which may or may not be productive, selects a class of lexical items and indeed has the capacity to alter the lexical semantics of predicates. On the other hand, there is substantial evidence available against the suffix analysis.

(9) a. Li3si4 gei3 le ta1 y1 duo3 hua1.
    Lee give ASP she one CLS flower
    Lee gave her a flower.

b. Li3si4 song4gei3 le ta1 y1 duo3 hua1.
    Lee give ASP she one CLS flower
    Lee gave her a flower.

c. *Li3si4 gei3 le y1 duo3 hua1 gei3 ta1.
    Lee give ASP one CLS flower to she
    Lee gave a flower to her.

² Note that Starosta (1985) does not specifically discuss whether *Vgei3* is a case of compounding or suffixing. In fact, he is quite emphatic about the point that a compound is composed of two or more words (Starosta 1985:251). Accordingly, he argues against treating localizer attachment in Mandarin as a case of compounding since localizers such as -li3 'inside', -wai4 'outside', and -shang4 'surface' are arguably no longer words or free morphemes in modern spoken Chinese. By this criterion, *Vgei3* must be recognized as compounding since both *V* and *gei3* are words individually.
First of all, *gei3* is a free morpheme, a word, as shown in (9a). To pose it as a verb in compounds is thus straightforward, while to give it an additional suffix status as a bound morpheme would be a complication to the grammar. In addition, the thematic structure of verb *gei3* is consistent with that of a V*gei3* compound, comparing (9a) with (9b) (or (7b) and (8b)). Both constructions have the thematic structure <ag go th> and denote the agent's volitional transfer of theme to goal. More importantly, *gei3*, as a ditransitive verb, is well-known for its inability to take a postverbal goal-marking *gei3* phrase, as in (9c), and it is the unique exception among all ditransitive verbs with thematic structure <ag go th>. With verb *gei3* as the head, all V*gei3* compounds, naturally, behave exactly the same in this regard, as seen in (9d). Also, the account for the non-occurrence of *gei3gei3* as a V*gei3* ditransitive verb is straightforward: verb *gei3* simply does not take itself in this compounding process. Why? Because the resulting form would not have any syntactic or semantic attribute that is different from verb *gei3* itself; thus, the application of the compounding process would be entirely vacuous.\(^3\) For this same reason a V*gei3* verb also does not

---

\(^3\) Note also that reduplication is a fairly productive word-formation process of Mandarin active verbs indicating tentativeness (e.g. Li and Thompson 1981).

(61) Chang2chang2-kan4 zhei4 ge tang1. gou4 xian2 ma1?
taste-see this CLS soup enough salty PTCL
Try taste the soup. is it salty enough?

(62) Zhei4 zhong3 shu1, ni3 gei3gei3-kan4, mei2 ren2 yao4 de.
this kind book you give-see no person want DE
This kind of books, you can try and give them out, no one'll want them.

Thus, given the pressure for a transparent one-to-one relation between form and function in language processing (cf. e.g. Newmeyer 1991:11, Hsieh 1996), the existence of *gei3gei3* as a reduplicated form offers another motivation for the non-occurrence of *gei3gei3* as a ditransitive compound. From the interactionist point of view (e.g. Her 1994, 1994, Hsieh 1989, 1992a, 1992b) then, reduplication and V*gei3* compounding are two word-formation processes in conflict over verb *gei3*, where they intersect; the result, reduplication prevails, or in Kiparsky's (1978) term,
recycle and become V_wei3_gei3. An affixation analysis on the other hand offers no grammatical explanation to *gei3_wei3 and must resort to haplogy, a phonological constraint that arbitrarily rules out some adjacent identical elements (cf. Tang 1979, Teng 1985, Huang 1993).4

Phonological evidence, in fact, is also consistent with gei3 as the head. Gei3, like other heads in compounds, such as gan1xi3 [dry-wash]

reduplication bleeds V_wei3 compounding. Furthermore, given the pressure for economy in language production and thus a one-to-many relation between form and function (cf. e.g. Newmeyer 1991:11, Hsieh 1996, Cheng 1991), the fact that gei3_wei3 as the compound form would function exactly identically as verb gei3 also motivates its non-occurrence to avoid a many-to-one correspondence.

4. Huang (1993), along with Teng (1975) and Tang (1979), accounts for the non-occurrence of gei3_wei3 compound by haplogy, a term first used in Chinese linguistics by Chao (1968) referring to a phonological rule that reduces two adjacent le’s in the sentence-final position to one single syllable le, e.g. *tal lai2 le le ‘he has come’, where the first le is the perfective aspect marker and the second the sentential modal particle indicating a change of state. As Huang (1993:363) has correctly pointed out, haplogy is attested for cases of affixed elements, e.g. suffixes, clitics, and particles. What is more important, nonetheless, is that in well-attested cases of haplogy such as the one with le’s supported by Chao (1968), both adjacent elements, not just one, are affixational. (63a) shows that possessive clitic de is required for proper nouns as possessors, and thus in (63b) the de de sequence is reduced to a single de, even though the first de, a nominalizer clitic, has been lexicalized as part of the word yao4-jian4-de ‘one that begs for rice’ ‘beggar’. However, in (63c), the mal mal sequence where the first mal is part of a full-fledged lexical item followed by question particle mal is perfectly good, and likewise ba ba in (63d) and guo4 guo4 in (63e) are good.

(63a) a. Tal shi4 li3si4-(de) mei4-mei.
   she be Lee POSS sister
   She is Lee’s sister.
   a. Tal shi4 mei4 ge yao4 fan4 de-* (de) mei4 mei.
   she be that CLS beggar POSS sister
   She is Lee’s sister.
   c. Tal shi4 ni3 mal1 mal1?
   she is you mama
   Are you your mama?
   d. Wo3 men xian1 qu4 kan4 bu4 ba ba!
   we first go see papa PTCL
   Let’s go see papa first.
   e. Ze4 zhong3 sheng1 huo2 ni3 guo4 guo4 mal?
   this kind life you live EXPR PTCL
   Have you ever lived such a life?

Therefore, since the first gei3 is a verb, haplogy cannot be a good account for *gei3_wei3, regardless whether the second gei3 is a suffix or a verb.
'to dry-clean', qian2jin4 [forward-advance] 'to move forward', and man4pao3 [slowly-run] 'jog', retains its full tone, while suffixes (NOT prefixes!) typically reduce to the neutral tone, such as chille [eat-perfective suffix] 'have eaten', wo3men [I-human plural suffix] 'we', xie2zi [shoe-Z1 suffix] 'shoe', and fang2li [house-inside] 'in the house'. That gei3 retains its full tone as the head can be further confirmed by the fact that it induces the third-to-second tone sandhi in Vgei3 compounds, for example, mai3gei3 in (8c) becomes mai2gei3 phonetically. Finally, I note that the right-headedness of Vgei3 compounds is also consistent with the compounds' semantic content as well as the general tendency within Chinese morphology.

Historically, many suffixes indeed have developed out of compounds, for example, derivational suffixes -hood, -dom, -ly in modern English that came from earlier compounds cild-had 'condition of a child', freo-dom 'realm of freedom', and man-lic 'body of a man' (Cowie 1995:183). A prominent example in Chinese is the grammaticalization of Middle Chinese verb liao3 'finish' in Vliao3 compounds to modern perfective aspect suffix -le. As argued in Starosta (1985), Mandarin noun localizers have also become suffixes. However, as demonstrated above, I find no evidence indicating that gei3 in Vgei3 compounds has reached this final stage of grammaticization.5

Finally one might suggest that it is the goal-marking preposition

5. In all fairness, however, it should be noted that some morphologists do propose an intermediate category between suffix and the second compound member. For instance, as quoted in Haspelmath (1992:71-72), the terms 'suffixoid' (Fleischer 1975:70) and 'semi-suffix' (Marchand 1969:356) were used to refer to such items like English -like, -monger, -wise, and -worthy. Also, Starosta (1985) uses the term 'pseudo-compounding' to refer to the derivational localizers in Chinese, acknowledging their less than clear-cut status. Within such a view, Huang and Mo's position, though not intended to be such a case by its authors, would seem less far-fetched than it first appears to be. There are two indications that Vgei3, like the well-known resultative compound in Chinese, is not a typical compound: 1) its lexical semantics is predictable, and 2) it is productive. Although neither, nor both taken together, is adequate enough to disqualify Vgei3 as a compound, they do show that, compared to other second V-V compound members, gei3 is more likely a candidate for further grammaticization to become a so-called 'semi-suffix'.

-381-
gei3, as in (2a), (7a), and (8a), that forms the Vgei3 compound. Available evidence is also in favor of a V-V over a V-P analysis. First of all, the existence of any V-P compound verb in Chinese is at best controversial, but V-V compounding is a familiar and prolific word-formation process. Furthermore, Huang and Mo (1992:110) are entirely correct in their observation that there is little theoretical motivation or empirical evidence for a PP position between a verb and its object. Thus, no structural model exists in the language for Vgei3 as V-P compounds. Another theoretical consideration is that Vgei3's thematic structure and syntactic behavior are exactly like those of verb gei3; this point will be discussed towards the end of 2.3.

2.2 Postverbal Preposition gei3

Having established the proper compound status of Vgei3 verbs, I now turn to the controversial status of gei3 in another postverbal construction, [V NP, gei3 NP2], as in (6) and examples of (2a), (7a), and (8a). Following Chao (1968), Huang and Mo (1992) argue ardently that here gei3 is a verb and this thus is a serial verb construction. Between (10) and (11) below, (10) is thus the only valid analysis. I contend, however, if V subcategorizes for an oblique goal, then gei3 indeed must be regarded as a goal-marking preposition, otherwise a verb. In other words, (10) and (11) are both valid.

(10) [V NP [vp [v gei3 v] NP] vp]
(11) [V NP [pp [p gei3 p] NP] pp]

The many arguments for construction (10) that Huang and Mo

6. Lin (1990), for example, proposes a V-P compounding process that involves the postverbal locative prepositions such as zai4 'at'. See Huang (1995) and Her and Huang (1995a) for arguments against this analysis.

(64) Li3si4 zuo4 zai4 tai2-shang.
Lee sit at stage-top
Lee is sitting on the stage.
(1992) put forth are rather unnecessary, for it is a given that *gei3* is a verb, as in (9a). Like any other active verb then, such as *song4* or *song4gei3* 'give' in (12a), *gei3* of course can be the second verb in a serial verb construction, as in (12b).

(12) a. Li3si4 mai3 le yi1 duo3 hua1 [v song4(gei3) v] tal.  
Lee buy ASP one CLS flower give she  
Lee bought a flower to give to her.

b. Li3si4 mai3 le yi1 duo3 hua1 [v gei3 v] tal.  
Lee buy ASP one CLS flower give she  
Lee bought a flower to give to her.

The question is, however, given (12b), whether construction (11) is also valid; after all, *gei3*, much like *zai4*, is well-recognized as a preposition preverbally, as in (13a, b). Note first that a post-object PP position is independently motivated for subcategorized oblique locative roles, as in (14a). Therefore, by allowing a subcategorized *gei3*-marked goal in the post-object PP position, as in (14b), construction (11) complicates neither the analysis of *gei3* nor the overall grammar. Quite the contrary, it generalizes the post-object PP position to all locus-like roles, i.e. those that indicate the terminus point of the theme.7

(13) a. Li3si4 [p zai4 p] jiel shang mai3 le yi1 duo3 hua1.  
Lee at street-top buy ASP one CLS flower  
Lee bought a flower on the street.

b. Li3si4 [p gei3 p] tal mai3 le yi1 duo3 hua1.  
Lee for he buy ASP one CLS flower  
Lee bought a flower for her.

(14) a. Li3si4 diul le yi1 duo3 hua1 [p zai4 p] zuo1shang.  
Lee toss ASP one CLS flower at table-top

---

7. For example, Bresnan and Zaenen (1989:291) suggest that location can be understood in an abstract sense in English to-dative sentences, where goal, like locative, also inverts.

(65) a. To Louis was given the gift of optimism.

b. To a French research team has been attributed the discovery of a new virus.
Lee tossed a flower on the table.

b. Li3si4 diu1 le y1l duo3 hua1 [p gei3 p] ta1.
Lee toss ASP one CLS flower to she
Lee tossed a flower to her.

The central issue for the validation of construction (11), as in (14b), is thus whether a subcategorized goal may indeed be realized as an oblique function, thus a PP, in Chinese. Let’s examine the structures of two ditransitive verbs, song4 'give' and jie4 'lend', which, with no controversy, subcategorize for a goal role.

(15) a. Li3si4 song4 ta1 y1l duo3 hua1.
Lee give she one CLS flower
Lee gives her a flower.

b. Li3si4 jie4 ta1 y1l duo3 hua1.
Lee lend she one CLS flower
Lee lends her a flower.

The underlined NP is the subcategorized goal in the predicate thematic structure <ag go th> of these verbs. Here goal is realized as a secondary object, traditionally known as indirect object, generally considered the most marked grammatical relation, which many languages lack (e.g. Bresnan and Zaenen 1990). Hence the unmarked choice for goal is to link to the less marked oblique relation in the same language, which is precisely borne out by my proposal to recognize construction (11) for (16a, b) below, where preposition gei3 marks the subcategorized goal. By linking a subcategorized goal to the most marked secondary object only, and never to the less marked oblique function, Huang and Mo’s analysis violates this universal tendency. This stipulation is dubious in that no other roles in the language behave

---

8. Huang (1993, 1990) actually supports the PP analysis of post-object geti3. However, he poses two kinds of goal in the thematic structure, one subcategorized for by the verb and the other, introduced only by an applicative morpholexical rule. While the applicative goal is linked to an oblique function, thus a PP, a subcategorized goal is linked to an indirect object. I agree with the PP analysis but will refute the dual sources of goal in section 3.
Interaction of Thematic Structure and Syntactic Structures

this way.

(16) a. Li3si4 song4 yì1 duo3 hual  gei3 ta1.
    Lee  give one CLS flower to she

     a’. Lee gives a flower to her.

     b. Li3si4 jie4 yì1 duo3 hual  gei3 ta1.
       Lee  lend one CLS flower to she

     b’. Lee lends a flower to her.

Also, within my analysis, verbs in (15a, b) and (16a, b), are related by the same thematic structure <ag go th>, with goal alternatively mapped to a secondary object NP and an oblique PP. Goal-marking preposition gei3 and English goal-marking to and for are therefore exactly parallel. Not recognizing goal-marking preposition gei3, Huang and Mo (1992:114) treat gei3 as a verb and consequently the VP gei3 ta1 in (16) as an adjunct. This analysis renders (15a, b) and (16a, b) different in thematic structure, <ag go th> and <ag th> respectively, while (15a, b) and (16a, b) are in fact identical in meaning with only slight variation of focus (cf. Cheng 1983).

There is also empirical evidence that [gei3 NP] in (16a, b) is a subcategorized constituent, not an adjunct. Subcategorized constituents tend to be obligatory and associated with semantic roles that are ontologically necessary for a complete proposition (e.g. Pollard and Sag 1987, Her 1990). Although Chinese, unlike English, allows greater freedom of missing arguments, (16a, b), without the goal constituent, do seem incomplete, as shown in (17a, b) (cf. Her 1990).

(17) a. ? Li3si4 song4 yì1 duo3 hual.
    Lee  give one CLS flower

     a’. ? Lee gives a flower.

     b. ? Li3si4 jie4 yì1 duo3 hual.
       Lee  lend one CLS flower

     b’. ? Lee lends a flower.
More importantly, a subcategorized argument identifies a subcategory of predicates (e.g. Huang 1989, Iler 1990). As shown with (16a, b), gei3-marked goal constituent indeed identifies a class of verbs in Chinese that have thematic structure of <ag go th>; besides song4 'give' and jie4 'lend', other such verbs include shang3 'bestow', huan2 'return', ti2gong1 'provide', zu1 'rent', ji4 'mail', jiao1 'hand in', mai4 'sell', di4 'hand', and chuan2 'pass'. Some of them alternate between the ditransitive dative construction, as in (19), and the gei3-marked PP construction, as in (11) (repeated here as (18)), while others do not and allow construction (18) only. The important point is that post-object gei3, as a preposition, marks the subcategorized goal and selects the subcategory of verbs that have thematic structure <ag go th>. (As mentioned earlier, the verb gei3 'give' is of course well-known as the only exception, which appears in (19) but not (18); see (9a) and (9c) above. I will discuss this further in 2.3 and 2.4.)

(18) [V NP1 [PP [r gei3 r] NP2 PP]]
(19) [V NP2 NP1]

Recall, however, that construction (10) is recognized along with (11) (repeated as (18)), where [gei3 NP] is a VP adjunct and a subcategorized PP respectively. One might criticize this dual status as creating two ambiguous structures. Given the principle of subcategorization, nonetheless, (20a) is ruled out for dative verbs, because the subcategorized goal can not be found in this construction.\(^9\)

(20)a. *Li3si4 song4 yi1 duo3 hua1 [VP [v gei3 v] tal VP].
   b. Li3si4 song4 yi1 duo3 hua1 [PP [r gei3 r] tal PP].

On the other hand, for verbs that do not subcategorize for a goal

---

9. The principle of subcategorization is essential in various grammatical theories in one form or another (cf. Iler 1990), for example Completeness and Coherence Conditions in LFG (e.g. Kaplan and Bresnan 1982) or the Projection Principle in the mainstream transformational framework (e.g. Huang 1982).
role, construction (10) is the only grammatical analysis. The principle of subcategorization rules out (11), which contains a subcategorizable PP that is not subcategorized for by the predicate.\textsuperscript{10} Diulchul 'toss out' in (21a, b) and mai3xia4 'buy' in (22a, b) for example subcategorize for agent and theme, but not goal, and thus rule out construction (11).

\begin{enumerate}
\item[(21)]
\begin{enumerate}
\item Li3si4 diulchul le yil duo3 hua1 [\textit{vp} [\textit{v} gei3 \textit{v}] ta1 \textit{vp}]].

Lee toss-out ASP one CLS flower give she

Lee tossed out a flower to give to her.

\item Li3si4 diulchul le yil duo3 hua1 [\textit{pp} [\textit{r} gei3 \textit{r}] ta1 \textit{pp}]].

\end{enumerate}

\begin{enumerate}
\item Li3si4 mai3xia4 le yil duo3 hua1 [\textit{vp} [\textit{v} gei3 \textit{v}] ta1 \textit{vp}]].

Lee buy-down ASP one CLS flower give she

Lee bought a flower to give to her.

\item Li3si4 mai3xia4 le yil duo3 hua1 [\textit{pp} [\textit{r} gei3 \textit{r}] ta1 \textit{pp}]].

\end{enumerate}

\end{enumerate}

There are, however, transitive verbs that optionally subcategorize for an additional goal. For such verbs, \textit{e.g.} diul 'toss', \textit{til} 'kick', \textit{mai3} 'buy', \textit{mai4} 'sell', xie3 'write', and \textit{jii4} 'mail', [gei3 NP] may indeed be ambiguous between a VP and a PP. The thematic structure of (23a) and (24a) is <ag th> with [gei3 NP] being a modifying VP adjunct, while the thematic structure of (23b) and (24b) is <ag go th>, where goal is linked to [gei3 NP], a PP.

\begin{enumerate}
\item[(23)]
\begin{enumerate}
\item Li3si4 diul le yil duo3 hua1 [\textit{vp} [\textit{v} gei3 \textit{v}] ta1 \textit{vp}]].

Lee toss ASP one CLS flower to she

Lee tossed a flower to give to her.

\item Li3si4 diul le yil duo3 hua1 [\textit{pp} [\textit{r} gei3 \textit{r}] ta1 \textit{pp}]].

Lee tossed a flower to her.

\end{enumerate}

\begin{enumerate}
\item Li3si4 mai3 le yil duo3 hua1 [\textit{vp} [\textit{v} gei3 \textit{v}] ta1 \textit{vp}]].

Lee buy ASP one CLS flower give she

Lee bought a flower to give to her.

\item Li3si4 mai3 le yil duo3 hua1 [\textit{pp} [\textit{r} gei3 \textit{r}] ta1 \textit{pp}]].

Lee bought a flower for her.

\end{enumerate}

\end{enumerate}

\textsuperscript{10} Likewise, in \textit{he cried in his room}, the locational PP can only be an adjunct, not subcategorized for by the verb cry.
Note, however, that this kind of ambiguity between an argument, thus a subcategorized constituent, and an adjunct is not at all uncommon in languages, and the preferred reading is generally the one with the subcategorized constituent. English locomotive verbs, for example, optionally subcategorize for a locative role. (25a) thus has two readings analogous to (25b) and (25c), where the locational PP is an argument and an adjunct respectively (e.g. Bresnan 1989), and the preferred reading is also clearly that of the locational argument, i.e. (25b).

   b. In the pool jumped Lee.
   c. In the pool, Lee jumped.

In short, two points are established so far: 1) \text{Vgei3} is a compound verb, where \text{gei3} is the head, and 2) post-object \text{gei3} is a goal-marking preposition if the predicate subcategorizes for goal, otherwise a verb heading a VP adjunct. I will now bring these two analyses together to

11. Blocking is a well-known phenomenon in morphology and phonology where exceptions to a general rule supersede the general rule, or the elsewhere condition. For example, irregular plural forms in English such as \text{children, feet, and deer} generally block regular forms, thus \text{*child}, \text{*feet}, and \text{*doers}. This blocking effect, or so-called elsewhere principle, does not seem to be as strict a constraint in syntax. However, see Zecvat (1995) for a discussion on the phenomenon of idiomatic blocking and how the elsewhere principle could provide a reasonable explanation. I would suggest that subcategorized PP’s show also such a tendency. Subcategorization is a particular lexical requirement imposed by individual predicates while a PP can in general be an adjunct to any predicate; in other words, a PP is subcategorized-for only if a predicate requires it, elsewhere an adjunct.

12. Post-verbal \text{gei3} can also introduce a purposive clause, as in (66a, b).

(66) a. Wo3 fei1 gei3 ni3 *(kun4).
   I fly for you see
   a’. I’ll fly for you to see.
   b. Li3si4 tan2 ji2tal gei3 tal *(ting1).
   Lee play guitar for she listen
   b’. Lee plays the guitar for her to enjoy.

Here \text{gei3}, arguably, can be regarded as a complimentizer that introduces an embedded clause, similar to the \text{for-to} or \text{in order that} clauses in English. Huang
reveal a class of verbs that form Vgei3 compounds.

2.3 A Semantically Definable Class of Verbs for Vgei3 Compounds

Huang and Mo (1992:111-113) argue that the verbs that may form Vgei3 compounds, though known to be a subset of transitive verbs, cannot be independently defined. Although it is true that compounding may often have idiosyncratic gaps, it is not a necessary condition. Vgei3 compounding is productive in that it applies to new or possible verbs in the language, a fact that even Huang and Mo (1992:111) acknowledge. For example, temporarily-borrowed transitive verbs from English like telex, fax, mail, or pass in (26a) do form Vgei3 ditransitive verbs, as in (26b).

and Mo (1992) use sentences like these and argue that since the object of gei3 is also the functional subject of the embedded VP, which is obligatory in (66a, b), gei3 must be a verb. If gei3 is indeed a verb here, it is certainly not the ditransitive gei3 of thematic structure <ag go th>. It would be similar to pivot verbs like rang4 'allow' and qing3 'invite', whose thematic structure is <ag th prop>, as in (67a, b).

(67a.) Ta1 bu4 rang4/qing3/gei3 ni3 kan4 dian4shi4.
   he not allow/invite/let you watch TV
a'. He won't allow/invite/let you (to) watch TV.
   Lee not allow/invite/let she eat
   b'. Lee won't allow/invite/let her (to) eat.

I do not intend to argue one way or the other whether this gei3 is a pivot verb or a complementizer similar to English for. Refer to Paul (1988) for more data on this and a more detailed discussion. I do wish to reiterate two relevant points however, 1) regardless of gei3's status here, the entire purposive clause is an adjunct, not a subcategorized constituent, and 2) that gei3 is a verb elsewhere does not preclude the legitimacy of its post-object prepositional status. Sentences in (68) again confirm these points; (68a) shows that song4 'give' subcategorizes for a goal and therefore in (68b) the first [gei3 NP] is a subcategorized PP and the later [gei3 NP VP] phrase an adjunctive element.

(68a.) Wo3 song4 le ta1 yi1xie1shu1 gei3 ta1 er2zi kan4.
   I give ASP she some book for she son read
   I gave her some books for her son to read.
   b. Wo3 song4 le yi1xie1 shu1 gei3 ta1 gei3 ta1 er2zi kan4.
   I give ASP some books to she for she son read
   I gave some books to her for her son to read.
Doubtlessly influenced by their view that disallows \textit{gei3}-marked postverbal PP goal, Huang and Mo have overlooked the fact that all of the transitive verbs that form \textit{Vgei3} compounds, existing or possible, without exception, can also take a goal role marked by preposition \textit{gei3}, as in (27a). Likewise, those that do not form \textit{Vgei3} compounds also do not allow \textit{gei3}-marked goal, as in (27b, c).

This indicates that the class of verbs that verb \textit{gei3} selects in \textit{Vgei3} compounds can be quite clearly defined as those sharing \textit{gei3}'s thematic structure <ag go th>. Since only a rather small subset of verbs that subcategorize for a \textit{gei3}-marked goal are ditransitive verbs (i.e. they allow construction (10), [V NP$_2$ NP$_1$]), construction (11), [V NP$_1$ [pp [\textit{f} gei3 \textit{p}] NP$_2$ pp]], remains the only reliable test for a verb as to whether it forms a \textit{Vgei3} compound. In other words, (10) is a sufficient condition but not a necessary one, while (11) is both sufficient and necessary.
Interaction of Thematic Structure and Syntactic Structures

(28) Gei-compounding:
\[ V_i<\text{ag go th}>+_[\text{gei3}_v] \rightarrow V_i\text{gei3}<\text{ag go th}> \]
Test: \([V_i \, \text{NP}_1 \, [\text{pp} \, [\text{gei3}_p] \, \text{NP}_2 \, \text{pp}]]\]

I will now repudiate the two cases that Huang and Mo (1992:112) claim to be counter-examples to this generalization. One, they claim that the active/stative distinction is irrelevant to the class of \(V\text{gei3}\) compounds, for even the stative verb \(\text{guan4}'\) to carry (a name)', as in (29a), forms a \(\text{guan4}\text{gei3}\) compound, as in (29b). There are two relevant facts which they have overlooked here. First, \(\text{guan4}\) may be both stative and active, as shown in (29a) and (29c) respectively. Secondly, as an active verb, \(\text{guan4}\) indeed subcategorizes for goal and appear in construction (11), as shown in (29c). It is, therefore, the active \(\text{guan4}\) with thematic structure \(<\text{ag go th}>\), not the stative one, that combines with verb \(\text{gei3}\) to form the compound in (29b).

(29a) a. Ta1 \text{guan4 fu1\text{xin4}.}
   she carry husband-surname
   She carries her husband's surname.

b. Ta1 \text{guan4}\text{gei3 li3\text{si4 yi1 ge wai4hao4}.}
   she name-give Lee one CLS nickname
   She gave Lee a nickname.

c. Ta1 \text{guan4 le yi1 ge wai4hao4 gei3 li3\text{si4}.}
   she name ASP one CLS nickname to Lee
   She gave a nickname to Lee.

Huang and Mo (1992:112) also produce verbs like \text{shuoi} 'say' and \text{gao4su4} 'tell' as counter-examples. Although these \text{say}-type verbs do subcategorize for a goal-like role, they do not subcategorize for a theme-like role; instead, they require a proposition, as evident in (30a, b). This proposition role may be expressed by an S or a reduced VP, as in (30a, b), or a \text{statement}-type noun, as in (31a, b). Thus, \text{say}-type verbs, with thematic structure \(<\text{ag go prop}>\), do not subcategorize for theme. Predictably then they do not allow a \text{gei3}-marked PP goal, as
shown in (32a, b), as thus fail the test for Vgei3 compounding (32c, d).

(30) a. Li3si4 dui4 tal shu01 tian1qi4 bu4 hao3.
    Lee to she say weather not good
    Lee said to her that the weather was not good.

    b. Li3si4 gao4su4 tal bu2 qu4 le.
    Lee tell she not go PTCL
    Lee told her that he wasn't going anymore.

(31) a. Li3si4 dui4 tal shu01 le yilxie1 hao3hua4.
    Lee to she say ASP some nice-words
    Lee said some nice things to her.

    b. Li3si4 gao4su4 tal yilxie1 mi4mi.
    Lee tell she some secret
    Lee told her some secrets.

(32) c.*Li3si4 shu01 le yilxie1 hao3hua4 gei3 tal.
    Lee say ASP some nice-words to sh2
    Lee said some nice things to her.

    d.*Li3si4 gao4su4 yilxie1 mi4mi gei3 tal.
    Lee tell some secret to her
    ? Lee told some secrets to her.

    c.*Li3si4 shuo1gei3 le tal yilxie1 hao3hua4.
    Lee say ASP she some nice-words
    Lee said some nice things to her.

    d.*Li3si4 gao4su4gei3 tal yilxie1 mi4mi.
    Lee tell she some secret
    ? Lee told some secrets to her.

It is therefore my conclusion that verb gei3, as the head, selects a well-defined class of verbs in Vgei3 compounding, i.e. verbs that share its thematic structure <ag go th>. Within this coherent analysis the behaviors of Vgei3 compound receives a logical explanation: a Vgei3 compound, formed by verb gei3 and another verb of the same thematic structure, syntactically behaves just like gei3. Recall that gei3, the only exception in the class of verbs of thematic structure <ag go th>, requires the double object construction (19), and does not allow a gei3-
marked goal PP (18). The resulting compound verb Vgei3 inherits this restraint and thus quite naturally allows an indirect object only, not a gei3-marked PP. This also provides another motivation for favoring the V-V analysis over the V-P analysis of Vgei3 compounds discussed at the end of 2.2. Within the V-P analysis or a suffix analysis, such a coherent account of Vgei3 compounds' syntactic behavior is unattainable.

2.4 Three Subtypes of <ag go th> Verbs

It has been shown that goal-marking preposition gei3 and English dative to are exactly parallel. However, not all verbs of thematic structure <ag go th> in Chinese alternate between an oblique function and an indirect object. The two constructions of dative shift are repeated here as (33) and (34) respectively. (33) and (34) are thus two surface syntactic structures related to each other by the same thematic structure <ag go th>. Accordingly, <ag go th> verbs can be classified into three subtypes (cf. Tang 1979, Huang 1995).

(33) Goal linked to an oblique PP: [V NP1 [p gei3 p] NP2]
(34) Goal linked to an indirect object: [V NP2 NP1]

The First Type: e.g. ji4 'mail', jiao1 'hand in', mai4 'sell', di4 'hand', chuan2 'pass', til 'kick', diui 'toss'. These are <ag go th> verbs that allow surface structure (33) but not (34), as demonstrated below in (35).

(35) a. Li3si4 di4 le yil duo3 hual gei3 tai1.
   Lee hand ASP one CLS flower to she
   Lee handed a flower to her.

b.*Li3si4 di4 le tai yil duo3 hual.
   Lee hand ASP she one CLS flower
   Lee handed her a flower.
Since the indirect, or secondary, object, i.e. NP, in (34), is the most marked grammatical relation in languages, it is expected that the default function for goal is an oblique function. This type of verbs thus allow the most direct linking between its thematic structure and surface syntactic functions.

The Second Type: e.g. song4 'give', jie4 'lend', shang3 'bestow', ti2gong1 'provide', zu1 'rent', and huan2 'return'. Verbs here, compared with type one, are far fewer; they allow the alternation between (33) and (34), as in (36a, b) below.

(36)a. Li3si4 song4 le yi1 duo3 hual gei3 ta1.
Lee give ASP one CLS flower to she
Lee gave a flower to her.

b. Li3si4 song4 le ta1 yi1 duo3 hual.
Lee give ASP she one CLS flower
Lee gave her a flower.

The Third Type: e.g. gei3 'give', song4gei3 'give', diu1gei3 'toss', mai3gei3 'buy', and FAXgei3. As shown in (37a, b), verb gei3, along with all Vgei3 compounds, is unique among <ag go th> verbs in that it requires an indirect object and does not allow its subcategorized goal to be linked to a gei3-marked oblique function.

(37) a.* Li3si4 (song4)gei3 le yi1 duo3 hual gei3 ta1.
Lee give ASP one CLS flower to she
Lee gave a flower to her.

b. Li3si4 (song4)gei3 le ta1 yi1 duo3 hual.
Lee give ASP she one CLS flower
Lee gave her a flower.

Note, as mentioned earlier in 2.3, the say-type verbs, e.g. shuo1 'say', gao4su4 'tell', wen4 'ask', qing3jiao4 'ask', jiao1 'teach', and jiang3 'say, tell', only superficially behave similarly as the third type here. They allow an indirect object but not a gei3-marked PP (cf. Tang
Interaction of Thematic Structure and Syntactic Structures

1979, Huang 1995). As argued earlier, however, these verbs have a different thematic structure, \(<ag \text{ go prop}>\), and as such they are not relevant in this classification scheme for verbs of \(<ag \text{ go th}>\). Likewise, there is another class of verbs that also seem to behave like the type three verbs here. They include \(chil\ 'eat', \ h\ell\ 'drink', \ zhuan4\ 'earn', \ fa2\ 'fine', \ qiang3\ 'rob', \ tou1\ 'steal', \ qian4\ 'owe', \ hual\ 'spend',\) etc (cf. Tang 1979, Huang 1995). For example,

(38) a. \*\(\text{Li3si4 chil le yil zhil jil gei3 tal.}\)

\(\text{Lee eat ASP one CLS chicken to she (To her dislike,) Lee ate a chicken of hers.}\)

b. \(\text{Li3si4 chil le tal yil zhil jil.}\)

\(\text{Lee eat ASP she one CLS chicken (To her dislike,) Lee ate a chicken of hers.}\)

Although these verbs share the same constituent structure \([V \text{ NP NP}]\) as type three \(<ag \text{ go th}>\) verbs, they do not have thematic structure \(<ag \text{ go th}>\) either and thus have no place in this classification. Rather, they subcategorize for a patient (pt) role, which is linked to the primary object. Thus they have thematic structure \(<ag \text{ pt th}>\) instead. In (39), then, \(tal\), as patient and the primary object, can be passivized (39a) and appear in the ba-construction (39b), unlike goal and a secondary object (see example (40b) in 2.5 and (39c)).

(39) a. \(\text{tal bei4 Li3si4 chil le yil zhil jil.}\)

\(\text{she by Lee eat ASP one CLS chicken (To her dislike), she had a chicken eaten by Lee.}\)

b. \(\text{Li3si4 ba3 tal chil le yil zhil jil.}\)

\(\text{she by BA Lee eat ASP one CLS chicken (To her dislike,) Lee ate a chicken of hers.}\)

c. \(\*\text{Li3si4 ba3 tal song4 le yil zhil jil.}\)

\(\text{she by BA she give ASP one CLS chicken Lee gave her a chicken.}\)
2.5 Interaction of Dative Shift and Passive

In passive constructions, verbs of thematic structure <ag go th> display interesting variance between Chinese and English. Chinese strictly forbids passivization of goal and allows only theme to be passivized, while both goal and theme are passivizable in English.

\[(40) \text{a.*Ta1 (bei4 Li3si4) diu1 le yi1 duo3 hua1.}
\text{she by Lee toss ASP one CLS flower}
\text{a'. She was tossed a flower (by Lee).}
\text{b.*Ta1 (bei4 Li3si4) gei3 le yi1 duo3 hua1.}
\text{she by Lee give ASP one CLS flower}
\text{b'. She was given a flower (by Lee).}
\text{c. Hua1 (bei4 Li3si4) diu1 le gei3 ta1.}
\text{flower by Lee toss ASP to she}
\text{c'. The flower was tossed to her (by Lee).}
\text{d. Hua1 (bei4 Li3si4) gei3 le ta1.}
\text{flower by Lee give ASP she}
\text{d'. %The flower was given her (by Lee).}\]

3. A Lexical Mapping Implementation

The analysis and observations presented in section 2 will be implemented within LFG's lexical mapping theory (LMT). The theory of lexical mapping is presented 3.1, where two previous standard versions are presented and proposed revisions discussed. In 3.2 I then provide a formal account for the analyses in section 2, within the revised LMT I propose.

---

13. This type of sentence is quite acceptable in some dialects of English (e.g. Jaeggli 1986:596, Anderson 1988:300, Dryer 1986:833). Therefore, the important point to note here is that a satisfactory account should provide a sensible parameter and an explanation for this variation, instead of simply ruling it out or ruling it in. See 3.2 for details.
3.1 The Lexical Mapping Theory

An essential theoretic assumption of LFG is that the lexical semantic structure, the relational structure of grammatical functions (or f-structure), and the structure of phrasal constituents (or c-structure), are parallel autonomous planes of grammatical organization related by local structural correspondences, the same way a melody of a song relates to its lyrics (Bresnan and Kanerva 1989, BK henceforth). The lexical mapping theory is the part of LFG that constrains the correspondence between the lexical semantic structure the lexical forms of a predicate, as shown in Fig. 1 below. In other words, it links thematic roles, e.g. agent and theme, to grammatical functions (GFs), e.g. SUBJ and OBJ.

![Diagram of LFG Grammatical Representation]

Figure 1. LFG Grammatical Representation

The details of LMT were first introduced in BK in a systematic manner. A different version was later presented in Bresnan and Zaenen (1990) (BZ henceforth). In this paper, however, I will adopt the revised version proposed in Her (1997ms). First of all, LMT assumes two universal hierarchies of thematic roles and grammatical functions, or GFs in short, shown in (41) and (42).

(41) Thematic Hierarchy:

ag > ben > go/exp > inst > pt/th > loc
(42) Markedness Hierarchy of GF's:

```
SUBJ     ↓
OBJ/OBL_φ  ↓
OBJ_φ  more marked
```

The thematic hierarchy assumes a descending order of prominence among semantic arguments in language, while among the GF's, SUBJ is ranked the least marked and OBJ_φ the most marked. Note, however, that this markedness hierarchy is based on a further classification of GF's in terms of two features: r (thematically restricted and o (objective), as in (43).

(43) Classification of GF's:

```
SUBJ [-r -o]  OBL_φ  [+r -o]
OBJ [-r +o]  OBJ_φ  [+r +o]
```

The lexical mapping theory proposed in Her (1997 ms) consists of two components: the theory of a-structure (44) and a single mapping principle (45).

(44) The theory of a-structures:

a. intrinsic classifications (IC's):
   pt → [-r]; secondary pt →  [+o]; ag →  [-o]

b. morpholexical operations:
   e.g. (Eng/Chi) locative inversion:
   <th loc> →  <th[+o] loc[-r]> (HH)

c. default classifications (DC's):
   ë → [-r]; all others →  [+r]

(45) The mapping principle (MP):
For each role in a-structure that has no higher role not linked to a GF, map it to the least marked compatible GF not associated with any higher role.
3.2 LMT Account of Dative Shift and Passive

It is quite obvious that within the LMT proposed above the only component that allows language-specific syntactic assignments is morpholexical operations. Given the analysis of dative shift that verbs of thematic structure <ag go th> alternate between two surface syntactic patterns, LMT dictates that a morpholexical rule is responsible for this function-changing operation.

(46) Dative (Eng & Chi): <ag go th>  
    ↓  
    +o

Since Chinese and English are parallel in this construction, the same dative operation accounts for both languages. As shown in (47a) below, goal is mapped to an oblique function marked by a semantically restricted preposition gei3 or to. Note that although in the a-structure goal[+r] and theme[-r] are both underspecified, the MP correctly links them to the appropriate GF's. The ditransitive verbs, on the other hand, have an a-structure that undergoes the morpholexical operation of Dative, go→+o; as shown in (47b), the addition of this syntactic feature also predicts correctly the same dative functional structure for the two languages.

(47) a. song4/give < ag go th>  
    IC's  -o  -r  
    DC's  -r  +r  

    GF Class.  SUBJ  OBL_o/OBJ_o  S/O  
    MP  SUBJ  OBL_o  OBJ

Li3si4 song4 le yil ben3 shu1 gei3 ta1.  
Lee gave a flower to her.
Lee gave her a flower.

While previous LFG accounts of dative alternation operate on lexical forms and derive lexical forms from lexical forms (e.g. cf. Bresnan 1982b:43-45), lexical mapping relates the two alternative lexical forms \( \text{song}_4<\text{SUBJ OBJ}_\theta \text{ OBJ}> \) and \( \text{song}_4<\text{SUBJ OBJ}_\theta \text{ OBJ}> \) to a single source, \( \text{song}_4<\text{ag go th}> \). However, the Dative operation proposed here does reveal the intuition that previous accounts of syntactic derivation or lexical derivation were able to capture, namely that the lexical form associated with an a-structure unaffected by morpholexical rules is more basic, unmarked, while lexical forms linked to a-structures affected by morpholexical operations are 'derived' or relatively more marked.

In 2.4, verbs of thematic structure \( <\text{ag go th}> \) are further distinguished among three types; each type can now be identified by its relationship with the Dative rule. The first type of verbs, which do not allow the ditransitive construction, are not marked for the Dative rule. Thus, their thematic structure \( <\text{ag go th}> \) maps to lexical form \( <\text{SUBJ OBJ OBJ}_\theta > \) only. Verbs of the second type, which do allow the ditransitive construction, are marked for an optional Dative. Two lexical forms arise from the thematic structure: \( <\text{SUBJ OBJ OBJ}_\theta > \) and \( <\text{SUBJ OBJ}_\theta \text{ OBJ}> \), related to each other by the same thematic structure and the Dative morpholexical rule. Finally, the third type, i.e. verb \( \text{gei}_3 \) and \( \text{Vgei}_3 \) compounds, which appears only in the ditransitive construction, is marked for an obligatory Dative and has lexical form
In this page, we see Table 1 titled "Lexical Forms of <ag go th> Verbs" with three types of verbs: Type 1 (N/A), Type 2 (Optional), and Type 3 (Obligatory). The table shows the dative operation and the presence of the verb "diu₁ 'toss'" for Type 1 and "song₄ 'give'" and "gei₃ 'give'" for Type 2 and Type 3.

Following the analysis in section 2 of Vgei₃ compounds and the Gei-compounding rule (28), repeated here, all Vgei₃ compound verbs also undergo the dative operation obligatorily, which is quite reasonable since verb gei₃ as the head is independently marked for obligatory Dative. Or, to use Alsina's (1994) term, gei₃, as the head, carries over its Dative 'lexical option' to Vgei₃ compounds.

(48)  diu₁gei₃ <ag go th> 'toss'

IC's  -o  -r
Dative +o
DC's  -r  +r

GF Class. SUBJ OBJ₀ S/O MP SUBJ OBJ₀ OBJ

Li₃si₄ diu₁gei₃ le ta₁ yi₁ duo₃ hua₁.
Lee tossed her a flower.

Passive, however, as shown in 2.5, is different between Chinese and English. Chinese passive is more restricted in that goal cannot be passivized. The passive operations (49) that I propose for Chinese thus assign [+r] to goal, if there is one, besides suppressing the highest role. The [+r] feature ensures the linking of goal to a semantically restricted non-subject GF.
(49) (Chinese) Passive: < θ..(go) . >
\[ \downarrow \downarrow \]
ϕ + r

Example (50) shows that this rule correctly predicts the two lexical forms of passivized <ag go th> verbs in Chinese. The ungrammatical (51), where goal is the passivized subject, does not have a valid mapping. The interaction of dative and passive in Chinese is shown in (52); again, it correctly accounts for the grammatical sentences and rules out the ill-formed (53).\(^{14}\)

---

14. Recall that in 2.4 I mentioned the class of <ag pt th> verbs, whose syntactic structure is similar to that of ditransitive dative verbs (see (38b), repeated below) and whose patient is the passivized subject (see (39a), repeated below). The passive operations I propose correctly predict that patient is the passivized subject while theme is mapped to a secondary object.

(38) b.  

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{chil} & \text{<ag>} & \text{pt} & \text{th} \\
\text{IC's} & -o & -r & +o \\
\text{DC's} & +r \\
\end{array}
\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GF Class.</th>
<th>S/O</th>
<th>S/O</th>
<th>OBJ(_o)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>SUBJ</td>
<td>OBJ</td>
<td>OBJ(_o)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Li3si4 chil le ta1 yil zhil ji1.</td>
<td>Lee eat ASP she one CLS chicken (To her dislike,) Lee ate a chicken of hers.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(39) a.  

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{chil} & \text{<ag>} & \text{pt} & \text{th} \\
\text{IC's} & -o & -r & +o \\
\Phi & \\
\text{DC's} & +r \\
\end{array}
\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GF Class.</th>
<th>S/O</th>
<th>OBJ(_o)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>SUBJ</td>
<td>OBJ(_o)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ta1 (bei4 Li3si4) chil le yi1 zhil ji1.</td>
<td>she by Lee eat ASP one CLS chicken (To her dislike,) she had a chicken eaten by Lee.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The e-structures of <ag go th> ditransitive lexical form and that of <ag pt th> are thus different. The NP immediately following V encodes OBJ\(_o\), or OBJ\(_{go}\) specifically, and also OBJ; in other words, the NP position following V is generalized to encode [+o] GF’s. I propose the following ID/LP e-structure rules.

(69) a.  ID rule for VP:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{VP} & \rightarrow \text{V} \quad \text{NP}^* \quad \text{PP}^* \\
\uparrow \text{OBJ/OBJ}_{go} & = \downarrow \text{OBJ/OBJ}_{th} = \downarrow
\end{align*}
\]

b.  LP rule for VP:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{V} & > \text{NP:OBJ}_{go} > \text{NP:OBJ} > \text{NP:OBJ}_{th} > \text{PP}
\end{align*}
\]
Interaction of Thematic Structure and Syntactic Structures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(50)</th>
<th>diul &lt;ag</th>
<th>go</th>
<th>th &gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IC's</td>
<td>o⁻</td>
<td>r⁻</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive</td>
<td>φ</td>
<td>r⁺</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC's</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GF Class.</th>
<th>OBL₀/OBJ₀</th>
<th>S/O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>OBL₀</td>
<td>SUBJ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hua1 (bei4 Li3si4) diul le gei3 ta1.
The flower was tossed to her (by Lee).

(51)*Ta1 (bei4 Li3si4) diul le yil duo3 hual.
She was tossed a flower by Lee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(52)</th>
<th>gei3 &lt;ag</th>
<th>go</th>
<th>th &gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IC's</td>
<td>o⁻</td>
<td>r⁻</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dative</td>
<td>o⁺</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive</td>
<td>φ</td>
<td>r⁺</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC's</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GF Class.</th>
<th>OBJ₀</th>
<th>S/O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>OBJ₀</td>
<td>SUBJ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hua1 (bei4 Li3si4) gei3 le ta1.

This kind of ambiguity found in verbs like jie4 'borrow/loan' and zu1 'rent/to/from' is therefore the result of two different a-structures, see (70a, b) for example.

(70) a.  jie4 <ag | go | th> |
| IC's | o⁻       | r⁻ |      |
| Dative | o⁺      |     |      |
| DC's | r⁻       | r⁺ |      |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GF Class.</th>
<th>SUBJ</th>
<th>OBJ₀</th>
<th>S/O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>SUBJ</td>
<td>OBJ₀</td>
<td>OBJ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Li3si4 jie4 le ta1 bu4shao3 qian2.
Lee loan ASP she much money
Lee loaned her a lot of money.

b.  jie4 <ag | pt | th> |
| IC's | o⁻       | r⁻ | o⁺ |
| DC's | r⁻       | r⁺ |     |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GF Class.</th>
<th>S/O</th>
<th>S/O</th>
<th>OBJ₀</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>SUBJ</td>
<td>OBJ</td>
<td>OBJ₀</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Li3si4 jie4 le ta1 bu4shao3 qian2
Lee borrow ASP she much money
Lee borrowed a lot of money off her.
The flower was given her (by Lee).

(53)*Ta1 (bei4 Li3si4) gei3 le yi1 duo3 hua1.
She was given a flower (by Lee).

Since in English passive the goal role may or may not be the subject, the passive operations (54) assign an optional [+r] to goal, while in Chinese passive the goal role must be [+r]. Example (55a) demonstrates that goal is the passivized subject if goal opts for the default classification. With agent suppressed, goal is the highest role in the a-structure and receives [-r] as a DC; theme receives [-r] also as an IC. MP, however, maps goal, the higher role, to SUBJ, and thus makes it unavailable for theme. (55b) shows that, like Chinese, goal is set to [+r], which leaves theme as the only candidate for subjecthood.

(54) (English) Passive: \( \theta . (\text{go}) . \)
\[
\downarrow \quad \downarrow
\]
\( \phi \ (+r) \)

(55) a.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IC's</th>
<th>give &lt;ag&gt;</th>
<th>go</th>
<th>th &gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passive</td>
<td>( \phi )</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-r</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC's</td>
<td>-r</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GF Class.  
S/O  
SUBJ  
OBJ

She was given a flower (by Lee).

b.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IC's</th>
<th>give &lt;ag&gt;</th>
<th>go</th>
<th>th &gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passive</td>
<td>( \phi )</td>
<td>+r</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC's</td>
<td>-r</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GF Class.  
OBL\( _{\phi} \)/OBJ\( _{\theta} \)  
S/O  
MP  
OBL\( _{\theta} \)  
SUBJ

A flower was given to her (by Lee).
English passive, like its Chinese counterpart, also interacts with dative. Since goal alternates between [+r] and [-r] due to passive but is restricted to be [+o] by dative, it appears either as an object (56a) or a secondary object (56b), although the two sentences share an exactly identical c-structure. Note that there is no particular order of application between dative and passive.

(56) a. give <ag \_o \_o_\_\_\_ \_\_> go th>
    IC's -o -r
    Dative +o
    Passive φ
    DC's -r

GF Class. OBJ_φ S/O
MP OBJ_φ SUBJ
%A flower was given her (by Lee).

b. give <ag \_o \_o_\_\_\_ \_\_> go th>
    IC's -o -r
    Dative +o
    Passive φ +r
    DC's

GF Class. OBJ_φ S/O
MP OBJ_φ SUBJ
%A flower was given her (by Lee).

Sentences like (56), although deemed unacceptable by prescriptive grammarians, are quite acceptable in some dialects of English (e.g. Jaeggli 1986:596, Anderson 1988:300, Dryer 1986:833). Note that its counterpart in Chinese, (52), is quite acceptable as well. A satisfactory account ideally provides a reasonable explanation and parameter for this variation, not simply rules it out or rules it in. Note first that an unmarked NP in the c-structure position immediately following the verb may indeed encode either OBJ or OBJ_φ, see the following c-
structure rule.

\[(57) \text{VP} \rightarrow \text{V} \quad \text{NP}^* \quad \text{PP}^* \quad (S') \]
\[\uparrow\text{OBJ/OBJ}_e\downarrow \quad \uparrow\text{OBL}_e\downarrow \quad \uparrow\text{COMP}\downarrow\]

The resulting dual status of OBJ$_e$ and OBJ associated with the
goal NP thus creates two analyses, or two f-structures more specifically,
and thus may present a difficulty in processing. Also, it is a highly
marked construction in the sense that dative and passive must both
apply to yield this construction. Therefore, for speakers who do not
accept such sentences, it can be stipulated that dative and passive do
not jointly apply to the same thematic structure.

In short, the parameterization of the passive operation (go $\rightarrow$ [+r])
as optional or obligatory accounts for the whole range of behavior
regarding the goal role in passive constructions in English and Chinese
and the variation between the two languages.

4. Conclusion

A moderate aim of this paper is to provide a coherent, formalized
analysis of Chinese dative shift, *gei*$_3$ as a verb and a goal-marking
preposition, the proper status of V*gei*$_3$ sequences, and verbs with
thematic structure <ag go th>. To that aim, I have demonstrated that
Chinese has a parallel dative shift as English in that post-object *gei*$_3$
may indeed be a semantically restricted preposition encoding a
subcategorized oblique function. I have also shown that the prolific
V*gei*$_3$ verbs are V-V compounds where *gei*$_3$ is the head, not a suffix,
and selects the class of <ag go th> verbs. The completely identical
syntactic behavior between V*gei*$_3$ verbs and verb *gei*$_3$ thus receive a
natural explanation.

A more ambitious aim is to use this analysis to test the validity of
a revised lexical mapping theory proposed in Her (1997 ms), where the
overall strategy is to maximize the universality of the theory. To
accomplish that, all components of the theory are designed to be language-independent, except morpholexical operations, which are extended the capacity of assigning syntactic features to accommodate function-changing lexical processes that do not affect the lexical semantics of predicates. Within the revised LMT, identical structures of dative shift in Chinese and English receive an identical account. The two languages differ however in that English allows passivized goal and Chinese does not. This variation is accounted for with a single parameter in passive operations: Chinese goal receives a [+r] and maps only to semantically restricted functions, whereas in English this syntactic assignment is optional and thus passivized goal is allowed.

The nature of LMT is clearly that of an interface; it links the information of lexical semantics and that of syntactic structure, two distinct parallel planes, and thus has access to information at both planes. Having the language-specific morpholexical module interact with other universal modules, our account at least partially captures the insight that languages diverge and converge at the same time (e.g. Hsieh 1995) and provides a fertile ground for the study of syntactic variations. This LMT view also supports the relativist position that languages (and the various constructions within a single language) vary in degree in terms of iconicity (e.g. Tai 1992, Tai 1993, Hsieh 1993), with high iconicity taken to be a direct mapping between the lexical semantic structure and the surface syntactic structure with little or no mediation of morpholexical operations such as dative and passive.
References


Interaction of Thematic Structure and Syntactic Structures


—— 1995. Thematic control and cross-dialectal comparison. Paper to be presented at ISLIT II, National Taiwan University, Taipei. (June 3-4, 1995)


Interaction of Thematic Structure and Syntactic Structures


