CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

In this thesis, we have explored the various uses of Hakka piong3 (放) ‘to put’ and its congeners by probing their form-meaning pairings (Goldberg, 1995, 2006) and by reintroducing the notion of frame and the concept of perspective to account for such phenomena (cf. Fillmore 1985; Fillmore & Atkins 1992, 2000; Taylor 2003; Lien 2000). The following section will wrap up the discussion, summarizing the findings in section 5.1, followed by some remained issues in section 5.2.

5.1 Summary of the Thesis

Piong3 (放) ‘to put’ in Hakka is abundant in semantics. Adopting Goldberg’s (1995, 2006) constructionist approach and Fillmore’s (1985, 1992) notion of frame, we argue at length that we have to take its verbal usages, constructions, and frames into account in order to identify the delicate nuances denoted by piong3. Furthermore, we demonstrate that the extended meanings denoted by piong3 can be linked to its typical use through various metaphors and metonymies such as CONTAINER, EVENT STRUCTURE, CHANGE OF STATE AS CHANGE OF LOCATION metaphors and ACTION
FOR RESULT metonymy. By scrutinizing the interaction between the participants and the [VN] / [VC] constructions, we provide the figure below in order to account for the multiple yet interrelated senses denoted by piong3.

**[VC] construction within the PUT frame**

D. **Related sense of piong3** (ᵗãeste)
1. Agent causes Theme to move **through a path** to a Location.
2. Agent causes Theme to move to a Location, indicating the resultant state of Theme.

**[VN] construction within the PUT frame**

A. **Central Senses of piong3** (ᵗสืบ) ‘to put’
Agent successfully causes Theme to move to a Location.

- SEM: CAUSE-MOVE <cause path theme>
- PRED: <
- SYN: V SUBJ OBL OBJ

A’ ‘to put to a location’
B. **Related sense of piong3**
‘to add’
Agent causes Theme to move to a Location, which brings about certain effects on Location.

C. **Related sense of piong3**
‘to release; to relieve’
Agent causes Theme to undergo a change of state followed by its relocation.

Figure 10 The interrelated senses denoted by piong3
The integration of frames and the caused-motion construction can give rise to the related senses of *piong3*. At the phrasal level, the interface between *piong3* and the [VN] / [VC] constructions generate a grouping of interrelated meanings. To begin with, the typical use of *piong3* describes a change of location, signifying ‘to put’, ‘to put to a location’ and ‘to put for a prolonged time’ as indicated by rectangles A, A’, and A”. Second, strengthened by the causal relation, the use of *piong3* comes to denote ‘to add’ as represented in rectangle B. Next, motivated by metaphor or metonymy, the extended use of *piong3* indicates a change of state, signifying ‘to release’ or ‘to relieve’ as shown in ellipse C. Notice that frequently used [VN] constructions will evolve into assorted compounds or even idiomatic expressions based on their degrees of lexicalization. On the other hand, the interplay between *piong3* and the various complements (i.e. path and result) enriches the semantics of the basic *piong3* in that the path of the motion and the resultant state of certain participants are overtly expressed.

At the sentential level, we explore canonical and non-canonical constructions denoted by *piong3*. With regard to the canonical construction, the agent is mapped to the subject; the theme to the object; and the location to an oblique. Two canonical patterns are represented in the *piong3* constructions in that they differ in their oblique positions (i.e. constructions with a preverbal or a postverbal locative phrases) and in
the choice of locative markers. The construction with a preverbal locative phrase (introduced by *dai* (待)) typically highlights the starting point of the event, whereas that with a postverbal locative phrase (introduced by *du3* (佇) or *do3* (到)) emphasizes the very moment at which an action is completed. As for the non-canonical constructions (including TUNG constructions, locative inversion, and the deprofiled object construction), some obligatory participants are syntactically unexpressed owing to certain pragmatic factors.

Finally, we scrutinize nine congeners of *piong3* and subcategorize them into the following groups: verbs of putting with a precise direction, verbs of putting with a marked tool, and verbs of putting in a particular manner. A subtype of *piong3*, verbs of putting with a specified theme, is also worthy of note.

### 5.2 Issues for future study

In this thesis, we examined the verbal polysemies of *piong3* and explicated how these meanings are interrelated. In addition, we contrast *piong3* with other nine congeners, and uncover the following generalizations: the PUT frame in Hakka includes three salient participants (i.e. agent, theme, and location) and five others.

Members within the PUT frame all involve the most salient participants. While the basic category *piong3* only profile the most salient roles, its congeners lexicalize
more semantic atoms into their lexical items, specifying more information within the caused-motion activity.

Although revealing, several issues remain to be resolved with regard to the phenomena in question. First of all, as demonstrated above, Hakka *piong3* in the caused-motion construction has a strikingly similar pattern of polysemy. Inherited from the central sense, each of the extensions can be applied to a minimally different construction such as the ditransitive construction as exemplified in (7). What captures the semantic relation between the caused-motion construction and the ditransitive construction will have to be left for future study. Furthermore, issues related to the interplay between the congeners and various constructions, such as their interaction with the [VN]/[VC] constructions, their degree of lexicalization, their occurrence with TUNG construction, BUN construction, or other unique constructions still remain unexplored. Hence, a fine-grained analysis of these congeners requires future research. Finally and most importantly, the establishment of a systematic Hakka database will be a paramount task in the near future because it can provide more authentic linguistic sources to advance Hakka studies.