

Metaphorization of space and time in authoritarian Taiwan

Jennifer M. Wei

English Department, Soochow University
Wei_jennifer@hotmail.com

INTRODUCTION

- the relationship between space and time
 - Moore (2014): Spatial related ideas such as motion, location, or succession help provide regularity and structure in understanding time.
 - Yu (2012): Time in Chinese exhibits a metaphorical orientation with horizontal and vertical axes.
- temporal proximization
 - Cap (2013): a legitimizing strategy of presenting physically and temporally distant events and states of affairs as directly, increasingly, and negatively consequential to the speaker and her addressee
 - Kopytowska (2015): a means to bring past events (recency), present events (currency), and future events (imminence) to the speaker/audience's attention
- present talk: space, time, and temporal proximization in political discourse
 - Temporal proximization is viewed as a legitimizing strategy to convince an audience of the imminence of perceived threats in testing times.
 - Temporal proximization helps construe the symbolic distance crossing between center/peripheral and past/future, as well as good/evil in political rhetoric.
- research questions
 - What aspects of the spatial concept are most salient in the temporal proximate of quasi-war rhetoric?
 - Do they stay consistent when socio-political contexts change?
 - If so, how do politicians compensate for the lost promise in terms of new proximization choices?

METHODOLOGY

- biannual presidential speeches during the authoritarian period in Taiwan (1949 to 1996) from Taiwan Presidential Corpus (Huang and Ahrens 2008)
- three national leaders
 - Chiang Kai-Shek (CKS, 1949-1975): 39 speeches
 - Chiang Ching-Kuo (CCK, 1978-1988): 20 speeches
 - Lee Teng-Hui (LTH, 1988-1996): 17 speeches
- framework: AntConc3.4.3 (Anthony 2014) and discourse analysis
 - frequency, collocate, and concordance of spatial and temporal deictics

OVERVIEW OF THE DATA

Table 1. spatial and temporal deictics from top 100 word list of the 3 leaders

Deictics	CKS			CCK			LTH		
	Ranking	No. of Hits	%	Ranking	No. of Hits	%	Ranking	No. of Hits	%
在 zai (at/in)	5	747	1.10	4	111	1.09	3	233	1.56
這 zhe (here)	10	560	0.82	18	55	0.54	53	40	0.26
來 lai (since/from)	22	367	0.54	30	42	0.41	32	59	0.39
上 shang (at/above)	29	281	0.41	61	24	0.23	41	49	0.32
今天 jintian (today)	42	220	0.32	45	30	0.29	54	39	0.26
於 yu (at)	46	208	0.30	36	37	0.36	59	36	0.24
今日 jinri (today)	58	162	0.23						
此 ci (here)	67	138	0.20	52	28	0.27	31	62	0.41
中 zhong (in)	73	130	0.19	29	43	0.42	30	64	0.43
現在 xianzai (now)	87	117	0.17						
從 cong (from)	90	114	0.16						
未來 weilai (future)							48	42	0.28
下 xia (under)							63	33	0.22

TEMPORAL DEICTICS PLUS MOTION VERBS IN CKS SPEECHES

- 今天 jintian 'today' (42nd), 今日 jinri 'today' (58th), 現在 xianzai 'now' (87th)
- They can be used with motion verbs such as "entering", "arriving" to inform audience that Taiwan has entered/arrived at a quasi-war state or that the Chinese Communists are facing decline.

Table 2. High frequency of temporal deictics in CKS speeches

Category	Variants of 'today'	Jintian 今天 'today'	Jinri 今日 'today'	Xianzai 現在 'now'
Metaphorical usage	Moving Ego	9 4.10%	4 2.44%	9 7.669%
	Ego-centered Moving Time	12 5.45%	13 7.93%	6 5.13%
	Time Sequence	3 1.36%	4 2.44%	0 0%
Literal use		196 89.09%	143 87.19%	102 87.18%
Total		220	164	117

- 我們 反攻行動 日近一日 的 今天 (19580101)
We overstrike day closer day DE Today.
'Today, our military action to over strike the mainland is getting closer each day.'
- 今天 共匪 已經 迫近了 崩潰 的 末日 (19630101)
Today communism already getting closer collapse DE end
'Today, the Chinese communists are getting closer to their last day of devastation.'

TEMPORAL DEICTICS IN CKS SPEECHES: TOP 5 COLLOCATES

- (some explanation ...)

Table 3. Top 5 collocates of temporal deictics in CKS speeches

今天 jintian 'today'				今日 jinri 'today'				現在 xianzai 'now'			
Collocates	Rank	No.	%	Collocates	Rank	No.	%	Collocates	Rank	No.	%
我們 (we, our)	1	21	9.54	的 (DE)	1	12	7.40	我們 (we, our)	1	18	15.38
是 (is)	2	21	9.54	在 (at, in)	2	10	6.17	讓 (let)	2	13	11.11
大陸 (Chinese Mainland)	3	16	7.23	反攻 (over strike)	3	6	3.70	它 (it)	3	5	4.27
的 (DE)	4	11	5.00	我們 (we, our)	4	5	3.09	毛賊 (the Mao bandits)	4	5	4.27
我 (I, my)	5	10	4.45	世界 (world)	5	4	2.47	大陸 (Chinese Mainland)	5	4	3.41

- 今天 我們 在 復興基地 的 軍民 同胞 (19680101)
Today our at (revolutionary) base DE militia compatriots
'Today, our (revolutionary) militia and compatriots at (this) military base, ...'
- 所幸 今日的 世界, 絕非 12年前 的 世界 (19610101)
Luckily Today's world not 12 years ago DE world
'Luckily, today's world is different from the world 12 years ago.'
- 現在 我們 面臨 國家民族 的 空前 浩劫 (19571010)
Now, we are facing nation DE unprecedented turmoil
'Now, we are facing unprecedented turmoil threatening our nation and people.'

USAGE OF 在 zai (at/in): BEYOND SPACE AND TIME

- among the top 5 words for all three leaders
- CKS: to predicate Chinese mainland (x55 times), the situation during quasi-war time Taiwan
- CCK: as locative for embodiments such as "hands" and "hearts", or Taiwan as a military base
- LTH: "people" as the locative in the phrase "people have the rights" (x13 times), broader usage of zai to refer to different aspects in Taiwan

Table 4. Top 5 collocates of zai 'at/in' among the 3 leaders

Collocate	CKS			Collocate	CCK			Collocate	LTH		
	Rank	Frequency	%		Rank	Frequency	%		Rank	Frequency	%
大陸 (mainland China)	1	55	7.36	我們 (we, our)	1	13	11.71	民 (people)	1	13	5.58
這 (here)	2	42	5.62	此 (here)	2	10	9.00	此 (here)	2	12	5.15
我們 (we, our)	3	29	3.88	這 (here)	3	9	8.11	臺灣 (Taiwan)	3	11	4.72
此 (here)	4	25	3.34	復興 (military)	4	6	5.41	國際 (International)	4	10	4.29
其 (their, its)	5	24	3.21	我 (me)	5	3	2.70	經濟 (economics)	5	7	3.00

- 我們 中華民國 在 大陸 愛好和平 的 同胞... (CKS 19620101)
We ROC on mainland China peace-loving DE compatriots
'Our peace-loving compatriots of the Republic of China on the mainland...'
- 在 這 內外 形勢 激急變化, 我 反攻行動 (CKS 19580101)
At this inside/out situation drastically changing our counter strike
'At this drastically changing situation, our counter-strike action ...'
- 因為 公理 與 正義 皆 在我們掌握之中, (CCK 19821010)
Because justice and righteousness both under our control
'Because both justice and righteousness are at our control, ...'
- 今天 我們 在 此 復興基地 慶祝 國慶, (CCK 19801010)
Today we at this military base celebrate the Founding Day of ROC.
'Today, we celebrate the Founding Day of ROC at the military base here.'
- 主權 在 民 的 理念 已 在 國內 生根, (LTH 19941010)
Rights at people DE idea already at country take roots
'The idea that people should retain the rights has taken roots in the country.'
- 在經濟 發展上, 我們 從 落後貧窮 的 農業國家, (LTH 19951010)
At economics development, we from backward DE agricultural country
'Economically, we have transformed from a poor agricultural ...'

CONCLUSION

- Spatial aspects such as location, motion, and situation are used differently by the three leaders in different socio-political contexts.
- Chiang Kai-Shek (1955 to 1975)
 - the locative and situated aspects of 在 zai (at, in) → the compatriots on the Chinese mainland as well as their bleak situation under communism
 - frequent use of the temporal deixis such as "today" and "now" to convey a sense of quasi-war time/state Taiwan
- Chiang Ching-Kuo (1978 to 1988) and Lee Teng-Hui (1988 to 1996)
 - less use of temporal deixis → less heightened sense of momentousness
 - CCK: zai as locative for embodiments such as "hands" and "hearts"
 - LTH: extension of the situational aspects of Taiwan to economics and diplomacy