Onset Causation and Extended Causation from the Perspective of Event Integration

Li, J.M.

2020

document version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

citation for published version (APA)
Li, J. M. (2020). *Onset Causation and Extended Causation from the Perspective of Event Integration.*

ONSET CAUSATION AND EXTENDED CAUSATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF EVENT INTEGRATION

初始因果关系与持续因果关系的事件融合研究

Jinmei Li

This dissertation explores a method for investigating the language-thought interface by analyzing participants' conceptualization and lexicalization patterns as they view ongoing, dynamic and causative events. It develops a new theoretical model of how speakers of various languages verbalize events having varying degrees of internal complexity — a four-dimensional model for event integration. That model is applied to a contrastive analysis of English and Mandarin Chinese, with a specific focus on the distinction of onset causation vs. extended causation. The difference between onset and extended causation remains elusive, and previous studies of onset and extended causation have investigated Mandarin Chinese only to a limited extent. This research clarifies their ontological characteristics and examines how this distinction plays a key role in conceptual event integration and syntactic encoding from the perspective of event integration. This dissertation thus expands the range of both causation theory and event integration theory. This not only sheds light on how the notion of 'causation' can be categorized; it also expands out understanding of how causality is expressed across languages, and has implications for studies on event integration, event segmentation, event perception and memory. In addition, this study has potential importance for teaching and translation as well.