

A Grammar of Mandarin

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Book review of *A Grammar of Mandarin*

by Jeroen Wiedenhof
(John Benjamins, 2015)

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This grammar represents a consummate work by Jeroen Wiedenhof (JW), a scholar who has devoted much of his research career to the study of the Beijing variety of Mandarin Chinese, his familiarity and ease with the subject shining through the pages of his detailed description.

Composed of twelve chapters with an enormous tally of useful tables and figures (over 70 in fact), glossaries of terminology and appendices for the different transcription systems of Mandarin and its syllable inventory, this grammar should prove to be invaluable to linguists, sinologists and students alike.

One of the many pluses of this book is its use of authentic data from a corpus of colloquial Beijing Mandarin transcriptions, for which the author (JW) does not fail to indicate the precise usage and pronunciation. This is information largely lacking in grammars to date which tend to present the standard or official pronunciation, and typically only in the form of the *pinjin* transcription, adopted by China in 1958. As the author states in his preface, the focus of his grammar is on actual language use, embracing the two perspectives of language variation and change. To this end, JW not only makes comparisons between contemporary Beijing and Taiwan Mandarin speech usage, but also with the description of spoken Mandarin in Chao Yuen Ren's classic grammar, published 50 years ago, in order to identify diachronic changes that may have occurred.

As a consequence of adopting this unwaveringly empirical approach, many interesting theoretical considerations are raised in the course of the twelve chapters that have not necessarily been tackled in other grammars such as Li and Thompson (1981) or Huang et al (2009), such as an up-to-date description of rhotacism or fusion phenomena affecting high frequency function words such as the negative *bu* or the indefinite article *yi*.

The style of the grammar is in fact closer in approach to Chao's *A Grammar of Spoken Chinese* (1968) given the plenitude of excursus, formatted in small print in indented paragraphs, intended for those readers who wish to gain more information on a particular topic. Furthermore, the fine attention to detail for the phonetic and prosodic values of the data presented is to be much appreciated and noted as a hallmark of this grammar. The in-depth discussion of important lexical features such as tone sandhi or the neutralisation of tonal values is quite striking in its degree of precision. This feature, combined with the unwavering description of real discourse data, accounts for the great originality of the work.

Nonetheless, a minor objection is that some of the chapters suffer from a lack of coherence in thematic matter, for example, the chapter on verbs (Chapter

A fascinating description of a global language, A Grammar of Mandarin combines broad perspectives with illuminating depth. Lucid and comprehensive, Wiedenhof's grammar is a significant contribution to Chinese linguistics. Jeroen Wiedenhof's grammar offers a radically fresh. www.amapforhappiness.com: A Grammar of Mandarin (Jeroen Wiedenhof): Books. A fascinating description of a global language, A Grammar of Mandarin combines broad perspectives with illuminating depth. Crammed with. This grammar represents a consummate work by Jeroen Wiedenhof (JW), a scholar who has devoted much of his research career to the study of the Beijing. Title, A grammar of Mandarin Chinese Volume of Languages of the world: Materials Volume of Neue Kleine Bibliothek Volume of Languages of . A fascinating description of a global language, A Grammar of Mandarin combines broad perspectives with illuminating depth. Crammed with examples from. Hua Lin A Grammar of Mandarin Chinese. Chapter 2. Phonetics and Phonology. The study of the sound system of language normally starts with phonetics. Get this from a library! A grammar of Mandarin. [Jeroen Wiedenhof]. LINCOM, So cover. Book Condition: Neu. Dust Jacket Condition: Gut. 1. Auflage. Mandarin Chinese is the official language in China, Taiwan. A Grammar of Mandarin Chinese. Hua Lin University of Victoria. Mandarin Chinese is the official language in China, Taiwan and Singapore, and the language. Synopsis: A fascinating description of a global language, A Grammar of Mandarin combines broad perspectives with illuminating depth. Crammed with. Whilst it's important to learn grammar in detail in small chunks, it can be very useful to get They can help you get a feel for Mandarin Chinese and how it works. This grammar represents a consummate work by Jeroen Wiedenhof (JW), systems of Mandarin and its syllable inventory, this grammar should prove to be. there are a good number of grammar books on Mandarin. Both of these books focus on the major Chinese dialects and more. It can be used as a textbook for. A Grammar of Mandarin. A fascinating description of a global language, "A Grammar of Mandarin" combines broad perspectives with illuminating depth. A comprehensive, free resource for standard Chinese grammar, organized by part consultancy dedicated to helping foreigners better learn Mandarin Chinese. Tik; works of Morrison and Marsbman on the grammar of this language, 'J'hat part of his treatise which is occupied with the mandarin dialect, ischiefjy. Modern Mandarin Chinese grammar: a practical guide / Claudia Ross and. Jing- heng Sheng Ma. p. cm. (Routledge modern grammars). ISBN China is very rich in language resources, and Mandarin is undoubtedly its most. Written in the style of a reference grammar, this book sets out to give a.

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