Study on the Aspect Category of Guyuan Dialect

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Abstract—Guyuan dialect belongs to a dialect branch of Qinlong district in the mandarin of central China. Compared with Putonghua, there are many special expressions of aspect category in this dialect. Through investigation and analysis, it is found that there are nine kinds of aspect categories in Guyuan dialect: ingressive aspect, preparatory progressive aspect, ongoing progressive aspect, durative aspect, perfective aspect, finished aspect, experiential aspect, revertant aspect and connective aspect.

Keywords—Guyuan dialect; grammatical form; aspect

I. INTRODUCTION

Located in the south of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, adjacent to Huanxian county and Zhenyuan county of Qingyang, Gansu in the east, Kongtong district, Huating county and Jingning county of Pingliang city in the south, and Huining county of Baiyin city in the west. The north of it borders on Haiyuan county of Zhongwei city and Tongxin county of Wuzhong. Guyuann where the Han people accounts for a majority, is a minority residential area dominated by Hui nationality and also populated by Manchu, Mongolian, Dong, Miao, Tujia, Dongxiang and other minorities.

As a branch of Qinlong district in the mandarin of central China, Guyuan dialect is unique and reflects the unique social and economic conditions, local customs and practices and conventions of Guyuan. But there are not many papers on Guyuan dialect, most of which focus on phonetics and vocabulary, few on grammar, and even fewer on grammar category. At present, there is no article on the aspect category of Guyuan dialect.

The grammatical category of "aspect" expresses the state or kind of action behavior or process, which is very complex and diversified. Gao Mingkai classified the commonly seen "aspects" into 18 categories: progressive aspect, temporary aspect, perfecative aspect, finished aspect, experiential aspect, revertant aspect and connective aspect.

II. INGRESSIVE ASPECT

In Guyuan dialect, "开" is often used as the beginning of an action or behavior, or the appearance of a character. The ingressive aspect of Guyuan dialect is commonly marked by the words "开" [kʰei] and "咧" [tʰu]. Their are several expressions.

A. Verb/Adjective + 开(咧)

In Guyuan dialect, "开" is often used as the beginning of an action or the appearance of a certain character. Such is quite a common usage. Its grammatical form is adding "开" behind a verb or adjective, and "咧" is often followed by a modal particle "咧" [li]. For example: “吃开 (咧)、走开 (咧)、冷开 (咧)、黄开 (咧)”, meaning to starting eat, to start to go, to start to get cold and to start turn yellow, respectively. The negative form is adding "没 (no)" or "还没 (not yet)" before the verb or adjective, and once "没" or "还没 " is added, the modal word "咧" disappears. For example, “没吃开、还没吃开、没冷开，还没热开”, meaning "to haven't started

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to eat", "to have not yet started to eat", "to haven't started to get cold" and "have not yet started to get warm", respectively.

"没" can also be placed in the middle of a verb-object phrase, composing the form of "verb + 没 + object (咧)". For example, "我没种开粮食 (咧)", "没写开论文 (咧)", "赛后没开篮球 (咧)", which mean "to start to grow grains", "to start to write an essay" and "the basketball game starts", respectively. The negative form of this expression is to add "没 (not) or "还没 (not yet)" before the verb. For example, "我没种开粮食", "还没种开粮食", meaning "to have not started to grow grains" and have not yet started to grow grains", a rare expression and usually used only in specific conversations. For example, the negative response of "写开论文咧没？", meaning "have you started to write your essay?"?, "还没写开 (论文)咧", meaning "I have not started to write (the essay)". The object here is often omitted. A more common negative expression is placing the object mentioned in the subject position, such as "the paper has not been written" or "the grain has not been planted".

B. Verb + 脫 (咧)

In Guyuan dialect, adding "脫" after the verb to indicate the beginning of action is rarely used. It can only be used after the verb, and the verb cannot take an object. For example: "脫跑开 (咧)", "脫吃 (咧)", which mean "to start to run" and "to start to eat". "脫" can be replaced by "了", for instance, the above examples can all be displaced by "跑开 (咧)", "吃开 (咧)"; yet "了" cannot necessarily be replaced by "脫", for example, "写开论文 (咧)" cannot be replaced by "写开论文 (咧)". In Guyuan dialect, "了" is used in more formal occasions, while " 脫 " is often used in humorous or uncivilized occasions. "了" cannot be used after an adjective generally, for example it cannot be said like "热脱脱、热脱脱咧" to express the meaning "to start to get hot", "to start to turn red" and "to start to get rotten".

III. PREPARATORY PROGRESSIVE ASPECT

Preparatory progressive aspect indicates an upcoming action or state of being. In Putonghua, the adverbs "将、将要、快要" meaning "will, be doing, be going to and be about to, etc." are usually added before the verb or adjective to express it. In Guyuan dialect, some components are usually added before or after the verb or adjective to express it, and there are several main representations.

A. Adding "将" Before the Verb/Adjective

"将" is usually added before a verb or adjective while behind the verb the modal particle "呢" [ni] is often added. "将" pronounced as [fa][13], is an adverb of time, equivalent to "will, will have, will be" in mandarin. This kind of expression generally states the action and behavior or the state which have objectivity only. For example, "发走 (呢)、发表 (呢)、发冷 (呢)、发臭 (呢)", mean "to be going to leave", "to be coming", "to be getting cold" and "to be getting stink". The addition of "将" before a verb or an adjective followed by the modal "呢", indicates that the action or a certain character is about to happen or appear.

Before the verb-object phrase, you can also add "恰", followed by the modal word "呢" to indicate that the action is about to take place. For example, "发吃饭 (呢)、发开学 (呢)、发报名 (呢)", which mean "is going to eat the food", "the school is going open", "is going to sign up", separately. The object here can sometimes be paced on the space of subject, like "车发开 (呢)、车子发刹车 (呢)、戏发散 (呢)", meaning "the car is going to be driven", "the wheat is to about to be got in" and "the opera is about to be off", while sometimes it cannot, for example, it cannot be said like "饭发吃 (呢)、名发报 (呢)、学发开 (呢)", to express "is going to eat the food", "the school is going open", "is going to sign up".

B. Adding "恰" After Verb/Adjective

"恰" pronounced [tɕia], can only be added after the verb or adjective, representing that an action or a state is about to happen or is going to achieve, and the stated thing or state is objective. For example: "吃恰饭、学习恰、干净恰、冷恰", meaning "to be about to eat", "to be leaving", "to be going to sleep", "to be going to turn dark", "to be getting cold" and "to be getting rotten" respectively, all indicate this action or some kind of state is about to happen or will come true. "吃恰" indicates "to be going to have dinner" and "冷恰" means "(the weather) is getting cold". "吃恰饭、学习恰、过年恰", meaning "to be going to eat", "to be going to study", "to be going to celebrate the Spring Festival". Here, "恰" can only be placed after the verb-object phrase, not in the middle of the verb-object phrase like "吃吃饭、学习学习、过年过年", meaning "to be eating" and "to be going sleep". None of the above formats have a negative form, that is, one cannot say "没吃恰、不吃恰、没黄恰、不黄恰、没割麦子恰、不割麦子恰", meaning "not to be going to eat, not to be turning yellow and not to be going to get in the wheat".

C. Adding "发" Before or "名" After Verb/Adjective

The above two expressions can also be used in the same sentence at the same time, forming the structure of "发 + verb/adjective + 恰". For example, "发走走、发吃吃、发冷冷、发黐黐", which mean "to be going to leave, to be going to eat, to be getting cold and to be getting dark". There is no corresponding negative form in this form. For example, one cannot say "没发吃吃、没发冷冷、没发上上课恰" to express "I am not going to eat, it's not going to get cold and I am not going to have class".

D. Adding "得" After the Verb/Adjective

"得" [tei][11], appended to a verb or adjective, means that action should occur or something should happen immediately, which is strongly subjective. For example, "他走得了 (He has to leave)", indicates that "He is about to leave". "天黑得了 (It is getting dark) indicates that "It is getting dark soon".

E. Adding "沒" Before the Verb

To indicate that the action is about to begin in Guyuan dialect, "没者" [mu3][12] can be added before the verb, which
amounts to "准备" (be ready to), to which the modal particle "着" [te³ie] should be attached. For example,

(1) 你准备干啥 (切)? (What are you going to do?)

(2) 我准备去银川 (切)。 (I am going to to Yinchuan.)

Sometimes, the modal word "着" can be directly added after the verb or verb-object structure to indicate the coming or ongoing action. For example,

(3) 我走切。 (I am going to leave.)

(4) 你吃饭切吗? (Are you going to have your meal?)

Although the ingressive aspect and the preparatory progressive aspect both indicate the beginning state of the action, they are different. Adding "着" in front of a verb or adjective indicates the state in which the action or behavior has already begun, while adding "去" before and "着" after the verb or adjective indicates the state in which an action is about to begin but does not begin. For example, "天暖了，种开粮食了" (As it gets warm, people start to grow grain) indicates the situation in which people have already begun to grow grain. But "天暖了，发种粮食恰着" (As it gets warm, people are going to grow grain), indicates the situation in which people are about grow grain but they haven't started the work.

IV. ONGOING PROGRESSIVE ASPECT

Ongoing progressive aspect that the action is taking place or going on, usually presented by adding "着" "正 着" ahead or "着", "着呢" behind. In Guyuan dialect, the status of an action in progress is also shown by adding "着呢" [tʂʅ³ŋ] behind the verb. For example, "吃着呢，写着呢，看着呢" , which mean "I am eating, I am writing and I am watching". "吃着呢" means the action of "eating" is in progress.

In addition to being placed after the single verb, "着呢" can also be placed after the verb-object structure to indicate the ongoing action. For example, "他看着呢，写作着呢，看电视着呢".

V. DURATIVE ASPECT

The durative aspect represents a continuous state with no obvious endpoint. In Guyuan dialect, adding "着" after the verb indicates the continuous state of the action, which is basically consistent with the expression form in mandarin. The phrase "着子" can also be added after the verb to show a continuous state.

A. Using "着" to Indicate the Continuous State of Actions and Behaviors

Directly placed after the verb, "着" indicates the continuous action. For example, "吃着、说着、唱着" mean "be eating, be saying and be singing". "吃着" shows a continuous state of the action of "eating" with no clear end point. "着" can also be placed between the verb-object structure to indicate the continuity of action, but not after the verb-object structure. For example, "吃着饭、唱着歌、干着家务、看着电视" are not used.

B. Verb + 切子

In Guyuan dialect, there is a special way to express the continuant. That is, adding "子" [tsɿ] after the verb to express the continuance of action. Lin Tao wrote [te³ou³tsɿ] as "子". He thinks this phrase combined with verbs and adjectives as morphemes to form verbs and adjectives. It has an intense oral color, often with a sense of banter; therefore it is often used by the masses. Gao Shunbin wrote it as "子", which can be attached to almost all verbs to express the continuity of action. For example, "吃子子、滚子子、写子子、打子子、弄子子、唱子子" (indicate the continuous action of eating, fucking off, writing, playing, doing and singing).

The word "着" implies the appellation of male genitalia. In oral communication, it is often put after some verbs or adjectives to express the speaker's emotion of excitement, impatience, dissatisfaction or indifference, with a vulgar and uncivilized meaning. Occasionally, it is also used for witty banter or flirting. Placing "着" or "子子" after a verb with modal particles express the meaning of statement, order, request, urging, etc. For example, "走子子、哭子子、算子子了", meaning "it has gone, it has run away and let it pass". If it is put after the adjectival, with the modifier "着"，"的" and so on behind, the nature or state of the word will be strengthened. For example, "坏子子、大子子、冷子子的", mean "it is broken, it is too big and it has gone cold". However, if it represents the continuous state of action, "着" cannot be placed after the verb alone, but must be added with "子" to jointly express the continuous state of action. Therefore, it has lost its lexical meaning and gradually becomes a modal word that only expresses the grammatical meaning.

VI. PERFECTIVE ASPECT

The perfective aspect indicates that the action has occurred or the state has been realized. The perfective aspect of Guyuan dialect is generally expressed by adding "着" [li³] after a verb or adjective, indicating the completed state of action, behavior and change. "着" is the equivalent of the completion auxiliary "了" in Putonghua, but it is more widely used than "了". In some cases in Putonghua where "了" cannot be used, in Guyuan dialect "着" can be used. "着" is very dynamic, often placed after a verb or an adjective, between or after the verb structure, to indicate a complete event that has become a reality.

When "着" is placed after a verb, like in "吃啊、走啊、来啊、学习啊", which mean "to have had one's meal, to have left, to have come and to have studied", it emphasizes that an action, behavior, or event has been completed. At the same time, this format can also represent a situation that did not appear before, but is now happening and has become a fact, which is also a perfect aspect. For example, "你可来咧", mean

3 Ditto, page 177.
"Finally you have come". This indicates the truth that you didn't come before but finally come now.

When “啊” is placed behind an adjective, it indicates the completion of a certain state of a person or thing. For example, “热啊，热啊，老啊” (it has gone hot, it has been dark and someone or something has grown old). “啊” can also be put after the verb-object construction to indicate the state of an action or something that has already happened or completed. For example, “开学咧，上课咧，看书咧” (the school has begun; the class has started and the book has been read).

“咧” can either be put in the middle of the verb-object construction, or behind the structure as modal particle, making the tone of expression more soothing and smooth. For example, “走咧城里，走咧城里咧，去咧北京，去咧北京咧” (to have been in the town, to have been in Beijing).

When the above formats are used to indicate the perfective aspect, they show that an action, behavior or state occurs within the time range of a speech, for example, “学生开学咧” (Students have started school) without time stamp. If there is a time mark in the sentence, they mean that the action or state took place in a certain period of time emphasized by the speaker or in a future period of time. For example, “学生快开学咧” (The students will soon start school).

To make the negative form of the expression, “没” cannot be added before the verb, like one cannot say “没吃饭，没开学咧”。To have not had something can only be added in the middle of the verb-object structure, like “没吃饭咧、没开学咧” to have not had a meal, to have not started school, and to have not been in the city, but he/she can say “不吃饭咧、不开学咧” to show "to have not had a meal, to have not finished reading and to have not studied".

There are also some special perfect expressions in Guyuan dialect.

First, the verb or adjective is added with “咧" [tou 53]、 “快到” [tou 53 tui 13], to indicate the state of complete action, equal to “等到……时候”、“等到……时候”。Compared with “快到”， the mood of “咧到” is softer. Guyuan dialect, this form can refer to the past perfect and the future perfect.

First, it is past perfect tense to use this form to express what has already happened. For example,

(1) 昨天他爸来天津了。(It was dark when he came here yesterday.)

(2) 去年粮食黄了没到三伏天了。(Last year, it was dog days when the grain turned yellow.)

It is future perfective to use this form to state what will happen. For example,

(1) 我们开学家里的农活也干差不多了。(The farm work at home will almost be done when you start school.)

(2) 我们开学回来快过年了。(It will almost been the Spring Festival when you come home.)

Second, adding “赶” [kai 53]、 “去到” [kai 53 tui 13] before the verb, indicates the state of completion of an action. “赶” and “去到” amount to “等到……时候” and “等到……时候” in Putonghua and the use of “赶到” soothes the mood of speech.

In Guyuan dialect, this form also expresses the past perfect and the future perfect. For example,

(1) 昨天早上你来，(You will have arrived here tomorrow morning/ You can arrive here tomorrow morning.)

(2) 昨天来，张老师已经走了。(Mr Zhang had left when he came.)

Case (1) states what will happen and is the future perfect; case (2) is about what happened in the past and it's the past perfect.

Third, adding “撵” [niou 53] before a verb equals to “等到……时候” indicating what will be done and is future perfective. For example,

(1) 捻天黑咱门就回去了。(We will have arrived home when it is dark.)

(2) 捻你开学，家里就忙完咧。(The work in our house will have done when you start school.)

Case (1) means "We will have arrived home when it is dark"; case (2) means "The work in our house will have done when you start school". In both cases, the action or thing to be done is stated and the tense is future perfective.

In Guyuan dialect, “撵” is a verb, which means "to catch up with". As a predicate, it can also take an object. For example,

(3) 我撵你。

(4) 我撵上你了。

In both cases, “撵” is verb. Case (3) means "I catch up with you" and case (4) means "I have caught up with you". However, the "撵" of the perfective has gradually lost the lexical meaning of the verb, and it has the grammatical meaning of "completion", which is derived from the virtual verb.

VII. FINISHED ASPECT

“咧” [pa] can be added after a verb to indicate the end state of an action. The end of an action can be presented by putting “咧” directly behind the verb, which is basically the same with Putonghua. Like "吃罢饭、说罢、看罢" (to have finished eating, to have finished talking and to have finished watching). The negative form of this format is the adding “没” before the verb, like “没吃罢、没说罢、没看罢”。 "咧” can also be placed in the middle of the verb-object structure, like “吃罢饭、看罢书、写罢作业” (to have finished eating, to have finished reading and to have finished the homework). The negative form of this format is to add the negative word “没” before the verb, but not “没”。For example, one can say “没吃罢饭、没见过书、没写罢作业” (to have not finished eating, to have not finished reading and to have not finished the homework) or “饭没吃罢、书没看过、作业没写罢” (to have not finished eating, to have not finished reading and to have not finished growing grain).

VIII. EXPERIENCED ASPECT

The experienced aspect of Guyuan dialect is the addition of “过” [kou] after the verb or adjective to mean the state of
action, behavior, change that was carried out or appeared, which the same as the expression in Putonghua is. “过” is added to the verb to indicate that such an action took place, and it can take an object or not. For example, “吃过饭” (someone had his meal). The adjective followed by “过” indicates that someone once had such a property or state. For example, “热过、瘦过、热闹过” (it was once hot, someone was once thin, somewhere was once busy). All of the above formats have negative forms, which is adding “没” before the verb or adjective, indicating the state that has not been experienced or didn’t appear.

The “过” in Guyuan dialect only represents the experiential aspect, while the “过” in Putonghua can represent the perfect aspect besides the experiential aspect. For example, “我吃过饭了” (I have had my lunch). Here it means the action of having lunch has been completed, not that the lunch has ever been had.

Difference of adding “呢”, “咧” and “了” behind the verb and adjective: The addition of “呢” indicates that an action or state has occurred; the addition of “了” presents the completion or end of an action; the addition of “咧” shows the state in which an action or action has been. For example, the addition of “吃了” or “过” or “了” behind the verb “吃饭” (eat, have) means something different. “吃呢” indicates that the action of eating has been completed and belongs to experiential aspect; “吃了” means “just finished eating and the eating behavior has ended” so it belongs to finished aspect;

IX. REVERTANT ASPECT

In Guyuan dialect, there is a kind of revertant aspect, which means that the action and behavior are interrupted for some reason and then return to the original state. Yang Ziyi believes that adding “没” before the verb means that the action returns to the original state. In Guyuan dialect, “没” is often added after the verb to indicate restoration as an auxiliary word, which is equivalent to “还、仍然” (still) in Putonghua. For example,

1. 你原说你的。 (You can go on talking about what you were mentioning.)
2. 你原干那个工作。 (You shall do the job you were doing.)
3. 他们走他们的，咱们照说咱们的。 (We should keep on talking and leave it alone that they are leaving.)
4. 你不照忙你的，别理他。 (You can still do your own work and let him alone.)

The revertant aspect has no negative form. That means one cannot say “你不原说你的” or “你不照忙你的” to show the negative meaning.


X. CONNECTIVE ASPECT

Connective aspect indicates that two actions are in a state of mutual continuity. It can be presented by “一边……一边……” in Guyuan dialect. “邊” pronounces [ɕi̝n]. It means slightly different with the “一边……一边……” that representing two actions take place almost at the same time or at the same time. For example,

1. 现来现吃。
2. 现吃现做。
3. 现学现用。

Case (1) means "Those who come earlier can eat earlier", in which the two actions of "come" and "eat" have a sequence and they are in a mutually transitional state. Case (2) and case (3) are the same. This expression is different from the "一边……一边……" in Putonghua. For example, “一边吃饭一边看电视” indicates the two actions of having meal and watching TV take place at the same time, with no fixed sequence and they can change the position and say "一边看电视一边吃饭". However, the verbs "来" and "吃" in "现来现吃" cannot change their places in that these two actions should happen one after the other and are transitional.

XI. CONCLUSION

The types and grammatical forms of the aspect category of Guyuan dialect are summarized in “Table I”

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| Ongoing progressive aspect | V+ | 吃呢 |
| V+O+ | 吃呢 |

| Durative aspect | V+ | 吃呢 |
| V+O+ | 吃呢 |

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<th>Types</th>
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<tr>
<td>V+过+O</td>
<td>吃过饭咧</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revertant aspect</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>您+V</td>
<td>您您说你的</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>您+V</td>
<td>您您干你的</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Connective aspect</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>现+V+现+V</td>
<td>现来现吃</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Through the above induction and analysis, it can be found that there are nine category aspects in Guyuan dialect, with many types and rich forms of expression. Relatively speaking, the ingressive aspect, ongoing ingressive aspect, durative aspect and perfective aspect are more frequently used and have richer expression forms. In general, compared with Putonghua, the category aspect of Guyuan dialect has something similar, yet it has its special way of expression.

REFERENCES