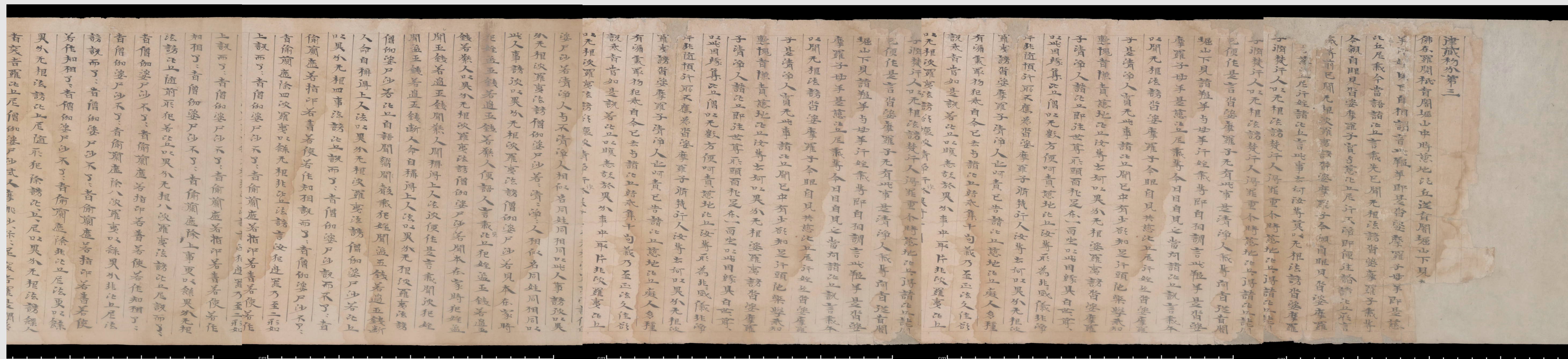


NARRATING THE RULES

A Study of the Dynamics of Modal Markers in Chinese Vinaya Translations of the 5th Century



Early Medieval Chinese & Buddhist Translation

Early Medieval Chinese (EMC):

- Timing:**
 - (Roughly) from 1st to 7th century
 - From the Eastern Han dynasty (25 – 220 CE) to the early Tang dynasty (618 – 907 CE)
- Features:**
 - Massive disyllabification
 - e.g., 'beg (for)': *qī* 乞 -> *qīqiú* 乞求
 - New syntactic constructions
 - e.g., "Enclitic" *gù* 故 ('for the reason that')
 - e.g., Some remaining SOV features in the Old Chinese (OC) decreased in EMC

Buddhist Translations (within the scope of EMC):

- Timing:**
 - Started in the 2nd century (based on extant texts)
 - Gradually increased and reached the first peak in the 5th century and the second peak in the 7th century
- Features:**
 - Expanded semantics that cannot be fully expressed by monosyllabic words in OC
 - A Large number of transliterated words for "imported" concepts and terms
 - Hybrid syntax influenced by source languages (Sanskrit, Gāndhārī, etc.)

Methodology

- Text analysis:** based on
 - CBETA (Buddhist texts);
 - Zhongguo Jiben Guji Ku* (The basic database for classical Chinese texts)
- Developing the corpus FCCV** (5th Century Chinese Vinaya): supported by
 - HanLP (He 2020), for word-segmentation
 - AntConc 4.2.4 (Anthony 2023), to establish the corpus
- Comparison:**
 - Synchronic: with contemporary secular texts
 - Diachronic: for case studies on the grammaticalization of disyllabic modals

References

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Peyraube, Alain and Li Ming. "The Semantic Historical Development of Modal Verbs of Volition in Chinese," in *Newest Trends in the Study of Grammaticalization and Lexicalization in Chinese*. Xing J. (ed.). Berlin: De Gruyter, 2012: 149–68.

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Vinaya Texts & Modality

Buddhist Disciplinary Texts
(Discussions on rules for Buddhist monastic members)

Semantic Category
(A supplement of meaning to the most neutral semantics of an utterance; to express speaker's attitude)

Rules and Duties	Deontic
Knowledge / Speculation	Epistemic
Desires and Abilities (of all participants involved in the narrative)	Dynamic

Why do we need to re-examine the modals in EMC?

- To avoid the tendency of interpreting modal markers only based on pre-conceived theoretical models and categories.
- To analyse the specific features of the EMC system of modal markers, contrastive to the those in Modern Mandarin (and English).
- To integrate the unique material constituted by Buddhist translated texts for tracing the diachronic development of modal markers.
- To determine a possible impact of Indic languages on the system of modal markers found in Buddhist texts.

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