

THE USE OF LOCATIVE NOUNS *LI*, *SHANG*, AND *ZHONG* AS MANDARIN LANGUAGE ADPOSITION

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to analyze locative nouns (li, shang, and zhong) that may function as postpositions and therefore Mandarin language considered to have circumposition. The collected data were sentences taken from Chinese short stories by Lu Xun and the articles in the tabloid. Because the object of this study consisted of language in texts, hence observation and documentation method were needed. The analysis of data used distribution method with dissipative technic, substitution technic, and insert technic. Through dissipative and insert technic, the distribution of the adpositional phrase could be known. Through substitution technic, the distribution of the adpositional phrase and the use of preposition related to semantic was conducted. The study shows, in some context of adpositional phrase, locative nouns li, shang, and zhong may function as postpositions, while the use of preposition zai, is optional, and the options provide the same meaning. Based on this result, Mandarin locative nouns should be considered as postpositions.

Keywords: *locative nouns, adposition, Mandarin postposition*

INTRODUCTION

Adposition as a particle, which describes the predicative relation, is a common category in word classification of many languages. The term of adposition has often replaced with preposition, postposition, or circumposition. It depends on the type of adposition a language has.

In crosslinguistics context, Verhaar (2008) has concluded that languages with consistently verb-object structure will mostly have the only preposition as the type of adposition, and languages with object-verb structure will mostly have the only postposition. Meanwhile, languages with inconsistent structure will have both preposition and postposition.

A language with Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) and Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) structure generally has the characteristic that can be seen in Table 1.

The Mandarin language has inconsistent structure. It sometimes is considered having verb-object or object-verb structure. Greenberg has stated Li, Charles N and Thompson (2005), although the Mandarin language has more of verb-object structure, it has the characteristic of language with object-verb structure. From Table 1, the characteristic referred and relevant to this study is the Mandarin language has postposition with noun-postposition structure.

In the Mandarin language, the locative noun can be placed after a noun. What Greenberg has suggested earlier indicates that locative noun can be considered as the postposition. Verhaar (2008) has found that the structure of Mandarin language reflects the probability of having both preposition and postposition. The purpose of this study is to analyze the probability of using other adposition in the Mandarin language, which is postposition.

Table 1 The Characteristic of Language with SVO and SOV Structure

	Language With SVO Structure	Language With SOV Structure
Center-Adverb	Verb-Adverb	Adverb-Verb
	Noun-Adjective	Adjective-Noun
	Noun-Conjunctions	Conjunctions-Noun
	Noun-Possessive pronoun	Possessive pronoun-Noun
Other Relevant Structures	Auxiliary verb-verb	Verb-auxiliary verb
	Preposition-Noun	Noun-Postposition

(source: Li & Thompson, 2005)

The postposition refers to the object of the preposition or the term locative noun (LN) in the Mandarin grammar studies. This study mainly discusses locative nouns *li* (inside), *shang* (above), and *zhong* (in the middle).

Mushangwe (2014) has said that the prepositions show the relationship between one thing and another, link words such as nouns, pronouns, and phrases to other words in a given phrase. A preposition is the only adposition known in the Mandarin language. Locative noun *li*, *shang*, and *zhong* are often used along with preposition *zai* in an adpositional phrase.

Most of the Mandarin language preposition derived from the verb. Therefore, preposition *zai* has a similar form and phonetic sound with verb *zai* that has a meaning of 'exist'. There are the characteristics of Mandarin language preposition; (1) it manages to form a prepositional phrase when used with another full word. Generally, the preposition or the object of preposition will be followed by the noun. (2) It cannot be reduplicated, nor followed by auxiliary words such as *zhe*, *le*, and *guo*. (3) Generally, it is a single form that cannot be considered as a sentence, nor being a subject, predicate, or other functions of syntax. (4) It declares time, place, way, excuses, following an act or condition, exception, and passive condition.

Except for preposition *zai*, locative noun *shang* and *zhong* also can be used as a verb. There are some characteristics that may be overlooked in order to see the interconnectedness and similarities between the languages in the world. Like other languages, Mandarin also has word that considered as two different word classes.

Yin Guoguang in Yin (2007) has stated, there are at least two elements to be considered in order to classify Mandarin words; they are the grammatical function and the meaning. Based on these two elements, the use of *shang* as a verb is *shang che* (riding car), *shang louti* (climbing up the stairs). The use of *zhong* as a verb is *zhongdu* (being poisoned), *dazhong* (hit the target).

The above statement about word classification of *zai*, *shang*, and *zhong* describes that in this study, word classification problem is an important thing to be solved. If this problem cannot be solved, it will affect the whole process of data validation. Word can be divided into two main groups; they are the full word and empty word/particle. The particle is a limited word that cannot be the input of any morphology process, have grammatical meaning, and can be mastered with memorizing.

Xing (2010) has said that there are 11 word classes in the Mandarin Language. Followings are related to our focus of study from what Xing have stated (1) *Li*, *shang* and *zhong* belong to the noun. Locative noun is a subcategory of the noun. (2) In the Mandarin language, particle consists of the preposition, adverb, conjunction, auxiliary, and others. (3) Adposition that known in The Mandarin language is the preposition.

Xing (2010) has found that locative noun is a limited and specific type of noun. The term locative noun is a noun that describes the location, direction, and relation between location-direction. Based on the structure, locative noun is divided into simple locative noun and complex locative noun. Simple locative noun consists of one syllable or monosyllable, for example, *li* (inside), *shang* (above), *zhong* (in the middle). Other examples are *xia* (under), *qian* (in front), *hou* (behind), *dong* (east), *xi* (west), *nan* (south), *bei* (north), *wai* (outside), *nei* (inside).

The locative noun is used with another word that placed after the word to form a phrase, for example of

locative noun *hou* (behind) in *wuzi hou* (room-behind) has meaning 'behind the room' (Xing, 2010). The phrase with N+LN construction is known as the locative phrase.

Locative noun or *fangweiici* is subcategory of noun that describes direction and location. As above stated, locative noun is used with other word to form N + LN phrase. Besides, the use of locative noun has Prep+N+LN structure, as Lv Shuxiang has suggested in *Xiandai Hanyu Babaici*.

方位词常常跟‘在、从、到’等介词配合起来用。别的语言里的‘介+名’短语，汉语里有时候必得用‘介+名+方’来说，例如英语的‘in the room’说法是‘在屋子里’。(Lv, 2009:14)

(The locative noun is often used with preposition *zai*, *cong*, *dao* and other preposition. The phrase with Prep+N structure in other languages will different with the Mandarin language. In Mandarin will have to use Prep. + N + LN structure, for example, the English phrase 'inside the room' will have to be translated into *zai wuzi li*).

The above English adpositional phrase can be describe as follows:

In the room
在屋子里
Zai wuzi li
at-room-inside
'Inside the room'

'In the room' consists of the Prep+N structure. In the Mandarin translation *zai wuzi li* will have Prep+N+LN structure.

Lv (2009) has found that the use of preposition *zai* is optional, therefore the phrase can be translated into *zai wuzi li* (at-room-inside) or *wuzi li* (room-inside) without changing its meaning. Although Lv not explicitly stated, the scholars treat the locative noun as a postposition.

From the statement, the use of locative noun *li*, *shang*, and *zhong* in a phrase will have N+ LN structure or Prep+N+LN structure. Lv (2009) studies are based on phrase structures with the locative noun as noun subcategory. According to this point of view, the phrase with Prep+ N structure can be considered as the prepositional phrase. On the other hand, the phrase with N+LN structure is considered as the locative phrase. The use of preposition *zai* (at) along with locative noun indicates there are times when locative noun *li*, *shang*, and *zhong* appear without the presence of preposition *zai* but manage to have the same meaning.

As the basic consideration in Indonesian language, Kridalaksana (1994) has found there is the Prep+LN structure in Indonesian language preposition phrase. Kridalaksana has stated that the word class of *dalam* (in/inside) can be understood as; (1) *Ia tinggal di dalam*/He lives inside (*dalam* is a noun), (2) *Ia tinggal di dalam rumah*/He lives inside the house (*dalam* is a noun of *dalam rumah* phrase), (3) *Ia tinggal dalam rumah*/He lives in the house (*dalam* is a preposition).

The use of preposition *di* (*at*), *di dalam* (*inside*), and *di atas* (*above*) are affected by semantic features that contained in the center noun or object of the preposition (Alwi, 2003). The flattened two-dimensional object such as "a table" can use preposition *di atas meja* (*above the table*) or *di meja* (*at the table*). A spatial three-dimensional object such as "a drawer" can use preposition *di dalam laci*

(*inside the drawer*) or *di laci* (*in the drawer*). Either “*di meja*” or “*di laci*” will not change their meaning. Therefore, Alwi has concluded that Indonesian language prepositional phrase has a typical pattern of the Prep+LN+N/object of the preposition. Kridalaksana (1994) has found that Indonesian phrase *di dalam* (*inside*), *di atas* (*above*) and *di tengah* (*at the middle*) are called mix preposition. Based on the description of Mandarin and Indonesian language, it is necessary to analyze the use of LN as Mandarin language postposition.

Liu Daqing in Xu (2008) has stated that in Mandarin language spatial meaning is described through the use of preposition or postposition or the circumposition, the combination between them. The Mandarin language is a language with spatial circumposition, which in a phrase there is a preposition that describes spatial relation such as *zai* (*at*), *wang* (*to*), *cong* (*from*) and so on, also a locative noun that describes spatial location such as *li* (*inside*), *shang* (*above*), and *zhong* (*in the middle*).

Other studies about Mandarin language postposition are brought by Sun and Chappelin in Xu (2008). Sun called postposition with the term *locatives*, meanwhile, Chappel called it *localizers*. Either the term *locatives* or *localizers*, all refer to locative noun. The study which supports the hypotheses about Mandarin language circumposition is Cui Xiliang’s article in Hanyu Xuexi journal (Cui, 2002) that discuss language classification from the way languages express the spatial relation in sentences. In many languages, the spatial position is expressed in various ways. English uses the preposition, Mandarin uses preposition added the locative noun, while Russian uses auxiliary and so on. Moreover, the elements that are used to express this spatial relation also have the different location.

空间的表达有三种位置类型。(1) 前置型：表达空间关系的语言成分位于谓语动词之前。例如日语。(2) 后置型：表达空间关系的语言成分位于谓语动词之后。以俄语为例。(3) 前后并存型：标引空间方位关系的成分即可以出现在谓词性成分之前，又可以出现在谓词性成分之后。例如现代英语和现代汉语。(Cui, 2002)

(The marker element of spatial relation have three types of location; (1) Located in the front; language which it element of spatial relation located in front of verb/main predicate, for example, Japanese. (2) Located in the back; language which it element of spatial relation located behind of verb/main predicate, for example, Russian. (3) Located in the front and the back; the element of spatial relation other than located in front of the predicate, also located behind of predicate, for example, modern English and modern Mandarin language).

According to Cui Xiliang, from the diachronic point of view, Mandarin’s structure changed in the element of spatial relation. Classic Mandarin language is classified as the group of language type 2, namely the language with the element of spatial relation located behind of verb/main predicate. Whereas modern Mandarin language is classified as the group of language type 3. Thus actually, the Mandarin language is formerly knowing and using the marker element of spatial relation behind the predicative element. Cui Xiliang compares it as the following example:

- (1) 入于幽谷
Ru yu you gu
(classic Mandarin language)
Enter at deep valley
Enter into the deep valley
- (2) 进入到深谷里
Jinru dao shen gu li
(modern Mandarin language)
Enter to deep valley inside
‘Enter into the deep valley’

Upon two examples above, the classic Mandarin language only needs preposition *yu* (*at*). While modern Mandarin language needs preposition *dao* (*to*), and locative noun *li* (*inside*) to be a grammatically accepted utterance. Nevertheless, Cui Xiliang uses the term locative noun to refer the element behind noun ‘valley’. So is Chappel in Xu, (2008); Li, Charles N, and Thompson (2005); Ernst, (1988), although it does not mention explicitly, these experts treat the locative noun as a marker element of spatial relation that put after a noun or postposition.

METHODS

Analysis concerning the locative noun *li*, *shang*, and *zhong* as Mandarin language adposition is aimed to prove the earlier hypothesis that the Mandarin language have adposition other than the preposition, and it is classified as the language with circumposition. The data in this study are sentences using preposition *zai* and locative noun *li*, *shang*, *zhong*. The data sources are (1) Short stories in *Xiaoshuo Quanpian* by Lu Xun, consists of 狂人日记 *Kuangren Riji*, 药 *Yao*, 明天 *Mingtian*, 自序 *Zixu*, 孔乙己 *Kong Yiji* (Lu, 1997); and (2) Articles in Mandarin tabloid *Hi-Young Mandarin* consists of 迎接新春 *Yingjie Xinchun*, 新年倒数一周 *Xinnian Daoshu Yi Zhou*, 2010年庚寅年十二生肖运势 *2010 Nian Qing Huangnian Shi Er Shengxiao Yuncheng*, 樂樂漢語 *Lele Hanyu*, *Fun Hi!* 雅台 *Yatai*, 节日我知 *Jieri Wo Zhi* (*Hi Young Mandarin*, 2010). These simply because the data needed are founded most in the novel, short stories, or articles in the variety of language. Lu Xun’s short stories represent how the locative noun is being used in China on the early 1900s, which is the beginning of *baihua* or the modern non-classic Chinese language. Meanwhile, *Hi-Young*’s articles represent how the locative noun is being used recently on 2000s era. Both are written in a semiformal way that gives us many varieties of the use of the locative noun in a phrase construction.

As Wang & Xu (2013) have stated on the average of every 100 words of 2000 people’s daily corpus, there are 15,1 prepositional phrases appeared. In other words, by statistic, the use of prepositional phrases is significant. Therefore, there are many data provided for this study. This study involves UNJ Mandarin Language Education Program students and UNJ BIPA student from China. The students’ main task is to provide and classify data. The BIPA student’s task is to examine the conclusions. A native speaker is needed to be involved because it is difficult for non-native to use adposition which does not have clear lexical meaning with an important role in the sentence (Wulandari, 2010).

The object of this study consists of language in texts, hence observation, and documentation method that are needed. After carefully observe objects of study, the collected data are documented in the data card. The analysis

of data uses distribution method with dissipative technique, substitution technique, and insert technique.

The distribution method is a method that commonly used in language research. This study uses distribution method because of the need of an instrument of Mandarin language syntax structure. In data analysis, distribution method uses determiner instrument as part of the target language, namely words, syntax functions, clause, syllable, pitches, and so on (Sudaryanto, 1993).

Through dissipative and insert technique, the distribution of the adpositional phrase, which contains *li*, *shang*, and *zhong* on syntax structure could be known. The elements that are being dissipated and inserted alternately are preposition *zai* and locative noun *li*, *shang*, *zhong*. Through substitution technique, the testing toward the conclusion of adpositional phrase distribution and the use of preposition *zai*, *also li*, *shang*, *zhong* that related to semantic is conducted.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Locative noun (LN) or *fangweici*, is a subcategory of the noun which illustrates direction and location (Xing, 2010). Locative noun often forms phrase construction with N+LN structure. Lv (2009) has said that locative noun is often used along with preposition *zai* (at) in forming prepositional phrase construction with Prep+ N+ LN structure. Based on the collected and analysed data, locative noun *li* (inside), *shang* (above), and *zhong* (in the middle), the results are; (1) it can be considered as postposition, (2) it cannot be considered as postposition, and (3) it can be considered as circumposition.

First, the use of locative noun after noun is a must, in a specific, noun that requires to demonstrate the location of an object. Second, in adpositional phrase with *zai*+N+LN structure which is an adverb of sentence, the use of preposition *zai* become optional. For example:

- a. 在我们店里 (*Zai women dian li*)
At-our-shop-inside
Inside our shop
- b. 我们店里 (*Women dian li*)
Our-shop-inside
Inside our shop

When preposition *zai* is not used, the meaning of the phrase *women dian li* remain does not change. For example:

- a. 在现在的世界上 (*Zai xianzai de shijie shang*)
At-nowadays-de/PART-world-above
Above the world nowadays
- b. 现在的世界上 (*Xianzai de shijie shang*)
Nowadays-de/PART-world-above
Above the world nowadays

When preposition *zai* is not used, the meaning of the phrase *xianzai de shijie shang* remain does not change. For example:

- a. 在这土路中 (*Zai zhe tulu zhong*)
At-this-journey-middle
In this journey
- b. 这土路中 (*Zhe tulu zhong*)
This-journey-middle
In this journey

When preposition *zai* is not used, the meaning of the phrase *zhe tulu zhong* remain does not change.

Third, in N+LN *shang* structure, which locative noun *shang* contains the meaning of preposition 'at'. Fourth, in Verb+N+LN *li* structure as predicate, which N is three dimensional non-abstract objects. For example:

- a. 住家里 (*Zhu jia li*)
Live-house-in
Live inside the house
- b. 装衣袋里 (*Zhuang yidai li*)
Put-pocket-inside
Put inside the pocket'

N 'house' and N 'pocket' are three dimensional non-abstract object, thus locative noun *li* can be directly used without preposition *zai*. Locative noun *li* in above construction can be considered as postposition.

Fifth, in N+LN *li* structure, which LN *li* is used to indicate the place of birth, events, and particular settled place. For example:

- a. S会管里有三件事。
S huiguan li you san jian shi.
S-meeting hall-inside-there-three-space-room
Inside S meeting hall there are three rooms.'
- b. 姐姐命里缺什么?
Jiejie ming li que shenme?
Sister-life-inside-lack-what
What is lacking in sister life?
- c. 今年田里收成好。
Jinnian tian li shoucheng hao
This year-field-inside-harvest-good
This year's harvest is good'

LN *li* is used to indicate the place of birth, events, settled place as in the noun of 'hall', 'life', 'field.'

Sixth, in N+LN *zhong* structure, which LN *zhong* is used to indicate area, demonstrate a situation or atmosphere. For example:

- a. 他话中全毒
Ta hua zhong quan du
His-words-middle-all-poison
His words are full of poison

In Verb+Prep *zai*+N+LN structure which possessed the functions of predicate, the using of preposition *zai* is a must. Verbs such as *lie* (in parallel), *luo* (fall), *sai* (insert), *duo* (hide), *fang* (put), *shui* (sleep), *zuo* (sit), *li* (stand), need the presence of preposition *zai*. Only few verbs that can be used together with LN, such as *zhuang* (put) and *zhu* (live), without preposition *zai*. For example:

- a. 还在这里
Hai zai zhe li
Still-exist-this-inside
Still inside here
- b. 现在只在一个包上。
Xianzai zhi zai yi ge baoshang
Now-only-there-one-item-bag-above
Now there is only one item above the bag

The form without preposition *zai* such as *hai zhe li* and *xianzai zhi yi ge baoshang* are considered as

ungrammatical form. In proposition *zai*+N+LN+Verb structure as a predicate, the using of preposition *zai* is a must. Without preposition *zai*, the meaning of the form will be unclear and considered as ungrammatical. For example:

- a. 在床上躺着
Zai chuangshang tangzhe
At-bed-above-lay down-zhe/PART
Laying down on the bed
- b. 床上躺着
Chuangshang tangzhe
Bed-above-lay down-zhe/PART (ungrammatical)
- c. 在每岁里接了钱
Zai mei sui li jiele qian
At-every-age-inside-receive-already-money
In every year already receiving money
- d. 每岁里接了钱
Mei sui li jiele qian
Every-age-inside-receive-already-money
(ungrammatical)

In Verb+N+LN *li* structure which possessed the functions of predicate, N is an abstract object. For example:

- a. 落在寂静里
Luo zai jijing li
Fall-at-silence-inside
Fall into silence
- b. 落寂静里
Luo jijing li (ungrammatical)

In Verb+preposition *zai*+N+LN *shang* structure which possessed the functions of predicate. The using of preposition *zai* is a must. For example:

- a. 活在世上
Huo zai shi shang
Live-at-world-above
Living in the world
- b. 活世上
Huo shi shang
Live-at-world (ungrammatical)
- c. 坐在床沿上
Zuo zai chuangyan shang
Sit-at-bed-side-above
Sitting on the bedside
- d. 坐床沿上
Zuo chuangyan shang
Sit-bed-side-above (ungrammatical)

In Indonesian language, ‘sitting on the bedside’ already have ‘sitting above the bed’ meaning, so generally it does not need to use LN ‘atas’ (above). Noun that describes name of location only need to use preposition *zai*. Inserting locative noun can cause the inserted phrase into ungrammatical form. For example:

- a. 我的朋友在北大里学习
Wo de pengyou zai Beida li xuexi.
My-de/PART-friend-at-Beijing University-inside-study (ungrammatical)

The above sentence will be considered grammatical if there is not locative noun *li* (inside) existed. The use of

locative noun is optional, when the noun describes name of building, unit, and name of mountain, river, lake. Some nouns such as *yanjiu* (research), *shishi* (reality), *sixiang* (idea), *koutou* (oral), *wenti* (problem) in N+LN *shang* structure are often using preposition *zai*. According to native speaker, when the noun is not using *zai*, the use of locative noun *shang* is also optional. For example:

- a. (在) 一个合适的位置
(Zai) yi ge heshi de weizhi
(At)-one-item-suitable-de/PART-position-above
At a suitable position
- b. 放在枕头(上)旁边
Fang zai zhentou (shang) pangbian
Put-at-pillow(above)-beside
Put beside the pillow

In N+LN *shang* structure, it can be inserted with preposition *zai*. Causing as if there are two parts of adposition or so called circumposition. For locative noun *shang* that showing location of an object or defines areas/ fields, the semantic needs cannot always be fulfilled. Therefore inserting preposition *zai* can sometimes unacceptable. For example:

- a. 一路上的人
Yi lu shang de ren
One-road-above-de/PART-person
‘The man on the same road’, this construction can be inserted with preposition *zai* into *zai yi lu shang de ren*.
- b. 山上还有云雾
Shan shang haiyou yunwu
Mountain-above-still there-fog
‘There are still fogs on top of the mountain’, this construction can be inserted with preposition *zai* into *zai shan shang haiyou yunwu*.
- c. 书上写着这件多字
Shushang xiezhe zhe jian duo zi
Book-above-write-zhe/PART-this-piece-several-letters
‘In the book written several of these letters’ cannot be inserted with preposition *zai*. The construction *zai shushang xiezhe zhe jian duo zi* is considered as ungrammatical form.
- d. 乳房上发了一条热
Rufang shang fa le yi tiao re
Nursing room-above-flare -le/PART-one-piece-fire
‘On top of the nursing room, the fire was already flare’ cannot be inserted with preposition *zai*, the construction *zai rufang shang fa le yi tiao re* is considered as ungrammatical form.
- e. Showing areas or fields:
工作上充满赶紧
Gongzuo shang chongman ganjin
Work-above-very-diligent
‘In the field of occupational work, very diligent’ cannot be inserted with preposition *zai*, the construction *zai gongzuo shang chongman ganjin* is considered as ungrammatical form.
- f. 涉取专业上的新知识
Shequ zhuanye shang de xin zhishi
Reach-profession-above-de/PART-new-knowledge
‘To reach a new knowledge in the field of professional

service' cannot be inserted with preposition *zai*, the construction *shequ zai zhuan ye shang de xin zhishi* is considered as ungrammatical form.

In Verb+Preposition *zai*+N+LN *li* structure as a predicate, noun is a three dimensional non-abstract objects. The use of *zai* is optional. When *zai* are used, it will cause as if there are circumposition. For example:

- a. 落在寂静里
Luo zai jijing li
Fall-at-silence-inside
'Fall into silence'
- b. 落寂静里
Luo jijing li
Fall-silence-inside (ungrammatical)
- c. 装在衣袋里
Zhuang zai yidai li
Put-at-pocket-inside
'Put inside the pocket'
- d. 装衣袋里
Zhuang yidai li
Put-pocket-inside
'Put inside the pocket'
- e. 住在家里
Zhu zai jia li
Live-at-house-inside
'Live inside the house'
- f. 住家里
Zhu jia li
Live-house-inside
'Live inside the house'

Silence is a non-abstract object, therefore the dissipative form is considered as ungrammatical. Pocket and house are three dimensional non-abstract objects, therefore the dissipative form is considered as grammatical.

The use of locative noun *zhong* has limitations compared with LN *li* and *shang*. In *zai*+N+LN *zhong* structure, the dissipation of preposition *zai* sometimes causes the phrase ungrammatical. For example:

- a. 在冷淡的空气中
Zai lengdan de kongqi zhong
At-cold-de/PART-weather-middle
'In this cold weather'
- b. 冷淡的空气中
Lengdan de kongqi zhong
Cold-de/PART-weather-middle
'In this cold weather'
- c. 在旁人的说笑声中
Zai pangren de shuoxiaosheng zhong
At-next people-de/PART-talk-laugh-sound-middle
'In the midst of people's laughter'
- d. 旁人的说笑声中
Pangren de shuoxiaosheng zhong
Next people-de/PART-talk-laugh-sound-middle
(ungrammatical)

In N+LN *zhong* structure, which LN *zhong* means between or in a certain group, sometimes can be inserted with preposition *zai*. If there is a verb at the front of the

structure, the phrase cannot be inserted with *zai*. For example:

- a. 菜中唯独鱼必能吃完
Cai zhong weidu yu bi neng chiwan
Dish-middle-only-fish-cannot-eaten up
'Among the dish, only fish that cannot be eaten up'
- b. 在菜中唯独鱼必能吃完
Zai cai zhong weidu yu bi neng chiwan
At-dish-middle-only-fish-cannot-eaten up
'Among the dish, only fish that cannot be eaten up'
- c. 客中少有人来
Ke zhong shao you ren lai.
Guests-middle-few-there-people-come
'Among the invited guests, only few that came by'
- d. 在客中少有人来
Zai ke zhong shao you ren lai.
At-guests-middle-few-there-people-come
(ungrammatical)

The construction of *Zai ke zhong shao you ren lai*, according to native speaker is considered as ungrammatical but still understandable.

CONCLUSIONS

The data are the results of analysis along with Mandarin native speaker. In the process of this study, the native speaker shows his difficulties in classifying a structure into just two types of form: grammatical or ungrammatical. Some structure could be classified as ungrammatical form, but understandable. Therefore, according to the native speaker, structure classification is supposed to divide into three types of form: (1) grammatical, (2) ungrammatical, (3) ungrammatical but understandable.

Based on dissipative technic, substitution technic and insert technic of distribution method, it can be concluded that in popular text (magazine, short stories, and novel), locative noun *li*, *shang*, and *zhong* are treated as postposition, are not treated as postposition, and locative noun together with preposition *zai* are treated as circumposition. According to the features of locative noun *li*, *shang*, and *zhong*, generally can be used together with preposition *zai*. In certain contexts, Mandarin language treats the locative noun as postposition and at the same time also using its preposition. From these circumstances, it can be concluded that Mandarin locative noun *li*, *shang*, and *zhong* sometimes should be considered as postpositions and Mandarin language considers to have circumposition.

Abbreviations used:

N	: Noun
LN	: Locative Noun
PART	: Particle
Prep.	: Preposition
SVO	: Subject-Verb-Object
SOV	: Subject-Object-Verb

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