

# Holding Half the Sky:A Corpus-based Critical Discourse Analysis of the Representation of Chinese Women in Chinese and British Press (2005-2015)

I G A L A 9 - P a r a l l e l S e s s i o n s

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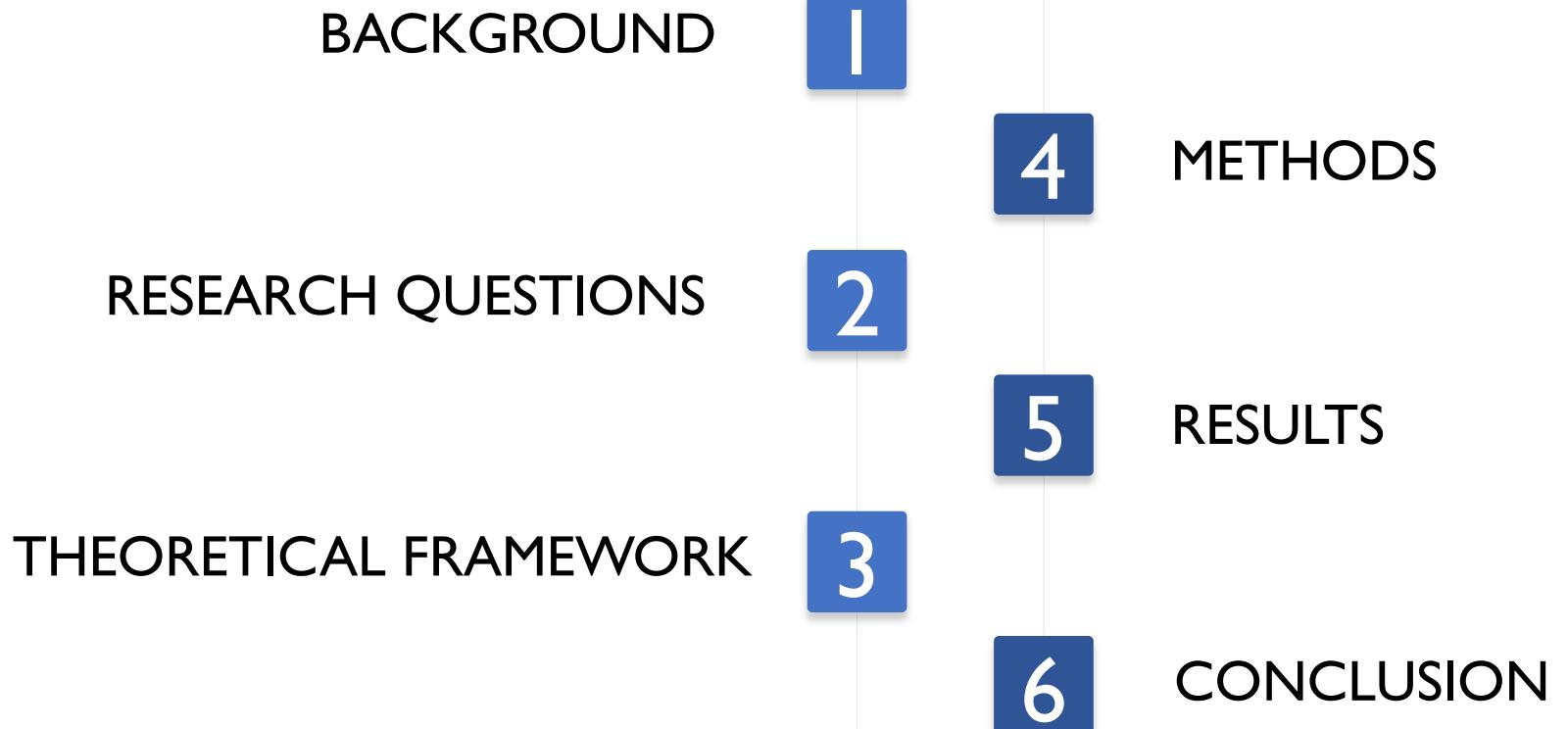


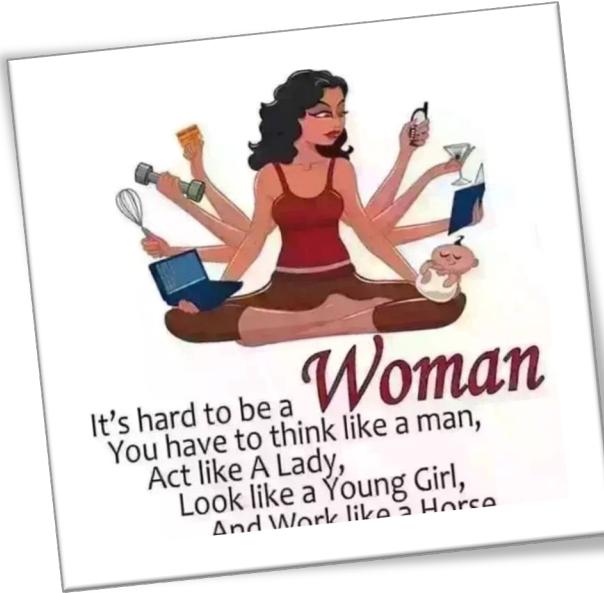
Linguistics and  
English Language

Lancaster  
University



# AGENDA





# GENDER EQUALITY

remains a long-standing goal in the long run.

When could women truly “**Holding Half the Sky**”?



- How are Chinese women discursively represented in mainstream Chinese and British newspapers in recent years (2005-2015)?
- Are there any similarities and/or differences in the construction of gendered identities of Chinese women from the point of view of Chinese and western (UK) news media?



Critical Discourse Analysis

(CDA) Approach



Corpus Linguistic

(CL) Approach



Combined  
Approach



- **Database:** LexisNexis
- **Timeframe:** 01/01/2005 to 01/01/2015
- **Search terms:** Chinese wom\*n OR Chinese female\* OR Chinese girl OR Chinese girls OR Chinese lady OR Chinese ladies OR wom\*n from China OR female\* from China OR girl from China OR girls from China OR lady from China OR ladies from China
- **Corpus size:** 1 million words



	Categories	Articles	Tokens	Types	
China Daily	Broadsheet	848	547,166	22,691	CHINA CORPUS
	Tabloid	151			
Global Times	Broadsheet (left-leaning)	407	456,250	28,560	UK CORPUS
	Tabloid (right-leaning)	194			



## AntConc

- Anthony (2015)
- Collocations
- MI + Log-Likelihood  
( $p > 0.05$ )

## Tools

- Rayson (2008)
- POS tagging
- USAS semantic tagging

## Wmatrix

Upload 224 collocates (China corpus) & 209 collocates (UK corpus)  
to Wmatrix for semantic tagging

<b>A</b> general and abstract terms	<b>B</b> the body and the individual	<b>C</b> arts and crafts	<b>E</b> emotion
<b>F</b> food and farming	<b>G</b> government and public	<b>H</b> architecture, housing and the home	<b>I</b> money and commerce in industry
<b>K</b> entertainment, sports and games	<b>L</b> life and living things	<b>M</b> movement, location, travel and transport	<b>N</b> numbers and measurement
<b>O</b> substances, materials, objects and equipment	<b>P</b> education	<b>Q</b> language and communication	<b>S</b> social actions, states and processes
<b>T</b> time	<b>W</b> world and environment	<b>X</b> psychological actions, states and processes	<b>Y</b> science and technology
<b>Z</b> names and grammar			



Verbal

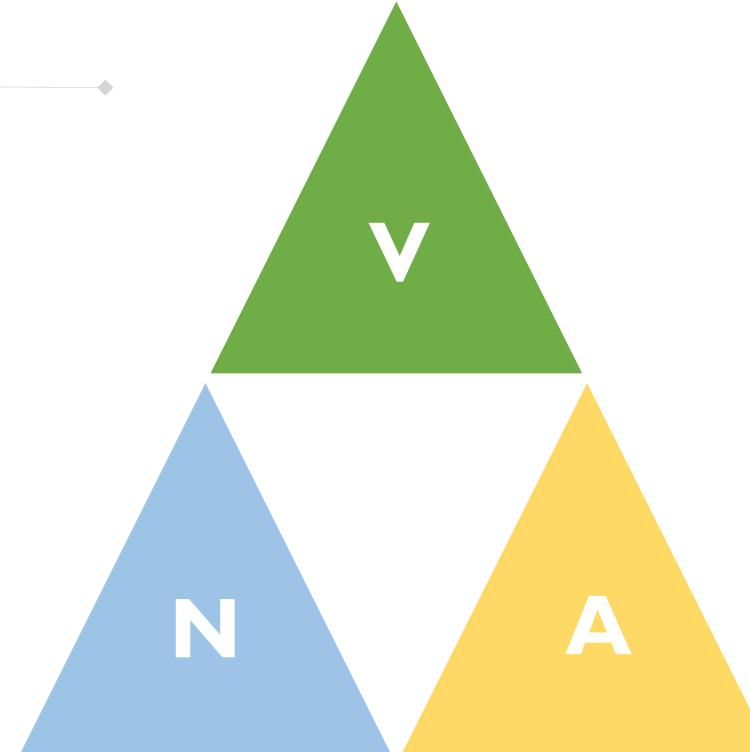
Collocates

Nominal

Collocates

Adjectival

Collocates





## Discourse prosodies of Chinese women in China newspapers identified through verbal collocates

<b>Discourse prosody</b>	<b>Semantic tagging</b>	<b>Example of collocates</b>
Chinese women are associated with crime, violence and constraint	G2.I- Crime E3- Violent/Angry A1.7+ Constraint S8- Hindering	rape(d), abducted abused, mistreated bound, detained, debasing arrested
Chinese women are related to clothes and physical appearance	B5 Clothes and personal belongings	dressing, wearing
Chinese women's marital condition is concerned	S4 Kin T3 Time: Old, new and young; age (mis-tagging)	marrying, married, marry dating, date



## Discourse prosodies of Chinese women in UK newspapers identified through verbal collocates

<b>Discourse prosody</b>	<b>Semantic tagging</b>	<b>Example of collocates</b>
Chinese women tend to have some physical actions	MI Moving, coming and going	enter, returned, came, going, go
Chinese women are related to some type of work	I3.I Work and employment: Generally	working, work
Chinese women are connected to the condition of existing or possession	A9+ Getting and possession	adopt, adopted, taking, having, had, have, has
	A3+ Existing	being, are, were



The number and percentage of collocates in USAS broad semantic category (E, Q, S and X) in China and UK newspapers

<b>USAS Broad Semantic Category</b>	<b>China Corpus</b>		<b>UK Corpus</b>	
	Collocates in Category	Percentage of overall Collocates	Collocates in Category	Percentage of overall Collocates
<b>E Emotional Actions, States and Processes</b>	6	8.7%	1	1.6%
<b>Q Linguistic Actions, States and Processes</b>	5	7.2%	7	11.3%
<b>S Social Actions, States and Processes</b>	10	14.5%	3	4.8%
<b>X Psychological Actions, States and Processes</b>	6	8.7%	6	9.7%
Total (All Categories in corpus)	69	100%	62	100%



## E: Emotional



- In China corpus, Chinese women's *preference* is about consumption, men and marriage.
- Chinese women serve as the object of "laughed."



## S: Social



- In China corpus, Chinese women's marital status is paid close attention.
- Chinese women are the objects of “*allowed*,” “*arrested*” and “*forced*.”



- **Q: Linguistic:**
  - In UK report, Chinese women are always the objects of the speech acts.
- **X: Psychological**
  - In China corpus, Chinese women's consideration is always around dressing, man and family issues.
  - In UK corpus, Chinese women are not the subjects, but the objects of psychological action '*think*' and '*suspected*'.



Concordance of collocates '**prefer**' & '**laughed**' tagged as E2 (liking) and E4 (happy) in China corpus

1	are the <b>top 10 brands</b> that rich Chinese women	<b>prefer</b>	when it comes to
2	Some Chinese women	<b>prefer</b>	<b>men</b> from Guangdong because
3	'Chinese women'	<b>prefer</b>	to <b>buy bags</b> ," says
4	Chinese women's	<b>preference</b>	for public servants (Chinese women's ideal jobs of their <b>Mr Right</b> )
5	Chinese women have	<b>preferred</b>	<b>men</b> in better
6	Chinese women who responded	<b>preferred</b>	to <b>marry</b>
7	While Chinese women	<b>prefer</b>	to <b>look like</b> their peers
8	their performances and their passion," said a Chinese girl who	<b>preferred</b>	to <b>be called</b> Coco.
9	Utzmann	<b>laughed.</b>	"It is interesting that Chinese ladies are trying to keep the whitest skin,
10	"As a musician without a permanent job or income, do you think I would be able to marry a Chinese girl?" he	<b>laughed.</b>	'Since 2002, every relationship



## Nominal collocates based on the Social Actor Approach (van Leeuwen, 1996)

		China Corpus	UK Corpus
Categorization	Functionalization	yoga, career, curling, volleyball, skywalk, basketball, football, tourist, player, writer, customers, audiences	artist, police
	Identification	beauties, celebs, victims, teenage, feet, hair, team	country, world, couple, team, group, club, baby, feet, hair, sex, India, Japanese, England, English, American, Korean
	Appraisalment	bar, luxury, vogue, alcohol	
Nomination		Yajuan, jiarui, mingqiao, yuanyuan, Xiaohong, wen	



# Similarities

- Chinese women often play **passivized** roles in emotional, social and psychological processes.
- Chinese women are portrayed as a heterogeneous group associated with **marriage, male, sexuality**, and **appearance**.
- Chinese women in the **sports** field are highly focused as **functionalized** actor or **membership categorization**.



# Differences

- Chinese women's **work** and **employment** as well as **education** are paid more attention in UK news than in Chinese news.
- Chinese newspapers tend to **functionalize** Chinese women while UK newspapers tend to **identify** them according to their relations with the **group** or people from **other specific nations**.
- Chinese news articles tend to nominate Chinese women as the **individualized** whereas UK news view them as **collective** identities.



# Limitations

- The corpus is not representative enough due to limited data.
- The consideration of visual information are lacked in analysis, due to the current corpus can only present language out of its visual context.
- The identification of discourse prosodies is a rather subjective process that the research bias is hard to avoid.
- Due to the diachronic nature of the corpus, there are unavoidably some “*seasonal collocates*” rather than “*consistent collocates*.”