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	Autore	Xu Dan
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	Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; Abbreviations; Introduction; 1 From Old Chinese to Middle Chinese: Word Order and Word Order Change; 1.0. Introduction; 1.1. OV word order in OC; 1.1.1. Object = lexical NP; 1.1.2. Object = pronoun; 1.1.3. NEG+OV>NEG+VO (examples of [omitted] zh12B; zh12B; and [omitted] zh12B; zh12B;); 1.1.4. Discussion; 1.2. OV and VO; 1.2.1. NP [omitted] yi and [omitted] yi NP; 1.2.2. [omitted] shi V and V [omitted] shi; 1.2.3. [omitted] shi yi and [omitted] yi shi in OC and Late OC; 1.2.4. Comparison between received texts and unearthed texts 1.2.5. Comparison between earlier texts and later annotated texts 1.2.6. Evolution of [omitted] shi: from a demonstrative to a copula; 1.3. Prepositions and post positions; 1.3.1. The status of [omitted] yu in ""locuation+yu""; 1.3.2. The status of [omitted] zhong in ""zhong+location""; 1.4. Word order of motion verbs; 1.4.1. Motion verbs and grammaticalization; 1.4.2 [omitted] qu+NP[+location]: leave a place>go to a place; 1.4.3. [omitted] dong qu and [omitted] xiang dong qu; 1.4.4. [omitted] lai [omitted] qu, and aspects; 1.5. Preliminary conclusion; 2 Orientation of Verbs in Old Chinese 2.0. Introduction 2.1. Phonological and morphological evidence; 2.2. The role of word order; 2.3. Orientations of verbs marked by the preposition [omitted] yu; 2.3.1. The origin of the two yu ([omitted] yu and [omitted] yu); 2.3.2. Function of [omitted] yu; 2.3.3. Presence or absence of the preposition [omitted] yu; 2.3.4. Discussion in phonological approach; 2.3.5. Tentative explanation; 2.4. Passive voice

	 marking; 2.4.1. Marking by the same verb; 2.4.2. Marking by the same structure; 2.4.3. The rise of passive structures; 2.5. Conclusion; 3 Causative Structures in Old Chinese 3.0. Introduction 3.1. Coexistence of different devices in OC; 3.1.1. Phonological and morphological causatives in OC; 3.1.2. Lexical causatives; 3.1.3. Syntactic causatives; 3.2. Comparison between [omitted] shi and [omitted] ling causatives; 3.2. Comparison between [omitted] shi and [omitted] rang [omitted] jiao causatives; 3.4. Grammatclization of the verb [omitted] shi; 3.5. New structures related to the causative structure ([omitted] ba and [omitted] bei constructions); 3.5.1. Caustives and the [omitted] bei construction; 3.5.2. Caustives and the [omitted] bei construction 3.6. Conclusion 4 The Rise of Resultative Compounds; 4.0. Introduction; 4.1. Previous works; 4.2. Distribution of V[sub(1)]V[sub (2)] in contemporary Chinese; 4.2.1. Verbs which can occur at V[sub(1)] position; 4.2.3. Syntactic and semantic constraints of V[sub(1)]; 4.2.4. Verbs which can occur at V[sub(2)] position; 4.3. A single V and V[sub(1)]V[sub(2)] in OC; 4.4. Semantic features of V[sub(2)] in the rise of resultative compounds; 4.4.1. Semantic features of V[sub(2)] in Middle Chinese
Sommario/riassunto	This new interpretation of the early history of Chinese argues that Old Chinese was typologically a 'mixed' language. It shows that, though its dominant word order was subject-verb-object, this coexisted with subject-object-verb. Professor Xu describes the typological changes that have taken place since the Han period and shows how Chinese evolved into a more analytic language, supporting her exposition with abundant examples from recently discovered texts. She focusses on syntactic issues, but pays close attention to closely related changes in phonology and the writing system ;This new