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Formation of a Modern Chinese clause-taking conjecturing *huaiyi* predicate: A parenthetical perspective and a conjoining account

Abstract: Modern Chinese clause-taking conjecturing *huaiyi* is a predicate that is mostly used in third person contexts

(e.g. *Renmen huaiyi zheming taoyi de jingchahen keneng canyu le zheqi anjian*. ‘People **conjecture** that the escaped policeman had probably been involved in the case.’) is actually a parenthetical structure. Diachronically, it does not develop from an NP-

taking *huaiyi* predicate (e.g. *Wo hen huaiyi zhe ge shuofa*. ‘I **doubt** the statement a lot.’) or a clause-taking doubting *huaiyi* predicate

(e.g. *Du Yifu changchang huaiyi ta yuerzi you guo nazhong ge'ermen yiqi de shiguang*. ‘Du Yifu often **doubted** that he had had times of buddy loyalty with his son.’), but develops from a prosodically-separated

conjecturing *huaiyi* predicate (e.g. *Renmen huaiyi, zheming taoyi de jingcha hen keneng canyu le zheqi anjian*. ‘People **conjecture**, the escaped policeman had probably been involved in the case.’). The goals of this talk is to show that its formation has not followed a commonly-accepted Matrix Clause Pathway, which argues that a parenthetical clause-taking predicate develops from a corresponding matrix clause structure. Instead it has followed a hypothesized Conjoining Pathway that essentially involves the loss of phonetic gap between a prosodically-separated *huaiyi* predicate and the clause that it takes, and that the hypothesized pathway has cross-linguistic significance.