

Mandarin Chinese Words and Parts of Speech

A Corpus-based Study

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14 I: Interjections

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14 I: Interjections

An interjection is used to express a speaker's emotion or attitude. It is always used independently; in other words, it has nothing to do with sentence structures. Interjection usually happens at the start of a sentence, but occasionally also at the end of a sentence, such as:

- (343) 嘎 ? 有 這 種 事 !
a2 ? you3 zhe4zhong3 shi4 !
SHA ? have this thing !
'What? This thing happens!'
- (344) 你 走 不 走 ? 嘎 ?
ni3 zou3 bu4 zou3 ? a2 ?
you leave NEG leave ? A
'Will you leave? Will you?'

Interjections are shown below. The following interjections are categorized by emotions:

- A. Express surprise or exclamation: 咳 hai1, 唷 you1, 噫 hai1, 啊 a4, 喝 he1, 哎 ai1, 呦 you1, 嘍 huo3, 哎呀 ailya1, 哎哟 ailyou1, 哦呵 o2he1, 哦哟 o2you1, 啊呀 a4ya1, 啊 a4, 喔唷 o1you1, 喔嚯 o1 hou3, 哇 wa1.
- B. Express sadness or regret: 嗚呼 wulhu1, 哀哉 ailzai1, 嗟夫 jie1fu1, 唉 ai0, 嘻 xi1, 噯 ai4, 噫 yi4.
- C. Express angry or despise: 哼 heng1, 嗟 dou1, 啐 cui4, 噓 xu1, 呸 pei1.
- D. Express regret or pity: 咳 hai4.
- E. Express confusion: 咦 yi2, 哦 o2, 俺 an3, 嘎 a2.
- F. Express compliment: 嘿 he1, 嘍 huo4, 妙哉 miao4zai1.
- G. Express understanding: 喔 (哦) o2, 噢 o4.
- H. Expression negative: 噯 ai3.
- I. Express promise: 諛 e4, 欸 ai4, 嗯 en1.
- J. Express welcome: 喂 wei4, 嗨 hai4, 哈囉 halluo1.
- K. Express warning: 噓 xu1.