Taiwan Mandarin *You* 'have' as Finiteness Anchor

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I proposes a new analysis of Taiwan Mandarin *you* 'have' serving as finiteness anchor, and basically occupying [T*, TP], exhibiting [finiteness] feature. Firstly, *you* 'have' cannot occur in the five embedded clauses, e.g., the complement of a control verb (1), the complement of raising verb (2), the complement of *lai* 'come' or *qu* 'go' (3), the complement of non-epistemic modal (4) and the complement of a mental attitude verb (5), regarded as non-finite clauses (see Zhang 2019).

(1) *Aldo dasuan-guo   [mingtian **you** ding   piao].
     Aldo plan-EXP   tomorrow   HAVE book   ticket
     Lit: 'Aldo planned to book the ticket.'

(2) *Taifeng   kaishi [**you** yingxiang   nongzhuowu].
      typhoon   start   HAVE affect   crop
      Lit: 'The typhoon has started to affect the crop.'

(3) a. *Aldo   lai   [**you** mai   pingguo].
        Aldo   come   HAVE buy   apple
        Lit: 'Aldo came to buy apples.'
     b. *Aldo   qu   [**you** jie   shu].
        Aldo   come   HAVE borrow   book
        Lit: 'Aldo went to borrow books.'

(4) *Aldo bixu   [mingtian   **you** mai   jipiao].
      Aldo must   tomorrow   HAVE buy   flight.ticket
      Lit: 'Aldo must buy the flight ticket tomorrow.'

(5) *Aldo taoyan [Luis **you** zai   keting   da   diandong].
      Aldo dislike Luis HAVE in   living.room   hit   video.game
      Lit: 'Aldo dislikes Luis' playing video games in the living room.'

Second, *you* can precede AspP heads in matrix clauses (6). *You* can also occur the complement under the verb such as *xiangxin* 'believe', in which *xiangxin* always selects a finite clause (7).

(6) [Aldo zaoshang   **you** {zai-xie/xie-quo/xie-le   }   zhuoye].
     Aldo morning   HAVE PROG-write/write-EXP/write-PFV   homework
     'Aldo is **certainly** writing the homework in the morning.'

(7) Aldo xiangxin   [Luis **you** chi-guo   feiyu].
     Aldo believe   Luis HAVE eat-EXP   flying.fish
     'Aldo believes that Luis **does** have eaten flying fish.'

Additionally, *you* can license a VP ellipsis (8) whereas an aspect marker cannot (9).

(8) Aldo you   chi-guo wufan, Luis ye   you   [chi-guo wufan].
     Aldo HAVE   eat-EXP lunch Luis also   HAVE   eat-EXP lunch
     'Aldo did have had lunch and so has Luis.'

(9) Aldo zai chi wufan, Luis   ye   *[zai-chi   wufan].
     Aldo PROG-eat lunch, Luis   also   PROG-eat l   unch
     Int: 'Aldo is having lunch, so is Luis.'

Furthermore, *you* functions as a modal verb, which can serve as Tense category (see Huang 1989, 1990), in that *you* can denote emphasis of the attitude of a speakr toward events (Cheng 2023).

In conclusion, the finiteness distinction does exist in Taiwan Mandarin and Taiwan Mandarin *you* 'have' hosts [T*, TP], exhibiting [FINITENESS] feature.

Selected References

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