Taiwan Mandarin *you* ‘have’ as Finiteness Anchor

Adæmrys Chihjen Cheng
University of Ottawa
cchen351@uottawa.ca

I propose 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 lunch
   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 speaker 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**


